

Missionary Prayer Bulletin



August 2021

NORTH AMERICA

◆ Jamaica

Little London—Richard Craig & Randy Gunnings

The Little London congregation is rejoicing that they have been able to resume the Bible study and prayer meeting on Wednesday nights after its being discontinued for almost a year due to COVID restrictions.

Please pray for the fiancé of Debbie, a longtime attender of the Little London church. He has been very ill with COVID-19.

Please pray much for Randy Gunnings and his wife, Gillian, as they are dealing with many challenges. Gillian has been very ill. She has had many medical tests, but so far, her problems have not been fully explained. Brother Randy was in a major car accident and spent a few days in the hospital, and it has now been discovered that he has high blood pressure.

◆ Dominican Republic

Los Frailes—Ramón & Wendy Sosa

The Sosas thank the Lord that they were able to conclude the school year for the pre-school and kindergarten children with a lovely graduation program. They took the opportunity to give a brief exhortation to parents about the gospel and parenting.

The church has continued with its regular Sunday services and was recently able to recommence its Wednesday services. The church people are encouraged and are glad that the husband of one of the ladies has visited a couple of times.

They thank God that the brothers who were afflicted with COVID have shown a good recovery and are gradually returning to normal.

Ramón is glad to be finishing his last year of seminary studies. He says it has been a time of great learning and great challenges, especially with time management.

Please pray 1) that they would see revival in the church and that the Lord would add those who are to be saved; 2) for Ramón as he completes his seminary studies, for his ordination, and for the constitution of the church as a Free Presbyterian church; 3) for success in registering children in the CEPVI (Word of Life Educational Center and Nursery) for the school year 2021–2022; 4) that the Lord will provide the funds for painting and carpentry work needed for the nursery and school premises.

◆ Mexico

Mexico City—Jason & Danielle Boyle

The people in the Mexico City church have now had five services in their new location. The Boyles say patience is needed all around as they wait for remodeling to be done. The first couple weeks they had much leaking from the roof, but that has now been fixed. Next, the kitchen needs to be set up (including plumbing so they can have a sink), a children's room constructed, a curtain put up to separate the sanctuary from the kitchen/children's room, and hopefully they will also enclose the whole church a bit more to protect the church's things from damage by unwanted cats.

The Boyles say it is nice to see the place rather full and everybody together. They enjoyed a fellowship meal after a baptism service for two adults. They have had a few new visitors since they've been in the new place, and, to God's glory, previous visitors have turned into regular attenders. Jason will be starting a membership class soon for the those who are ready for that step. Three families who live in neighboring cities and who faithfully connected online during the pandemic are now attending in person either every week or every other week.

Even though they are now able to accommodate a larger number of people, the inconveniences that have arisen remind them that this new meeting place is a temporary solution. They continue to pray and work towards the goal of purchasing the piece of land that the Lord has led them to.

Ruben Ramirez will be starting online classes at Geneva Reformed Seminary in the fall semester. The Boyles are praying that the Lord will bless his studies and clearly direct him for future ministry. Before he starts his seminary studies, he will be preaching three Sundays in August while Jason is away. Jason will be visiting Ramón Sosa and his church in the Dominican Republic in mid-August to help prepare the church for the next step of constitution as Ramón finishes up his GRS studies.

Books are being delivered this week to the pastors in the Mexican sister churches who will all be starting a new class soon. A recent money gift from the Faith FPC vacation Bible school has greatly aided in the purchase of these materials and has blessed these pastors and their churches very much.

Córdoba—Lalo & Liz Peña

Lalo Peña says that although the first COVID cases have appeared among some families and attendees in the church, he thanks God that most of them didn't have complications. So far, the church has continued its normal Sunday services and Sunday school.

Please pray for those who are recovering and that their families would be spared: Allan Soberanes, Irma Mendoza and her family, and Lalo's son-in-law, Abdiel Mendoza (Pamela's husband).

The new people who have been coming have remained faithful in their attendance. Lalo is almost finishing teaching the series on Mondays on fundamental Christian doctrines using the Westminster Confession of Faith. Sister Letty Colina was recently baptized, and more baptisms are expected once the doctrines class is finished.

