

Missionary Prayer Bulletin



June 2021

NORTH AMERICA

◆ Jamaica

Little London—Richard Craig & Randy Gunnings

Please pray for Gillian, the wife of deacon Randy Gunnings. Gillian has been in and out of the hospital due to several complications, one of which, according to the doctors, is the worst kind of gastroenteritis. Gillian is a primary school principal (headmistress) and has often assisted in the church with the boys and girls when they were able to have the children's meetings. Due to her illnesses, she has not been able to fellowship with the congregation as she would desire, but she is grateful that she can join the many others who are watching the services online right now. Gillian would greatly appreciate prayer for a great miracle of healing from the Lord. Her pain has been so intense at times that she has asked the Lord to please take her home to glory.

One of the Little London church's most faithful and longstanding members is no longer at the church due to feebleness and losing her cognitive faculties. She has relocated to Kingston to live with her only daughter and grandchildren. She was part of the mission work from almost the very start. Please pray that although she might be weak in body, she will be strong in the Lord.

Because of a daily island-wide curfew at 7 p.m., the church is not able to conduct any evening services. They are, however, able to have the Lord's Day service. Please pray that even in this time of great uncertainty, fear, and dilemma, the Lord will truly keep and guard His people in Jamaica as they seek to live for Him.

◆ Dominican Republic

Los Frailes—Ramón & Wendy Sosa

In recent weeks there has been another outbreak of COVID-19 in the Sosas' neighbor-

hood in the Dominican Republic and in the greater Santo Domingo area. A new two-week curfew was just imposed. This curfew does not affect Sunday services, but meetings during the week will have to be virtual. Also, the daycare the Sosas run has been closed for two weeks because of the government's new restrictions.

The Sosas have learned that three of their neighbors died of complications from COVID. The daughter of a member of their congregation was hospitalized for five days, but they thank God that she has fully recovered. A lady in the church has just tested positive for the virus but has only mild symptoms since she had already been vaccinated.

Please pray for wisdom in ministering to families affected by the pandemic in this time of suffering. Pray that the Lord will protect the Sosas and the church family from the virus. Pray also that the daycare preschool and nursery will be able to reopen soon and that they will have many children attend. The daycare is an important means of income and also of evangelism for the Sosas. Finally, pray that the Lord will add more men to the church who will be godly leaders in their homes and in the church.

◆ Mexico

Mexico City—Jason & Danielle Boyle

On May 28 the Mexico City church signed a contract to rent a larger meeting place. This larger place will better accommodate the church's growing numbers, but it would not be functional for the long term. It is one big, open area (no rooms for Sunday school, kitchen, nursery, etc.) that has been used most recently as a garage and mechanic's workspace, so it needs some work to make it usable for a church. It is in their price range, but it needs roof work, an additional bathroom, and painting before they can move in. Later on, it will also need flooring and closets. The church sees this space as being an appropriate location while they continue saving and praying towards buying their own property on which to construct a church building.

The process for becoming a civil association is moving forward, for which the Boyles praise God.

One of the church deacons, 24-year-old Ruben, is preparing to start classes in Geneva Reformed Seminary in the fall semester. Please pray that the Lord will help him with time management as he takes on this new challenge.

Córdoba—Lalo & Liz Peña

Lalo Peña thanks God that the neurological treatment Liz is getting for Huntington's disease is continuing to help. The occupational therapy and the other measures are also working. Please pray that Liz will maintain a good frame of mind and that she will rest in the Lord's grace. Pray that Lalo and Liz will be sanctified through this time.

Lalo thanks God that there have not been any COVID cases in their church so far and that they have been able to continue with their normal Sunday services and Sunday school.

Allan Soberanes, one of the new people attending the church, was baptized on Sunday, May 30. Lalo says they are very encouraged and thank God for His love and mercy. The new people have remained faithful attendees at the church so far. On Mondays,

Lalo has begun teaching a series for the new attendees on fundamental Christian doctrines, taking the Westminster Confession of Faith as the base for the teachings. All of them are encouraged and blessed by the ministry of the gospel at the church, and the church is thankful for their lives and testimonies. Lalo says, "We are expecting, with our good Lord's blessing, several baptisms after the end of the teaching series."

Please pray for Mexico, as it has its mid-term elections at the beginning of June. Several congressional seats as well as governors and mayors will be voted on. Lalo is especially concerned because the political agenda is full of progressive and socialist initiatives.

