

Missionary Prayer Bulletin



February 2024

NORTH AMERICA

◆ Jamaica

Little London—Richard & Renay Craig
Richard Craig requests prayer for Miss Maxine, a woman who joined the fellowship in Little London some months ago. She has been very faithful in her attendance and in her understanding of spiritual matters. Miss Maxine, who is 59 and a former member of the Universal Church of the Kingdom of God (a cultic Charismatic group), recently suffered a heart attack and was hospitalized for two weeks. She praises God for sparing her life. Please remember her in prayer.

◆ Dominican Republic

Santo Domingo—Ramón & Wendy Sosa
The church in Santo Domingo continues to meet each Lord's Day and on Wednesdays for its time of prayer and Bible study. Ramón preaches the gospel and is presently conducting a Bible study regarding Reformed worship (a review of what they looked at a few years ago).

During these last few weeks, Ramón has been counseling a church family in a difficult situation that has arisen since last year. Please pray for wisdom for Ramón as he counsels them and that they will respond in a biblical, gracious manner.

At the end of December Ramón was contacted by a Cuban brother who has moved to the Dominican Republic after marrying a Dominican woman. He comes from a Presbyterian tradition in Cuba and was looking for a Presbyterian church close to where he lives but was unable to find one. He is about two hours away from the city of Santo Domingo Este and does not have his own vehicle, but he has shown interest in keeping in touch with Ramón and hopes that it will work out for him to visit the church some Sundays of the month using public transportation.

Ramón continues to share a devotional at night over social media and SermonAudio. He wants to continue taking advantage of these platforms to present the gospel and to edify and encourage all who participate.

In the week of January 29 to February 2, Ramón participated via Zoom in the Latin American Ministers' Week of Prayer held in Mexico. He says they had a good time of prayer, exposition of the Word, and planning.

Please pray 1) for wisdom to correctly teach the Word of God, both in the church and in his contacts with other friends; 2) for wisdom to implement a pastoral program of visits and evangelization of the community; 3) for wisdom to know how to reach out with the message of the gospel through social media; 4) for spiritual, physical, and emotional health of the congregation and as well as visitors to the church; and, finally, 5) that the Lord will provide the church with faithful men who are able to teach others (2 Timothy 2:2).

◆ Mexico

Mexico City—Jason & Danielle Boyle

From January 29 to February 2 the Latin American pastors and their families met for the Week of Prayer and planning meetings in Tehuacán, Puebla. All were able to come except for Ramón and his family. It was a blessed time of preaching, prayer, and fellowship, and the pastors worked together on how to help each other and the churches in a practical way. Progress was also made on a possible Spanish hymnbook. Their hearts were greatly encouraged by the week.

The Mexico City church had its first elder election on February 4. Three men were elected to be ruling elders, subject to presbytery approval. In true Mexican fashion there were some tears, lots of hugs, and happy applause. Jason Boyle says, "We are thankful for a wonderful spirit of unity. We are thrilled by God's answer to this long-standing prayer request. All glory to His name!"

Ruben Ramirez and Pablo Enciso (both recently married) are progressing with their studies at Geneva Reformed Seminary. Please pray for their preparation for the ministry and for the Lord's guidance in the next couple years.

The Mexico City church needs to add a third Sunday school room and make some other modifications. Please pray that the landlord will allow the work and that the Lord will provide the funds. They are thankful they were able to install a ventilation system in the ceiling of their current meeting place. It should make a difference, Lord willing, when the hot season is arrives.

The church continues to need a more appropriate and permanent meeting place. They are asking the Lord to guide, provide, and give wisdom. Their savings for a new meeting place is almost \$200,000 US. They look to the Lord to provide the amount needed so they can make an offer on a property that is listed at \$1 million US.

The congregation is planning trips to visit its sister churches this year to encourage and help in practical ways. The Lord willing, a small mission team will also be formed this year from the Mexico City church and its sister churches to help the church in La Escalera pastored by Pastor Pepe. That church meets outside of the house of one of the congregants.

Jason says, "There is much work before us, many practical needs, and we are so excited to serve and see how the Lord works."

Córdoba—Lalo & Liz Peña

Lalo Peña thanks God for the opportunity to attend the Week of Prayer of the sister FPCNA churches in Mexico and the Dominican Republic. He says it was a time of great edification, fellowship, and encouragement through the preaching of the Word, the times of prayer, and the matters discussed during the business sessions.