On a recent Lord's Day Fernando Sosa, a doctor who works in nearby Orizaba, and his children, Mía Fernanda (16) and Fernando (12), visited the church. He has a Pentecostal background and was looking for a Reformed church. Please pray that if it is the Lord's will, this family will continue coming.

Please continue to pray for Mexico, especially because the political agenda is full of progressive and socialist initiatives. Last month the “Legal Abortion Law” was approved by the local congress in the state of Veracruz. Lalo says it is a big tragedy for one of the poorest states in the country.

Keep praying for Lalo’s job and good testimony in the Potable Water Agency in Cordoba. 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 church, his studies in Geneva Reformed Seminary, and his family.

The Peñas are thankful that occupational therapy and other measures are working for Liz. Please pray that she will be able to maintain a good frame of mind and rest in the Lord’s grace. Pray for Lalo and Liz to be sanctified through this time.

EUROPE

◆ Spain

Madrid—*John & Noranna Hanna*

John and Noranna say they are thankful to the Lord for all who faithfully pray for them and the works in Spain. John says it has been a difficult first part of the year. There is much discouragement among God’s people and the devil has been working hard. The church in Alcorcón has lost two of its elders. Carlos has been unhappy for quite a long time and has left with his family to attend another church. Pablo, because of prolonged health problems, feels he is no longer able to continue. So the church urgently needs new elders, as their other two elders are serving in the church in Toledo. Also, one of their deacons has had health problems and is on temporary leave. Please pray for the work in Alcorcón that the Lord will give them more people, especially men with the gifts to serve in the different offices of the church.

Mark Witte, the minister in Toledo, is presently on furlough with his family and will not return until the end of August. This is giving John Hanna more opportunity to preach through July and August, preaching in both places, one in the morning and the other in the evening.

Normally the annual family camp is held during the last week of August, but this year it was decided to suspend it until 2022 because of COVID-19. It will be greatly missed, as it has always been a time of spiritual refreshing and reviving after the long summer.

Attendance at the Sabbath services has been down in both Alcorcón and Toledo due

to vacation time. Pray that the Lord will move upon His people and that unsaved will be brought in to the services to hear the gospel.

Cortijos Nuevos—*Alejandro & Vanesa Bernabeu*

Alejandro Bernabeu requests prayer for the following: 1) Rev. Lyle Boyd’s health. Lyle is awaiting an operation to remove his gallbladder, which has been causing problems in the last number of months. 2) A few families from a nearby town. The wives in these families profess to be saved, but the husbands are not. Pray that the Lord will bring household salvation to these families and that He will add them to His church. 3) Help in preaching. Alejandro is currently on a series in Ephesians and says he has learned much about the riches of God’s grace as he has studied it. They are also now streaming the church services online so that others who cannot come or who live very far away can also watch the services. Please pray also that the Lord will raise other faithful men, that will be apt to teach in the congregation. 4) The three-minute program on local radio every day from Monday to Friday. A lot of people listen to it, and two weeks ago a man from another town texted to say he enjoys it, so they are now sending him some other Bible messages. 5) The daily devotionals Lyle Boyd had been doing for the people in the congregation. More than seventy people now receive them daily. Please pray that the Lord will use this means to edify his people and save the lost. 6) The bookstall in the market twice a week. It is a tremendous opportunity to give out tracts and to have good conversations about spiritual matters. 7) The elderly ones in the congregation, who have been a great example for the work. Pray that the Lord will comfort them in these latter years of their life. Around a month ago they celebrated the 100th birthday of Alfonso, one of the founding members of the church. 8) The young people and children in the congregation. They have seven or eight children between the ages of eight and sixteen. Pray that in these crucial years the Lord will save them and keep them growing in grace. 9) The Sunday school ministry. The Lord helped Vanesa in teaching online Sunday school from January to June, in which she taught John Bunyan’s *Pilgrim’s Progress*. After that she taught from the book of Genesis. This September they plan, the Lord willing, to start normal Sunday school with a class for the wee ones, a junior class, and a Bible class. Please pray that the Lord will bring many children and young people to these classes. 10) The protection for the

Bernabeu children. Abigail started school last March at a school just two-minutes’ walking distance from their home. It has proven to be a tremendous opportunity for the Bernabeus to make contact with and to witness to other families in the town. Their daughter Elizabeth will be starting in September. Please pray that the Lord will keep the girls and protect them as they attend this school.

