

Missionary Prayer Bulletin



April 2023

NORTH AMERICA

◆ Jamaica

Little London—Richard Craig

Richard Craig says the people in the Little London work laid Sister Ina to rest on Saturday, March 25. Sister Ina, who passed away in February, was a founding member of the work. The funeral service was held in St. Elizabeth, and Richard was able to proclaim God's truth. Please pray for the family members that even though they have lost their loved one, many will turn to the Lord.

Richard expresses his many thanks to Rev. Myron Mooney and Rev. Geoff Banister for helping him complete his theological course. He is grateful for their spiritual discernment and biblical knowledge. He appreciates all who upheld him in prayer.

Richard asks for prayer that the Lord would continue to increase the faith of all in the Little London church and that they would live their lives to please God.

◆ Dominican Republic

Los Frailes—Ramón & Wendy Sosa

Ramón Sosa reports that he has recently seen greater participation from the men of the church in the various services and activities. They have been asking questions to learn more about the sermons and Bible studies. The church has also had some visitors, and some new families have approached the nursery school asking for their children to be included in the program.

Please pray for awakening in the congregation. Pray also that the Lord will give Ramón wisdom as he seeks to approach and offer counseling to the families that have enrolled their children in the nursery school. Pray that the school will be a means of bringing many to Christ.

Pray also for economic provision for the Sosas and for some other men in the church.

Finally, please pray that the Lord would preserve the health of the Sosas. Wendy was recently sick with amoebiasis, and Rachel had an eye infection. They thank the Lord that they are both better now.

◆ Mexico

Mexico City—Jason & Danielle Boyle

Jason Boyle begins his report by referencing Isaiah 40:31. He says they have seen the Lord apply that verse to their lives and ministry: "His grace has strengthened our weak hands, bodies, and minds as we wear many hats and have a number of irons in the fire."

The Mexico City church's almost nightly prayer meetings continue at which they are pleading for God's blessing on a sermon series on Malachi and praying for Him to send revival. Jason says there have been moments of spiritual resistance both in the prayer meetings and on Sundays accompanying the preaching of the sermons. The church has learned to persevere together in prayer. But there have also been a number of tokens of God's blessing and the Holy Spirit's working in hearts.

After one particular Sunday sermon in March, there was much spiritual resistance, but the Boyles saw evidence God was at work. The same sermon provoked a serious conversation with a young lady and her unbelieving father. Please pray that that conversation might be a catalyst for the Spirit working in their hearts for salvation. Please also pray for one young lady who was in Danielle's Sunday school as a child and always showed a rebellious heart. Her non-present, abusive father passed away this past month, and there have been signs of spiritual change in her heart. Please pray for her full and complete salvation.

Jason visited with Pastor Pepe in San Luis Potosi in March. At a special meeting on the Saturday, Jason taught on what the Free Presbyterian Church believes, and then he preached on the Sunday. Though the trip was made more difficult because of sickness, it was still a blessing to serve and teach.

Jason, along with the other pastors who hope to form a Latin American FPC denomination, met via Zoom with a pastor named Oscar in Columbia. He has been interested in the FPC denomination and has been in contact with Jason for over a year. The next step is for him to visit the Mexico City church. He is praying for God's provision for the flight. Jason is also in communication with a pastor in Argentina who has been reading FPC materials and listening to Jason's sermons.

The Boyles are pleased to see two full children's Sunday school classes. The preteens and teens in Danielle's class are showing enthusiasm and motivation to learn their Bible verses and catechism questions.

It is currently the hot season in Mexico City, which means the church is dealing with physical difficulties on Sundays. A few ladies have come close to fainting or felt unwell due to the intense heat. The deacons have tried to find a solution; please pray that God would guide and provide. Above all, pray that the Lord will provide for the purchase of a church property and for building construction.

Preparations are ongoing for the Boyles' deputation overseas from mid-August to mid-November. Pray that all will go well. Lastly, please do remember in prayer the men who are preparing themselves for the elder election which will happen in early 2024. Some of them are going through trials (gospel sharing with sick family members, job hunting).

