

Missionary Prayer Bulletin



April 2022

NORTH AMERICA

◆ Jamaica

Little London—*Richard Craig & Randy Gunnings*

The congregation in Jamaica is glad the government has lifted all the COVID-19 restrictions. They are recommencing all their services such as the children's meeting and the youth fellowship. The boys and girls were very disappointed that these had to be stopped. As they restart these meetings, please pray that there would be no new major outbreak of the virus.

Recently some new people have been coming to church on the Lord's Day. One of them is showing great interest; however, due to her work commitment, she is not able to attend the meetings as much as she would like. Pray that the Lord would encourage and motivate her more in the gospel.

Please pray that the Lord would move mightily in transforming the hearts of men and women in Jamaica as violence seems to be escalating and rapidly increasing in all parishes. Lawlessness now seems to be welcome in the character of men and women in the society. Richard says, "Notwithstanding, we truly believe in the sovereignty of our God."

◆ Dominican Republic

Los Frailes—*Ramón & Wendy Sosa*

Ramón Sosa thanks the Lord that the church in Los Frailes is back to normal in terms of its regular services. He also thanks the Lord for the opportunity to involve the church in a plan to read the Bible through in one year. They are using social networks and Sermon-audio to connect every morning at 6:00 for a time of reading, meditation, and prayer. Spanish speakers can join them using this link: <https://www.sermonaudio.com/solo/irpavi/podcasts/156932/>.

Those attending the resumed Sunday school classes are being encouraged through

the study of the book *Sacred Bond* on covenant theology. They are actively participating with questions and comments.

The month of March brought many tests for Ramón and his family as far as financial support goes. Some children have withdrawn from the pre-school and daycare, resulting in a considerable decrease in the Sosas' monthly income. Also, some support that they had been receiving from time to time from a follower of the church's sermons on the internet has been interrupted since November of last year.

Please pray for the pre-school and daycare (CEPVI, Word of Life Educational Center) that they will have more students and also that it will be a means of reaching families with the gospel. Pray also for the church, that the Lord will bring the revival that they long for so much and for the daily Bible reading plan that they are carrying out with the church. Finally, please pray that the Lord will meet the financial needs of the Sosa family.

◆ Mexico

Mexico City—*Jason & Danielle Boyle*

At the beginning of February the Boyles had their first Latin American week of prayer for pastors and their families. Six families were able to attend. It was a blessing to everyone and lots of good fellowship was had.

Starting in April, Geneva Reformed Seminary student, Ruben Ramirez is preaching every other week in the Sunday afternoon services in Mexico City. Pablo Enciso, a prospective GRS student, has started sharing a devotional on Wednesday evenings at the prayer meeting. That means Jason is able to concentrate more on the Spanish-speaking seminary students. He prepares their courses (adapting them from the English GRS classes), marks their work, and proctors their exams. Six students are currently taking classes, four of whom are pastors.

Renovation work continues to advance in the church's meeting place. Two weeks ago

a shade cloth was installed to provide some relief from the intense heat of the sun.

In February the church elected its fifth deacon, Oscar Vargas, who has proven to be a blessing already as he has taken on the role of church treasurer and overseer of the mission churches' finances. The Boyles are thankful for him and his young family and that God has called them to stay and help in their church rather than move back to Columbia.

At the end of March the Boyles spent a weekend with Pastor Jair of Tehuacan, Puebla. Besides enjoying wonderful fellowship, they were able to take a few supplies for the new children's Sunday school class that will start in the work in Tehuacan in April. Danielle helped create some song boards for Sunday school use. Jason conducted the Lord's Supper and taught the adult Sunday school on having a temporary membership and deacons while they are a mission church preparing for constitution. He also preached in the morning and afternoon services.

Jonathan's adoption court date was deferred to April 22, when a psychologist will be present to help the judge determine that the birth mother understands the full ramifications of her decision. Please pray that everything would go well and that his adoption will finally be successfully finalized.

The Boyles moved to a new house in March. They are thankful for this new home as they continue to settle in. Caleb, who turns five in July, will be finishing up his first official homeschool year in classical education in May. Jason and Danielle rejoice to see his love for learning. Jonathan, who turns two in June, is talking more and is a happy little guy.

