

Missionary Prayer Bulletin



February 2023

NORTH AMERICA

◆ Jamaica

Little London—Richard Craig & Randy Gunnings

The congregation in Little London, Jamaica, received the sad news that one of its founding members, “Sister Ina,” is in the hospital unable to function on her own. About two years ago, due to ill health Sister Ina was relocated to Kingston to live with her daughter. Now she has had a stroke and the entire right side of her body is totally paralyzed. She is also unable to speak but is aware and can nod her head. Please remember Sister Ina in your prayers, that if it’s the Lord will, she might be raised up, but that if it is His will to take her home to heaven, He will give the church and her family the grace to submit to His will.

◆ Dominican Republic

Santo Domingo—Ramón & Wendy Sosa

On January 15 the church in Santo Domingo was constituted and Ramón Sosa was ordained as a Free Presbyterian minister. Ramón says it was a time of rejoicing as they achieved the goal they had when they made their first contacts with Jason Boyle in 2015 followed by the visit of the presbytery commission comprised of Jason and Geoff Banister in 2016.

Now they have the challenge to continue proclaiming the true gospel among those that God has brought into the church. Another challenge is to seek God to raise up elders in the congregation for the correct administration and spiritual direction of the church.

Please pray first for the church people, that they will live in a way worthy of the vocation with which they have been called (Ephesians 4:1). Second, pray for José Miguel, a possible candidate for the diaconate (pray for his preparation to serve as a deacon and for Ramón as he teaches him). Finally, pray for

Pastor Sosa, that he can put God’s love into practice with confidence, integrity, authority, a good testimony, capacity, and correct strategies.

◆ Mexico

Mexico City—Jason & Danielle Boyle

In January Jason Boyle had the privilege of joining Ramón and his church for Ramón’s ordination and the constitution of the church in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

For two weeks in mid-January the Boyles hosted a Russian refugee family who were on their way to the United States and had to cross the border by land. They have four children ranging from eight months to eight years. Another family in the church hosted them for one week before the Boyles. The family was overwhelmed by the love the church showed them as they provided food, toiletries, toys, and outings for the family.

During their stay the parents got up each morning at 4:00 to go online to try to get an appointment at the border. Thankfully three of them were able to get appointments, and they are now at the border waiting for them. Lord willing, the other three will get their appointments soon. Their final destination is Spokane, Washington. The Boyles say it was a privilege and blessing to host them in spite of the language barrier (they spoke no Spanish and only a few words in English).

The Mexican Week of Prayer for ministers and their families was held at the end of January. Even though the Boyles had a lot of sickness running through their family, they were still able to serve and enjoy fellowship. They are still recovering and trying to rest for the remainder of February. Please pray for complete recovery of health.

Five families attended the Week of Prayer. Unfortunately, Ramón and his family were not able to come, but Ramón connected to each meeting online. They thank the Lord that much was accomplished and many plans made. Please pray for pastors Wenceslao, Pepe, and Jair as they focus on finishing their

studies. It has been challenging for them with working full time, pastoring, and leading their families. Also discussed at the Week of Prayer was the interest in the FPC from other parts of Mexico and from Argentina and Columbia. Please pray that God would lead.

In March the Boyle family plans to take a ten-day trip to Queretaro and San Luis Potosi to visit the churches of Wences and Pepe.

Continue to pray for the Mexico City church. They are excited about a study intended to train men to be elders. Pray much that the men taking it will be ready to serve in this vital role. The Boyles are encouraged by the ministries of Ruben Ramirez and Pablo Enciso. Pray for them as they continue their training in Geneva Reformed Seminary.

Córdoba—Lalo & Liz Peña

Lalo Peña thanks God for His love and grace in the work in Cordoba. He was greatly blessed by the preaching of the Word of God, prayer, and other activities during the Week of the Prayer in Puente de Ixtla, Morelos, Mexico. He and the other ministers and their families are very grateful for Jason and Danielle Boyle as they labored with love and commitment to make the week a time a blessing for them all.

In the church in Cordoba, Lalo continues with the exposition of the Word. On the Lord’s Days he is in Matthew 24 and 25; on Mondays he is teaching a course on the Canons of Dort that has been a blessing among the brethren; and on Wednesdays he is in 1 Corinthians. Although there were some absences at the end of 2022 and in January, the church people are very grateful to God for His work among them.

Since December of 2022 there have been no opportunities to visit Guadalupe Victoria, Puebla, where there is interest in establishing a new work. Lalo had planned to visit every couple of weeks but that has not been possible for several reasons. Please pray for this place.

The Peña family thanks the Lord for His miraculous provision that enabled them to

pays off all their debts. They thank God for His mercy.

