

Missionary Prayer Bulletin



June 2023

NORTH AMERICA

◆ Jamaica

Little London—*Richard & Renay Craig*

The congregation in Little London is in much prayer for their sister Sharleen Campbell, who is in and out of the hospital because of major damage to one of her kidneys. Please join them in praying that the Lord will restore her to good health if it is His will.

Rev. Richard Craig requests prayer that God will draw sinners unto Himself as His Word continues to be proclaimed in Jamaica. Pray that He will add to His church such as should be saved.

Richard wholeheartedly thanks all who upheld him in prayer while he was doing his theological studies. With the help of God he was able to finish his work and was licensed to preach on May 10, 2023, at the Week of Prayer in Toronto.

◆ Dominican Republic

Los Frailes—*Ramón & Wendy Sosa*

Ramón Sosa reports that by the mercies of the Lord, the church in Santo Domingo continues to move forward. In recent weeks they have been emphasizing prayer, setting aside extra time to meet to pray virtually every Saturday at 8 p.m. asking the Lord to send an awakening to His church and a revival to the Los Frailes sector, where they live.

Pray with them that God will raise up faithful men who are willing to play the role of leaders in their families and in the church.

Ramón asks for prayer as he travels to Mexico July 4–15, where he will be participating in the ordination of Lalo Peña and the constitution of the Coram Deo church in Córdoba. Pray for José Miguel, who will be preaching and in charge of the work in Los Frailes during Ramón's absence.

Please pray for good health for Ramón. He was recently very sick with the flu.

The Sosas thank God that new families are requesting to enroll their children in the nursery. They need to hire a young woman in order to care for the number of children that are in the program. Please pray that the Lord in His mercy will provide just the right young woman who will be willing to work with these little ones. Continue to pray that the nursery school will be a good means of ministering to lost families and seeing them won to Christ.

◆ Mexico

Mexico City—*Jason & Danielle Boyle*

The Boyles begin their report by quoting Isaiah 40:30–31: “Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fail, but they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”

During the presbytery meetings in Toronto in May a request was presented from a group in Argentina and Chile who have had contact with the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster and who are looking for fellowship and help from the FPC of North America. Please pray for the Lord to lead regarding fellowship, teaching, and the possibility of these works becoming Free Presbyterian churches in the future.

Please pray for the people in the church in Mexico City: for some struggling believers, for a few who are candidates for baptism, for new and unsaved attendees, and that the new families would join as members. Please pray for Emiliano, 21, who has long-term serious health problems. He serves the church by taking care of the audio and the transmission of the services on Sundays.

Please also pray for the men who are candidates to become elders as they continue to serve and prepare for the elder election in early 2024.

The Boyles say they depend on our continued prayers for Ruben and Pablo, who are studying at Geneva Reformed Seminary

online. Ruben is finishing up his second year and Pablo his first. Both men have weddings scheduled for the end of 2023. Prayers are needed for God's guidance as to where He would have them serve after seminary. Pablo heads up the church's monthly evangelism efforts. Please pray that God would be pleased to bless those efforts and that they might see more people brought to Christ.

At the beginning of July, Jason will go with some English-speaking delegates from the presbytery in the US plus Ramón Sosa of the Dominican Republic to Veracruz for Lalo Peña's ordination and the church's constitution. After that day, the English-speaking delegates will return to the US, and the Latin American pastors will continue on in Veracruz to have their Week of Prayer.

At the end of July, Jason will make a quick weekend trip to Zongozotla for an evangelism workshop and possibly preaching in a church there. Pray for discernment and for the Lord to open doors.

Vacation Bible school will be held in the Mexico City church July 31 to August 4. After a pause of a few years, they are back to doing VBS. It will be the first VBS in their current location. They are eager to see whom the Lord will bring in as this will be the first contact of its kind with the children of the church's neighborhood.

On August 21 the Boyles leave for deputation overseas, starting with their sister churches in Spain, then a brief visit to some churches in England, and then with the bulk of their time being in Northern Ireland. It looks as if they will be scheduled for approximately forty meetings in thirteen weeks. They will return to Mexico mid-November.

