

Missionary Prayer Bulletin



April 2024

NORTH AMERICA

◆ Jamaica

Little London—Richard & Renay Craig

Richard Craig reminds us of Paul's admonition in 1 Thessalonians 5:18: "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." Please pray with him and the people in the Little London church that God would grant them the faith to overcome the great challenges, difficulties, struggles, and opposition from the world that they face. Pray that they would be firm and steadfast in their faith in God.

Pray also for their outreach ministry in the schools. They are actively engaged in three primary schools and one high school where Richard leads in the devotional exercises and gives them spiritual counseling. Please pray that this door of opportunity to reach young people will remain open and that the Lord will bless it to the salvation of souls.

◆ Dominican Republic

Santo Domingo—Ramón & Wendy Sosa

Ramón Sosa thanks the Lord that a mother from the daycare center and her child have started attending church. The mother is interested in becoming a member of the church. He is glad also that a church sister has returned after a period of illness.

During Easter week, Ramón presented a series of short meditations online titled "The Great Rescue" that focused on the meaning of the death and resurrection of our Saviour. He continues the online discipleship classes every Monday and is seeing good participation.

On Monday, April 1, they held a day of prayer with good attendance from the church people. They plan to hold special online prayer times in January (Monday–Friday) at 5 a.m., the time that works best for the most people since they have different work schedules.

On Thursday, April 4, Ramón was rearended when he was returning from an activity

with one of his daughters. When he went to file the accident report with the police, he found out that the car insurance for the man who hit him was expired. The man has agreed to assume the costs of repairing Ramón's vehicle, but even with the repairs, Ramón fears his car will not be left in very good condition.

Ramón requests prayer for 1) wisdom to be able to correctly teach the Word of God, both in the church and in contacts with others; 2) wisdom to be able to implement a pastoral program of visits and evangelization of the community; 3) wisdom to know how to reach out with the the gospel through social media; 4) spiritual, physical, and emotional health of the church family and visitors; 5) faithful men in the church who are able to teach others; and 6) awakening and revival.

◆ Mexico

Mexico City—Jason & Danielle Boyle

At the end of March two families from the Mexico City church went to visit their sister churches in Queretaro and San Luis Potosi. They did an abbreviated vacation Bible school and other evangelistic outreach work. Pablo Enciso preached in both churches on the Sundays they were there. Two more week-long mission trips are being planned for July, one to Zongozotla and another to San Luis Potosi.

In March Jason started a new Bible study with a family, and in April he is starting up three more with different groups of men. Danielle is beginning a study geared toward young mothers and newlywed ladies. Please pray for much fruit.

The church in Mexico City is getting ready for the ordination on May 12 of its recently elected elders. In preparation for this special time, the church people are doing some renovations to their meeting place including adding a Sunday school room and painting the building. Three men will be ordained as elders. Also at that service, the Lord willing, a group of new members will be welcomed into the fellowship and there will be a couple of baptisms.

Córdoba—Lalo & Liz Peña

Lalo Peña thanks God for the opportunity to participate in a teaching series in a church in Orizaba, Veracruz, eight miles from Córdoba on April 12 and 19. His topic will be our denomination's distinctive position on baptism. Please pray that the sessions will be a blessing and encouragement and that they will be carried out in a spirit that promotes unity in the body of Christ.

On April 7 Lalo began the exposition of the book of Romans, a long-cherished desire that has finally been realized. Please pray for him throughout the course of the study that it be an opportunity to reach many for Christ.

Lalo thanks God that they have been able to move forward with a third of the project to remodel their meeting place. He says it already looks more and more like a church.

Please continue to pray for the family attending the church who was previously involved in the Judaizing movement. Pray also that in 2024 God will create greater evangelistic zeal among the people in the congregations towards their own families and friends and that He would grant an abundant harvest.

