

Missionary Prayer Bulletin



December 2023

NORTH AMERICA

◆ Jamaica

Little London—Richard Craig

Richard Craig reports that the people of God in Little London are enjoying the Lord's blessings and His goodness in their lives as they live for Him day to day. Through prayers and some financial contributions, they were able to build a new sign for the church. They are very pleased because the old sign was in a deplorable condition.

Richard's father-in-law passed away some weeks ago after having been in the hospital. He was 79 years old, and to the best of their knowledge, was not a believer. The funeral service is scheduled for Saturday, December 16, 2023, in the parish of St. Elizabeth. Please pray that the Lord will give much grace and comfort to the family.

Please pray much that the Lord will take away the lackadaisical spirit and behavior from some professing believers and grant unto them a heart filled with great enthusiasm for the glory of God.

◆ Dominican Republic

Santo Domingo—Ramón & Wendy Sosa

The Sosas thank the Lord that the church in the Dominican Republic has been able to continue meeting at the usual times except for Sunday, November 19. Due to torrential downpours in Santo Domingo that Sunday they had to meet virtually for worship. Some brothers had many problems returning to their homes, but no one experienced any losses.

They recently celebrated family days at the CEPVI preschool with the children's parents and guardians. They took advantage of that occasion to give a brief evangelistic exhortation and to give out copies of the Spanish translation of *A New Beginning* by Dr. Alan Cairns. See photos at this link: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/ZFiiMrdnYk7TJHs79>.

Please pray for the following: 1) revival and awakening in Santo Domingo East; 2) wisdom to correctly teach the Word of God in the church and in contacts with other pastors; 3) financial provision for the Sosa family's needs and faithfulness of the church people in supporting the church; 4) wisdom in implementing a program for pastoral visits and for evangelism in the community; and 5) good spiritual, physical, and emotional health for the people in the congregation as well as visitors to the church.

◆ Mexico

Mexico City—Jason & Danielle Boyle

At the end of November the Boyles returned from their deputation trip to Spain and Northern Ireland. They had three meetings in Spain (Cortijos Nuevos, Madrid, and Toledo), approximately forty meetings in Northern Ireland, plus four women's meetings, a few addresses to Sunday school classes and youth groups, and a class on Contextualization in Missions at the Theological Hall.

They say, "We were encouraged by the interest, prayers, and support of the churches. We were very blessed personally by the fellowship (there was lots of it!); it really served to edify us and bolster us up for our return to Mexico. In all aspects, we were very well taken care of. We were very happy and ready to get home to Mexico and continue our labors."

On their return to Mexico they hit the ground running. They rejoiced at the marriage of Geneva Reformed Seminary student Pablo Enciso to Celia on November 25 and look forward to the blessed union of Ruben Ramirez (also a GRS student) to Cinthya on December 16. Another couple in the church will be married in March. Jason has started a sermon series on Titus in preparation for an elder election. Pray for God's guiding and confirming hand in all.

Please pray for God's blessing on the five Latin American pastors who are in the early stages of forming an FPC denomination.

Progress is slow. Pray for God's blessing in all aspects. They hope to have their week of prayer at the end of January.

A group of people in Guatemala are interested in becoming a Free Presbyterian church plant. After months of contact and going over FPC materials, Jason will visit the group to do an assessment. He hopes to go in February.

The local church in Mexico City continued on faithfully during the Boyles' absence and is doing well. The Boyles rejoiced to see that the deacons and elder candidates had taken care of the church and shown initiative when appropriate during the three months. The congregation enjoyed hosting several visiting preachers during that time. However, there has been some spiritual resistance and some of the weaker brethren are struggling with attendance. Jason says, "These are things that we need to cover in much prayer."

The church continues to look to God for provision of a permanent meeting place. They have yet to find out how much was raised in Ulster and Spain but were very encouraged by the spirit of cooperation among the brethren. The Boyles say, "We rest and trust in God. He knows our needs more than we do."

