

Missionary Prayer Bulletin



August 2023

NORTH AMERICA

◆ Jamaica

Little London—*Richard Craig*

The church in Little London is mourning the loss of Sharlene Campbell, who suffered from complications due to kidney damage. The Lord took her home to be with Himself on July 29. She was 43. Please pray for her family, especially her teenaged son O'Brian. She will be greatly missed by the church where she served the Lord faithfully and was a bright and smiling presence for many years.

Richard Craig says that some professing believers seem to be very careless about their attendance at the house of God. They exhibit no enthusiasm, zeal, or passion for the things of God and show no concern about eternity. Please pray that God would work in their hearts to draw them to Himself.

◆ Dominican Republic

Santo Domingo—*Ramón & Wendy Sosa*

Ramón Sosa thanks the Lord for granting him a smooth trip to Mexico so that he could participate in the constitution of the Coram Deo Church and the ordination and installation of Lalo Peña as its minister. He also thanks God for the week of prayer that followed in Córdoba, Veracruz, with the pastors of the sister churches in Mexico.

The church in the Dominican Republic is maintained by the mercies of God. The Sunday service and Sunday school are well attended, but they would like to see better attendance at the Wednesday service.

A sister who was abroad for several months has returned to the Dominican Republic and has expressed her desire to formalize her membership in the church. Another sister has asked to be baptized. Please pray for Ramón as he teaches Bible studies for these people and makes pastoral visits to the homes of members and friends of the church.

In August the church will begin to hold services on Sunday evenings. They are starting this new endeavor by meeting on the first and third Sunday of each month. The first evening service will be on August 20. Please pray that these evening services may be used by the Lord to save many souls in their city.

Please pray for Wendy as she takes exams required by the Ministry of Education of the Dominican Republic in order to receive an appointment as a primary-level teacher and have the benefits of receiving a monthly salary and a retirement plan. Please pray that Wendy will be able to succeed in getting these benefits despite all the bureaucratic red tape and administrative corruption involved in the process.

◆ Mexico

Mexico City—*Jason & Danielle Boyle*

The busy summer months started for the Boyles with the Mexican week of prayer and “pre-presbytery” meetings. Each time the pastors meet, their meetings become more formal, and more work is accomplished. Jason has begun to delegate tasks, such as the taking of minutes and other duties, to the other men. He says they are still some years away from becoming a legal denomination. Please pray for wisdom moving ahead.

Three of the pastors (non-English speakers) are taking courses that Jason gives to further their studies. It is difficult for these men to balance work and ministry because of their poverty, their need to work to support their families, unreliable internet connections, etc. Pray for these three men as they seek to complete their studies.

The Mexican week of prayer and presbytery meetings were held in Cordoba, Veracruz, the week after Lalo Peña’s ordination and his church’s constitution. The Boyles rejoice to see how far the Lord has brought Lalo and his church. It was a blessing to have Ramón from the Dominican Republic and other men of the North American Presbytery present. Two of the visiting men also got to attend a

wedding in Jalpan de Serra (a couple from Wenceslao’s church).

Jason made a quick trip to Zongozotla, Puebla, July 29–30. The evangelistic medical campaign that had been planned was canceled, but Jason was invited to speak at a new church. It was a good opportunity to reach new people. His text was Romans 3. Jason also took along donated clothes, medicine, a large water tank, and other supplies to Sarahy, a member of the Mexico City church who does mission work teaching children and women in Zongozotla.

The Boyles praise God for signs of blessing and growth. On Sunday, August 6, the church will have a deacon election (one candidate), two baptisms, and two people becoming members. A handful of other new couples and families are attending. Please pray that all those who are attenders and not members will show progress and take steps towards full fellowship in membership.

Please pray for the men who are candidates to become elders. They were put through their paces while the Boyles were in Canada and will have more responsibilities again while the Boyles are in Europe. The Lord willing, the election for elders will be held in January 2024.

The church is having its VBS July 31 to August 4. On the first day, they had twenty-four children, fourteen of whom were first-time contacts for the church. Please pray that the gospel would go forward into their hearts and families and that there would be a good return for their labors so that God’s name might be lifted high.

The Boyles’ deputation begins on August 21. They will go first to Spain and visit with Rev. Alejandro Bernabau and Rev. John Hanna. They are excited about closer fellowship with their fellow Spanish-speaking sister churches. Spain holds a special place in Jason and Danielle’s hearts since it played a role in how the Lord brought them together. They were in Spain at different times as single people, but the Lord used those separate visits to bring them together. They look forward to

visiting their Spanish sister churches together for the first time.