EUROPE

◆ Spain

Madrid—John & Noranna Hanna

In John Hanna's last report, he requested prayer for Jesus Ballesteros, one of the deacons in Alcorcón. The Lord was very gracious to Jesus; even though he was very close to death, the Lord raised him up and, while he is still a little weak, he is making a good recovery.

The Lord continues to bless the work in Alcorcón. A number of visitors have been attending regularly. Two new babies have been born and are doing well. The bimonthly youth rally continues with good attendance. Pray the Lord will do a deep work of grace in the youth, preserving them from the multiple evils of this age.

There has been a major change in the work in Toledo. Mark Witte received and accepted a call to a church in Florida. The Provisional Presbytery has appointed John as interim moderator. A committee of two ministers and an elder has been elected to look for a replacement for Mark. John says it won't be easy to replace him. Please pray earnestly for the future of the work in Toledo as they seek the Lord's guidance and help for the future.

The church in Aranjuez continues to enjoy the blessing of the Lord. The attendance at the services has remained constant. Pray the Lord will pour out His Spirit on the works in Spain and that sinners will be saved and believers added to the different churches.

Cortijos Nuevos—Alejandro & Vanesa Bernabeu

Alex Bernabeu says the Easter holidays, which are celebrated in Spain with processions of images and Roman Catholic masses, are a yearly reminder of the religious blindness and idolatry of the people in their area. They pray that God would open their eyes to the truth that sets men free. Their region is dry and hard to the gospel, but the work Sierra de Segura continues by the grace of God.

Spring and summer will be full of activities. Please pray for youth camp April 26–28. Last year around thirty young people came, and this year perhaps there will be more. Pray for the preparation that must be made, but especially pray that the Lord will challenge the hearts of all that come.

In recent months Alex has been conducting four personal Bible studies with new believers (and others not so new), and says he is sometimes amazed at the questions that come up—things that he had assumed they know, but they don't. In that setting many of them are happy to open their hearts and to talk about doubts, problems, or difficulties. It has been encouraging to see great growth in believers through these studies. A baptismal service for two of these new believers is planned for May. Please pray for Jorge and Dolores, that they will be a testimony of the grace of God to their family and friends.

At the end of May, the Lord willing, they will celebrate the church's 36th anniversary with special services. Rev. David Park will come from Northern Ireland to preach a three-day gospel mission. Pray for souls to be saved.

A Mission Board outreach team from Northern Ireland will come July 27 to August 3. They will help in the church services, distribute literature in numerous villages and towns, and conduct a vacation Bible school in Cortijos Nuevos, where the Bernabeus

live. Please pray that the Lord will bless these endeavors and that many souls will hear the gospel.

The church will have its annual family camp with other churches in August. This year Alex is in charge of organizing this camp, so pray that God will give him wisdom and that it will be a blessing for all who come.

Since last September, Alex has been teaching a "Preparation for Eldership" class with two of the deacons who have proved faithful throughout the years. Please pray for these men, that the Lord would raise them up as leaders of the congregation.

◆ **Czech Republic**

Liberec—Milos & Martina Solc

In December, the Solces were thankful for the opportunity to renew fellowship with Hannah Allison from Greenville, who visited them again after many years. The people in the church were very encouraged to see her again and it was a great blessing to be able to spend some time with her.

Later in the month they had their Christmas evangelistic service, as well as other opportunities to minister to various people in the community. Milos says it is a great irony that despite that nation's self-proclaimed atheism, the celebration of Christmas is the most significant holiday of the year.

The Solces were also very encouraged at that time, and several times since, by the attendance at the services of one of their son's colleagues from work. She also visited them a number of times in their home, and Milos was able to speak to her at some length about the things of God and the needs of her own soul. Please pray for her salvation.

The Lord has been blessing in the Sabbath services, and the people are growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord. The little Christian day school that the Solces have in their home includes five children and they are all making good progress. There is also Martina's ministry to the children, as well as staff, in the local public school. This has its limitations, but many have been witnessed to, many have come to the Solces' home, and some to the church. May the Lord bring fruit from these efforts and save these needy souls.

