

Missionary Prayer Bulletin



April 2021

NORTH AMERICA

◆ Dominican Republic

Los Frailes—Ramón & Wendy Sosa

Ramón Sosa thanks the Lord for providing for his family's sustenance in recent months. They appreciate your prayers for them and say God has answered those prayers. Please continue to pray that their needs will be met. At times they have been quite distressed due to their situation, but Ramón says the Lord has sent "ravens" with food just as He did for Elijah (1 Kings 17:6). He requests prayer for himself as pastor, husband, and father of the family that he will be an example in the community where the Lord has called him to minister.

Despite the trials related to the pandemic and its limitations, God has honored His preached Word and granted them growing assistance. Please pray for the congregation, that the gospel will be faithfully preached and that they would continue to fulfill the Great Commission, understanding their great responsibility of going and making disciples. Pray that the Lord would grant repentance to those to whom they preach in the streets and to those who visit in the regular church services. Pray also that the Lord would strengthen and mature those who are already Christians and that He would add to the church every day those who are to be saved.

◆ Mexico

Mexico City—Jason & Danielle Boyle

In February, the Boyle family visited two churches in the Sierra Gorda, one in Querétaro, pastored by Wenceslao, and the other in San Luis Potosí, pastored by Pepe. These are two of the churches that are working with the Mexico City church towards an official formation of a Mexican Free Presbyterian denomination. The Boyles enjoyed six days of fellowship with them encouraging the pastors in their ministries as they continue

to teach their churches Reformed doctrine and FPC distinctives. Both pastors have also begun some seminary studies.

Danielle and the pastors' wives of the sister churches decided to start a monthly online prayer meeting after seeing what joy and help a similar meeting has been to their husbands. All six women were present at the first prayer meeting.

At the end of March the Boyle family visited some mission churches in the mountains of Puebla for six days. The town of Zongozotla was the base for the trip. This trip involved the remotest conditions the Boyles have experienced so far, and it was a little physically taxing, especially with a baby. They say, however, that the spiritual fellowship and blessing far outweighed any physical discomfort. They were able to give Miguel, who is just commencing studies under Jason, an mp3 player with 130 sermons, written material on Reformed doctrine and FPC distinctives, and a smartphone so that he can connect to the homiletics class and have more contact with the Boyles.

Miguel's testimony and dedication to the furtherance of the gospel was a blessing. Four years ago, he and his wife lost their ten-year-old daughter to cancer. Miguel gave testimony of how the Lord strengthened them and used them despite people mocking their belief in God when their daughter passed away. He also told how her death has motivated their evangelism. Their daughter's testimony lives on. She was known for her prayers for her unsaved relatives, whom the Lord is now beginning to draw to Himself.

At the beginning of May the Boyles plan to go to Tehuacán, Puebla, along with Derrick Bowman, so that he can conduct the infant baptism of the pastor's daughter. Please pray that Derrick would not have any travel complications.

Jason continues proctoring the seminary students and teaching the homiletics class. There is interest in other classes, and he is preparing materials for courses on biblical theology, covenant theology, systematic theology,

and hermeneutics. Much prayer is needed for the provision for necessary resources and for the time and wisdom to teach the courses.

In the Mexico City church some men are becoming a bit more involved in leading the congregation in some of the Sunday morning liturgy and Wednesday evening reflections. Pray for Jason's time management so he can be as effective and efficient as possible. They have still not moved forward in the process of becoming a religious association (it is possible they may opt to become a civil association instead). Pray for advancement in that area.

The Boyles hope that when COVID safety measures start to subside, they will be able to travel and do a much-needed deputation/furlough. However, before they can travel, Jonathan's adoption needs to be finalized. Their lawyer is trying to recover some "lost" documents in the state of Puebla where Jonathan was born so that they can get a court date. As a last resort, the Boyles are considering doing the home study and psychological testing over again, but this time in Mexico City. That would add months on to the wait but it may be necessary. Please pray for a swift and happy conclusion to the adoption process. Mexican adoption laws do not protect the adoptive parents while the adoption is in limbo. There are no official documents that say that Jonathan can be with the Boyles. Please pray for them and with them, that God would help them to lean on Him during this time.

Córdoba—Lalo & Liz Peña

The Peñas are very grateful that the neurological treatment Liz is getting for Huntington's disease is helping. At this point, they are also trying alternative treatment to stop the advance of the disease, especially with occupational therapy and some other measures. Please pray for the Lord to give wisdom to the medical team and for Lalo and Liz to be sanctified through this difficult time.