Jason and Danielle are praising God that in April they will celebrate the first anniversary of their son Jonathan's completed adoption.

Córdoba—Lalo & Liz Peña

Lalo Peña thanks God for His love and grace in the work in Córdoba. Lalo continues preaching on Matthew, teaching about the Canons of Dort, and leading a study of 1 Corinthians.

The Lord has still not opened opportunities to visit Guadalupe Victoria in Puebla. Please pray for this place, that if it is the Lord's will for a work to be established there, some progress will be made in that direction.

The Peña family thanks God for His mercy. They are praying and looking for opportunities to save and obtain additional sources of income to add to the family budget.

The church plans to remodel its meeting place to have an adequate chapel for worship and for the study of God's Word on the Lord's Days and during the week. An architect has drawn up plans for the project. Please pray for the Lord's blessing on this endeavor.

The Peña family plans to go to Toronto for the Ministers' Week of Prayer and Presbyterian Meetings in May. Please pray for favorable arrangements and safe travel.

EUROPE

◆ Spain

Madrid—*John & Noranna Hanna*

Since the Hannas' last report, the Lord has been working in hearts. In Alcorcón, two of the young people are preparing to come into membership in the church. Another couple from Colombia are ready to transfer their membership and have their baby son baptized. Two other single men and two single women are also getting ready for membership.

The work in Toledo also enjoys God's blessings. Some thirty-five meet for the morning service, among them refugees from Ukraine for whom a simultaneous translation is provided. The numbers drop some in the evening service.

There is a constant flow of visitors to the services in Toledo. Pray the Lord will work in the hearts of believers so there will be a willingness to commit to the work on a permanent basis. They have a weekly Bible class and Sabbath school on the Sabbath afternoon before the evening service.

With the arrival of Rafael and his family from Brazil a year ago, it was decided by the Provisional Presbytery that there should be a witness in the city of Aranjuez. Some people from that city had been attending the services in Alcorcón and Toledo. So three months ago, a weekly Bible study and prayer meeting commenced in Rafael's home. Around fifteen attend on a regularly basis.

Three weeks ago, it was decided to commence a Saturday evening monthly gospel meeting in Aranjuez. John Hanna had the privilege of preaching at that first meeting. Around fifty people attended, some from the churches in Alcorcón and Toledo, but there were locals present. A couple who are believers and are from a Presbyterian background have shown much interest and have since been attending the weekly Bible study and

prayer meeting. Just this week a building has been rented which, in the will of the Lord, will serve as a meeting house when the Sabbath Day services commence, hopefully in the near future.

Please pray earnestly for this new work as well as for the works in Toledo and Alcorcón. John says he is thankful to the Lord for the opportunities to still preach from time to time.

In closing, the Hannas encourage every believer to continue to uphold these works, that God's people will be blessed and revived and sinners will seek and find the Saviour.

◆ Czech Republic

Liberec—*Milos & Martina Solc*

The Solces' witness to their community and in the local school continues. Martina suffers various troubles as a result of this witness for the Lord in the school, and sadly, in recent months, much of the trouble has come from the children and young people the Solces have helped the most. This has been a specific challenge for Martina, and she needs the Lord's strength and sustenance.

Please pray especially for one teacher and her family. She is searching for direction in her life and yet resists the gospel. Some time back the Solces had the family in their home, and Milos had a good talk with the husband. However, as is frequently the case in the Czech Republic and even the whole world today, people fight the truth and set themselves against the Lord and against His anointed.

The Solces' son Timothy has taken a stand for the Lord in his group of approximately twenty second-year medical students. When one group member in a class group chat posted a link dealing with an issue related to transgenderism as something they as future doctors might want to think about, Timothy consulted with Milos and then pointed the class to the authority of the Word of God, the depravity of man, and the need of man to repent and believe the gospel. He also mentioned the Free Presbyterian work in the Czech Republic and that his father was the minister. There were various kinds of pushback and, as was to be expected, quite a response. It was a great opportunity to bear witness for the Lord.

