

Missionary Prayer Bulletin



August 2022

NORTH AMERICA

◆ Jamaica

Little London—Richard Craig & Randy Gunnings

Just few weeks ago, Randy Gunnings, who works alongside Richard Craig in the work in Jamaica, his wife, Gillian, and their two daughters were in a major car accident. Their car went out of control and eventually ended up in a swamp where it caught fire. Passersby were able to get Randy and the girls out easily, but it took some minutes to extinguish the fire and get Gillian out safely. Randy and his family praise God for His great hand of protection. Please remember them in your prayers

The congregation in Little London is very grateful to God that it is now able to resume all the church services. They are no longer under any government restriction as to when and how they may meet. They do pray that this will continue and that the Lord's name will be glorified.

◆ Dominican Republic

Los Frailes—Ramón & Wendy Sosa

Ramón Sosa was able to attend via Zoom the recent week of prayer held in Mexico City with Jason Boyle and the pastors from sister churches in Mexico.

Ramon tested positive for COVID-19 at the end of July. Please pray for a speedy recovery of health. Please also pray for the church and for revival in the Dominican Republic.

Pray for the nursery and pre-school as they start up in August. Pray that registration for the new year will go well and also that they will be able to recruit two new helpers. Pray that the Lord will bless the evangelistic activities that they are planning to carry out with the families of the children who attend the nursery and pre-school.

◆ Mexico

Mexico City—Jason & Danielle Boyle

The biannual Mexican week of prayer, held in Mexico City July 25–29, was an encouragement for the pastors. Jason says, “Now, more than ever, the work is set out before us. There is much to do and accomplish for the Lord's name in Latin America.” Plans were made to have an annual Latin American FPC mission trip to visit and help one of their sister churches. Next year's trip will be to the Jalpan de Serra and Axtlan church.

Please pray for Geneva Reformed Seminary students Pablo and Ruben as they start their fall semester. Pablo had been assured that he would have a scholarship from his workplace (it ensures a continued salary as he takes time off to study), but it has not yet been approved. Please pray that the approval would be quick and in time before his seminary courses begin in August. Pray that this next seminary year will be very beneficial to Pablo and Ruben's preparation as pastors both spiritually and practically.

A mini conference on dating and courtship was held at the Mexico City church on Saturday, July 30, for singles and their parents. Please pray that the young people will start off relationships on the right foot and in the Lord's will. Almost none of them were raised in Christian homes, and if they were, their parents were not, so it is new territory for many of the parents as well.

Please continue to pray regarding the church's meeting place. They face many struggles with their present location and need wisdom to make it comfortable enough until they find their permanent home. The real need is to purchase a church property. Pray for much wisdom, direction, and provision of the necessary funds.

During the month of August Jason will hold a class to train potential elders. Danielle has begun meeting with the wives of potential elders for fellowship and prayer. Also in August, the Boyles will receive Rev. Derrick Bowman

and his wife, Lydia, along with Rev. Myron Mooney into their home and then take them to Veracruz for Lalo Peña's licensing.

Jason is also delegating many responsibilities for when he and the family are away on deputation. He says it will be a time of testing for the church, as attendance is normally down when he is out of town. Please pray for much growth in spiritual maturity and consistency in the church.

The Lord willing, Jason, Danielle, and the boys will fly to Vancouver on September 5 to begin the Canadian leg of their deputation, starting in the western churches and heading over to Ontario in October. Please pray they will be a blessing to the congregations they visit, that all needs will be provided, and that God would use the meetings for the furtherance of the gospel in Latin America.

Córdoba—Lalo & Liz Peña

Lalo reports on the week of prayer held in Mexico in July. He says it was a great opportunity to lift their voices together in prayer. Jason Boyle in México City was the host. He was joined by Wenceslao Hernandez of Jalpan de Serra, Querétaro; Pepe Luna from La Escalera, San Luis Potosí; Jair Luna from Tehuacán, Puebla; Ramón Sosa from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (via Zoom); and Lalo, from Córdoba. Lalo says, “We had a great time sharing the gospel, praying, planning, and having great times of blessed communion with each other. We are looking forward for the next meeting January 23–27, 2023, Lord willing. Please, pray for our future meetings and activities.”

On August 19–22, the delegation commissioned by the presbytery consisting of Rev. Myron Mooney, Rev. Derrick Bowman, and Rev. Jason Boyle will be in Córdoba to license Lalo as a Free Presbyterian minister. The Peñas are looking forward to having Lydia Bowman, Danielle, Caleb, and Jonathan Boyle, and Ruben Ramirez visit as well. Please pray for good and smooth travels, for the meetings that will also be held with candidates for church membership, and for

the Lord's Day services, especially for the conversion of lost relatives of the church people who will be invited to attend.