Córdoba—*Lalo & Liz Peña*

In Lalo's last report he said that they were dealing with a number of COVID cases in the church. They thank the Lord that there have been no serious consequences among the attendees and that Lalo's mother, Celina, has now recovered completely.

Sister Lety Colina has mostly recovered from the injuries she received in the car accident Lalo mentioned in his last report. Please pray for her unsaved husband, Julio, who does not come to church.

Pray for Daniel Isaías and Claudia Zambrano. Daniel, a young man who has begun attending the church, was in prison more than ten years before he was freed in December 2021. Claudia Zambrano worked under Lalo at the water agency. She was baptized on March 20 after attending the church for almost a year. Lalo is grateful for this evidence of the Lord's using him to bring souls to Christ during his time at the water agency.

Lalo has begun studying *The Book of Church Order* to complete the studies the presbytery is requiring of him. Sadly, because of the recent restrictions on foreign travelers coming into the USA, it will be impossible for him and his family to attend to the Ministers' Week of Prayer in May. Please pray for wisdom for the presbytery and the examination committee as they decide how to handle his situation since he can't appear before them in person.

Liz is doing well, but please continue to pray that they will be sanctified through her illness. Pray for their children and grandchildren. Finally, pray that the Lord will give Lalo the help he needs, especially with the preaching of the Word and caring for the church.

EUROPE

◆ Spain

Madrid—John & Noranna Hanna

John and Noranna Hanna are grateful for all who pray for them. The Lord hears and answers.

A month ago a woman was received into communicant membership in Alcorcón and is rejoicing in the Lord. John says they have many visitors and pray that some will become regular attenders.

The monthly regional youth meetings continue with much enthusiasm.

The Toledo work also continues to grow. This month two couples had their babies baptized and a family was received into membership. They are praying that they will soon reach twenty members in order to officially constitute the church. When that happens, a presbytery will be formed.

In closing, please pray for wisdom for the Alcorcón session as they make changes to the official representatives of the church.

Cortijos Nuevos—Alejandro & Vanesa Bernabeu

The Bernabeus have been in Cortijos Nuevos a year and a half now. They have settled in well and are enjoying the congregation and the area. Their son, Ezekiel (18 months), and his sisters are growing fast. The girls, Abigail (4) and Elizabeth (3), are attending the local public school. Alex and Vanesa pray that the Lord will protect them. Having the girls in the public school has given the Benabeus tremendous opportunities to meet other parents and families from the town, and they have been able to witness to many of them. Two or three families have shown a lot of interest and they pray that God will touch their hearts.

Around thirty persons attend services on Sunday mornings and twenty or twenty-five on Wednesday nights. That part of Spain is quite isolated, but they have had some visitors since they have been there. Pray with the Bernabeus that the Lord will touch their hearts and bring them to Himself. Alex is doing some Bible studies or discipleship with some individuals from the congregation who are new in the faith or have many doubts. They have started a youth fellowship of six to ten young people who are "in difficult ages." Pray that God will touch these young lives and that they will grow in grace.

Pray for the elderly in the congregation. They thank the Lord that during the pandemic, all of them were preserved and were able to keep reasonably good health. Alfonso, the oldest founding member of the church, is one hundred years old and is well. One of the members of the congregation is quite ill in hospital at the moment. Please pray for her and for others, that God will strengthen them and comfort them.

Alex distributes gospel tracts and other literature normally twice a week at the street market where he has good opportunities to speak with people. He also has a daily three-minute radio program and a weekly evangelistic video over the internet. Pray for the Lord's blessing on the outreach efforts.

Three other Spanish pastors and Alex were able to take two vans of medical supplies to Krakow, Poland, to help Ukrainians affected by the war. Alex says the response of people in churches in Spain was amazing, and he thanked the Lord for allowing them to be a part of it, for supplying all that was needed (including the fuel), and for keeping them safe as they drove over sixty hours (3,700+ miles) across Europe. On their return, they brought back some refugees from Ukraine, among them the wife of a Presbyterian minister in Odesa and their two children. She and the

children had to leave the country, but her husband stayed to serve his people and help in his town. Please pray for comfort for them and protection for her husband.