The Solces are very conscious that these are the main avenues of reaching out to the people in that hardened society: places and contexts where people know them, where they have established a testimony, and where those people will at least hear them out. Otherwise, the doors are closed and the people will not engage with them. Milos says, "There is a

great stigma attached to religion—to the church. Please pray for much help from the Lord in the follow up interaction with these students."

AFRICA

◆ Liberia

Monrovia—*David DiCanio*

David DiCanio says visitors continue to come to the church through the radio station. Many do not come back, some stay for a few weeks, and some appear again many weeks later. He has found that family ties make it very difficult for people to leave their home church.

He is thankful that some have stayed with the church. A man named Daniel has come for a few weeks now. He is in his twenties and from a Jehovah's Witness family. His father forbids him to listen to the Free Presbyterian radio station in the home and warned him that if he keeps attending the FP church he will need to find his own place to live.

Another young man, Elijah, has been attending for several weeks. He is from a Pentecostal church and was very troubled by the church's teaching on continuing revelation. Dave had a very good discussion with him after church, and Elijah clearly sees the problems with his church. A young man named Ephraim, who is from that same church, has been attending the FP church for nine months now.

The radio station continues to get a good response from listeners. Dave continues to do his "Man on the Street" interviews asking people about the gospel and salvation primarily. He is thankful for the continued assistance of Randy Cornelius in the Caribbean, who helps with some of the programing. The station has also been able to continue its contract with SRN News.

The price of diesel has come down some. For their usual 500-gallon order the price had gotten as high as \$3425, but it is currently down to \$2560. The diesel runs the generator that runs the missionary compound in Duzon, including the radio station. They haven't had any more news from Liberia Electricity Corporation regarding their supplying electrical power to the compound.

The dry season is coming to an end and their landlord for the bookstore, NGO headquarters, and church building is attempting to get the concrete roof up in the next few weeks. He is just about finished with the framing to pour the concrete. The new building will serve as a church for the congregation and also as the facilities for the pilot Christian

school. If the roof goes up in the next few weeks, the church will be able to meet in its section of the building immediately. The school, however, will need to wait until the building is finished.

◆ Uganda

Nsaalu—Noreen McAfee

Noreen McAfee says they have had an encouraging start to this school year in Nsaalu. There are now 524 students across the three departments of the school and 42 members of staff. Noreen thanks God for such a great door that has been opened for the teaching of God's Word.

The Lord has also given them other tokens for good: the full registration for the nursery department and the licence for the secondary department have been granted which are real answers to prayer.

Those who completed Senior Four (tenth grade in the US) did well in their O-level exams. Three have already secured places at a nearby school of nursing and midwifery, while others have opted to continue to A-level (advanced placement classes).

Outside the classroom, the senior girls' volleyball team won the Kalungu Championships, while the junior athletics competition is still ongoing. Noreen says they give all the glory to God.

She asks us to remember all the current pupils of Emmanuel and those who have moved on to further studies, vocational courses, or work. She prays that the Lord would prosper their way and that He would also continue to work in their hearts.

A work team from Northern Ireland is expected over the Easter period to help with some improvements on site: installation of water heaters in the missionary apartments, tiling of some classroom floors, stripping out of old electrical wiring, and installation of a sound system in the church. Noreen says it promises to be a very busy time, and they need our prayers that all would go smoothly and be completed on time.

Going forward, there are also plans to build another toilet and shower block on site to accommodate the increased number of learners.

The church members were delighted to have Rev. David McMillan and Mr. and Mrs. Alastair Hamilton visit in February. They shared God's Word, gave personal testimonies, and showed some video presentations about other mission fields. They also had the joy of counselling some of the men in the nearby prisons for salvation.

More recently, Rev. and Mrs. Maurice Baxter have been helping with various church and school programs. The children have enjoyed the different series on Creation, Elijah, and *Pilgrim's Progress*.

The church continues to pray for Rev. and Mrs. Carscadden and family, who are hoping to join the mission team at Emmanuel this summer. Noreen says they need God's help and grace as they pack up and prepare to take their leave of family and friends.