Due to some recent financial difficulties and after prayer and receiving counsel from several brethren in the denomination, Lalo has taken a job. Please pray for him to have a good testimony and the ability to perform his responsibilities in the family, the church, and professionally. Pray for discernment regarding his future in this job and that the Lord will give him the help he needs especially in the preaching of the Word and taking care of the church.

Liz is doing well at present. She may be able to receive treatment from a sister in Christ who moved from the Netherlands to México and who has a lot of experience in treating Huntington's disease. Pray for Lalo and Liz to be sanctified through this time. Pray for their children: Uriel, Gadiel; Pamela and her husband, Abdiel, who are trying to have a baby; Lalo, Jr., and his wife, Carolina, and their children Camila (7), Lalito III (2) and Nataly (1).

EUROPE

◆ Spain

Cortijos Nuevos—Alejandro & Vanesa Bernabeu

The Bernabeus have been in Cortijos Nuevos more than a year and a half and have been able to settle well as a family. Alejandro says they are getting used to many of the things there and are even starting to speak with the particular regional Spanish accent.

Over the last few months four believers were received into membership. Three of them had been attending the church for years and have good testimonies, but they had not applied for membership before. The other one is a woman who was saved some years ago, but she is now quite ill and cannot attend very often; she faithfully watches the services online.

Though that part of Spain is quite isolated, some visitors have been in to the services. Some showed an interest for a while, but it didn't last. Pray with the Bernabeus that God will touch their hearts and awaken them to spiritual realities.

Alejandro continues to do some Bible studies or discipleship with some individuals from the congregation who are new in the faith or who have many doubts. He prays that they will grow in the faith and in the knowledge of the Christ. Next September he

plans to start a study in the Bible class on the attributes of God and believes it will be of great benefit for the congregation.

Pray for the young people who attend the monthly youth fellowship. Many of them are in a very difficult age and need a work of grace in their hearts. The Bernabeus are trying to plan activities or camps for them with other churches so that they can have some fellowship with other Christian young people. Do pray that God will touch these young lives and that they will grow in grace.

May and June were quite busy for the church. In anticipation of some special events, Alejandro designed and built six new pews for the church (they had only six before). The church thanks the Ulster Mission Board for a generous gift that was used for that. They were also able to install a new air conditioning unit.

In May, they had a short gospel mission as they celebrated the 34th anniversary of the church. It was preceded by two weeks of outreach (giving out leaflets in the different markets and towns, sharing video invitations, and even speaking about it on the radio). A pastor from Seville came and preached, and they had some visitors. A lot of people who said they would come did not show up, but some who came have shown interest in spiritual matters. Pray that the Lord will soon bring them to Christ.

In the first week of June, they had a special farewell meeting for Rev. Lyle Boyd and his wife, Heather. They invited people from other churches and people who had known Lyle and Heather from camps and conferences. More than seventy attended the meeting. Following different testimonies and words of appreciation Rev. John Hanna preached on 1 Samuel 7:12: "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." Alejandro says, "We are grateful as a church for what the Lord has done through the faithful labors of the Rev. Lyle Boyd and Heather. As the Psalm 16 says, "We have a goodly (and a godly) heritage."

At the end of August, God willing, the Bernabeus will attend a family camp with believers from other churches. This has been for many years a tremendous blessing for this church. It will be the first time for the Bernabeu family to attend and they are really looking forward to it.

In September after the summer break, they plan to start again the other normal activities of the church (Sunday school and youth fellowship). They are also going to start a monthly church dinner on the last Sunday of every month after the morning service. They know it will be a precious time of fellowship and edification.

◆ Czech Republic

Liberec—Milos & Martina Solc

The Solces want to thank everyone who remember them in prayer and specifically those who prayed for their children's summer day camp. Things turned out a little differently than they expected in that several children that were supposed to come did not. But they trust that the children who did come were the ones that were meant to be there, as they specifically prayed for that. They had a blessed time and all the children from the camp attended the following Sabbath morning service. The Solces are praying for their salvation. It is their hope that there will be more children who will start attending the Sabbath school on a regular basis, when, Lord willing, it starts again in September, after two years of COVID which greatly hampered that ministry.

The Solces also thank the Lord for helping their daughter, Abigail, complete her medical studies and for providing a position for her at the University Hospital in Prague. They pray that the Lord would use her there for the extension of His kingdom.

AFRICA

◆ Liberia

Monrovia—Joanne Greer

Joanne reports that the mission in Liberia rented a nearby school and hosted a games day for children from the mission church and community on July 26, Liberian Independence Day. About 130 children attended and enjoyed games, snacks, and most of all—ice cream!