On February 4 Pepe Luna, from the Huasteca region of the state of Hidalgo, and Wenceslao Hernández, from the Sierra Gorda of Querétaro, ministered at the Coram Deo

Free Presbyterian Church in Córdoba, Veracruz, during the absence of Pastor Peña, who served as clerk pro tempore of the session of El Redentor Christian Church in Mexico City during its election of ruling elders. Lalo says, "It was such a great time of enormous blessing for all who were present. Please pray for the works in Mexico."

Please pray for the church in Córdoba as it enters the second stage of remodeling its meeting place to have a chapel. Please continue to pray for the family that was previously involved in the Judaizing movement. Finally, pray that this year God will ignite the evangelistic desire in the church people to see souls saved who will join with them in the worship and work of God.

EUROPE

◆ Spain

Madrid—*John & Noranna Hanna*

John Hanna reports that the work in Alcorcón continues to progress slowly. Please pray for one of their deacons, Jesús Ballesteros. He had a perforated ulcer which required immediate surgery. However, the surgeon found his condition much worse than expected. He remained sedated for some days with his life hanging in the balance. Much prayer has been offered on his behalf and God in His great mercy has answered. He is not yet out of danger but is improving and it is hoped he will be moved from intensive care soon. Jesús has faithfully served the church in Alcorcón for over forty years as a deacon. Please remember this dear brother with his wife, their three sons, and their families in your prayers.

The church held its annual congregational meeting on the first Saturday of February. After the reports were given, everyone was invited to remain for a meal together. The second Sabbath of the month is their annual Youth Day in which the young people of the church take part in both services. Please pray for the youth of the church that the Lord will do a deep work of grace in all their lives.

In the middle of January, the Association of Reformed Ministers met for the beginning of the year conference in the church in Toledo. There was a good turnout, and the Lord's people in the congregation were greatly encouraged and blessed through the ministry of the Word and the fellowship with other believers. John asks for prayer for the church in Toledo, as in the next months they seek the Lord's guidance for their future.

The church in Aranjuez continues to grow. John says he had the privilege of preaching

there the last Sabbath of January and there were 35 present. Please pray the Lord will bless this new work and souls will be saved and added to the work.

AFRICA

◆ Liberia

Monrovia—*Joanne Greer*

Joanne Greer thanks you for your continued prayers for God's work in Liberia. The children's work continues steadily, with about forty attending Sunday school and a smaller but very dedicated group coming to Bible Club each Friday. God has given grace to move forward with the pilot Christian school project also. The two church families are being very faithful about getting their five kids to school each day in the temporary location while they wait to get into the new classroom at the church/bookstore rental property.

Please pray especially for safety on the roads at this time. The main highway between Monrovia and the international airport is being widened into four lanes, and the construction has caused many delays in the journey Joanne makes five or six times a week between the mission compound and the church. On a recent night, what is usually a one-hour homeward journey turned into four hours as traffic was completely blocked by construction vehicles dumping dirt on the new road. The road work seemed to cause a chain reaction of vehicles overheating, batteries dying, and minor accidents as drivers tried to get through. Joanne says, "We're all really looking forward to the new highway!"

◆ Uganda

Nsaalu—*Noreen McAfee*

Noreen McAfee says it was a blessing to spend time with family and to renew fellowship with God's people in Northern Ireland over the recent holiday. She is also thankful to God for His hand upon the school staff and children during her absence.

She returned to Uganda mid-January to prepare for the opening of the new school year on February 5. She says it is always a delight to see children and young people report back and to welcome new learners to their classes.

The school is full, and Noreen asks us to pray for God's work of grace in the life of every pupil and member of staff. She says they long to see sinners saved and believers strengthened in their faith.

She also asks us to pray that the high school registration would come through in

a timely manner to facilitate the registration of this year's candidates for their national exams. They are grateful to God for helping the 2023 finalists and pray for His blessing again on the current group.

Noreen also requests that we remember the McAuley family in this time of deputation and preparation for service in Uganda. Additional accommodation will be needed for them, and plans have been drawn and submitted to the district planning office for approval. It is hoped that this new project can begin as soon as possible, and Noreen asks us to pray that all the necessary finance will come in and that the work will go smoothly.

The numbers in the Kyambala Sunday school remain strong, and Noreen says she was encouraged to see how well Furaha and Emmanuel looked after that work while she was away. She hopes to help them with material so that they can continue in this ministry while she endeavours to start a second outreach Sunday school in Bukulula. The Emmanuel church held a vacation Bible school there recently and the Lord has laid it upon their hearts to commence a Sunday school there also. It is a predominantly Roman Catholic area, and the workers need the Lord's help and wisdom.