Córdoba—Lalo & Liz Peña

Lalo Peña thanks God for the opportunity to visit Brother Pepe Luna in the Sierra Huatseca in the state of Hidalgo and Brother Wenceslao Hernández in the Sierra Gorda of Querétaro. Their churches are candidates to become missionary churches under the care of Iglesia Cristiana el Redentor in Mexico City. It was a time of great blessing and mutual edification. Please pray for these works in Mexico.

Please continue to pray that the Lord will enable the church in Córdoba to remodel its meeting place to have a chapel.

Continue to pray for Sister Martha Hernández and her children Samuel (15) and Romina (24). Recent tests indicate that Samuel's brain cyst is reduced in size, which opens the possibility of his having the heart surgery he needs.

Please pray for the Sunday evening services, which will be held every Sunday beginning in January 2024. Lalo says, “May God light a fire in the brothers to attend and be ministered to by the Word of God.”

Lalo thanks God that his wife, Liz, is well. Please pray for his teenage sons, Uriel (15) and especially Gadiel (13), and also for his mother, Celina (87), who is very active in the church.

EUROPE

◆ Spain

Madrid—John & Noranna Hanna

John Hanna reports that they have been receiving quite a number of visitors in Alcorcón, some of whom have already asked to join the church. This means Rev. Angel Alvarez will be kept even busier as he will do a discipleship study with each one before he or she comes into membership. The youth group continues to meet bi-weekly and has also grown due to the new people attending. December is usually a busy month for the church as there are extra activities, especially for the Sabbath school classes as they have their end-of-year exams.

The work in Toledo also enjoys the Lord’s blessings. About thirty-five people meet for the morning service, but sadly this number drops in the evening service. This a constant challenge to all the works, as most churches are capitulating to the trend of closing down their evening service, so it is hard to change the mentality of the people. Pray the Lord will revive His work, giving a genuine commitment to the activities in the local church.

With the work on the rented building in Aranjuez being completed, the new work was officially inaugurated on October 21. Around eighty people attended from other churches, but a good number also from Aranjuez. On the following Sabbath there were twenty-five in attendance in the morning service and eighteen in the evening. The attendance since then has maintained and there is much enthusiasm among the Lord’s people. The church will have its first public profession of faith on the Lord’s Day of December 17. Carol, the eldest daughter of the pastor will come into communicant membership. Please pray the Lord will continue His blessing on this new work and that many others will be saved and added to it.

In closing, the Hannas wish everyone a very blessed Christmas and a prosperous 2024: “May it please the Lord in the New Year to bless our denominations and mis-

sionary work through the world for His own eternal glory.”

Cortijos Nuevos—Alejandro & Vanesa Bernabeu

The Bernabeus have now been in Cortijos Nuevos for more than three years, and they praise God for allowing them to serve Him there. They have come to love this part of God’s vineyard in Sierra de Segura. They love its beauty but most of all, they have come to love its people. They love the people of God, who have been so faithful to Him in the midst of the opposition and apathy that surrounds them, but they also love the lost and long to see more souls coming to Christ.

Please pray for the radio ministry, the book table in the markets, the evangelistic videos that they share, and the gospel calendars that they design, print, and give out every year. May the Lord use these means for His glory and the extension of His kingdom.

During the summer, the Bernabeus were able to visit Ulster for three weeks. Alex was able to report in ten churches regarding the work in Cortijos Nuevos. It was a joy to renew fellowship with believers and it was also very encouraging for him to hear God’s people praying for them.

They greatly enjoyed the annual family camp in the province of Cordoba, where more than 140 people from several churches gathered. This is always a highlight of the year for the families in the church when they can spend a whole week with other Christians. It was a beautiful time of fellowship, and they were all greatly edified and challenged.

Please pray for some new believers who are doing a discipleship course and are growing in the faith. It is hoped that they will soon be baptized. They are also glad that some unsaved people who have come for years to the church are recently showing a deep interest in spiritual matters.