Joanne is very thankful that the mission is able to hold its annual vacation Bible school this year (in the same rented school) and to issue an open invitation to the children in the communities surrounding the church. Joanne says, "COVID-19 resulted in the 2020 VBS being cancelled and the 2021 VBS being limited to church children, so it's been very encouraging to welcome some kids in 2022 whom we haven't seen for several years!" VBS is running August 1–5. They had a good first meeting on Monday with 122 children registered, and all but five showing up, in spite of steady rain all day. They are studying the theme of salvation this year; please pray that God will deal with many hearts.

Monrovia—David DiCanio

David DiCanio provides background information that makes it clear the devil has been

opposing the VBS. He says it has been quite a challenge to just show up every day and have electricity and all the equipment working. During the first day of VBS they discovered that the building they were renting to hold VBS, which has city electricity, was extremely low on voltage (only 155V when it was supposed to be 220V), so the overhead projector, sound system, and keyboard wouldn't work. They had to scramble around and bring in their own generator to run everything.

The missionaries were very thankful for a generous gift from Northern Ireland to help them cover some of the extra cost with the price of diesel going up. They run the entire property in Duazon on two diesel generators that they alternate back-and-forth with. Those generators also run the radio station. Before this recent increase, the price of diesel was US\$2000 for 500 gallons; that same 500 gallons now costs US\$3400. And they have now used the last of the gift.

The World Bank electrical project has now reached the Duazon property with the installation of the wires. Some have said the power will come on this month, but others have said it won't be working until December. Whenever it comes on, the mission compound is going to require a system to automatically switch back over to the generators when the power from the city government fails (as it is likely to do from time to time). That will require some battery backup for the radio station transmitter so that it won't go off the air while the electricity switches. Pray that the power supplied will be a consistently good 220 volts and that the mission will be able to get the appropriate equipment for switching between power sources.

No progress has been made on the construction of the church/school building in Painesville. The mission has no control over the building project; the landlord is doing that with the money the mission paid for a five-year lease agreement. It is very unlikely that the Christian school will be able to start in September.

Dave has started a new program on the radio station called "Man on the Street." Dave records his witnessing to people on the street and airs the conversations during free slots on the station. He has done six programs in two weeks. It's a lot of work, but he says it is encouraging Christians to witness, and it's also teaching people the gospel. He explains, "I know some people are surprised at the way Liberians think in regard to the gospel. ... Most people that say that they know Christ as their Saviour really seem to be trusting in the repentance or trusting in their prayer for

forgiveness, rather than trusting in the merits of Christ." As he deals with the people on the streets, the radio listeners are also coming to a better understanding of the gospel.

◆ Kenya

Kitali—Malcolm & Alison Patterson

At present the Pattersons are in Northern Ireland for a break and compassionate leave as, due to having COVID-19, they were unable to travel home for Malcolm's father's funeral in January. Do pray for the wider Patterson family circle as well as continuing to pray for Malcolm and Alison's immediate family, Tim and Sarah, Phil, and Alison's mother.

In the absence of the Pattersons, Mr. Glenn Hamilton, his wife, Emma, and their children Holly and George were in Kenya for five weeks. They visited each of the five Glory Bible Churches (GBC) and took part in the different ministries including Lord's Day services, prayer meetings, men's and ladies' meetings, open-air meetings, Sunday school, vacation Bible clubs that were arranged during the short school holiday, the bookshop Bible study, and discipleship class. Remember Glenn as he now continues with his studies at the Whitefield College of the Bible.

Continue to pray for the work of GBC, the central committee, the pastors and leaders in the churches, the Sunday school and teens' teachers and the nursery school staff in Nyaporo ECDE (nursery school). Pray for the work in Nairobi which is being pioneered by Rev. Ibrahim Kiarie. The Pattersons hope to spend time with him when in Nairobi on their return to Kenya on August 18.

The agricultural shows are re-opening now that the severe effect of COVID is largely over. Malcolm and Alison and a team of pastors hope to have a literature stand and agricultural exhibit at the Kitale Show in October.

Pray for the consignment of literature which has been shipped to Kenya; it was due to arrive on July 30. It takes time for the container to be cleared through customs and forwarded onward to Nairobi where it is unloaded and then the consignment for the Pattersons is freighted onward to Kitale. Some of this material will be useful for the agricultural show.

Continue to pray for the staff and ministry of the Beulah Christian Literature book shops in Kakamega and Kitale. Also, remember the LTBS radio broadcasts on Imani Radio and Lubao FM as they go out each week in Swahili. Pray for the pastors who preach and Malcolm as he compiles the programs.

Pray for the administrative work Malcolm undertakes for the FPMSA and for the Mission Board in all their deliberations and decision making regarding the work in Kenya.

Finally, remember the people in Kenya as the national elections take place on August 9. There are two main contenders for the presidency: Raila Odinga, a former prime minister, and William Ruto, who was the deputy to the current President Uhuru Kenyatta. In addition to the presidential election, people will be voting for MPs and senators to go to the National Parliament and for county governors and county assembly members. Women get an extra vote to elect one of 47 women's representatives to sit in the national assembly. Pray that the election will pass off peacefully and that there will not be strife between communities as there has been in some previous elections.