Specific prayers for the trip are: 1) that they might testify of God's goodness during the thirteen years they have been in Mexico (Jason and Danielle say, “He has done much more than we could imagine when we started out.”); 2) that they might effectively communicate the needs of the Latin American FPC; 3) that prayer support would increase; 4) that

they would remain healthy and be blessed by fellowship and the encouragement of the body of Christ; 5) and last, that funds would be raised for the purchase of a property and the building of a church building that would adequately serve the needs of the Latin American FPC.

Córdoba—Lalo & Liz Peña

Lalo and his family were very grateful for the opportunity to attend the Week of Prayer and Presbytery Meetings held in Toronto, Canada, in May. The fellowship with elders from the different churches, as well as the people from the Toronto, Barrie, and Port Hope churches was a great encouragement, edification, and a time of refreshment. Lalo's wife, children, and son-in-law were greatly blessed with the tokens of love and attention which he has experienced every time he has had the opportunity to attend the Week of Prayer.

Lalo thanks God that on May 9 the presbytery approved the constitution of the Coram Deo church in Córdoba as a Free Presbyterian church and his ordination as minister of teaching and sacraments. The presbytery appointed a commission consisting of Rev. John Wagner, Rev. Reggie Kimbro, Rev. Myron Mooney, and Rev. Jason Boyle to lead the constitution and ordination service in the church on July 9, 2023. Brothers Wenceslao Hernandez, Jaír Luna, and Pepe Luna, from the different churches they are working with in Mexico, as well as friends and family from Córdoba and other cities will also attend.

Lalo says, "For the brothers of Coram Deo this event is very important after nine years of perseverance and abundant graces from the Lord. We ask your prayers for the great amount of details involved in the organization and execution of the constitution service, as well as for smooth and save travels for the different ministers. Thank God for His faithfulness and abundant love."

Lalo continues preaching on the gospel of Matthew, teaching about the Canons of Dort, and leading a study of 1 Corinthians. There have not been opportunities to visit Guadalupe Victoria in Puebla because they have lost communication. As you know, 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, hopefully before the constitution service. They already have the architectural plans for the project. Please pray for the Lord's blessing on this endeavor.

EUROPE

◆ Spain

Cortijos Nuevos—Alejandro & Vanesa Bernabeu

Alex Bernabeu has participated in a number of camps in recent months. At Easter he was invited to preach in a youth camp that was held near a city called Cuenca. The theme was the life of Joseph. In addition, they organized a two-day camp in their region from April 29 to May 1. They had more than fifty people and the theme was "Remember Your Creator."

Another recent activity was a ladies' meeting and day out held in their region. More than sixty women from their church and other churches attended. The ladies visited the nearby castle and had a great time of testimony, instruction, and fellowship.

Over the second weekend in June the church in Cortijos Nuevos had its three-day annual gospel mission and anniversary meetings. A pastor from Barcelona came to preach and spoke about the hope that can be found in Jesus Christ alone. Alex praises the Lord that their congregation invited many people to come and that around fifteen unsaved visitors came. A lot of them have shown great interest in what was said. Pray that God would save their souls.

The elderly people in the church find it more and more difficult to come to the meetings because of health problems. Also, a lady connected to the church is going through chemo and radiotherapy. Please pray for them.

Alex is keeping in contact with two young men from another church who have a great zeal for the Lord and a deep knowledge of Scripture. Please pray that they will be built up in the faith and that the Lord will guide them. They are preparing for a church family camp in the month of August; it's always a great time of blessing.

The Bernabeus are looking forward as a family to their time in Northern Ireland. They will spend three weeks there at the beginning of July, and Alex will be doing some deputation meetings. Vanesa is almost twenty weeks into her pregnancy, and they praise God because everything is going well. The Lord willing, Ezekiel will be starting school in September.

◆ Czech Republic

Liberec—Milos & Martina Solc

The Solces are thankful for the prayers of the Lord's people and would ask for prayer at this time for their outreach children's summer day camp at the beginning of July. They should have at least some children from the community. Milos says, "May it be an opening into new homes and lives that they might be reached for the gospel."

They would also ask for prayer for all of the students as they are closing out another academic year and have many important exams. Pray that the Lord's hand will be upon them and that they may know the Lord's will for their future.