◆ Kenya

Kapenguria—Margaret Russell

Margaret Russell would like to thank us for our prayers over the last ten weeks which she spent in Kenya. God undertook for her health and safety and also for the ministry she was involved in. It was a joy for her to renew fellowship with the Lord's people and to spend some time with the Pattersons after they returned from Ulster.

Margaret worked with Jared, the Sunday school coordinator, and the superintendents who oversee the Sunday schools in the various local congregations.

Examinations were held in each Sunday school and prizegiving and parents' meetings are planned throughout April. The purpose of these programs is to assess the level of teaching among the children and to give encouragement to both teachers and children as they embark on a new year in the Sunday school curriculum.

Margaret asks for earnest prayer for this ministry among the children that this year children will not only hear the Word of God but that saving faith will be wrought in many hearts. A strong reminder of the great need for children to come to Christ was experienced when one of the children who had done the examination was struck by lightning in the week following and ushered out into eternity. The church there is praying much for the comfort of that family. Margaret says, "How short time is and how urgent that children truly know the Lord. Do pray to that end!"

Kitali—Malcolm & Alison Patterson

Malcolm and Alison arrived in back Nairobi on February 15 and stayed for a week. Malcolm spent time with Rev. Kiarie working on church accounts and plans for the work. The Pattersons visited his congregation at Juja Farm for the Sunday meeting. There has been an increase since their visit in August when the work was just commencing. They now have a Sunday school and a Bible class. Three university students have joined that

work and one of them is helping with the Sunday school.

The Pattersons then moved on to Kitale and settled back into the work. However, Alison had to return to the UK because her aunt died suddenly and her mother needed her support. During the short time she was at home her uncle also passed away. In her absence Malcolm continued with the work of visiting the churches, meeting the pastors, helping with church accounts, and all the other tasks of administration.

Malcolm preached at Kitalale, a congregation about thirty minutes' drive from Kitale, where the work has been pioneered and pastored by Joseph Methu. Kitalale has applied to join Glory Bible Church and presently their application is being processed by the GBC Central Committee.

Then Malcolm preached in Tantana at a missionary Sunday where an offering was collected to support the work in Lomut which is about three hours' travel north of Kapenguria.

Malcolm also preached in Shimo la Tewa two Sundays. Shimo la Tewa was constituted as a congregation in May 2022, and they have now reached the point of electing deacons.

Tracey, the 20-year-old granddaughter of the lady who works on the mission compound, is presently in India to receive a bone marrow transplant; she needs this because she was born with sickle cell anaemia. Please pray much because the procedure is not going according to plan. Tests indicate that the bone marrow of her mother, who is to be the donor, has a high probability of not being accepted. Further chemotherapy is being given to see if the situation will improve.

Pray also for the family whose little boy was killed by lightning. He attended a Sunday school connected with the Tantana congregation and had just completed his Sunday school exam days before this happened.

The Pattersons have travelled west to Kakamega to spend a short time there; Malcolm will preach at Nyaporo and Kakamega. Alison will continue with the ladies' workshop on salvation and speak at the parents' day in the Sunday school on the outskirts of Kakamega. The Pattersons will conduct teacher training with the ECD (nursery school) teaching staff in Nyaporo. Again, Malcolm will attend church committee meetings and work with the treasurers on their accounts. The bookshop and the ECDE accounts will also be examined.

The pastors' conference is scheduled for May 1–5 near Kitale. Rev. Colin Mercer, Mission Board chairman, and Rev. Ian Harris, chairman of the Kenya subcommittee, are the

main speakers. Malcolm, Pastor Andrew, and Pastor Patrice will also be taking part.

The FPC Youth council is sending a team of young people to Kenya in August. Malcolm and Alison are putting plans in place for that visit. The group will be divided into teams and will conduct VBS and youth conferences.

ASIA

◆ Nepal

Kathmandu—Joy Gillespie

Joy Gillespie is thankful for our prayers and interest in the work of God in Nepal. At the beginning of March she had a successful ladies' conference in a church near Kathmandu with over forty in attendance. She says it was wonderful that some of the ladies from her own congregation went with her since they could return on the same day. It was a good time of fellowship.