At the beginning of September, they will begin eleven weeks in Northern Ireland. Please pray that they might effectively communicate the needs of the Latin American churches and their own church in Mexico City and that they might have good health during their stay. They are going prepared and hope to avoid any medical surprises, such as the kidney stone attack one of them had on their Canadian deputation trip. Pray also that the schedule would not be too rigorous for the boys, but rather be a blessing to them.

One final prayer request would be that the Lord would continue to provide for their needs in these changing economic times. They rest and trust, knowing that God knows their needs even better than they do. The Boyles would like to extend their thanks to each person and church who faithfully pray for them and their church.

Córdoba—Lalo & Liz Peña

Lalo Peña thanks God that July 9 saw the constitution of the Coram Deo Free Presbyterian Church in Córdoba and his ordination and installation as its minister. The FPCNA presbytery appointed a commission consisting of Rev. John Wagner, Rev. Reggie Kimbro, Rev. Myron Mooney, Rev. Ramón Sosa, and Rev. Jason Boyle to lead the constitution and ordination service. 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 also attended.

The week of prayer for the pastors working together in Latin America (Mexico and the Dominican Republic) was held in Córdoba during the week that followed. Lalo says Coram Deo FPC was greatly blessed during this time and that it was a personal blessing for him and his family to have the privilege to host the ministers and foreign pastors. With the presence of the visiting brethren, they recommenced holding their Wednesday prayer meetings in person in the church (they had been having virtual meetings by Zoom since the pandemic). At this point, they are having in-person meetings every two weeks, with the expectation that they will hold the meetings in the church every Wednesday in 2024.

Lalo continues preaching on the gospel of Matthew, is finishing up the teaching on the Canons of Dort, and is leading a study of 1 Corinthians. The Lord willing, on Sunday, August 6, the church will celebrate its first Sunday evening service. They will have Sunday evening services twice a month for

the rest of 2023 and then have them every Sunday beginning in 2024.

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. Although they already have the architectural plans for the project, it was not possible to have it ready before the constitution service because of lack of funds. The church is confident and praying for the opportunity to do it soon. Please pray for the Lord's blessing on this endeavor.

Pray for sister Martha Hernandez and her sons Samuel (15) and Romina (24), who have begun to attend to the church. Although they confess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour, they were involved in a Judaizing movement for several years. They are now returning to the Christian church. Pray for Samuel, who has some health issues that maybe require neurological and cardiac surgical intervention. Pray also for the oldest son, Juan Emilio (26), who is openly hostile to the Christian faith.

Lalo requests prayer for himself and his family. Pray for Lalo, Jr., and his wife, Carolina, who are expecting their fourth child, Miguel Angel, in August. They may move from Córdoba to Mexico City for better opportunities. Pamela and Abdiel, Lalo's daughter and her husband, have been attending a Pentecostal church but are considering changing to Coram Deo FPC. They are currently attending both churches, with the intention that Abdiel will compare doctrines and church practices and make the right decision. Pray for them to follow the Lord's direction. Lalo thanks God that his wife, Liz, is doing well. Please pray for their teenage sons Uriel (15) and, especially, Gadiel (13). Pray also for Lalo's mother Celina (87), who is very active in the church.

AFRICA

◆ Liberia

Monrovia—David DiCanio

David DiCanio was happy to be able to travel to the United States and take a break after three and a half years (the delay in his getting away was partially due to the COVID restrictions). His trip was also used as a test to see whether he would be able to handle his NGO duties (payroll, ordering diesel, repairs, etc.) remotely via WhatsApp with the Liberian NGO employees. Being able to do so made it much easier for Joanne while he was away since she did not have to take on the responsibilities for the property or the running of the NGO.

Dave was also able to handle the radio station from overseas with the help of a young man in Liberia whom he hired as an assistant a few years ago. Dave pre-recorded hourly weather forecasts from overseas and uploaded them, and the assistant downloaded and dropped them into the automated system. He also edited several programs to air each day.

Pray for Dave as he seeks to encourage and train young men who may be interested in future ministry. About a year ago a number of young men in the church expressed a desire to learn New Testament Greek, so once a month Dave has about ten students over for Sunday afternoon dinner and teaches them using Bill Mounce's *Basics of Biblical Greek*. They took their exam at the end of July. Some did better than others, but one very able student can nearly read the New Testament with just a few helps. On the other Sunday afternoons, Dave has been informally training two young men in the church who believe the Lord has called them to the ministry.