Lalo thanks God that they have continued with their normal Sunday services and Sunday school. Last time he reported that three

new people have been attending the services for several weeks: Letty Colina, Dana Hernandez, and Allan Soberanes. Thank God they have remained faithful attendees at the church so far, and now five more people are beginning to attend also: Carolina's sister (Carolina is Lalo Peña, Jr.'s wife) Gabriela, and her three daughters, Ivonne, Hannah, and Jared, and her grandson, Alberto (six months). All of them seem to be blessed by the ministry of the gospel at the church and the church is thankful for their lives and testimonies.

Last week Eliam, Letty Colina's son, visited the church. Please pray for the salvation of this young man. The church rejoices in answers to prayer for Allan Soberanes' mother, sister July, who had successful surgery on her feet. Please pray for her and the family. She and her husband are hoping to get well enough to come to the church.

Letty Colina, who was mistakenly diagnosed with Parkinson's disease because of a medication she was taking, has still not been able to return to work. She is thankful for your prayers and thanks God the diagnosis was not Parkinson's.

Please pray for Mexico. Pray that the Word will be faithfully preached in the churches. Pray also for Lalo's job and good testimony in the Potable Water Agency in Córdoba. Finally, pray that the Lord will give Lalo the help he needs in all of his responsibilities, especially the preaching of the Word, taking care of the local church, his studies in Geneva Reformed Seminary, and his family.

EUROPE

◆ Spain

Madrid—John & Noranna Hanna

The Hannas are grateful to the Lord for His faithfulness to them and for sustaining them in His work. John is still busy working mornings in the basement of the church building. He has finished all the painting on the entrance floor as well as in the basement. He is rebuilding and repainting the bookshelves so they can get the library back in place.

The weekly Sabbath Day services continue to alternate between Alcorcón and Toledo. The midweek services are by means of Zoom.

On Easter morning the Alcorcón church had the privilege of administering both the sacraments. Two men were baptized and received into fellowship at the Lord's Table.

New people continue to come to the services in Alcorcón. At present Angel, the minister of the church, is counselling a couple with four children. They come from a Pente-

costal background but want "a Bible-teaching church." Toledo is also receiving visitors. The minister there, Mark Witte, is presently disciplining a young man and an older lady who wish to become members.

John and Noranna thank all who have prayed faithfully for them and the works in Spain. They solicit the prayers of God's people for the maturing of God's people in the faith and for the salvation of the unsaved who are hearing the gospel preached.

◆ Czech Republic

Liberec—Milos & Martina Solc

The Czech Republic continues to be in a state of strict lockdown, including no crossing of township lines except for a number of specified legitimate reasons which need special confirmation. As a result, the Solces have not been able to gather with the church since the end of December. This is now more than double the time of the previous two lockdowns last year. There is hope that the situation is now more under control, but in most categories, the Czech Republic is among the very worst countries in the world. For example, as of March 30, 2021, relative to its population, the country had the most deaths due to COVID of any country in the world—a very unpleasant fact. Please pray for the Solces' daughter, Abigail, as she continues to work part-time in the COVID intensive care unit, which is obligatory for all medical students in this state of emergency.

Despite these challenges and restrictions, there have been opportunities that have not existed before. Martina has been able to minister to many more homes because of a need for assistance in the children's schooling. The Solces pray that this would result in many children coming to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and that they would step out of the continuous line of sin and sorrow, becoming a first generation of believers in that godless land. Milos says, "May the Lord perform this for His own glory and the extension of His kingdom."

AFRICA

◆ Liberia

Monrovia—David DiCanio

The missionaries in Liberia continue to be amazed at the number of testimonies that they hear everywhere of people listening to the radio station. Everyone remarks about the solid preaching that they do not hear from any other place. As a result, several of the listeners have

visited and some are regularly attending the Paynesville church services. Dave DiCanio says they have also seen evidence of genuine conversions to Christ—a few individuals who are witnessing to their friends every day. They have been running a Bible quiz contest and doing interviews with the winners. They have noticed that several of the winners have just recently found the station. Clearly, the audience is building month by month.

It is that time of the year when several government registrations come due, and it is very challenging for Dave to keep up with them all. Among them is the license for the radio station's frequency, 92.5 MHz, which is granted by the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA). According to LTA, the station has never actually been granted the license since it is still being assessed. Technically, the LTA could change the station's frequency (which would be a challenge for the mission since they just printed several hundred t-shirts with 92.5 on them), and they could also tell the station to power down its transmitter to just a few hundred watts, which would make its signal insignificant. Please pray that this matter could soon be settled. They have had no trouble at all renewing the permits from the Ministry of Information, the Liberia Civil Aviation Authority (the aircraft warning light), the Ministry of the Interior (the tower), the Ministry of Public Works (the tower), or the Liberia Business Registry. It is only LTA that they are waiting for, and they are the most significant. Dave sees the difficulty as evidence that the devil is not at all happy about the existence and effectiveness of the station.