AFRICA

◆ Liberia

Monrovia—Joanne Greer

Joanne Greer says the children's work in the Paynesville church has continued steadily over the past months. Between twenty and thirty children attend Sunday school each Sunday, about two-thirds of them being brought by parents or other relatives who attend the church. They find that children from church families are much more likely to attend consistently, although there are a few children from the community who are making a real effort.

Reading Club is still being held in the bookstore each Thursday, with six to ten children attending most weeks. They are looking forward to holding their annual vacation Bible school in August and would value your prayers for all the preparation and for the event itself.

One Sunday afternoon a month Joanne holds a Bible study with a few young women from the church, all of whom are in their early twenties. Please pray that they would show evidence of regenerated hearts and a desire to find and follow God's will for their lives.

A couple weeks ago, Joanne attended a one-day first-aid course there in Liberia—a first for her. Since she moved there eleven years ago, she has always updated her first-aid certificate while at home in the UK. The Liberian Red Cross has been operating for a few years now with employees trained by the International Red Cross, so she decided it was time to try it out. She enjoyed the course, but says it was definitely made more interesting by the fact that all the other participants that

day were from the French embassy in Monrovia. There was a discussion that morning about whether the course should be taught in French or in English. Joanne breathed a sigh of relief when they settled on English!

◆ Uganda

Nsaalu—Noreen McAfee

Noreen McAfee thanks God for continued answers to prayer. The work team from Northern Ireland were able to accomplish all that they had planned and the Emmanuel community is enjoying the benefits.

The mission's NGO registration has been renewed for five years facilitating the processing of Noreen's work permit for a further three years. She says this may sound like a small matter, but it is the culmination of months of inspections and processing of associated documents and paperwork.

Meanwhile, the regular church programs have been continuing week by week as the congregation looks forward to the arrival of Rev. and Mrs. Ray Carscadden and their family on June 16. Noreen asks for prayer that they will settle in well and know the Lord's help and blessing as they come to serve Him in Uganda.

The school has reopened for the second term with all the usual academic and co-curricular activities underway. In addition to the usual spiritual programs, they hope to welcome a team from Northern Ireland for a vacation Bible school and youth conference scheduled to commence on June 23. Noreen asks us to pray earnestly for this special time of ministry to the children and young people. They long to see souls saved and professing young people drawn closer to the Lord.

Looking ahead, they hope to have Miss Sharon van Harberden with them for a couple of weeks followed by a Christian education conference at the end of July with Mrs. Pamela Foster being the main speaker.

God willing, the moderator of the FPC of Ulster, Rev. John Armstrong, and Rev. David McMillan will visit in August for a pastors' conference and a special service to officially welcome the Carscaddens to the Emmanuel church. Noreen says these are busy days for the church and school and they need the Lord to guide, strengthen, and bless.

On a sadder note, Noreen requests special prayer for their second-grade student, Nassiwa Sylvia, who is currently receiving chemotherapy for leukemia at the Uganda Cancer Institute.

◆ Kenya

Kitale—Malcolm & Alison Patterson

The Pattersons report that at the beginning of May they had a very successful pastors' conference with up to fifty people in attendance. The venue this year was the Le Voyage Resort hotel which is just outside Kitale. The theme of the conference was "The Application of All of God's Truth to All Our Life and Ministry" (Philippians 4:9: "Those things which you have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do and the God of peace shall be with you.").

The main speakers were two visiting ministers from the FPC of Ulster Mission Board: Rev. Colin Mercer, who is the Mission Board chairman, and Rev. Ian Harris, the chairman of the Kenya Sub Committee. Rev. Malcolm Patterson and the Glory Bible Church pastors also took part in the main lectures and devotions. Other men who are studying with the Bible Institute also participated in devotions. The vice principal and one of the lecturers from Faith College of the Bible in Eldoret also spoke at one of the meetings on Christianity and transition.

A book table was set up again this year with free literature for the pastors but also with books for sale. An encouraging number of books was purchased. Brother Jared Opemi from the Kitale bookshop manned the stall assisted by Victor Kiptanui and Jack Kivuvi.

Mr. Mercer and Mr. Harris tried to pack as much as possible into their visit. They succeeded in visiting all the churches except for the new work just outside Nairobi. They endeavored to spend as much time as possible talking to the pastors and meeting the men who are in leadership in the work. To facilitate this, the first part of their stay was spent in Kitale where the works in Tantana, Shimo la Tewa, and Bikeke were visited. After the conference was over, they travelled to Kakamega so that the works in Kakamega—both in the town and farther out of town at the Grey's Apartment—and the work in Nyaporo could be visited.