AFRICA

◆ **Liberia**

Monrovia—David DiCanio

David DiCanio looks to the Lord for wisdom to disciple several young men in their twenties

whom God has brought to the Paynesville mission church. They show remarkable evidence of genuine saving grace. Some have been faithful in attending Sunday school and prayer meeting and have expressed an interest in additional study in the things of the Lord.

One of the young men, Hossan, who has been attending for about two months now, is a converted Muslim. Hossan came to Christ out of Islam but was attending a Pentecostal church. He started visiting the FPC mission church two years ago but struggled over making a break with his church. He finally decided to leave it and has also started bringing his sister with him to the FPC mission church.

Several of the young men that come to the mission church are from a Pentecostal background where the prosperity gospel is preached. Some heard the about the FP church and the true gospel on the radio station. One man found the church through Google Earth after searching for Reformed preachers online. Several of these young men witness to their family and friends and show an interest in encouraging visitors that come to the church.

As Dave has mentioned in the past, two men out of the group testify that they have the call of God to the gospel ministry. Dave has been informally teaching them in several subjects: OT Survey, Covenant Theology, Hermeneutics, Acts of the Apostles, and the basics of NT Greek. One of the young men now runs the radio station.

Little progress has been made on the school/bookstore/NGO headquarters/church building recently as they are awaiting some estimates. They have been able to install windows and internal doors but have not gotten window bars or outside security doors. Unfortunately, thieves broke into the property again and took a few valuables. Thankfully they were not able to get into the bookstore where most of the expensive items are temporarily being stored. The criminals took down several feet of razor wire, so the mission replaced it with concrete and glass shards. Hiring a security firm for the building like the one they have for the compound in Duazon is cost prohibitive.

Joanne continues to hold school classes in Duazon until they get the building finished. Her schedule is very busy, so Dave does as much of her government work as possible and also takes care of her car. On a recent Saturday while she was driving with her Sunday school children, the vehicle would not go into gear. She managed to get the kids to Duazon, but Dave had to take the car in for repair immediately. It needed a new clutch assembly. They

were thankful to the Lord that it was taken care of by the end of the day.

It has been a struggle to get electricity on the compound in Duazon. Pray that it will soon get sorted out. Once they get hooked up they will still get only twelve hours of electricity per day because the electrical hydro power plant cannot meet the demand during the dry season. They are thankful, however, that they have been able to get a system installed that will provide protection from any electrical surges from the electric company (which they are told can happen) and also an automated switchover system that will turn on their generator when power goes out. This is critical especially for the radio station.

◆ **Monrovia—Joanne Greer**

Since January, the pilot Christian school has been running five days a week from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. It started in September with a hybrid schedule with the kids coming to school three days a week and working at home the other two days. Joanne says she is thankful that both students and teacher have now made it through one term of full-time hours. They are presently on their Easter break, so Joanne is trying to catch up on errands such as renewing her driver's license and her resident's permit, which sadly means visiting several different government offices and waiting for hours in lines!

Eight children from Bible Club visited the mission compound on Saturday, April 6, as a prize for good attendance and memory work. They enjoyed games and food and, as a special treat, a couple of hours in a nearby swimming pool. Although Liberia has many miles of coastline, most Liberians cannot swim and, sadly, there are many drownings each year. Joanne has been trying to teach some of the children the basics of swimming when opportunities arise.

◆ **Uganda**

Nsaalu—Noreen McAfee

Noreen thanks God for His continued grace and help at Emmanuel and for definite answers to prayer. She praises God for helping both the primary and secondary departments in the National Examinations of 2023 and for guiding the students to the next step. She asks us to remember all of them, but especially those who have moved on to other institutions for A-level or vocational training. The high school registration has finally been granted and they have already applied to the examination board for their own center. Pray that this

also will be approved in time to register this year's candidates.

Noreen says they long to see the Lord move in salvation among the children and young people, and she prays this vision would never be lost in the busyness of school life.