In summary, Alex asks for prayer for boldness in evangelism and in the preaching of the gospel, for faithful men in the church who will be able to lead in word and example, for souls to be saved and Christians to be edified. Finally, he says, "Pray that our good God would send His Holy Spirit to us."

◆ Czech Republic

Liberec—Milos & Martina Solc

The Solces are thankful that the Lord is blessing in the church. The people are encouraged and are being built up in the faith. They have been studying 2 Peter and desiring continual growth in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The apostle Peter repeatedly reminds the Lord's people of the things they were taught and exhorts them to be established in those truths. Milos mentions the encouragement in 2 Peter 2:9: "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations." He says, "There are many influences and pressures [on] the people here ... that would keep them from following after the Lord. When we contemplate such influences and pressures in our society, we are very conscious of the fact that only the Lord can deliver and grant an overcoming to man, woman, and child."

Please pray for a young woman who comes to the Solces' home for English lessons. Milos had an opportunity, prepared by the Lord, to give her the gospel. She believes there is a God but really knows nothing about Him. Pray that her own notions and ideas would not stand in her way of coming to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Pray also for a young fellow named Joseph to whom Milos has been ministering very recently. He is from the local school where Martina works. The Lord has been working on him over the years through Martina's opportunities in the school. Pray with them for his salvation.

AFRICA

◆ Liberia

Monrovia—David DiCanio

Rev. David DiCanio reports that Joanne Greer is scheduled to return to Liberia April 12 following her time of deputation in Northern Ireland. Her meetings have gone well with good support coming in for her personal sup-

port fund as well as for the Christian school pilot project. In addition, the Ulster Mission Board has kindly offered to use the retiring offering from Joanne's farewell service to help with the diesel expense on the Duazon mission compound. Dave says that although they have not made a diesel purchase since the global price increases, they have been told that the price is up 50 percent over what it is normally because of the circumstances surrounding the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The World Bank has been working on a large road/electricity project in the greater Monrovia area, including in Duazon where the missionary housing and radio station are located. The restoration of electricity in Liberia has been an incredible challenge since the civil war, particularly its funding. Problems abound at every level resulting in sporadic electricity for those who have it. Dave says, "If we get electricity in Duazon, we don't anticipate a trouble-free service, but we hope to have an automated setup to share power between the Liberia Electricity Corporation and our own automated generators. This will hopefully cut costs."

The mission signed an extended five-year lease on the property in Paynesville that it has been renting. The landlord agreed to use the lease money to build units for his future use and for the present use of the FPC mission church, NGO headquarters, bookstore, and the Christian school. The building had been progressing steadily. The walls were finished at the end of December, but not much has been done since then. The landlord has given Dave several reasons for the delay, but still has not restarted the construction. When he gets the concrete roof on, they can start meeting in the building for church immediately, but they will be unable to start the school until the building is totally complete.

The church in Paynesville meets for worship on Sundays mornings with fifty regular congregants along with other sporadic attenders. They meet on the front porch of the bookstore since the church building was demolished in October to make way for the new construction. One of the young men, William Tarnue, comes at 7 a.m. to erect an elaborate tarp system over the porch area to give them shade. They hope the system will also work for the rainy season that has just begun.

Dave recently finished a series on Covenant Theology, dealing with the covenant of works, redemption, grace, and the covenants of promise. He also addressed the errors of old school dispensationalism and focused on the place of the law in the gospel. He spent some time dealing with the confusion in the

Reformed camp on justification—particularly the false idea of initial and final justification. He has discussed some of this in the context of the confusion surrounding the Puritan Richard Baxter and the later Marrow Controversy in Scotland. He says, "These are not easy subjects, but I've tried very hard to explain these things simply and clearly. People do appreciate these fuller explanations of the gospel."

Sunday school is at 9:30 a.m. Nathan Barco, a converted Jehovah's Witness who has been with the work since the very early days, continues to teach in the children's class. Dave has been doing a combined Sunday school for adults, college age, and young people. They are going through the Westminster Confession of Faith and just finished chapter 21: "Of Religious Worship, and the Sabbath Day." This has given him a great opportunity to address the issues surrounding biblical worship, especially the subject of music.