Continue to pray for the young people in the church. They are very isolated from other Christian young people, and some of them are sadly “halting between two opinions.” Pray that God would save them and convince them of the supreme value of Christ and His kingdom.

The Bernabeus welcomed their fourth child, Ruth Bernabeu Rodriguez, on September 29. Vanesa and the baby have been doing very well. Abigail, Elizabeth, and Ezekiel are delighted with their new sister. Please pray that the Lord would save the children early in life and that He would protect them from evil influences. Ezekiel started school this year and is doing well.

The church is looking to the future and praying regarding an expansion project. The church premises are small and on some occasions space is quite tight. Please pray that the Lord would give them much wisdom regarding what to do.

◆ Czech Republic

Liberec—Milos & Martina Solc

Milos Solc reports that they have had a good beginning to their Sabbath school, and they thank the Lord that on occasion they have had a number of children attend from the summer day camp. Pray for these young lives that the Lord would save them and deliver them out of the grips of sin and the evil society that we all live in.

They had their Thanksgiving picnic in the fall, and they are thankful that there also, they had a number of new people because of the children’s summer day camp. A few parents came for the first time and heard the gospel. They were also able to experience and enjoy Christian fellowship, which the Solces pray would stay with them and draw them back. Pray that such occasions would help break down the barriers that exist in that society towards any “religious” work and that people would be drawn to the Lord.

Finally, please pray for their Christmas evangelistic service and the various other evangelistic efforts during the Christmas season when the Czech Republic, despite its self-proclaimed atheism, is confronted by the biblical events of the birth and person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

AFRICA

◆ Liberia

Monrovia—David DiCanio

David DiCanio says the concrete floor was finally poured in the new building that will serve the school pilot project, church, and bookstore/NGO headquarters. They expect the four windows to be installed within a few days and then look toward getting thirteen doors hung. They anticipate building a small generator room and pump house and possibly installing a transformer since the local transformer up the street provides only 175 volts (they are 220 volts). The missionaries have been told the low voltages result from neighbors’ illegally tapping the line and overloading the transformer.

The church services continue with good attendance each Lord’s Day including a consistent stream of visitors from the radio

station. The installation of the concrete floor has improved the sound and has enabled them to hear the singing much better.

Dave continues to teach two young men who have expressed the conviction that they have the call of God to the ministry. They are currently studying hermeneutics.

The radio station continues broadcasting twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. The missionaries are thankful to the Lord's people for their support as they recently received two large gifts for the station.

Monrovia—Joanne Greer

The Paynesville Sunday school is starting to prepare for the year-end program. Joanne Greer says the children will present what they have learned about the life and ministry of the apostle Paul this year as well as what they have learned about the Hebrew tabernacle in a recent series in Bible Club. Several new children have joined the Sunday school in the past few months, including some whose parents have recently started attending the church.

They continue to test the Forms Model in the Christian school pilot project with the five children of two families in the church. Joanne says it has been a steep learning curve, both for students and teacher! She is very thankful for the prayers of God's people as they take this experimental step this year and see where the Lord leads in the future.

Liberians went to the polls on October 10 and again on November 14 in a run-off and elected Ambassador Joseph Boakai as their new president. The missionaries are very thankful that there was no serious unrest during the elections and are praying that the handover of power will also go peacefully.

◆ Uganda

Nsaalu—Noreen McAfee

Noreen McAfee thanks God for His grace and mercy which has brought both staff and students at Emmanuel Christian School through to the end of another year. This term was dominated by both national and local examinations, and she thanks God for undertaking for all the children and young people.

Thirty-four pupils sat for the Primary Leaving Examinations. Twenty of them will transfer into Emmanuel High School, five will take the vocational route, and the rest will likely move on to other institutions. Pray that God's will would be done in every life.

Of the twenty students who sat for the UCE O-level examinations, two will be offered a bursary (scholarship) to pursue the

course of their choice. For the others, their time at Emmanuel has come to an end. Please pray earnestly for them, that the truth of God's Word would bear fruit in their hearts and that they would "follow on to know the Lord."