◆ Kenya

Kitali—*Malcolm & Alison Patterson*

The Pattersons returned to Kenya on January 24 leaving behind a very wintry Northern Ireland and arriving to hot sunshine in Nairobi. Mr. and Mrs. Kyle Wenlock from the Magherafelt congregation travelled with them. The Wenlocks visited Kenya for a few days in order to inspect the properties on the mission compound in Kitale so that repairs and renovations can be made for the missionaries who will go to Kenya after the Pattersons leave. Kyle has led teams of work in Uganda and his wife, Elaine, has cooked for them.

Malcolm had the privilege of preaching in Bikeke Glory Bible Church (GBC) on their first Sunday back and dedicated two children there: Pastor Andrew and Mercy's daughter, Annabell, and Fred and Christine's son, Meshach.

Another consignment of books from Northern Ireland had arrived in the Pattersons' absence, so Alison's priority was to commence opening them and to decide how best to use them. Most will go to the bookshops, but others were set aside for pastors, churches, agricultural shows, the early childhood education work (ECDE), Sunday school, etc.

Since the end of January the Pattersons have been in Kakamega visiting the Nyaporo and Kakamega congregations. The Mission Board of Ulster plans to rent a small school building in Kakamega where they have been holding Sunday school for some time. It will also be used for conferences and for Sunday services. Pastor Patrice hopes to see a Christian school established there eventually.

The Pattersons were delighted to see the completed extension to the church building in Nyaporo which will accommodate the PP2 class of the ECDE and facilitate the expanding Sunday school in Nyaporo. It was very pleasing also to see the recently drilled borehole in action.

The congregation in Kakamega has suffered some losses recently. A couple from Nairobi who had been a great support have been transferred in their work back to Nairobi after living for several years in Kakamega. Also, two former students from the local university completed the Bible Institute course and have moved away from Kakamega. Pastor Patrice depended on these young men to help with pulpit supply in Nyaporo and Kakamega. The Nyaporo pulpit is mostly supplied by Benson, who is the administrator of the ECDE in Nyaporo, while Patrice preaches there once a month. Pray that men will be thrust forth into this part of His vineyard.

Pray for the preaching and teaching ministries in all of the eight Glory Bible Church congregations, for the Sunday school and teens' teachers, and for all who minister. Pray also for the production of literature in Swahili. Some translation work is ongoing, and an English/Swahili hymnbook is being compiled based on the FPC hymnbook used in Northern Ireland.

During the Pattersons' time in Northern Ireland, they met with Mr. Glenn Hamilton on a few occasions so that Malcolm could go through the administrative work that Glenn will be taking on. Pray for the Hamiltons as they do their deputation meetings and prepare for missionary service in Kenya. Miss Elizabeth Edwards has also been accepted by the mission board and presbytery to go to Kenya as a missionary when she completes her deputation. Elizabeth plans to spend three weeks in Kenya in March when Miss Margaret Russell will be spending six weeks working with the Sunday schools and also conducting a Sunday school teachers' conference.

Pray for the Pattersons as they spend their final months as missionaries in Kenya, completing the tasks that they have been working on. On a personal note, they became grandparents for the first time in December.

Jonah Philip Patterson arrived two weeks early, but he has made remarkable progress. Tim and Sarah are adjusting well to being new parents. Philip continues to accommodate a Ukrainian student in his home. Philip was recently baptised. Alison's mother continues to enjoy relatively good health. Do pray for the Pattersons' family as Malcolm and Alison continue to serve the Lord in Kenya.

ASIA

◆ Nepal

Kathmandu—Joy Gillespie

Joy Gillespie says the year got off to a busy start with ladies' conferences in various areas of Nepal. She is also teaching English in the Bible college. Eleven students started the year but two have decided to return home. In addition, Joy has also been holding Sunday school teacher-training classes spread over three Saturdays. She says it has been an encouragement to see the enthusiasm of those who attend. Many travel long distances to be there. Pray that God will use the teaching to encourage and bless them in their work for the Master.

The church people in Nepal have recently been reminded of the dangers of travelling in that land. On February 1 the son of one of the Bible students died in a motorbike accident. He was only 21 years old. His father, Bhakta, is the leader of the church in his area. Pray for the parents and the other siblings as they come to terms with this sad news. Last November a pastor's daughter died from Dengue fever. Joy says these losses remind us that Christians are not exempt from sadness. Pray that God will draw near in a special way to both families at this testing time.