Wednesday prayer meeting is held in the bookstore for now, usually with about twelve attendees, mostly young men in their twenties. The bookstore has air conditioning, but sadly, malicious persons have been sabotaging the electricity for months by repeatedly stealing electrical components. They have also smashed the outside air conditioning compressors. Dave says he's been impressed with the stickability of the prayer meeting crowd in the hot and uncomfortable environment.

◆ Uganda

Nsaalu—Noreen McAfee

Noreen thanks everyone for their continued prayers for the work in Uganda. She says they have had a busy time, but the Lord has blessed in many ways.

The electrical team completed the rewiring and installation project and all at Emmanuel are now enjoying being on the power grid. It has made a huge difference in life on the compound, and Noreen thanks God for the team, their expertise, and fellowship.

Noreen says they also enjoyed having Rev. Ray Carscadden minister in the church and school in the month of March and praises God for a small number of students who professed faith in Christ. She prays that many others will also come to know the Saviour this year.

Rev. Maurice Baxter and his wife, Chrismar, arrived in Uganda a couple of days before Noreen left for deputation. Noreen asks us to remember them as they help in the church and school. She also asks us to pray for the headteachers and others who have extra

responsibilities during her absence.

Please pray for Noreen as she does the first six weeks of her deputation meetings before returning to Uganda in May. It is hoped that she will be able to do a further round of meetings later in the year.

Finally, please pray for Andrew Foster, his wife, Hannah, and daughter, Rachel, as they settle back into life in Northern Ireland. Noreen says they will be greatly missed at Emmanuel, but she thanks God for all that He enabled them to accomplish during their years of service there.

◆ Kenya

Margaret Russell

Margaret is thankful for the few weeks she has been able to spend in Kenya and for the opportunity to renew fellowship with the Lord's people there. God has undertaken thus far, and she is very thankful for our prayers. She has been privileged to meet the Sunday school teachers again and to take part in their conferences, both in the Bible Christian Faith Church and the Glory Bible Church. Annual parents' meetings and prize-giving are underway. Please pray for all the Sunday school teachers who will now embark on another year in the curriculum of Bible teaching. Pray for the salvation of many children in Kenya.

Kitali—Malcolm & Alison Patterson

Malcolm is pleased to have completed the in-house accounts for the Kakamega bookshop and the Nyaporo nursery school for 2021 and has helped some of the churches with their accounts. Accounting is a skill which Kenyans do not naturally embrace, but they are gradually realizing the importance of good recordkeeping and accountability in the Lord's work.

Inventory is next on the agenda for the bookshops followed by some promotions for Easter. The container from Northern Ireland has at last reached Kenya. It was delayed getting through customs in Mombasa but thankfully it has reached the depot in Diguna. Now the work of transporting the materials and sorting them begins. Many individuals, churches, and organizations contributed in some way to the shipment of books and other literature.

Useful booklets have been supplied to the pastors and those training with the Bible institute so that they can be well informed and have additional study material. Do pray for each of the men as they continue with their studies in addition to their other responsibilities. The pastors continue to prepare

messages for the LTBS broadcasts. Malcolm puts the programs together and seeks to help the pastors to improve in their delivery of the messages.

The hot, dry season is coming to an end, and the rains with thunderstorms have begun. This is good news for the Kenyans as they are now able to plant their crops: maize, beans, cabbages, tomatoes, etc. Unfortunately, the price of fertilizer has doubled due to the conflict in Ukraine. This means the production of staples will be reduced this season and, in all probability, there will be a shortage of food later on.

Towards the end of February, the Pattersons travelled to Kakamega where Rev. Ibrahim Kiarie was working with Pastor Patrice in the Kakamega area and then in the Nyaporo district. Many contacts were made. Mr. Kiarie returned to Nairobi to continue evangelism there. He is seeking God's will to find a suitable place to open a Sunday school and have a fellowship. A number of contacts in Nairobi either belong to Glory Bible Church (GBC) fellowships and are now working in Nairobi or joined the GBC Zoom meetings during the pandemic and are interested in fellowshipping with Mr. Kiarie. Do pray that the Lord will be pleased to open a door for the furtherance of the gospel in Nairobi and for Mr. Kiarie, his wife, Viola, and their four children.