Please pray that the Lord would continue to touch people's hearts to fund the station. The World Bank has just started a project to bring electricity to the area, which should make the cost of running the station cheaper. However, as is common in developing countries, they will probably experience frequent power outages and dangerous surges. This would mean they would need to invest in protective equipment and automatic switchovers to generator when the power goes out. They do not know when this project will be completed, but the poles for the power lines were planted about six months ago.

◆ Uganda

Nsaalu—Noreen McAfee

Noreen McAfee says they are grateful to all who remember the work at Emmanuel in prayer. The Lord's Day services and prayer meetings are continuing with Rev. Gordon

Ferguson and Rev. Ray Carscadden preaching by Zoom. The Sunday school has also recommenced, and some new children have joined. The outreach team continues to visit in the community as they seek to bring new people in, and two young men have started the course being offered by the Mission Board's Bible Training Institute. Noreen asks us to pray for all these aspects of the work and for a move of God in their midst.

Over a hundred upper primary and secondary students are back in class, and Noreen says it has been very good to have them in the school assemblies, Bible study, and fellowship meeting. Please pray for them and for Samuel and Shalif, who have moved to new institutions to take A-level and nursing courses. If all goes to plan, the lower primary children will resume in June. There is still no talk of when nursery classes will re-open, but with teachers already receiving their COVID-19 vaccinations, Noreen hopes that it will be soon.

The staff and students have had a busy term as they try to make up for lost time: geography field trips, educational tours, teachers' workshops, a dedication service for candidates and O-level and primary leaving examinations have all been squeezed in. Noreen says they are thankful to God for all His mercies and pray that His name would be glorified. The A-level students will sit their papers after Easter, God willing.

The school farm produced a good harvest of maize and beans for the school kitchen, and they have already replanted for the new season. Another ten needy families have also been helped with small agricultural projects for their own use. There are many sad, needy, and sick cases in the community and Noreen says they need much grace and wisdom. A number of families have also lost loved ones and need the Lord's comfort and care.

◆ Kenya

Margaret Russell

At this present time in Kenya the news headlines are all about the pandemic and the sudden spike in cases. After the first two months of the year with few cases, the rise has taken many unawares. There are more reported cases and deaths during this wave than since the onset of the pandemic. Last week saw a lockdown of five of the 47 Kenyan counties with movement restricted in and out of Nairobi and four of the surrounding counties with curfews imposed. Cases are rising in the counties where the FP Mission Society Africa (FPMSA) church work and ministries

are, and sadly, some who were not church members but who were known to Margaret have succumbed to the virus. Margaret asks us to pray much for God's preserving hand upon His servants and His people in the churches in Kenya and that many will consider the brevity of life and seek Christ in these days.

High school students are sitting national exams with all other classes on holiday, but it is uncertain whether schools will reopen as planned at the end of April. How the virus will behave will determine whether churches in Kenya will need to close for public worship and whether the Sunday schools which are seeking to re-establish again will be able to continue. Margaret asks us to pray that God will give the GBC and the BCFC wisdom as they seek to plan for the work of God in the coming weeks.

The bookshop in Kitale was unable to secure the new premises which they were negotiating on, but they accept God's will in this and pray that He will continue to keep the door of opportunity open for this means of outreach and the spreading of the truth both in the Kakamega and Kitale shops.

Margaret will be officially retiring on the June 1 and is preparing to hand over the administration work of the mission in Kenya to Rev. Malcolm Patterson. She still plans to work with and encourage the Sunday school ministry through the Sunday school superintendents who are there on the ground and also further develop and provide Sunday school materials through the FPMSA. Margaret values prayer in these days that God will undertake at this transitionary time and that He will continue to use her, particularly among her own family circle in Ulster, to see the unsaved brought to Christ.

She asks us to continue to pray for the furtherance of the work of the gospel in Kenya and a calling of others and preserving and strengthening of the Lord's servants during these very difficult days.

Kitale—Malcolm & Alison Patterson

The Pattersons are thankful to the Lord for continuing to undertake for them. Physical church services have resumed in Northern Ireland and they are glad to get out to church on Sundays and to their midweek deputation meetings. They say, however, that during lockdown it has been good to have Sermonaudio.com, Facebook for services, and Zoom for prayer meetings. They were also able to do some of their deputation meetings over Zoom. The vaccination program is being rolled out in Northern Ireland and the Pattersons have

received their first shots with no side effects.

The Pattersons thank the Lord that Malcolm has been notified that his work permit application for Kenya has been successful.

Please pray for the families of the churches and the people of Kenya that they would be kept safe from the coronavirus at this time. The situation at present with this third wave is very serious in some parts of the country. The infection rate is continuing to rise, and hospitals are finding it difficult to cope. The government have introduced a raft of measures to try to reduce the spread of the virus.