The church is making plans to remodel its meeting place. Since it does not have walls around the area where they meet, they deal with a lot external noise and also need better protection from bad weather. They believe the time has come to have an adequate chapel for worship and for the study of the Word of God on the Lord's Day and during the week. After the church prayed for several months, the owners agreed to continue to rent them the premises for several years and to allow them to make the modifications. They will go little by little, trusting in God to provide and to enable them to do the work themselves. Please pray for the Lord's blessing on this effort.

EUROPE

◆ Spain

Cortijos Nuevos—Alejandro & Vanesa Bernabeu

Alex Bernabeu says the motto text for the church in Cortijo Nuevos for this year is 2 Chronicles 7:14. It is their desire to spend more time in prayer this year both as individuals and as a body.

They printed 1000 calendars with Bible verses and pictures from the area to give out in their region with the prayer that the "entrance of the Word" will give light to the darkened souls who have received them.

Please pray for the two oldest young people in the church. The first, who is seventeen, professed salvation after summer camp and since then has shown a greater interest in Scripture. Alex is doing Bible studies with him. Pray that the Lord will confirm His work in his life. The second, who is fifteen, is a great help in the Sunday school and shows a growing knowledge of Scripture and doctrine, but she still has not professed salvation.

Please pray for the sister of one of the church members. She was saved last year and is growing much in the faith. Since she lives at some distance from Cortijos Nuevos, Alex encouraged her to find a good church where she lives rather than tuning in to the Cortijos Nuevos services. She has done that but is facing much opposition from her husband. Please pray that the Lord will give her wisdom and courage and that He will save her husband, Juan Carlos.

Pray for some people who attend or who listen to all the church services, but who apparently have not been born again. Pray that God will open their hearts and regenerate their souls.

Continue to pray for the elderly in the church. Alfonso, who is 101 years old, has been sick in the last few months, and others are also struggling this winter.

Pray for the men in the church, that God will give them a greater passion to study, obey, and teach God's Word (Ezra 7:10) and that the Lord will raise future elders in the church.

The church is planning a three-day youth camp in April. Please pray that God will guide and give wisdom as arrangements are made and that many young hearts will be transformed by the Word of God.

The church is also planning a gospel mission in June. A pastor from Barcelona is going to preach. Pray that the Lord will be pleased to save souls as the gospel is proclaimed.

The Bernabeu family looks forward to a trip to Northern Ireland June 26–July 17 to renew fellowship with their family and the Lord's people. Please pray for Alex's father, Jose Bernabeu, who has lymphoma cancer. He finished his last chemotherapy session on January 9 and is now waiting to get the results on February 23. Alex says, "The Lord has been very gracious giving him strength throughout all the treatment. We praise His name."

◆ Czech Republic

Liberec—Milos & Martina Solc

The Free Presbyterian church in the Czech Republic had a week of prayer at the beginning of January. Milos Solc says it was a blessed time as they committed the new year to the Lord. They continue to pray that the Lord would help them to be a faithful and active witness in that region and land.

The church recently had a few visitors because of Sermonaudio and the church webpage. They pray that the Lord would use this aspect of the ministry.

Please pray for two individuals. One is a man whom they have known for quite some time. He runs the local lumber mill, and the Solc boys have worked for him during the summers for a number of years. After years of witnessing to him, Milos recently rejoiced to see him come for the first time to a couple Sabbath day services. He heard the gospel, and Milos gave him a Bible and spoke with him about his spiritual needs imploring him not to allow the matter of the state of his soul before God to rest. Please pray for this man.

The other individual is a young man whom the Solces met at a local sports facility. Milos had a very good talk with him, shared the gospel with him, and invited him to their home and to the church. One visit that they had

lined up fell through. Pray that the Lord would bring him out and reveal Himself to him.

AFRICA

◆ Liberia

Monrovia—David DiCanio

David DiCanio continues to keep in contact with the landlord regarding the construction work on the church building which includes the rooms for the Christian school pilot project. The landlord anticipates putting the roof on before the dry season ends in a few months, but there has been no progress to date.

The missionaries in Liberia have seen some encouragements in recent days. Sales in the bookstore have picked up a bit despite the economic downturn that has made things difficult for people. Responses to the radio station continue to come in. People on the street say they listen to the station. Dave asked a gentleman recently whether he had ever heard of the station and the man asked, "Is that the one with *Let the Bible Speak?*"

They are also seeing visitors to the church. Many are from a Pentecostal background and believe that good works play a part in justification. Sadly, some return to their former churches because they think the Free Presbyterian "style" of worship is boring. Dave says, "No doubt they are mistaking a work of the flesh for a work of the Spirit in their Pentecostal worship style. I've been preaching lately on the subject of worship and talking some on the dangers of contemporary worship and also contemporary worship music. I've been greatly encouraged by Peter Master's sermons and books on the subject—especially, *Worship or Entertainment?* I must confess that fewer and fewer people hold such strict views on worship today."