The building plans for the new missionary accommodation have been approved and work is already well underway on phase one of the project which involves clearing the site, constructing an access road, putting up a perimeter wall, and drilling a borewell. Pray that the work would continue at a good pace and that the remaining finance would come in. The McAuley family are still busy with deputation work and they trust that everything will be in order for them to move to Uganda at the end of the summer. Pray that the Lord would prepare them spiritually, mentally and physically for all that lies ahead.

The new Sunday school in Bukulula commenced in February, and Noreen thanks the Lord for the sixty to seventy children who attend each week. The group is quite young, but Noreen hopes the older children will be able to attend when they get home from boarding school for the holidays. She says she needs much help and wisdom to minister to their little souls and to engage the few adults who sometimes hang around to listen too.

The attendance in Kyambala 2 remains strong but they really need a better meeting place. Please pray that a suitable location will become available.

Nsaalu—Ray & Rhonda Carscadden

The Lord continues to give Ray Carscadden encouragements at Emmanuel Church in Uganda. An important area of his ministry is discipleship and equipping men for leadership, and he is encouraged by the progress there has been. In addition to attending the monthly men's meeting, four men from Uganda have enrolled in the Mission Board Bible Training Institute. It is such a blessing to see these men's desire for serving the Lord.

Another area of discipleship is with the new believers in one of the local prisons. Ray has commenced a basic correspondence course with those prisoners and the response has been very encouraging. He is thankful for our prayers and encourages us to pray for the endeavors, that the Lord will be pleased to use them for His glory.

Brethren, pray for us.
1 THESSALONIANS 5:25

◆ **Kenya**

Kitali—Malcolm & Alison Patterson

The Pattersons will soon be on their way back to Northern Ireland. They have been busy throughout the twelve-week term leading up to their retirement in June, and are happy to say that they have almost completed the tasks on their to-do list.

They spent some time visiting the ECDE (early childhood education center) in Nyaporo to encourage them in the work among the young pupils there. On March 16 they had a graduation service in Nyaporo to mark the completion of the workshop on salvation that 23 ladies in Nyaporo and Kakamega took part in.

Malcolm had the privilege of preaching at the first service in the school building in Kakamega on March 10. This new congregation, referred to as Kakamega 2, mainly consists of the parents of the Sunday school pupils who have been attending that work. This service is conducted in Swahili as opposed to the service in town which is conducted in English.

At the beginning of March, the Pattersons travelled to visit the most northerly outreach work at Lomut. On the way they stopped to visit in Ortum where Pastor Victor is ministering and to see the church building that the congregation is constructing of wooden poles and corrugated iron sheets.

They arrived in Lomut on market day which was a sight to behold as people were coming from every direction, some from a considerable distance. This was noted by the pastor as a possibility for a regular outreach book table and literature distribution event. The Sunday school at Lomut is conducted under a tree which has some stones around it like a natural amphitheatre.

The next day Malcolm preached at Ortum and the congregation was encouraged to look on Lomut as its mission field. They then returned to Kitale, where the mission compound is.

Miss Margaret Russell and Miss Elisabeth Edwards have been staying in the guest house on the mission compound as they were visiting Kenya to conduct the Sunday school teachers' conference. Malcolm had the opportunity to speak at the Sunday evening meeting at that conference. He took the text from Malachi 3:17, reminding the teachers how precious the children are and how we are to spend time seeking them out, teaching them, and disciplining them.

Kenyans are best equipped to reach the people in remote areas where the people may speak only a tribal language and also where

the climate is very harsh and difficult. Pray that the Lord will raise up many for the task. Pray for Obala from Kakamega as he studies at Faith College of the Bible in Eldoret, and pray that many others would seek to study and prepare themselves to serve the Lord.

Pray also for those who are doing deputation meetings and preparing to go to Kenya from Northern Ireland: Glen and Emma Hamilton and their children, Holly, George, and Isabella; and Miss Elizabeth Edwards.