ASIA

◆ Nepal

Kathmandu—Joy Gillespie

After seven months of being at home on furlough in Ulster, Joy Gillespie is preparing to return to Nepal. She leaves on August 8 following a farewell service on the 7th. Pray for the meeting, that the Word of God will be preached with power and that those present will be encouraged to hold the ropes in prayer.

Pray for Joy's family as she once again takes her leave of them, especially her mother as she will miss Joy's company and fellowship. Pray for the journey that there won't be any flight cancellations, that all will go smoothly, and that her PCR test will be negative.

Pray for the work in Nepal that God will continue to move and work in the hearts of the nation. Pray that He will keep the door open for the preaching of the gospel especially with the parliamentary elections in November. Some of the parties are taking a strong stance to return Nepal to a Hindu state and to close the churches.

Pray for the granting of the business visa without any problems. Pray that new students will come in for the English Institute and that God will lead Joy to the right teacher to keep the classes going and give Joy more freedom to travel to the village churches.

Over two hundred years ago William Carey exhorted his friends, "Well, I will go down, if you will hold the rope." Joy says, "I trust as I return you will again take up the ropes of prayer for me and the land of Nepal."

◆ South Korea

Seoul—*Seongkyu & Sooyoun Lee*

Pastor Seongkyu Lee says the Free Presbyterian Church in Korea is doing well by the grace of God. The past few months have been the most comfortable period without restrictions due to COVID-19. The Conservative Party came to power and implemented different policies from the previous Democratic Party. The new president is a former prosecutor-general appointed by the Democratic Party, but he became president of the Conservative Party with the support of the people because he resisted the political oppression of the previous administration. This process is “complicated and shabby,” but Seongkyu can see God’s hand at work in it. He says, “I’m praying that he does his job well.”

In the past few months, some visitors to the church have had incorrect and very harmful views. One man was doing a YouTube broadcast claiming to be a conservative Christian but saying that polygamy is biblical. He left the church when Seongkyu heard about what he was saying and demanded that his teachings be dropped from YouTube. In another instance, a young woman was impressed by her friend’s faith and visited the church. She seemed to respond well to the Word, and the church prayed a lot for her. However, when she acquired a boyfriend, she lost interest in the faith and left the church. She revealed that she didn’t really care about her soul; she was just looking for a spiritual prop. Pray with the church people for a work of the gospel that changes souls.

Pastor Lee will be baptizing three young people. Please pray that these college students will be blessed as they reflect on their faith during their preparation for baptism and then as they publicly confess their faith through this ordinance.

The church is looking forward to its retreat in August. All such activities had been stopped due to COVID-19 for the past three years, but now church gatherings are possible. Please pray for Pastor Lee as he delivers the word and pray that it will be a precious time for all the members to gain spiritual strength.

Please pray for Sam Lee and his family as they return to the United States after three and a half years in Korea. They labored faithfully in the church while in Korea and were loved and cherished by all the members. Pastor Lee says, “For us, Heechul’s [Sam’s] family was like a gift.” They will be living in Virginia. Pray that they will settle in well and find a good church in which to serve the Lord.

AUSTRALIA

Perth, Western Australia—*Philip & Cherith Gardiner*

Philip Gardiner praises God for remarkable answers to prayer in some difficult family situations in the congregation in Perth. Please pray for an outreach on Saturday, August 13, at an Australian Rules Football [soccer] match and for new opportunities for outreach and witness. The Bible club and youth fellowship have recommenced after the winter holidays. Please pray for more children and youth to come in and for the Lord to do a work in hearts.

Port Lincoln & Lock—*Kyle & Eppie Graham*

The Grahams are very thankful for the ongoing prayers of God’s people. At the end of April, Trevor Spiers, one of the church elders, passed into the presence of the Lord, which has certainly been felt in the work, especially since most of those in the Lock congregation are family connections of Trevor. The Lord has been encouraging and comforting the family over the past months. Please continue to pray for them and also that the Lord would raise up others in the work to fill the gap left by our brother.

The Grahams recently applied for a visa to allow them to remain in Australia as permanent residents and have just received confirmation that this has been granted, for which they are very thankful to the Lord. For the past six years they had a couple of different temporary visas, which worked okay, but this permanent visa will give them a good deal more stability as they serve the Lord in Australia.

August 9–11 the Lock congregation will be manning a stall at the Eyre Peninsula Field Days. This event usually runs every two years but was cancelled in 2020 due to COVID. Thousands of people will likely be attending from across the Eyre Peninsula where the two South Australian churches are located. They will be giving out gospel literature and engaging in conversations. Please pray for hearts prepared and for the Lord’s blessing upon the endeavor.

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

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