A new MacBook Air has been purchased for the radio station. They've been having some trouble with the radio station computer which is about eight years old now. The software that runs the station crashes about once a month, and just recently they've had trouble with some of the mp3 files dropping from the automated timeline. Dave believes it is caused by a conflict between Adobe Audition and the developer of the software they use. The new MacBook Air will at least solve the crashing problem. It is important to have backup computers when running a station!

Visitors continue to come to the church through the radio station. On the last Sunday in July some returned who had not been there for some time.

EUROPE

◆ Czech Republic

Liberec—Milos & Martina Solc

The Solces are in Canada for a couple of weeks. They would appreciate the prayers of the Lord's people as they renew fellowship with the brethren in Toronto and as they visit and minister in the nearby churches.

Many have been asking about the building for the church, NGO headquarters, bookstore, and school. After the mission signed another five-year lease on the property, the landlord was able to put the roof onto the building. They hope to hold VBS in the building in a few weeks. Please continue to pray for the Christian school pilot project. Pray that they will soon be able to get it underway and that it will be useful in showing them how best to proceed so that they can establish a quality Christian school in Liberia. Dave says, "There is, of course, much work to be done."

Monrovia—Joanne Greer

The mission church in Liberia held its annual Games Day for children on Liberia's Independence Day, July 26. They invited all of the children who regularly or occasionally attended Sunday school in the past year and a few others from the community and ended up with 102 kids. Ten young adults from the church helped Nathan Barco and Joanne Greer oversee the children, organize games, and prepare and serve bread, juice, popcorn, and ice cream. They were thankful for an almost dry day in the middle of what has been an extremely wet rainy season.

VBS is planned for August 14–18, and the missionaries are hoping to hold it under the concrete roof in their new building. Please pray for the preparations over the next couple of weeks, both for those who will be teaching and for those who will be working on the building to make it usable.

Pray, as always, for health and safety for the missionaries and for the Liberians associated with the mission. The rainy season always brings extra challenges, not only in increased incidence of malaria and colds and flus but also in difficult road conditions. Joanne had to drive through about eighteen inches of water the other day and felt both relieved and very thankful for the Land Cruiser as she came out the other side!

◆ Uganda

Nsaalu—Noreen McAfee

Noreen McAfee says that the folks at Emmanuel are rejoicing in answers to prayer. Rev. and Mrs. Ray Carscadden and their children—John, George, and Isla-Grace—arrived safely on June 16 and are settling in well to their new environment and routine. Pray for them as they get used to the climate and culture, try to learn a new language, and press on with homeschooling.

Mr. Carscadden has already seen the Lord's seal upon his ministry with souls

seeking salvation both at Emmanuel and in the outreach ministries. Pray that these would be the first of many new converts and that God's people would also be strengthened and built up.

With the arrival of the Carscaddens, Noreen hopes to start a second Sunday school in a neighboring village. She asks us to pray for favor with the parents and for the Lord's help in this new endeavor.

The school and church were also greatly blessed through the labors of the VBS team. Noreen says it was lovely to see the young people's love for the locals and their willingness to serve Christ. A number of children and young people were counselled during the VBS and youth conference, and she prays that a lasting work would be done in their hearts. Miss Sharon Van Harberden stayed on for some weeks and continued to assist with some of the school assemblies and Sunday school. She formed a strong bond with the children, and they were sorry to see her go.

Currently, Mr. Richard and Mrs. Pamela Foster are visiting the mission station. Mr. Foster will help with some maintenance work while Mrs. Foster speaks at the school's Christian education conference. This is the first such conference at Emmanuel, and Noreen says they yearn for the Lord to visit them in mighty power.

Towards the end of August, they hope to have Rev. John Armstrong and Rev. David McMillan visit for a pastors' conference and a special service to officially welcome the Carscaddens to the Emmanuel Church. Noreen asks us to pray for the invitations that are going out for both events. She says it would be great to see many gathered in to benefit from the sound preaching of God's precious truth.

Noreen says that their leukemia patient, Nassiwa Sylvia, is on her second round of a planned six rounds of chemotherapy and, while it is early days, they are grateful for a marked improvement in her condition. She believes this is an answer to prayer. She also asks us to remember two of their ladies who are expecting babies quite soon. A safe delivery is never taken for granted, especially in Africa.