The missionaries were encouraged to receive a financial gift from a church outside the FP denomination to finance the electricity hookup to the mains electricity that is supposed to arrive soon to the mission compound in Duazon. The property will need a large voltage regulator and protection from any potential surges plus an automatic switchover to generator when the mains electricity fails. They also plan to get a battery backup for the radio station transmitter so that they can stay on air during the switchover.

After the recent break-in to the generator room on the mission compound in Duazon and the theft of eighty gallons of diesel fuel, the Mission Board approved the installation of ten security cameras. As most people know, there is really no police response in Liberia,

so the cameras will be a good addition to the security guards and the guard dog they presently have on the compound.

The US Embassy just sent out a warning about Liberia's only international airport. The airport, which is in Monrovia, has "shortcomings" that have not been resolved as requested, and several airport safety, security, and emergency response capabilities remain below international standards. Things like this show the challenges one faces in a developing country.

Dave concludes his report by thanking God's people for their prayers. He also wants to encourage people that the Lord is doing many things in individual lives that he cannot share in the prayer bulletin. Be encouraged that the Lord is working in His time and in His way.

◆ Uganda

Nsaalu—Noreen McAfee

Noreen McAfee thanks God for answers to prayer. The Emmanuel VBS team had two very good weeks with the boys and girls in Kyambala and Nsaalu. The congregation also enjoyed the ministry of a number of men via Zoom over the holiday period and looks forward to having Rev. David McMillan in person later this month. He will be accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Alastair Hamilton. Please pray for the Lord to prosper all their plans.

The church hopes to have Rev. and Mrs. Maurice Baxter help in March and April along with another work team. Noreen says there are busy days ahead and they need the Lord's help and wisdom. She also asks us to continue to pray for the Carscadden family as they prepare for their first term on the field.

Uganda has been declared Ebola-free, which is a tremendous answer to prayer. That means that schools could resume on February 6 as planned. The staff had already been back on site before that making preparations and interviewing some new students who wanted to join. Unfortunately, they don't have space for all who applied, but Noreen says they help as many as possible. She asks us to pray that God would bless the school this year in every way—spiritually, academically, financially, etc.

Noreen also thanks God for their recent success in the national Primary Leaving Examinations. All the students achieved either first or second grade. Most of them are continuing into the secondary department at Emmanuel, but a few will divert to vocational courses. Noreen asks us to remember them as they set off for new institutions. Pray also for the senior candidates whose results will be

released soon. They have important individual decisions to make, and they need to know the Lord's will for the future.

Noreen says that there is a piece of land adjacent to the school which they would like to purchase for future development. Unfortunately, there is a family dispute over who should benefit from the sale. Please pray that this will be resolved if it is the Lord's will for them to get the ground.

Finally, please pray for some neighbors who are chronically sick, especially a lady named Milly and a boy named Sulaiman.

◆ Kenya

Kitale—Malcolm & Alison Patterson

The Pattersons have been back in Northern Ireland since the beginning of December but will return to Kenya in mid-February. Pray for Malcolm as he continues to mentor the pastors and leaders and to help them with the practical issues faced when establishing a church.

Pray for the pastors as they labor among their congregations: 1) Pastor Emmanuel oversees the work in Tantana with its many Sunday schools and a book table ministry. Pray that he would be able to locate a unit to house a bookshop in the new year. 2) Brother Stephen Macharia along with Brother Jared oversees the work in Shimo la Tewa near Kitale. Stephen and his wife suffered great loss when the store of their stationery shop was damaged by fire. Jared and Mercy, Pastor Andrew's wife, continue to serve the Lord in the Beulah Christian Literature Kiosk and many books are being requested by those visiting that shop. 3) Pastor Andrew works in Bikeke outside Kitale. Pray that this work would expand in the coming year. 4) Pastor Patrice labors in Kakamega in the Western region of Kenya. The Sunday school there continues to meet outside the school building. Pray that this year suitable premises would be found for the Sunday school. Pray also for the Sunday school staff as they work in these difficult circumstances. Remember the bookshop in Kakamega with its staff, Josephine, Gladys, and Jack. Obala, a graduating student teacher, is presently on an internship. Pray for God's blessing on the Facebook page of the Beulah Christian Bookshop. 5) The Nyaporo the church continues with various preachers each Sunday. Remember Benson Osundwa, who is the administrator of the nursery school. The school is entering its third year with an increased intake to around fifty. 6) Rev. Kiarie continues to minister to the little flock at the fledgling work in Nairobi at Juja Farm. Right now, the group consists

mainly of his own family and some students from the neighboring university. Pray for a breakthrough in that area.

