

Missionary Prayer Bulletin



December 2022

NORTH AMERICA

◆ Jamaica

Little London—Richard Craig & Randy Gunnings

The congregation in Little London, Jamaica, is very grateful to the Lord for His sustaining grace in their lives. Richard Craig asks for prayer especially for the elderly ladies in the fellowship as they deal with constant feebleness, weakness, and pain.

Please remember to pray for the work in the schools as Richard and Randy Gunnings proclaim God's Word each week. Randy visits the Little London primary school every Tuesday morning and conducts general devotions for over seven hundred students. Both teachers and students have expressed their happiness to Randy that the ministry has recommenced.

Remember the land of Jamaica as the crime situation seems to be out of control. Richard says almost every parish seems to be "living lawless" with no regard for life in general. They pray that God will move in a mighty way and transform the hearts of wicked men.

◆ Dominican Republic

Los Frailes—Ramón & Wendy Sosa

Ramón Sosa gives thanks to the Lord that Jose Miguel has fully recovered from his health problems. Ramón continues to work with him on his spiritual life and the management of his work schedule.

On November 26 the Sosas held an evangelistic conference with the parents and guardians of the children in their daycare (CEPVI). The conference was held to acquaint the parents with the church. The Sosas gave away literature and took the opportunity to speak personally with the families.

In the month of December the church will have a dinner to celebrate the end of the year. They will also mark the end of the first quarter

of the CEPVI (the children go on vacation until January). They want to take advantage of this time to continue getting closer to the neighborhood of Los Frailes II, preaching the gospel on every occasion.

Please pray for an awakening in the congregation; for the preaching, Bible studies, and readings that Ramón carries out every day through the different social networks, so that the Word of God may spread and be glorified; for the Lord to raise up men willing to assume their responsibilities as leaders of their homes and in the church; for Ramón's **ordination service** and the constitution of the church, which are scheduled for Sunday, January 15.

◆ Mexico

Mexico City—Jason & Danielle Boyle

On November 4 the Boyles returned to Mexico from their Canadian deputation. They were blessed to be able to present the work. Jason says, "As we traveled and fellowshiped in the different churches, our burden for Mexico was renewed, deepened, and strengthened. We were able to have moments of rest and family time mixed in with lots of hours on the road traveling between churches."

The Boyles were thankful that the pulpit was well supplied by visiting pastors and by Pablo Enciso and Ruben Ramirez (both GRS seminary students). Upon their return they found a mix of encouragements and discouragements. Some people had matured and become more committed to the church during the first-time absence of their pastor, while sadly a few stopped attending. Overall, however, the experience has served to strengthen the church.

At the beginning of November, the Sunday school children enjoyed a Reformation party. In November Jason conducted a good number of home visits to speak to new families and also to their wider circle of friends. December will bring a church Christmas gathering and a women's breakfast so that all the women can get to know the women who have begun to attend more recently.

Also in November Jason started up the homiletics class again. The additional assistance of Rev. John Hanna (Spain) will enrich the feedback for the students as they will have the opportunity to hear from another seasoned Spanish-speaking preacher. In January Danielle will split the group of Sunday school children and teach the older ones in their own class. Jason will also begin his study for potential elders in the new year.

The Boyles are preparing for the Mexican family Ministers' Week of Prayer which will take place for the second time this January. They are praying for God's provision so Ramón Sosa's family might attend with him.

Lately, the Boyles have been very burdened for the need to start a Spanish seminary. Jason says, "The need is so great, and the project is so large! We hardly know where to start, but we trust the Lord's guidance and provision." Lalo Peña recently visited Wenceslao in the mountains of Queretaro, and while he was there the two of them had an impromptu opportunity to speak to a group of Baptist seminary students who were just starting to learn about the doctrines of grace. Lalo taught on Reformed worship. The takeaway was a renewed burden of the great need for Reformed seminary training for men. These last years in Mexico have seen a rapid increase of people from all parts who are desirous for Reformed teaching, but all they can find in Spanish are the famous preachers online, and what they need are solid Reformed Bible-preaching churches and men trained to plant them. Jason says, "We ask for prayers as God guides us to help all these people who are spread out all over and [who] want guidance and teaching." Pray also for provision for adequate church facilities to accommodate the church's needs and the seminary's needs.