Pray for the Pattersons as they take their leave of their Kenyan brothers and sisters. Rev. John Greer and Rev. Garth Wilson will be making a short visit to Kenya to represent the Presbytery and Mission Board at the two farewell services organized by the Glory Bible Church. The Pattersons will continue in the work for the next period of time to facilitate the handover to the new missionaries, but they hope to be able to retire in the summer.

Pray for Alison's mum as she celebrates her 90th birthday (DV). Pray also for their new grandson, who is progressing very well in spite of coming into the world a little early, and for their sons and daughter-in-law that God will guide them in the days ahead.

ASIA

◆ Nepal

Kathmandu—Joy Gillespie

The church in Kathmandu was blessed to have had the Bible students from the various churches with them these past three months. There were eleven at the beginning. Two left within the first week. Another left when he got accepted to study abroad, which was a wonderful opportunity. A fourth left when his son died in a motorbike accident. Thankfully, the rest of the students completed their studies and will graduate at the pastors' conference. Pray for them as they go back to their villages and as some take on the work of leadership.

The pastors' conference will be held April 15–17, with four messages each day and the Bible student graduation on Wednesday. The Reverends Ian Brown and Andrew Patterson are coming to take the meetings and then will visit some churches and open a new church in the Gorkha region. It will be a very busy time. Pray that the Lord will go before them preparing the hearts of those who come to hear the Word. Pray for protection and safety on the roads, but most importantly that the Holy Spirit will infill the preachers, that souls will be saved, and work will be done for eternity.

Kiran, a six-year-old boy in the Precious Children's Home, has had terrible headaches for months, but the doctor kept saying it was just a cold. Thankfully, they finally did an x-ray that showed that he had a piece of pencil embedded in his head from a pencil fight he had with his friend in school! The site had become infected, but, the Lord willing, he will soon have an operation to remove it. Pray that the operation will go ahead and that he will have no lasting effects.

Joy had a very successful ladies' conference on March 8, International Women's Day. Over forty ladies were able to come and all had a great time of fellowship. Because of the poor economy, four ladies have gone abroad to work in hotels and garment factories. Pray that God will keep them safe, that they will enjoy the work, and be able to fellowship with other Christians.

Pray for the land of Nepal. It needs to be freed from the false religion of Hinduism. The people need to hear the message of Christ. Pray that they will read the weekly articles that Joy writes for the newspaper. Pray for souls to be convicted of their sins and saved by the grace of God.

◆ South Korea

Seoul—Seongkyu & Sooyoun Lee

Seongkyu Lee has been preaching the gospel to the youth in the church. He says those who used to be the young children of the church members have now become college students. Although they know the gospel, they lack assurance of salvation and have not yet been baptized. Seongkyu hopes they will confess Christ as their Saviour and become members of the church. Please pray that they will receive baptism with true saving faith.

This year two new believers have begun attending the church regularly. One sister came after listening to the church's sermons online. She listens attentively to the Word and clearly shows signs of God calling her soul. Additionally, Brother Jumyeung led his elderly mother to the church. He has been praying for her for a long time and reading the Bible with her, and she is now coming to the church. Pray that she may accept the Lord through faith unto salvation.

A sister with twin children, who often experiences spiritual depression, is unable to attend church regularly. Please pray for her to be strengthened in her faith in Christ and to be able to attend church again.

AUSTRALIA

Perth, Western Australia—Philip & Cherith Gardiner

Philip Gardiner praises God for the opportunity to preach at a family camp north of Adelaide in South Australia over Easter weekend. Over sixty people attended, many of whom were children and young people. Pray for lasting fruit following the preaching of the Word. Some of these families are very isolated and are in difficult church situations. Pray that the Word will have been an encouragement to them.

Rev. Colin Mercer will be conducting a weekend of meetings in Perth April 19–21. Pray that the Lord will bless his preaching and that visitors will be brought in. The church longs to see new families come and join with them in the congregation.

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