Three of the young ladies who were taking the tailoring course have completed the program and been released to practise what they have learned. Two of the young men who worked as apprentice mechanics are also due to finish at the end of this year. Pray that the Lord would open doors for them.

This term the school conducted a parents' day for the nursery and primary parents. There was an excellent response, and it was a great opportunity to remind parents of the fundamental principles of the school as well as some practical issues.

On closing day, a graduation service was held for those children transitioning from nursery to primary as well as the end-of-year prize-giving sessions for both the primary and high school. Noreen says it was a particular delight to have Rev. Ray Carscadden there to speak at these meetings.

Currently, both staff and students are enjoying a well-deserved break. Noreen will be travelling to Northern Ireland to spend Christmas and the New Year with her family. She asks us to pray for them, especially her mother who is getting on in years.

Noreen says that the Ugandan team is rejoicing in the news that David and Rachel McAuley and their young family hope to join them in Uganda next year. They are so thankful the Lord has seen fit to send more laborers to this great harvest field. Pray for them in all their deputation meetings and preparations.

Please remember the following long-term needs: Nassiwa Sylvia, who has commenced her fourth round of chemotherapy; the need for better accommodation for the Kyambala Sunday school; the full registration of the high school, which is pending and which would allow students to sit for their UCE examinations without moving out to an external location; and the need to process the land title for the adjacent land and the related complications created by the owner's family.

◆ Kenya

Kitale—Malcolm & Alison Patterson

This year marks the sixtieth anniversary of independence in Kenya, and the Pattersons noticed that a special effort was made to present a good agricultural show in Kitale. The mission work had its usual agricultural exhibit and literature tent. They invited six people from the local congregations to help each day

rather than the usual four and they were glad of the extra help. The show ran Wednesday to Saturday October 18–21. Friday was a public holiday so even more people than usual were in attendance at the show.

In addition to free literature and selling Bibles and hymnbooks, they had a book table promoting children's books and teaching materials, daily devotionals, and African biographies. The Pattersons noticed more sales than in the past and a greater interest in reading. Pray that this continues.

As always, they advertise the bookshops, the radio broadcasts, and the location and contacts for the eight Glory Bible Church congregations during the show. They were encouraged to meet some who listen to the radio broadcasts. Another encouragement was to renew acquaintances with those whom they have been able to help with literature in the past. They gave boxes of John's Gospels in the Ekegusii language to a pastor from Kisii who had travelled to the show. Another young man, having received a tract asked whether he could have more to distribute in his area. One of the young men has since been in contact with this young man, and they have sent copies of "Behold My Servant," an exposition of Mark's gospel to him in English and Swahili. More recently they received a phone call from a teacher who purchased a book at the show requesting more copies of it for his friends. A children's gospel tract was prepared especially and printed for the shows in Kakamega and Kitale in English and Swahili.

In Nyaporo, drilling for a borehole has been completed, providing a good supply of clean drinking water for the children in the school and also for the people in the community. The third graduation for the ECDE (nursery school) took place with a large attendance of people from the area as well as government representatives. An extension is being done to the church which will provide additional Sunday school room and also a much-needed additional classroom for the ECDE. In Kitale another young man has been working on a Swahili-English hymnbook based on the FPC hymnbook for use in the Glory Bible Church.

A retired missionary now living in Australia recently contacted the Pattersons wishing to purchase Sunday school materials and other books for youth and children. They shipped two boxes of material to the churches he is associated with in Kisii and Central Kenya.

The work in Kenya is slowly expanding. Pray for opportunities to reach out further by radio broadcasting and by sending books to areas in Kenya beyond the mission's present

sphere of influence. Social media can be used to advertise books in addition to the advertising at the agricultural shows.