Finally, please pray that the Lord would allow Jonathan's visa to come through quickly so that he will be allowed to enter the U.S. and the Boyles can therefore do their U.S. deputation, in the Lord's will.

Córdoba—Lalo & Liz Peña

Lalo Peña thanks God for His love and unceasing grace in the work in Córdoba. Since attending the Week of Prayer and presbytery meetings in Calgary, Canada, Lalo has continued with the exposition of the Word (the Gospel of Matthew on the Lord's Days, a course on the Canons of Dort on Mondays, and exposition of 1 Corinthians on Wednesdays). The people are very grateful to God for His work in the church, although there have been some absences in recent months.

On November 6, Lalo preached at El Redentor Christian Church in Mexico City for Jason Boyle. He says it was a time of great encouragement and mutual edification with the sister church, which by the grace of God remained joyful and firm during the absence of Jason and his family while they were on deputation in the FPC churches in Canada. He says it was an honor to be a part of the Boyles' warm reception as they returned that Lord's Day, and he thanks God for that time of "enormous blessing."

Lalo continues with biweekly visits to Guadalupe Victoria, Puebla, where they are trying to establish a work. He is presenting basic teachings from the Westminster Confession of Faith to a group of about fifteen people. Most recently he has dealt with the state of the soul after death in order to expose the errors promoted by the Roman Catholic church with its traditional festivals for "the faithful departed" (something that has "enormous roots" in Mexico). Lalo says you could see the astonishment on the faces of the people when they were exposed to the glorious truth of the Scriptures. Do pray for them.

Finally, November 18–22 Lalo visited the church in Jalpan de Serra under the care of Wenceslao Hernández Vergara and the church in La Escalera under the care of Pepe Luna Lezama. Both churches are in the process of becoming missionary churches of the church in Mexico City. It was a time of great blessing and encouragement.

During that trip, Lalo also gave a short conference in the region of the Huasteca Hidalguense (made up of the adjacent parts of the states of San Luis Potosí, Tamaulipas, Veracruz, and Hidalgo) on Reformed worship. One evening he had the opportunity to converse with young seminary students seeking to clear up their doubts until dawn the next day. He came away with a great burden for the work that is being done in that region after seeing the need for pastors to have a confessional perspective in their theological studies so that they will be equipped to accurately teach the scriptures. Lalo says, "I ended my

visit with a brief participation in the prayer meeting of the Jalpan church. ... In addition to the enormous honor of preaching the Word of God, it was an intimate time of fellowship with my brothers Wenceslao, Pepe, their respective families, and other brothers."

EUROPE

◆ Spain

Madrid—John & Noranna Hanna

The Hannas are thankful to every believer who prays for them and the work in general in Spain. John Hanna says the Lord has been answering prayer. In the month of October God richly blessed their annual conference called "Passion for the Gospel" which was held in a venue in the north of Madrid City. Around four hundred people attended the conference and were greatly blessed by the ministry of the Word. There were also a number of booths representing seminaries, different ministries, and book stalls.

Shortly after the conference the Reformed churches celebrated Reformation Day in which there were two preaching sessions. It was held in Ciudad Real, some two hundred kilometers to the south. The subject was the inspiration and veracity of the scriptures. The event was very well attended and is always an opportunity for believers from different areas of Spain to meet and enjoy fellowship.

Due to the generosity of a believer in North Ireland, the church in Alcorcón has received new pews. They were made by a joinery company in Northern Ireland and shipped by truck to Alcorcón. At present they are being upholstered and it is hoped they will be completed and in place before Christmas. This will enhance the new church building that is almost complete. Hopefully it will be possible to hold an official opening in the new year.

John asks prayer for the work in Toledo that it may soon be officially constituted. The Sabbath attendance is good, but they need to have more people commit to membership. Pray the Lord will move to that end in the hearts of those who attend.