The Pattersons continue training the nursery staff in Nyaporo in early childhood development and education (ECDE). Please pray for the staff: the teachers, Franciska and Sylvia; the administrator, Benson; and the assistant teacher, Phoebe. The first graduation service for the eight pupils who completed the Pre-Primary 2 course was held on March 11. The church in Nyaporo was filled to capacity with parents, guests from the district and the Ministry of Education, and all the pupils. It was a very happy occasion.

The Kakamega Sunday school continues to grow. There were 85 at a recent meeting. They were meeting in a school building until the principal objected. The Sunday school has been able to meet outside temporarily. Please pray that the problem will be resolved so that they can use the school in the days ahead.

The Pattersons returned to Kitale after the Nyaporo graduation service to greet Margaret Russell, who is in Kenya for a short period to work with the Sunday schools. Presently they are all focusing on preparations for Easter, the vacation Bible schools that are coming up, and the parents' days in the churches. They are also planning a Sunday school teachers' conference and a youth conference.

ASIA

◆ South Korea

Seoul—*Seongkyu & Sooyoun Lee*

The members of the Free Presbyterian Church in Korea are doing well by the grace of God. They have seen a surge in the number of COVID-19 infections in the past few months because of easing of social distancing. As a result, many members could not participate in Sunday worship. However, in two weeks, all restrictions should be lifted and the people are looking forward to meeting freely.

The church began various services in March including a gospel class for college students. It is supposed to meet every other week. Seongkyu looks forward to meeting with college students soon to give them the gospel. They also started a religious book reading group for young people. They have had meetings only online so far. Pray that meeting in person will go much better and that in both meetings they will see the gospel work in saving souls and strengthening believers.

The church recently held an infant baptism ceremony for Jae-hyun, the son of Hee-chul and Jeong Hyun. For this, all the members tried to join in together. Seongkyu says it was a joy to gather together and prepare for the baby's baptism. He thanks God for giving them this little baby in the church and for the opportunity to baptize him.

Pray for the church as they face the challenge of spreading the gospel once the pandemic is over. They must overcome the secular values of Korean society and reform Christian wrongs that are not evangelical. Please pray that the Lord will be with them for the advance of the gospel.

AUSTRALIA

Perth, Western Australia—*Philip & Cherith Gardiner*

The church in Perth is having special meetings over the Easter weekend and has been delivering invitations locally. Pray for locals to come in and especially for conversions. Please also pray for a true work of grace in souls of the youth in the church and for wisdom concerning their online meetings with the contacts they have in Pakistan.

Port Lincoln & Lock—*Kyle & Eppie Graham*

Kyle Graham says the Lord has been gracious and provided tokens of encouragement in the works in Port Lincoln and Lock in recent

times. They have had a number of visitors over the past months. Many are travelling through the area on holidays and so are only there for one or two weeks. However, one young man has recently moved to the area and is regularly attending the services. It has also been encouraging that an individual who used to be connected to the church but had drifted away for many years has recently been back. The Grahams are also encouraged that some have expressed interest in becoming members of the church.

Please pray for one of the elders, Trevor Spiers. His health has gone downhill recently, and he has spent a great deal of the past few months in hospital. Please pray that the Lord will sustain him and encourage him, even as he struggles physically.

The Grahams are currently applying for a new permanent visa. Their current visa runs out in mid-May, and there have been a few issues to work through to enable the church to sponsor their visa application. They are very thankful that these issues have now been resolved, and once the church was able to put in its nomination of them, it was given approval very quickly. The Grahams' part of the application is now able to go ahead. Please pray that the Lord overrules as the immigration department assesses their application.

The Grahams would like to thank all those who continue to remember them in prayer. Kyle says, "We are constantly forced to recognize our own inability and therefore our need for the Lord's mighty power in the works here."

Grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word. ACTS 4:29

See the FPCNA Mission Board website at www.fpcnamissions.org for more news, prayer requests, and pictures.

For more information about missionaries serving under the Ulster Mission Board see www.fpcmission.org.