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 the rest 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

Alcorcón and Toledo—John & Noranna Hanna, Angel & Kelley Alvarez, Mark & Nataliya Witte

Rev. John Hanna reports that God continues to guide His work in Alcorcón and Toledo. From the beginning of May both churches have recommenced their two worship services on the Sabbath. At the end of May, Alcorcón recommenced its Sabbath school classes in the afternoon. That means they are now using the rooms in the basement of the new building, although they are not completely finished. John says it was very encouraging to see the enthusiasm of the children getting their classes up and going again.

Sadly, not all in the congregation are showing the same enthusiasm concerning the worship services. At present there are only between forty and fifty attending. Some of the older folks are returning after being vaccinated. John and Noranna are also now vaccinated and ready to get back to some kind of normality.

The church in Alcorcón mourned with their pastor, Angel Alvarez, the death of his father who, as far as they know, was unsaved. The Sabbath following, Angel took a rest and John preached with one of the elders.

The work in Toledo continues to give much encouragement. An elderly man got in touch with Pastor Mark Witte, the minister, and said he would like to come to the Sabbath Day service. It turned out he is from Toledo and was a catechist in the Roman Catholic church, but he started to read the Bible and saw that his church was far from what the Scriptures teaches. He “accidentally” found the web page of the church in Toledo and was very impressed by a sermon Mark preached on Jacob’s ladder. He continued to listen each week and has come to faith in Christ. He defines himself as a Presbyterian and Reformed in his belief. John says this is a real miracle, first, because of this man’s background, and second, because of his age. Praise the Lord for His mercy. Pray that this will be multiplied many times over for God’s glory.

In closing the Hannas express their thanks to all who pray for them and the works in Alcorcón and Toledo.

◆ Czech Republic

Liberec—Milos & Martina Solc

Rev. Milos Solc says that by the mercies of God the situation with the COVID pandemic in the Czech Republic has stabilized, and, although various restrictions still continue, they are now able to have in-person services with certain limitations. On the Sabbath of April 18, they had their first in-person service in the new year, and they were all very thankful for the opportunity.

One great encouragement at this time has been the coming to the Lord of a young man, Luke, that the Solces’ son Timothy has been ministering to over the last several years at school. Timothy and Luke have been classmates throughout their high school years. Last summer Luke attended one of the church services for the first time. A few months back he told Timothy to let him know when the church’s in-person services commenced again so that he could come. He did come, and several weeks ago, just a couple of days after attending his first service this year, Timothy led him to the Lord. Please keep Luke in your prayers as he faces opposition to his newfound faith. May he fight the good fight of faith in the strength of the Lord.

Please also pray for the children’s day camp this year, which will be held in July. The Solces have been inviting some of the children from their community. The invitation had just barely gone out when there was a negative response in a number of cases: parents or caregivers who would not let their children attend the camp because the Solces are believers—a great stigma in that society. Pray that despite such efforts to keep children from the things of God and to have them continue in the mire of sin and misery, the Lord would give a mighty victory and deliverance and lead these young ones out for His Name’s sake.

AFRICA

◆ Liberia

Monrovia—David DiCanio

The missionaries in Liberia are thankful that the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (the government entity that licenses the frequency 92.5 MHz for the radio station) billed the mission \$3000 USD for 2021. They have not officially granted the mission a license yet, but they are billing them as if they had and the missionaries are thankful for that at least. The bill was delayed for four months, which caused some uncertainty about what

was going on. Three thousand dollars is quite challenging for the small mission, but they look to the Lord to provide.

Rev. David DiCanio says they continue to see God’s grace in the lives of those attending the church regularly, and they continue to see visitors every Sunday from the radio station.

Mr. DiCanio has been reading original source material on Liberia as a country. He says it is amazing how many who started that country feared the Lord. One of the major founders, who has a street named after him in downtown Monrovia, had his personal reflections published in 1847. He was a Reformed Christian, and in his Bible expositions he quoted from the Westminster Shorter Catechism. Many of its founders had the desire for Liberia to be a light for the gospel to all Africa. That dream was spoiled by class envy that brought about the fourteen-year civil war. Mr. DiCanio says, “It is my prayer that our mission may be used to ‘raise up the foundations of many generations’ (Isaiah 58:12) and reverse much of that destruction.”

Continue to pray as they wait to see what the World Bank will do with the road construction in front of the bookstore, church, and now prospective preschool. The mission can’t do much until they know how much of their building will be removed to put a frontage (service) road along the new four-lane, limited-access road the World Bank is building.

Monrovia—Joanne Greer

Joanne Greer enjoyed a six-week break in Northern Ireland in March and April. She says travelling was stressful amid all the changing COVID regulations, but she’s very thankful that she got safely there and back and was able to rest and spend time with family.