Also continue to pray for Rafael and his family as they work to commence a work in the city of Aranjuez, forty kilometers southeast of Alcorcón and approximately the same to the east of Toledo. A number of people have shown an interest and there are plans to commence a weekly Bible study in the home of Rafael.

◆ Czech Republic

Liberec—Milos & Martina Solc

Although there have been various trials in the last weeks, the Solces thank the Lord for recently bringing a number of visitors to the church. They have been especially encouraged by the desire of a certain lady from Prague to attend the services. She was saved abroad and has been looking for a biblical and separated ministry. After attending for the first time, she was greatly encouraged. She and the Solces had very special and blessed fellowship together.

The Solces were also very glad to renew fellowship with an old friend of the family, sister Vladka David, who now attends the Orlando church. She is well known to the congregation in Liberec and was able to spend several Sabbaths with them. She also visited the homes of the ladies in the church who rejoiced at the opportunity to have fellowship with another sister in Christ.

Finally, Milos and Martina ask for prayer for the Christmas evangelistic service, that the Lord would bring the people in and that souls would be saved for the glory of His name and the extension of His kingdom.

AFRICA

◆ Liberia

Monrovia—David DiCanio

Dave DiCanio reports that they continue to await the landlord's work on the mission's building. Nothing has been done since the last prayer bulletin. They have decided to purchase another tarp to extend the temporary church meeting place and also to purchase fifty more chairs. They continue to see visitors come in to the services and the Sunday school is growing as well.

They still do not have electricity from the government at the mission compound, but the government continues to run lines. In the meantime, the price of diesel to run the generators has gone up again.

The missionaries are looking forward to having the youth and college age Christmas fellowship on the afternoon of December 18. Dave says he is thankful for the continued prayers of the Lord's people for the work in Liberia.

Monrovia—Joanne Greer

Joanne Greer says they are preparing for the Children's Day program in the Sunday school in Paynesville. They usually have

this as a year-end program when the children present some of what they have been learning throughout the year and receive attendance prizes. Please pray for the Lord's blessing on this special service on Sunday, December 18.

Joanne is grateful to all who have supported her prayerfully and practically throughout another year of labor in Liberia. She trusts that the Lord will bless us all as we remember His birth and enter 2023 in His will.

◆ Uganda

Nsaalu—Noreen McAfee

Noreen is thankful for your faithful prayers for the work at Emmanuel through another year.

She says that the government decided to close schools a little early this term due to an Ebola outbreak in parts of the country. Thankfully, the last patient has now been discharged, but the authorities remain vigilant.

Despite the reduced class time, the staff and students were able to complete all the examinations and hold a combined school prize-giving service and graduation ceremony for the nursery top class. A good number of parents attended and listened attentively to God's Word.

Now the staff and students are enjoying a well-deserved break from school, but Noreen asks us to continue to pray for their physical and spiritual wellbeing during this holiday season. Please remember those particularly who have come to the end of courses and have to make decisions regarding their future.

Most of the staff have been much occupied with the wedding preparations for two of the teachers. Noreen says they had a lovely day at Ronald and Jascent's wedding which was conducted on December 3 by Rev. Malcolm Patterson from Kenya. She says it was lovely to renew fellowship with him and his wife, Alison, and to have him minister on the Lord's Day also. Now they are looking forward this weekend to the second marriage ceremony, this one for George and Agnes. Noreen asks us to pray for these couples as they start married life together, and for all the young couples and families connected to the work.

Once the weddings are over, focus will return to preparations for the new school year. There are a number of licenses and permits to be renewed, including Noreen's work permit. Please pray that they would have favor with the authorities and see good progress on all these items.

At the same time, the church plans to hold two more vacation Bible schools for children and young people: one before Christmas in

a neighboring village and the second in the new year at Emmanuel. Noreen requests prayer for these outreach efforts, for willing workers and for guidance as they prepare the materials. Above all, pray that precious souls will be saved.

The church family at Emmanuel really enjoyed the ministry of Mr. Trevor Wylie up until mid-November. They will be having numerous speakers via Zoom over the Christmas and New Year period. Noreen asks us to pray for everyone who has so kindly consented to preach for them. She says that the attendance at church is always noticeably down when the school boarders and staff travel back to their distant homes during school breaks, but she prays that many would come in from the community and hear words whereby they may be saved.