Last week they travelled to a church near the Chinese border in the Himalayan foothills. The road wasn't too bad until about the last hour when they ascended up into the mountains. Joy says she is glad they were travelling in a four-wheel-drive car or they wouldn't have made it home again! Three churches came together for the conference. Over thirty ladies attended with some walking over two hours to get there. Sadly, they weren't able to have the teacher-training classes, but, the Lord willing, something will be arranged for a later date.

The pastors' conference will be held in two weeks. Pray that many will make the effort to come to Kathmandu and that it will be a time of encouragement for them. Pray also for those who will preach the Word, that it will come with power to the hearts of all the hearers.

Remember the children in the Precious Children's Home. They have completed their exams and are commencing the summer holidays. Pray that God will keep them safe during this time. Sadly, three of the children will be leaving the home soon as they have completed their studies and reached eighteen years of age. Pray that God will open up work opportunities for them.

◆ South Korea

Seoul—Seongkyu & Sooyoun Lee

Seongkyu Lee says that many churches in Korea are still suffering lingering effects from the COVID-19 pandemic. Many people who left the church during the pandemic have not

yet returned, giving evidence of the spiritual weakness of the Korean church. Many church activities have stopped altogether or have not yet recovered. Please pray for the Korean churches to be able to work for the glory of God in the fullness of the Holy Spirit again as they did in decades past.

The Free Presbyterian Church in Korea is encouraged by the return of a sister who had left the church. She has twin babies and was in a very depressed and discouraged state due to difficult family circumstances. She now realizes the importance of the love and fellowship of the saints, and the church people are grateful for what God has done in her soul and for bringing her back.

The church people are thinking more about the need to preach the gospel. The ladies have started a special group to pray for the fullness of the Holy Spirit and for the evangelistic efforts of the church. The people are distributing gospel tracts on the streets. Above all, they are praying earnestly for the churches and missionaries of our denomination. Seongkyu says their faith has increased that God will surely be with them in reaching out to lost souls and spreading the gospel.

The breadwinners in some of the church families are out of work. Please pray that they will soon be able to find new jobs.

AUSTRALIA

Perth, Western Australia—Philip & Cherith Gardiner

Philip Gardiner thanks the Lord for some new attendees in their meetings in Perth and for some who have returned after being away for some years. Please pray that the Lord will bring in new families with young children and teenagers. Pray also for their upcoming VBS in July and for fruit to follow the distribution of gospel literature at Perth Stadium.

The Free Presbyterian ministers in Australia will be conducting another Zoom conference for Filipino pastors in May. Pray for the Lord's direction concerning progress in the Philippines.

Port Lincoln & Lock—Kyle & Eppie Graham

Kyle Graham would like to thank all those who remember them in prayer. He says, "The works here continue in a fairly steady way, and we are thankful for the Lord's grace to us. Just recently we welcomed one man into communicant membership in our Lock congregation, which has been a great encouragement from the Lord."

They are looking forward to a joint meeting this month between the Port Lincoln and Lock congregations. The two works began as one congregation, and it is forty years since the church elected its first elders and deacons. One of the current elders and two of the current deacons were elected at that time and have served ever since. Kyle says, "We are very thankful to the Lord for their service, and for how the Lord has sustained His work these past forty years."

Over Easter weekend, Kyle will be speaking at a camp held to the north of Adelaide which is attended by a good number of people from a variety of backgrounds, some of whom struggle to find solid churches in their areas. He will be preaching nine times over the course of the weekend on the book of Ruth and would appreciate your prayers that the Lord bless His Word and work in hearts.

The Port Lincoln congregation is looking at the possibility of purchasing a new church building. There are a number of problems with the current building, so they are seeking more suitable premises for the ongoing ministry. They have put in an offer for another church building in the town which is no longer in use and are waiting to hear back. Please pray that the Lord will give wisdom and guidance in this matter and that His will be done.

Brethren, pray for us.
1 THESSALONIANS 5:25

See www.fpcnamissions.org
and www.fpcmission.org
for more news, prayer requests,
and pictures.