Just a few days after the Mission Board visitors left for Northern Ireland, the Pattersons also departed for another short stay at home. Before they left, Tracey and her mum, Fridah, visited the compound after returning from India. They had the opportunity to meet both ministers and tell of their experiences in India. Presently Tracey is taking chemotherapy in tablet form to reduce her blood cell count so that the bone marrow transplant can hopefully take place in about

six months. It was disappointing for them to have to return from India without having the transplant at that time, but the risks were too great to proceed.

Patrick Kibet, a primary school principal and Bible Institute student, has recently had surgery to replace a hip joint that was severely damaged in a motor bike accident a year or more ago. He has successfully come through the surgery.

Judith Collins, veteran missionary with the Bible Presbyterian Church, who lives in Nairobi, recently suffered a stroke. She was hospitalized and, after some time in ICU, she began to make a slight recovery, sufficient to be transferred to a care facility on the outskirts of Nairobi.

Malcolm was diagnosed with cataracts in both eyes last year, but they were not sufficiently severe enough to merit surgery. However, just recently he realized that the situation with his eyesight, especially in one eye, had deteriorated quite dramatically. He attended an ophthalmology clinic in Kitale and was informed that surgery was needed as soon as possible. Since the Pattersons were within days of returning to Northern Ireland, they decided to travel and investigate the possibility of surgery at home. Malcolm is scheduled to have surgery on one eye on June 9 with the possibility of surgery on the other eye on July 3.

The Pattersons plan to return to Kenya on August 2, as the Youth Council team will be arriving on August 10 for a ten-day visit. During that time, the team plans to visit the churches and to hold vacation Bible schools and youth conferences. Two of the Whitfield College of the Bible students will be with the team: Mr. Glenn Hamilton, who visited Kenya last year with his wife, Emma, and children Holly and George, and Miss Elizabeth Edwards.

During the Pattersons' absence from Kenya in June, the Kakamega Agricultural Show will take place, so Pastor Patrice from Kakamega and some members of his congregation will take a stand there presenting gospel literature. Another consignment of books left Northern Ireland on May 10 and is expected in Kenya in August.

The Pattersons encourage you to remember in prayer all the different aspects of the work in Kenya and also all who need the help and healing touch of the Lord at this time.

ASIA

◆ South Korea

Seoul—Seongkyu & Sooyoun Lee

Seongkyu Lee says that by the grace of God, the Free Presbyterian mission church in Korea is doing well. The Korean government finally declared an end to COVID-19 last week. Seongkyu says the official declaration feels very late. It is good to have the restrictions lifted, but they are still required to wear masks to visit the hospital.

The congregation is encouraged that the sister who left the church about a year ago has started attending the church again. After she got married, she had a lot of conflicts due to her unbelieving husband. She has now given birth to twins. God has given her heart a longing for God's grace again, so she has attended Sunday worship and Sunday school. The church people are praying that she will stand firm in faith again and come to church with her husband and two children. Seongkyu's wife, Sooyoun, has started to study the Bible with her every week.

There are young people in the church who need to be baptized. They are presently studying the Apostolic Creed. Please pray that they confess Christ as their Saviour and can be baptized in faith soon.

Pastor Lee has started a study of Leviticus on Sunday afternoons. He hopes that people who are not familiar with the Old Testament will be able to understand God's holiness and the salvation of Jesus Christ more deeply through studying Leviticus.

The Lord has given some women in the church a longing for evangelism. They pray together online every Saturday morning and meet at the church once a month to pray and evangelize. Pastor Lee prays that the whole church will seek revival together through the prayer.

AUSTRALIA

Perth, Western Australia—Philip & Cherith Gardiner

Philip Gardiner requests prayer for the Lord's blessing on their outreach in the local area, especially that locals will come into the services. Pray also for the vacation Bible school that will be held during their winter holiday in July. Finally, please remember to pray for the *Let the Bible Speak* radio broadcasts in New South Wales and the Philippines.

Brethren, pray for us.
1 THESSALONIANS 5:25

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