Pray for the Kenyan government as it seeks to obtain sufficient vaccine. A vaccination program is in place and one million doses were received at the beginning of March, but the country has a population of over 50 million, so vaccination will be mammoth task.

Please pray 1) for the pastors and Malcolm as they continue to meet every Monday morning over Zoom; 2) for the Glory Bible Church central sub-committee, which meets every week by Zoom finalizing the documentation for the doctrine and practice of Glory Bible Church; 3) for the pastors and Malcolm as they prepare the radio programs each week for Imani Radio and Lubao FM and for Alison as she sings in Swahili for the radio programs; 4) for the bookshops in Kakamega and Kitale and the staff (Kakamega: Josephine and Gladys, and Kitale: Mercy and Jared); 5) for the "Daily Gleanings" distributed each day over WhatsApp and Facebook and "Daily Light" in Swahili on Facebook; 6) for the Lord's help as the Pattersons continue with their deputation meetings in Northern Ireland; and 7) that two Revival Movement containers that are on their way to Kenya with books, Bibles, etc., for the bookshops and pastors will arrive safely in Kitale.

ASIA

◆ Nepal

Kathmandu—Joy Gillespie

Joy Gillespie rejoices that she is back in Nepal and has been able to recommence her work. She says it was a bit frustrating to have to stay in quarantine for two weeks, but she thanks God that the country has reopened, and all restrictions have been lifted. Please pray that God will continue to protect the nation from the pandemic.

This year's pastors' conference in April has been cancelled but, the Lord willing, they will be able to hold the youth conference in October. The Bible course hopes to recommence in August for the men. Pray that the

young people will be obedient to the call of God in their lives.

Pray that God will bring in more English students into the language institute. Pray also that as Joy continues to work on her Nepali studies, God will give her an ear to hear the language.

Joy thanks God for His hand upon the children in the children's home. They rejoiced when they were able to go back to school after Christmas. Please remember especially the children who will leave the home this year that God will lead them and strengthen them from returning to Hinduism. The pressure to return is extremely great. Pray for these young people that they will be firm in their faith.

◆ South Korea

Seoul—*Seongkyu & Sooyoun Lee*

Seongkyu Lee says that Korea is starting a difficult spring with fine dust and the coronavirus. Every year the spring sky in Korea turns yellow due to the fine dust that blows from China and Mongolia. As China becomes more and more industrialized, pollutants sometimes cover Korea so that there are smog-like foggy days.

However, worse than the pollutants are the restrictions due to coronavirus. Since last December, new virus patients have been occurring steadily at about 400 to 500 per day. Regulations are still in place, and small churches cannot have more than twenty people worshipping indoors.

Seongkyu says these rules are mostly for the convenience of the government. Due to the financial trouble of people with personal businesses, some restrictions have been lifted. However, restrictions on church meetings remain in place. As a result, in the FP church Sam Lee's family has been unable to attend for a long time. They are all praying for circumstances to change so that all of the congregation may worship together again.

Currently, they are having all meetings such as Wednesday prayer meeting and the Saturday book club online. Also, on Thursday afternoons, they have fellowship and study Romans together via Zoom. In this coming spring semester, Seongkyu has started a campus gospel class for college students. The class is not only for the church's young people but also for their friends. They can share the gospel and read Christian books together through the meeting. Please pray for these young people so that they may be truly saved through the gospel.

Some families in the congregation are struggling with cancer. Mr. Myeongjong Lee's mother has been in a geriatric hospital for a while now. She and her family need prayer as she is unable to meet her family freely because of coronavirus. Also, Mr. Cheol-an is praying for new employment. He is supporting a college student and a high school student at home. It has been a year now since he had to leave his previous job, and though he is working part-time jobs, he needs better employment to fully support his family. Please pray for him.

The church people are always praying for the salvation of their young people. They need to personally experience God and be saved. Please pray for God's saving grace to work on their souls. They are also praying for the gospel to reach new families around them. Although they are not free to meet people these days, they are praying for new opportunities to share the gospel with those nearby. Please pray that they may have wisdom and love when spreading the Word of God.

AUSTRALIA

Perth, Western Australia—*Philip & Cherith Gardiner*

Philip Gardiner reports that the churches in Australia have been saddened by the death of their first minister, Rev. Fred Buick. Mr. Buick went to be with the Lord on March 28. He was the first pastor of both the Port Lincoln and Perth congregations. They are remembering his family in prayer.

The church is thankful to have seen a few new faces in recent weeks. Please pray for the church's outreach in the city center, that they will have profitable conversations. Pray that some locals who recently came to a creation meeting will come back again. Finally, please pray that they will see their youth truly converted and walking with the Lord.

Brethren, pray for us.
1 THESSALONIANS 5:25

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