Noreen wishes all a very happy Christmas and a blessed and peaceful New Year.

◆ Kenya

Kitale—Malcolm & Alison Patterson

The Pattersons report that the agricultural show took place in Kitale October 26–29. As usual, the mission work had a literature tent and an agricultural exhibit. This year they had quite a display of flowers grown in recycled 20-liter water bottles which attracted a lot of attention. The workers had a good time each day talking to people about the agricultural exhibit demonstrating solar drying and successional sowing, but of course, their main purpose was to present the gospel.

In addition to free gospel literature (tracts, John's gospels in various languages and the "New Beginning" booklets) they had Bibles, hymnbooks, and other literature for sale. They also gave out a flyer advertising all the congregations, the *Let the Bible Speak* radio broadcasts, and the bookshops and book tables. The Pattersons are thankful for the help given by the pastors and others from their congregations. It was a blessed time for them all. Pray that the seed sown will find a place in hearts prepared by the Holy Spirit.

Please pray for the book table ministry. Each of the pastors has a book table ministry in his area. Pastor Emmanuel recently commenced his book table ministry and is looking at the possibility of taking a unit in the busy Makutano area for a more permanent literature ministry.

Pastor Kiarie is seeing an increase in his fledgling congregation in Juja Farm, Nairobi. He also uses a book table to reach out to those in that area. Pastor Patrice and Pastor Andrew have each spent a few days with Pas-

tor Kiarie recently to encourage and support him in outreach.

Malcolm continues to conduct the pastors' prayer meeting on Monday mornings via Zoom, when each pastor takes it in turn to bring a short message and all share their prayer requests. At times the internet fails, and one or more pastors drop off. Pray much for the pastors as their responsibilities increase as the work develops.

The Pattersons are anticipating another consignment of books and much-needed tracts to arrive very soon in Kitale. The house on the lower compound, which was occupied until the beginning of this year, has been reroofed and painted and the entrance to the lower garden has been widened to allow vehicle access. This house is now a storage place for boxes of literature.

On Saturday, November 12, Malcolm was invited to speak by video link to the Missionary Council Youth Day Conference in Northern Ireland. Thankfully the technology involved was reliable and Malcolm was heard loud and clear in Northern Ireland. He outlined the work of the Glory Bible Church and its history as well.

On October 20 a teens' and youth rally for the Kakamega and Nyaporo young people was hosted by the Nyaporo congregation. The theme of the conference was based on the motto text for the year, 2 Peter 3:18 and the topics of prayer, Bible reading, and witnessing were considered by Malcolm, Alison, and Pastor Patrice respectively. The conference was well attended.

Malcolm continues to preach around each church in succession and also at their prayer meetings. Shimo la Tewa now has a physical prayer meeting, having used Zoom until recently. Recently after the prayer meeting in Bikeke, which is held in a home, some neighbors came in and Malcolm, Pastor Andrew, and Alison had an opportunity to speak to them and to testify. Much prayer is needed for all the congregations as they seek to witness in their areas and to see growth in their congregations.

The Pattersons are returning to Northern Ireland for a time until mid-February as Alison's mother is now quite elderly and although keeping in reasonably good health needs more attention. They are grateful for your continued prayer support for themselves, for the pastors and other workers in Kenya, and also for their family at home, particularly their two sons and daughter-in-law as they support Alison's mother. They wish everyone the blessings of the season and a happy New Year in 2023.

ASIA

◆ Nepal

Kathmandu—Joy Gillespie

Joy Gillespie wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year from the land of Nepal. This year she will be spending Christmas in Nepal. The church there will have a Christmas service in the morning and then enjoy a meal together. Many of the congregation will come even though it isn't an official holiday there. Joy is looking forward to spending some time with the folk and the children from the orphanage.

This year has been a busy one for Joy with being home for deputation. She thanks the Lord for touching the hearts of the people and supplying her support for the next four years of service. Since returning to Nepal she has been busy renewing her visa and the legal documents for the English institute. She says it is surprising how time consuming all that can be. However, she thanks God for His provision for another year in Nepal.