◆ Czech Republic

Liberec—*Milos & Martina Solc*

The Solces are thankful that the present situation with the COVID pandemic in their country continues to be relatively stable and that they are able to have in-person services with minimal restrictions.

To their great joy, young brother Luke is growing in the grace and knowledge of Christ. The Solces have been praying that the Lord would establish him in the faith and the Lord has been answering. Milos says, “May the Lord strengthen him and make him a mighty witness in his family circle and as he heads off to university in September.”

Thank you for praying for their children’s camp at the beginning of July. The Lord gave them a special time despite opposition leading up to it. The children were very attentive while they were taught about the lives of some of the Czech Reformers and about Czech Protestant history—subjects they know almost nothing about. Please pray especially for one young girl to whom the Lord spoke very strongly, that she would be allowed to come to the services and that the Lord would save her for His Name’s sake.

AFRICA

◆ Liberia

Monrovia—*David DiCanio*

David DiCanio reports that three young men were baptized in July, one of whom, Christian Tokpah, came to Christ through the preaching of Dr. Alan Cairns on the radio station there in Monrovia. Another of the men, Sovereign Wleh, attended the yearly VBS and Independence Day program at the Free Presbyterian mission church and came to Christ sometime during that time; he left the Pentecostal church to be a part of the mission work. The last of the men, William Tarnue, came to assurance of salvation through the young people’s Sunday school and has been working in the bookstore for the past few years.

Numerous visitors continue to come in from the radio station. One gentleman came

with his family. He just moved from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and had attended a PCA church there. He found out about the FP church because the garage that was repairing his car in Monrovia tuned his car radio to 92.5 FM (the FPC radio station). He was shocked to find a Reformed radio station in Liberia and came to the church the next Sunday.

They continue to run the Bible Quiz T-shirt contest every evening on the radio station. Dave is encouraged that people continue to play and also thanks the Lord for the many on-air testimonies that the winners give, sharing how the Lord is using the preaching in their lives.

The missionaries are thankful that the Liberia Telecommunications Authority was finally able to visit the station to check out the studio and transmitter room. They said that they anticipated the station would get its official license soon. They remarked that they wished all the radio stations in Liberia had as good a signal as the FP station does. They also remarked that it was very clean and well within the government's legal specifications.

The missionaries continue to prepare for the school pilot project. They are about to sign the five-year lease for the property at Police Academy Junction in Paynesville. The landlord has agreed to build a new building where they will house the bookstore, church, NGO office, and school classroom. There will be some room for expansion on that compound, but if the school is successful, in the will of the Lord, they will be looking for a new property in the future.

Monrovia—Joanne Greer

Joanne Greer says Liberia has experienced a resurgence of COVID cases in the last couple of months, apparently from the Delta variant, although testing is still very limited. Masking and social distancing orders were put back into effect in mid-June, but thankfully they've had no lockdown or curfew put into place. They have been able to continue with their normal schedule at the church, with the seats spread out and a tent built outside to hold the overflow.

July 26 is Liberia's Independence Day, when they usually rent a nearby school and invite 150–200 community children for games and food. This year, because of the COVID restrictions, they were able to invite only twenty of the children who most faithfully attend the church, but Joanne says they still had a good day!

They are planning to hold a small vacation Bible school at the church during the week of August 23–27. Once again, it will be by invi-

tation only, probably for about thirty children. Please pray for this week of Bible teaching. The theme is creation. Several of the high school and college-age youth are helping out with VBS for the first time so the missionaries are holding training workshops for them, covering topics such as child protection, how to teach a memory verse, and how to prepare and teach a children's Bible lesson.