Conferences are being planned for this year. Visitors from the Mission Board will speak at the pastors' conference in early May. In August, a team from the Youth Council will visit and VBS and Youth Conferences will be held. Presently Miss Margaret Russell is in Kitale working with the Sunday schools.

Continue to remember the Pattersons' family in Northern Ireland: Tim, Sarah, and Phil, as they work in the Health Service and continue their studies. Also pray for Alison's mum and Malcolm's family circle.

The motto chosen for this year in Glory Bible Church is 2 Thessalonians 5:17: "Pray without ceasing." Please join the Pattersons in praying without ceasing that in 2023 they will see the work of God being consolidated and coasts extended in due time.

Kapenguria—Margaret Russell

Margaret Russell is presently in Kenya until the end of March doing some work for the Mission Board while the Pattersons are in Ulster. The annual Sunday school programs are about to begin, and Margaret hopes to be an encouragement to that ministry that is so dear to her heart.

Margaret asks us to pray for her stay in Kenya that the Lord will give her health and safety and that He will be pleased to use her in the work of the gospel. Pray for all who are involved in the Sunday school ministry—the leadership of the local churches, the Sunday school superintendents, the teachers, the children, and their parents—that God will do a work for eternity in many hearts. As they commence a new year in the Sunday school programs at the end of April, please pray that God will be pleased to give them renewed strength and vision for the work among the children.

ASIA

◆ Nepal

Kathmandu—Joy Gillespie

In January Joy Gillespie celebrated her twenty-fifth anniversary as a missionary with the Free Presbyterian Church. She thanks God for His faithfulness and encouragement throughout the years. She says, "God called me to serve Him and I praise and thank Him for His goodness to me. I thank Him for the privilege to serve Him in Spain and in Nepal, for the souls that have been won for eternity and the Christians who have been drawn closer to

Him through my labors. I also thank all those who have prayed faithfully for me and the work during these years. Many people have supported me financially and prayerfully for the twenty-five years, so I again give thanks to God for the part that they have played in making my labors fruitful.”

Joy continues her work in Nepal through the English classes. A number of new students have joined the institute recently, but they still need more students. Joy thanks God for the young man who is helping her now, but please pray for the Lord to bring an experienced teacher who would be able to run the institute, minimizing Joy’s participation in it. At present she is in the office from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day.

Joy continues to teach the catechism in the youth fellowship each week. Please pray that the young people will be grounded firmly in the doctrines of scriptures and not waver from the truth. One of the failings in the Nepali Christian church is the lack of sound biblical teaching which has led to many strange and unscriptural practices. Pray for the FPC that they will hold firm to the doctrines of grace.

Joy speaks twice a month in the ladies’ fellowship in the local church. Pray for the ladies as life for many is very difficult. The Lord willing, Joy will travel this month out to a village church for a ladies’ conference and Sunday school teacher-training classes over a four-day period. The similar trip she took in December was a great success and she looks forward to the next one. Pray for safe travel. The plane Joy flies on when she takes trips far from the city is the same size as the one that went down on January 15 killing all 72 people onboard. Pray that God will keep Joy and her fellow-traveler Priscilla safe on their journeys this year.

International Women’s Day in Nepal is March 8 so they will have a ladies’ conference that day in Kathmandu. Pray that since it is a bank holiday many ladies will come in and that the word shared will be an encouragement to their souls.

Please continue to pray for the weekly articles in the local paper. Correspondence has dropped off recently. Pray that more people will write in and ask questions so that Joy can explain more about the Saviour. Pray also for God’s leading in the writing of the articles.

As Joy looks ahead to the next years of service she is reminded of the words of Psalm 145:2–3: “Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever. Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable.” Pray that

God will continue to use Joy and save souls through her ministry.

AUSTRALIA

Perth, Western Australia—*Philip & Cherith Gardiner*

Philip Gardiner requests prayer for the Lord’s blessing on the Sunday school, Bible club, youth fellowship, and outreach English class as they recommence following the Australian summer break.

Pray also that the Lord will bring in new families to the church and that He will open new avenues of outreach. Finally, pray for God’s blessing upon the radio ministry in New South Wales and the Philippines.

Brethren, pray for us.
1 THESSALONIANS 5:25

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