In October and November two groups from the Ulster presbytery went to Nepal to encourage those in the work. Representatives from the Mission Board came and travelled extensively around the churches, encouraging the pastors with their presence, and opening the newest Free Presbyterian church. They also spoke at the youth conference, which was well attended with over one hundred young people from across the country. The second group came to open the new radio station for Let the Bible Speak. It was a really special day for all who travelled out of the city of Kathmandu and into the next province to celebrate and praise and thank God for His goodness to them. Unfortunately, they are still waiting on some of the legal documents to allow them to broadcast farther afield, even up to the border with India. Pray that God will soon open the door completely and that He will continue to use this mode of evangelism to the extension of the gospel.

The English institute has had a number of new students over the past weeks which is a real blessing. Joy had been looking for an experienced English teacher to join the work, which would free her up, but sadly that didn't materialize. However, one of the young men in the church has come in to teach the basic classes and that has brought in more students. He is only temporary, but it has reinforced the need for a Nepalese speaking teacher. Please pray that God will bring one their way.

Joy thanks God for answered prayer in regard to the parliamentary elections. They were relatively trouble free with only some disturbance in the countryside. Some votes are still being counted, but the majority are in and the political make up hasn't changed drastically. Those who advocated for a return to a Hindu state didn't receive the support they needed to bring in such change. Joy thanks God for His calming influence on the country during that time.

Continue to pray for the newspaper articles. Pray that they will continue to be a blessing to the Christians and a means of enlightenment to those who are still in darkness.

At the beginning of December Joy is travelling to a church five hours' drive away to hold a ladies' conference. A one-day conference is scheduled for December 8 for the ladies in the area, and then on Friday Joy is to hold a day of teacher-training classes for the Sunday school teachers in the churches. She also hopes to hold a children's meeting on Friday evening, putting into practice what she teaches in the training classes. She plans to fly up for the conference as it takes only 25 minutes rather than the five hours it takes to drive. She requests prayer for safety though since the Nepalese airlines are not the most reliable form of transportation!

Joy says, "I thank you all for your prayerful support and interest in the work of God during 2022. It is an encouragement to know that folks across in America are praying for the souls of men and women in Nepal."

◆ South Korea

Seoul—Seongkyu & Sooyoun Lee

Seongkyu Lee says the members of the Free Presbyterian Church in Korea live in the grace of God. He says Korea seems to be experiencing a long period of after-effects from COVID-19. Two years of strict social distancing and restrictions on assembling have made it difficult for those who left the church to return to the church. COVID-19 is not only a physical disease, but it has had a huge impact on the spiritual lives of many people. The church needs to recover from that impact. The church retreat in October was part of the FP church's effort for recovery. Seongkyu says he himself experienced some spiritual recovery through the retreat. But many things are still calling for change. Many still find it more convenient to gather on Zoom, so meeting and fellowshiping with each other is still lagging. Thankfully, all the Sunday meetings have returned to normal.

The church people are praying that the new believers will better understand the gospel and be strengthened in the faith. Seongkyu prays that through the Word and fellowship the Lord will allow believers to experience the fullness and assurance of gospel conversion. He is especially praying for young people to be converted and for strengthening of some who are studying for baptism. Please pray that they will have true repentance and baptism. On Thanksgiving Day, the church had a special time to pray for missionary Jason Boyle in Mexico. Seongkyu says, "Although we have never [met] each other [face to face], we hope to become a church that prays for each other in God's love."

AUSTRALIA

Perth, Western Australia—Philip & Cherith Gardiner

Continue to pray for the Gardiner family as they labor in the gospel in Perth. Philip requests specific prayer for the following: 1) parents' night for the Bible club (pray that many parents will come and that their hearts will be touched by the Lord); 2) the youth day camp being held in December as well as outreach efforts at Perth stadium in December; 3) for visitors to attend the church services over the holiday time; and 4) the salvation of unsaved youth in the congregation.

Brethren, pray for us.
1 THESSALONIANS 5:25

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.