In light of the Mission Board’s launch of the Christian School Pilot Project, Joanne is moving forward with preparations for starting a preschool class this September. She has started the registration process with the local district education officer, although that cannot be finalized until they have a building for him to inspect. Joanne has also decided on a curriculum, at least for the first year—one that has been written specifically for Christian schools in Africa. It will still need a little supplementation and adaptation, and it also requires a lot of additional teaching materials which she is making, buying in country where possible, or ordering from overseas. She has been working on documentation for the school over the past year (philosophy and policy statements, etc.) and is getting these finalized now. She is very thankful for all who have sent notes of encouragement and

assurances of prayer support regarding this school pilot project.

The missionaries are still unsure of what will happen with the proposed location for the school. For the past fifteen years, the Mission Board has been renting a property in Paynesville that houses the bookstore, the NGO office, and the building where the church meets and where Joanne works with the children. The lease is due to be renewed for a further five years, and the landlord had agreed to build a classroom next to the church as part of that renewal and also to extend the church building and put a concrete roof on the entire complex. That has all been delayed now due to the government road construction project right outside the property. Part of the existing structure may even need to be knocked down to make space for a frontage road. Right now they don't have any vehicular access to the building, so they definitely can't do any construction. The timing of everything, including starting the preschool in September, is up in the air right now, and Joanne would value your prayers that the Lord would guide very clearly as to His will and timing. She is thankful that a lot of the preparation work she is doing at the moment will be valid whether the school gets started this September or next September!

Although Joanne is uncertain of what the next few months hold, she would still really like to hold a vacation Bible school this summer with the church and community kids. Please pray that this would be possible, at least for a small group of children.

◆ Kenya

Kapenguria—Margaret Russell

Margaret Russell thanks God for answered prayer in relation to the pandemic in Kenya. It appears that the number of cases and deaths have reduced, after what was classed as the third wave. The vaccination program is slow due to shortage and delay in supply. A curfew will still be in place with a ban on all public rallies for another two months. God still continues to preserve and protect the church people in Kenya; this is not something taken for granted as others in the same areas have been ill and some have lost their lives to the virus. Margaret asks us to continue to pray, particularly for God's servants, that His continued hand of preservation will be upon them.

Schools reopened again after the April holiday and examination results were released. Both the Academy students and the young people from within the churches did

well. Margaret asks us to continue to pray for the Academy in particular, as the schedules have had to be changed to recover the nine months of classes that were lost as the result of last year's lockdown.

Margaret is thankful for the outreach work which is going on in a new area in Pokot County where there is little gospel witness and asks us to pray that God will bless the seed that has been sown and that souls will be brought to faith in Christ.

Margaret has now handed over the administration work of the mission in Kenya to Rev. Malcolm Patterson. Please pray for Malcolm and his wife, Alison, as they take up this area of the work and also as they plan to return to Kenya.

Margaret will still seek to be an ambassador for Christ in Kenya, even though it will be from afar. She still has further work to do on the Kenya Sunday school Bible lesson program but is thankful to have finalized the full series of visual aid books. She will be liaising with the Sunday school superintendents on the ground in Kenya and asks for prayer that she will be able to give the encouragement that is needed to see the Sunday school work established again. In some areas it has not picked up again after the lockdown of last year.

Please pray for Margaret's family circle that she will see a move of God among them. She is grieved to see so much indifference to the gospel and many totally taken up with the affairs of this life. She also values prayer for her health as she has not yet fully recovered from the injury she sustained in January 2020 and is still under hospital review.

Kitali—Malcolm & Alison Patterson

The Pattersons have completed their round of deputation meetings and are thankful to the Lord for undertaking for them as they travelled and for the meetings themselves in which they were able to share about the Lord's work in Kenya.

Malcolm and Alison are thankful that the shipment of books and other literature for the bookshops in Kenya has arrived safely in Kitale. They also thank the Lord that they have both received two doses of the COVID vaccine without any adverse reaction. May marks five years since Alison had her operation for cancer and they acknowledge the Lord's goodness to them. She will soon have her final review with the surgeon. Finally, they are thankful that their family members who are working in the hospitals have been kept safe as they worked with patients during the pandemic.

Please pray for Malcolm as he takes on the added responsibility for the administration of the Mission Society in Kenya as Margaret Russell retires. Pray that the Lord will enable him to fulfil this role. 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 is improving in many parts of the country but is still a cause for concern. Please also pray for the government of Kenya as it seeks to obtain sufficient vaccine. A vaccination program is being rolled out, but there is a shortage of the vaccine and many vaccination centers are idle at this time.