Because of COVID restrictions over the past year and the lack of online education opportunities in Liberia, most schools are still trying to finish up the 2020–2021 year. Graduating seniors are due to take the West African school-leaving exam in September, and then the next school year should start in October. This means that Joanne has a little extra time to see if it's possible to start the Christian preschool in the 2021–2022 year. She says, "Please do pray that if it's the Lord's will for us to start in October, He will provide the building, the teachers, and the students needed."

◆ Uganda

Nsaalu—Noreen McAfee

Noreen McAfee thanks us for our continued prayers for Uganda. She was able to take a trip home to Northern Ireland in May, and she says it was good to catch up with family, her church family, and some friends.

Sadly, there was a spike of COVID-19 cases in Uganda while she was away, so the country was back in full lockdown by the time she returned. Some of the restrictions were eased at the end of July, but churches and schools remain closed for now. Vaccines are scarce and the government prefers all teachers and senior students be vaccinated before they resume. Noreen asks us to pray that the Lord would overrule in mercy and that both the church services and regular school programs would recommence very soon.

Noreen says that they were greatly encouraged by the recent examination results for both the primary and secondary students. Both departments posted their best results ever and she praises God for His help in a very difficult year. Otherwise, the teachers are back to preparing, printing, packing, delivering, collecting, and marking the home-learning packages. These packages also contain some gospel literature and Bible lessons. They hope that they will be a blessing to all the homes that receive them.

The mission recently received a consignment of 41 boxes of gospel literature from Northern Ireland. Most of it is in the local Luganda language, and the missionaries trust it will be a help in the outreach work. Since

many regular activities are off, Noreen and Hannah Foster are taking the opportunity to fit in some more Luganda classes on Zoom. Pray that the Lord would give them an ear and a tongue for the language.

Andrew Foster is continuing with work on the third missionary apartment to make it more suitable for family accommodation. Although the lockdown has delayed some supplies, he has been able to keep going. He would like to complete this project before the Fosters return to Ulster in early October to meet Hannah's residency requirements under the UK's Settlement Scheme for EU citizens.

The control panel for the campus mains electricity has now reached Mombasa and will be transported inland to Kampala for customs and clearance. When this process is complete, the technical team hopes to come again from Northern Ireland to complete the installation. Noreen asks us to pray that the COVID-19 situation would improve sufficiently to facilitate their travel arrangements.

◆ Kenya

Kitale—Malcolm & Alison Patterson

The Pattersons say the words of Psalm 130:5 sum up the situation they are in at present: "I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope." Malcolm says, "God's ways are above man's ways and as we continue to work from home for Kenya, we thank the Lord that he has raised up men and women in Kenya who have faithfully continued steadfast in the work God has placed them. We are thankful for those in the churches, the LTBS radio ministry, the bookshops, translation work, Sunday school and VBS and now in the newly commenced nursery school. Internet communication has been a great advantage to us; we have been able to minister to the brethren, pray with them, supply materials to and maintain our responsibilities for administration in FPMSA."

The Nyaporo nursery school commenced Monday, August 2, with two teachers and 24 pupils. The teachers are state trained for teaching the Kenyan curriculum, but the Pattersons hope to give training to teach from a Christian perspective. Alison has translated into Swahili some of the material being used in the Christian nursery schools in Northern Ireland for use in Kenya. Pray for the school administrator, Mr. Benson Osundwa, and for the needy children in the area of the church in Nyaporo, Western Kenya.

With the second Lockdown in Kenya in 13 of the 47 counties, four of the churches—Kitale, Shimo La Tewa, Kakamega, and

Nyaporo—were not able to meet physically for worship, but services were held by means of Zoom. Physical services resumed at the beginning of August.

The work of the Glory Bible Church subcommittee continues with documenting the doctrine and practice of the church in Kenya. Pray that a good foundation will be laid.

With the recent visit of the president of Kenya, Uhuru Kenyatta, to the UK a further 817,000 doses of vaccine are being sent to Kenya. Currently, Kenya has received 2,143,100 doses of vaccine; 1,064,500 people have received the first dose and 662,437 the second dose. They have been dispensed mainly to health care, teaching, and security personnel. The population of Kenya is 47.6 million. Pray for more countries to donate vaccines.