The Pattersons have returned to Northern Ireland and to their family for Christmas. This year they will become grandparents for the first time, the Lord willing. Do pray for Tim and Sarah as they await the arrival of the little one. Continue to pray for Alison's mum as she approaches her ninetieth birthday in the new year and for Phil as he continues to accommodate Ukrainian refugees in his home.

Malcolm and Alison hope to return to Kenya towards the end of January, then to return back home during April, and finally to retire in June (DV). Pray for Mr. Glenn Hamilton and his wife and children and also for Miss Elizabeth Edwards (who has just recently been accepted by the Ulster Mission Board) as they prepare to take up the missionary work in Kenya. Pray also that God will raise up others to join them.

ASIA

◆ Nepal

Kathmandu—Joy Gillespie

Joy Gillespie wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year. She is thankful for your prayerful support this past year. It has been a year filled with ups and downs, but she thanks God for the opportunities He has given her to share the gospel with the folks across Nepal.

Please remember to pray for the far western region of Nepal which was hit by an earthquake at the beginning of November. Over 150 people died and some 375 were injured. Sadly, some from the FPC fellowship died in the quake. Pray for the families that remain. Many of their homes were destroyed along with the winter supply of food for the people and the seeds for the spring sowing season. The people have received tarpaulins to make shelters and rice from the Red Cross agency.

Revs. Thapa, Rai, and Elisha visited and delivered blankets and food for the church families. They hope to travel up again before Christmas with more aid for the people. The two coldest months in Nepal are December and January so for those living in tents it will be a cold winter if they can't get back into their homes. Pray for these brothers and sisters that God will support them and supply all their needs.

Pray for the English classes. Joy thanks God for the students He has sent. The young man who is teaching English with Joy has

been a real blessing, but pray for him. He has recently had a bad flu and has been unable to come to work. Pray that God will touch his body and heal him.

Continue to pray for Nepal, that it will remain open for the preaching of the gospel. In the past week calls have again been made to return Nepal to a Hindu state. Pray that the door will remain open and that the Spirit of God will continue to move throughout that needy land.

Remember to pray for the pastors and congregants who are experiencing persecution in the churches in India. Since the summer they have been under investigation by the police. Pray that God will keep them strong and that the fear of man will not prevail.

◆ South Korea

Seoul—Seongkyu & Sooyoun Lee

Seongkyu Lee says the congregation in South Korea had a very joyful time of fellowship recently when Rev. Larry Saunders and a retired Korean pastor and his wife visited from Toronto FPC. The visit of Dr. Saunders, who is the present moderator of the Free Presbyterian Church of North America, was a significant time for the work. Dr. Saunders expressed his desire for the church in Korea to be officially recognized as part of the denomination. He met with the church members and explained the process. As a result of Dr. Saunders' visit, the church hopes to establish a strong relationship with the denomination.

Please pray for the broader church in Korea as it is in the midst of an invisible spiritual battle. Seongkyu says that above all, Korea is experiencing many phenomena where churches are unable to withstand the massive wave of secularization that has resulted in compromising holiness. This poses a significant challenge to the young members of the church, and it is a problem that the church must overcome together. Pray with them that the youth will realize the true need of the gospel, that their souls would be awakened, and that they would experience spiritual renewal.

Another difficulty is that in Korea people work long hours and have limited personal leisure time. Spiritual neglect and weakness occur due to busy schedules posing a continuous challenge to spiritual life. Additionally, some people in the church are facing difficulties in their homes due to the lack of stable jobs. Some retire early, while others must continue working after retirement. It is challenging to find suitable stable jobs. Amid all these situations, they need to exercise faith

and engage in personal devotion and spiritual efforts. Pray that all the church members can live with a more vigilant faith.

AUSTRALIA

Perth, Western Australia—Philip & Cherith Gardiner

The Gardiners give thanks for the Lord's sustaining grace in His work in Western Australia. Please pray for fruit following evangelistic efforts in the lead up to Christmas, for local families to come in to the services, for children for the Sunday school, and for their youth camp December 15–17. Pray for fruit in the lives of all who attend.

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