Pray for the pastors and their families as they seek to serve the Lord, for the Glory Bible Church central sub-committee as it finalizes the documentation for the doctrine and practice of Glory Bible Church, for the radio programs, the bookshops, and the internet outreach. Pray also for the Pattersons' parents as they have various health issues related to old age. Finally, please pray for the Lord to guide in the Pattersons' return to Kenya. In spite of their being vaccinated, they may be subject on arrival to fourteen days' mandatory quarantine at a government facility at their own cost!

ASIA

◆ Nepal

Kathmandu—Joy Gillespie

Joy Gillespie requests prayer for Nepal and the southern Asian continent as it is ravished by a second wave of the COVID pandemic. In India they have 4,000 daily deaths, with a shortage of medical supplies, oxygen, and ventilators across the continent. As the virus slowly moves across the country from the Indian border, the Nepal Free Presbyterian churches have not been exempt. Many church members have contracted the virus and, sadly, some have passed away. At present most of the country is in a lockdown. In Kathmandu where Joy lives, they are into the fifth week of lockdown, and, as numbers are slow to drop, it is likely to continue for a few more weeks. The children in the children's home are studying from home on Zoom. The exam program has been turned upside down again this year. Pray for the young people that God will continue to protect and comfort them during this time.

Pray for the church services as they continue via Zoom. Many of the church people can't afford the internet, but those that can have been enjoying the preaching of the Word.

The radio ministry also continues reaching out throughout the nation. Pray for Rev. Paul Thapa as he prepares the messages, that God will use them to draw many to Christ. Joy continues to write in the weekly paper and has received many encouraging emails from the readers. Pray that God will continue to help her in the preparation of the articles, that they will be interesting and will catch the attention of more readers. Pray that God will use these printed messages and write them on the hearts of the people and bring them to Christ.

The political situation in Nepal is unstable again with the president wishing to have fresh elections but the other parties not wanting them. They want him with his minority government to finish the two years left on his term. They don't believe that now is a good time to have elections. Pray for a stable government and that no party will have a big majority because the two main parties have promised to return Nepal to a Hindu state and forbid all other religions. This would cause enormous problems for the fledgling Christian communities across the country. Pray for Nepal that God will keep the door of opportunity for the preaching of the gospel open. Thank you for your continued prayerful support and interest for the extension of the gospel throughout Asia.

AUSTRALIA

Perth, Western Australia—*Philip & Cherith Gardiner*

Rev. Philip Gardiner says that their outreach meeting in the public housing unit has had very low attendance this year. They are looking to the Lord to bring new people in.

He is thankful for growing opportunities in the online meetings with people in Pakistan. Thirty-five children are attending a daily meeting for basic education instruction and also biblical instruction. Philip is conducting two weekly meetings for adults. Pray for the Lord to use this online outreach to save souls.

Please also pray for the church's street evangelism, that they will be able to effectively communicate the gospel to lost souls. Pray for the conversion of the youth in the congregation. Finally, please pray for the Lord to bless the Let the Bible Speak radio ministry in New South Wales, Australia, and in the Philippines.

Brethren, pray for us.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:25

DIRECTORY

Alvarez Fernandez, Angel & Kelley
angel@icpresbiteriana.com

Bernabeu, Alex & Vanesa
alejandrobarnabeumcauley@gmail.com

Boyle, Jason & Danielle
mexicocitymissions@gmail.com

Craig, Richard
richltbs@yahoo.com

DiCanio, David
daviddicanio@icloud.com

Foster, Andrew & Hannah
fosteraf@hotmail.co.uk

Gardiner, Philip & Cherith
pcgardiner@hotmail.com

Gillespie, Joy
gillespie_joy@yahoo.co.uk

Graham, Kyle & Eppie
kgraham@hotmail.co.uk

Greer, Joanne
joanne_g23@yahoo.co.uk

Hall, Ralph & Tanya
revrhall@gmail.com

Hanna, John & Noranna
jahanna@gmail.com

Lee, Seongkyu & Sooyoun
sklee8339@gmail.com

McAfee, Noreen
nemcafee@africaonline.co.ke

Orozco, Paco & Julia
jgmorozco@hotmail.com

Patterson, Malcolm & Alison
malcolm@patterson970.fsnet.co.uk

Peña, Lalo & Liz
lalo_rock@hotmail.com

Russell, Margaret
annabellrussell@aol.com

Solc, Milos & Martina
milosolc@yahoo.com

Sosa, Ramón & Wendy
ramonmsosa@gmail.com