◆ Kenya

Kitali—Malcolm & Alison Patterson

The Pattersons have just returned to Kenya on August 2 for another three-month term. Pray for them as they travel, settle in, and make the necessary final preparations for the Youth Council team which is due to arrive on August 11. This team will be led by

Rev. Paul Foster and Rev. Garth Wilson. Mr. Glenn Hamilton will be joining this team. Miss Elisabeth Edwards, who, like Glenn, has completed her Whitefield Course, will also be on the team. Elisabeth plans to stay on for a few weeks to have further experience of the work in Kenya. She has previously visited Uganda and Liberia.

During their stay the Youth Council team will conduct vacation Bible schools and youth conferences and speak at Sunday schools and church services. Pray for them as many of them will be visiting an African country for the first time and experiencing African culture. Pray that the Lord will grant them safety, especially as they travel, and the help they need as they minister God's Word. Pray that the Youth Council visit will bear fruit in the lives of the Kenyans and in the young people on the team.

Another consignment of books from Northern Ireland is expected to arrive in Kenya during August. The Pattersons are grateful for the work that Philip Kyle and his team do in supplying their book requests for the shops and the pastors and in sifting through the books donated so as to supply the Kenyan work with suitable literature.

The next big event on the Pattersons' calendar is the Kitale Agricultural Show October 18–21. Pray for the representatives from each of the Glory Bible Church congregations who come to help at the show. A children's tract is presently being prepared for use at the vacation Bible schools and will also be used at the agricultural show.

The Kakamega Agricultural Show took place in June while the Pattersons were at home in Northern Ireland. A team of workers from the Kakamega and Nyaporo churches set up a tent and had a good time witnessing and distributing literature. During the show when there was opportunity, the staff joined together to sing hymns which was a good testimony and appreciated.

Pray that God will raise up workers both in Kenya and from the Free Presbyterian churches to go to Kenya as missionaries. There is much that can be done in each department of the work and personnel are needed to help the work to move forward and to develop.

Please keep praying for Tracey as she continues treatment in preparation for her return to India for the bone marrow transplant at the end of this year.

On a personal note, the Pattersons are glad to say that Malcolm has had the necessary surgery for cataracts and is making a good recovery. He is very glad to have his eyesight restored which enables them to continue in the

Lord's work. Pray for Malcolm as he resumes the preaching schedule around the GBC congregations, including two new congregations which have applied to join the denomination.

ASIA

◆ South Korea

Seoul—*Seongkyu & Sooyoun Lee*

Seongkyu Lee says that South Korea always has a long rainy season before the hot summer comes, but this year's rainy season was the second longest with the most rain ever recorded. It resulted in great devastation. Close to fifty people were killed in floods and landslides. When one river overflowed, a tunnel underpass was flooded trapping ten vehicles including a bus. At least thirteen people were killed.

Now the summer vacation season has begun. Many churches have retreats during this season, but finding a place for a retreat is very difficult and expensive. As a result, the FP church decided to have its retreat in October rather than in August.

The young people did have a retreat in July. They read and studied the book of Philippians together, focusing on joy and peace in Christ. It was a good time as they enjoyed fellowship in the Lord.

Pastor Lee has started a Bible study on the book of Leviticus on Sunday afternoons. It is an unfamiliar book to many, so it has been a challenging time, but the congregation is participating with interest. They look forward to knowing God's holiness more clearly and growing into a life of obedience to the Word of God.

Seongkyu continues to educate the young people about baptism, praying that they will confess Christ as their Saviour and soon be baptized.

At the end of July a couple with twin babies started attending Sunday services. The congregation was very happy to see them. They are praying that this couple can build a family in faith before God.

A young man named Lee Sung-hyuk, whose parents are faithful attenders of the church, will be travelling to the United States in August to study at Bob Jones University. Please pray that this change of circumstances will be used of the Lord to bring about spiritual growth in his life.

AUSTRALIA

Perth, Western Australia—*Philip & Cherith Gardiner*

The Gardiners are thankful that some new children came to their church's vacation Bible school in July. They look to the Lord to see some of them attend the weekly church services or Sunday school.

An unconverted man recently visited the church after having received an invitation in the mail. Please pray for his salvation.

Please pray for a move of God in the meetings and for the weekly English class and Bible study in the public housing unit.

Pray also for wisdom and help in the outreach in the Philippines. The Australian churches broadcast weekly on Sunday mornings on a station that covers Manila and a big part of the largest of the Filipino islands. The programs are also shared on the station's Facebook page and are done in English and Tagalog. The booklet *A New Beginning* is being translated into Tagalog and Ilonggo and will be offered to listeners. The response to the offer will help to indicate how many Filipinos are listening to the broadcasts.

Brethren, pray for us.
1 THESSALONIANS 5:25

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