The economy is still very bad in Nepal. Pray that God will supply the needs of all His children. He is the true and living God who owns the cattle upon a thousand hills. Remember those who survived the earthquake in November, that God will continue to support them for their basic needs.

Pray for Nepal that the Spirit of God will continue moving, convicting, and converting men to Himself.

◆ South Korea

Seoul—Seongkyu & Sooyoun Lee

Rev. Seongkyu Lee says that when Rev. Larry Saunders visited the church in Korea in November, he gave them the news that their church is now under the supervision of the Mission Board of the Free Presbyterian

Church of North America. The committee will oversee the process of the constitution of the church. Seongkyu says they pray for God's guidance and provision as this unfolds.

As the new year begins, Seongkyu is specifically praying for the spiritual growth of the church members. He says sustaining spiritual vitality and zeal requires self-reflection and prayer for the work of Holy Spirit. He is preaching and teaching things that should not be forgotten in serving God and prays that the church will experience spiritual growth and that each member will exhibit spiritual maturity.

Many families in the church face challenges. A sister who is raising twins is struggling due to a recurring thyroid condition. Please pray for her health and her ability to regularly participate in worship with her children. Another family was involved in a traffic accident on their way to Wednesday prayer meeting. Their vehicle suffered significant damage due to the mistake of an inexperienced female driver. Since the accident, Brother Choelan's wife and daughter have been experiencing physical discomfort. Please pray for their emotional and spiritual strength.

This year the church people are praying for young individuals to publicly confess their faith and be baptised. They hope that those who have grown up under parental and church teachings will be recognized as part of the body of Christ through their sincere confession of faith and participation in baptism.

AUSTRALIA

Perth, Western Australia —Philip & Cherith Gardiner

Philip Gardiner reports that some families in the Perth congregation who had been travelling some distance to get there are now attending a church plant closer to their home (the church plant belongs to another denomination). This has reduced the attendance at the Perth church, so they are praying for new families from the local area to come in and stay. The Gardiners long for children to come to attend the Sunday school as well as teenagers for the youth. Philip says, "As ever we stand in need of a mighty move of God in the work."

In April, the Lord willing, Philip will be preaching at a church camp north of Adelaide. He would appreciate prayer for that time that the Lord will be pleased to work in hearts.

Also in April, they are looking forward to a visit from Rev. Colin Mercer, who will be conducting some special ministry meetings while he is there.

Port Lincoln & Lock

—*Kyle & Eppie Graham*

Kyle Graham reports that the Lord has been gracious to the works in Port Lincoln and Lock. While things have been steady in the main, he is thankful for some encouragements in recent times. Over the last couple of months, a new couple has been coming to the services in Port Lincoln fairly regularly which has been a great encouragement.

Since the school year in Australia starts at the end of January, the children's meeting has just resumed after a lengthy break. The Grahams are thankful to see all the children coming back again after the holidays and that the connection has been maintained particularly with those families who are not part of the congregation.

They are also hoping to have an election of elders and deacons in the near future in both Port Lincoln and Lock and would appreciate prayer that the Lord will give wisdom and direct the congregations as to the men who should serve.

Grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word.
ACTS 4:29

DIRECTORY

Alvarez, Angel & Kelley
angel@icpresbiteriana.com

Bernabeu, Alex & Vanesa
alejandrobarnabeumcauley@gmail.com

Boyle, Jason & Danielle
mexicocitymissions@gmail.com

Carscadden, Ray & Rhonda
ray.carscadden@fpcmission.org

Craig, Richard & Renay
richlts@yahoo.com

DiCanio, David
daviddicanio@icloud.com

Gardiner, Philip & Cherith
pegardiner@hotmail.com

Gillespie, Joy
gillespie_joy@yahoo.co.uk

Graham, Kyle & Eppie
kgraham@hotmail.co.uk

Greer, Joanne
joanne_g23@yahoo.co.uk

Hall, Ralph & Tanya
revrhall@gmail.com

Hanna, John & Noranna
jahanna@gmail.com

Lee, Seongkyu & Sooyoun
sklee8339@gmail.com

McAfee, Noreen
nemcafee@africaonline.co.ke

Orozco, Paco & Julia
juliamulfinger@gmail.com

Patterson, Malcolm & Alison
malcolm@patterson970.fsnet.co.uk

Peña, Lalo & Liz
lalo_rock@hotmail.com

Russell, Margaret
annabellrussell@aol.com

Solc, Milos & Martina
milossolc@yahoo.com

Sosa, Ramón & Wendy
ramonmsosa@gmail.com

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