At present the Pattersons are receiving dental treatment which, because of COVID, had been greatly delayed. They continue to appreciate prayer for their family.

ASIA

◆ South Korea

Seoul—*Seongkyu & Sooyoun Lee*

Rev. Seongkyu Lee says they are enduring a nearly two-year pandemic in South Korea by the grace of God. Korean churches have been banned from worship several times due to strict government regulations, and only 20% of the congregation could gather for worship. However, since July, the government has implemented the highest level of restriction, and all religious gatherings have been completely banned. Small churches are having a difficult time without any kind of support from the government. However, the Free Presbyterian congregation is doing well because of the unwavering devotion of the church members. They are holding frequent meetings using Zoom to encourage each other.

The church had its second baptism in June. Ms. Woo-im Choi is a government employee and began studying the Bible at her workplace with one of the church members, Mrs. Eunju Jung. She went with the church people on their summer retreat, and the Holy Spirit blessed her with spiritual understanding. She grew up with a Roman Catholic background but left the Catholic faith as a college student. She wandered for a long while spiritually but was led to hear the gospel again through her work colleague, Mrs. Eunju Jung. Mrs. Jung suffered long and patiently to lead her to Jesus. Then God worked in her heart. Instead of

the Catholic baptism she had received before, she wished to be baptized again in church, so Pastor Lee and Ms. Choi spent a long time studying the Bible together to prepare for her baptism. She was finally baptized and confessed Jesus as her Lord and Savior in front of the congregation. They were able to see how God has led one soul to Him, and that has been a great joy and encouragement to the congregation. Now she is hoping to lead her husband to the Lord as well. Her husband works as a train conductor and is not able to attend church regularly. Still, he tries his best to come to church whenever he can. Please pray that their family may grow and be one in the gospel.

Another family is praying and awaiting legal procedures for adoption. This couple married at a late age and are in their mid-50s. They have no children, so they decided to adopt. This was a difficult decision for both of them, but God has made the process of adoption go through. They are planning to adopt a 37-month boy and will be able to take him home with the court's approval in September. They are studying the Bible with Pastor Lee to learn how to raise their adopted child in the gospel. They realize how important it is to lead the child to Christ and are praying together.

God has allowed a wonderful gift in Sam and Junghyun Lee's family. Junghyun is expecting their third child, a boy, and is doing well. The Sam Lee family will return to Virginia in a year after finishing their work in Korea. Seongkyu says, "We thank the Lord for sending this family to serve the church. We will miss them very much, but we are still grateful for all the comfort and joy God has given us through this family."

Mr. Meongjeong's wife, Mrs. Eunju was unfortunately unable to work for three months due to a car accident. Thankfully, God has granted Mr. Meongjeong a new job after six months of unemployment. The Lord has watched over this family when in need. He has also helped them grow spiritually as they have served the church faithfully throughout the years.

The church is also grateful that Mr. Jumeong will be attending the Free Presbyterian Church once again. He served the church early in its ministry but had to leave due to family problems. God has led him back again, and he is praying that he will be able to serve the church faithfully.

Please pray for the young people in the church. Pastor Lee's son Hakjin and Mr. Myeongjeong's son Sunghyuk began their

military service in July and April. They will have to serve for eighteen months. Pray that they might finish their duty safely. Mr. Jumeong's son Jisung is also serving in the military. Please pray that all these young men may keep their faith, grow spiritually, and glorify God even during their military service.

AUSTRALIA

Perth, Western Australia—*Philip & Cherith Gardiner*

Rev. Philip Gardner says they are very thankful to see some new families joining with them in recent months. He prays that they will continue to be led of the Lord.

There have been growing opportunities in the online meetings in Pakistan. On August 13 Philip and Rev. Kyle Graham are hosting a meeting with one hundred youth in Pakistan, most of whom do not know the Lord. Pray that the gospel will bear fruit in many hearts.

Pray for the Lord's blessing on the *Let the Bible Speak* programs in New South Wales and in the Philippines. Pray also that the Lord will open new doors of opportunity for the gospel in Western Australia.

Brethren, pray for us.
1 THESSALONIANS 5:25