

Missionary Prayer Bulletin



August 2024

NORTH AMERICA

◆ Jamaica

Little London—Richard & Renay Craig

Richard Craig thanks the Lord that none of the church people suffered harm in July when Hurricane Beryl hit Jamaica as a Category 5 storm. According to government reports, two persons were killed during the hurricane, and over 46 percent of houses across the island were damaged. Providentially, there was no major damage at the mission even though a tree fell on the church roof and there was extensive flooding in the church yard.

The church people are looking forward to the arrival of the FPCNA mission team to Jamaica on Saturday, August 10. They are eager to meet the team members and pray that the Lord will greatly bless the vacation Bible school they will hold while there. Please pray that souls would be saved as they hear God's Word each day.

◆ Dominican Republic

Santo Domingo—Ramón & Wendy Sosa

Ramón Sosa reports that the adult Sunday school class in Santo Domingo is studying the means of grace. They have already covered the importance of reading the Scriptures, meditating on the Scriptures, memorizing the Scriptures, and studying the Scriptures with other people and have recently begun to study prayer as a means of grace. On the last Sunday of July they dealt with the topic of personal, individual prayer (how the Lord invites us to have these times alone, following the example of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ). On the first Sunday of August they considered the importance of praying during the day in the midst of our regular occupations, work, studies, visits, outings in vehicles, etc., with an emphasis on praying without ceasing.

Ramón and Wendy have been trying to encourage a sister in the church who is go-

ing through a difficult time. They are reading a book with her, fellowshiping with her, and encouraging her to stand firm in the truths of gospel. Pray that their efforts will be successful to help her persevere through hard days.

Brother Emilio, an older man in the church, suffered a medical emergency and ended up having to have heart surgery. Ramón and the church people are keeping in touch with him as he recovers at home.

Pray that the Lord will continue to give Ramón wisdom as he ministers in the church and over the internet. Pray that the Word he preaches will be taken to heart to the saving of souls. May the Lord continue to add to His church those who are to be saved.

Please pray for the Word of Life Educational Center (CEPVI) as the 2024–2025 school year begins. They are now in the registration period. Pray that the Lord will grant them a good start to the school year, but above all that the Lord will give them the opportunity to reach the families of the children with the message of the gospel.

Pray that the temporary residence visa for Rubén Ramires and his wife, Cinthya, will soon be granted. There has been a slight delay because of a problem with documents, but it is hoped that the Ramireses will be in Santo Domingo by the beginning of September for their year of internship.

Please also pray for Ramón's health. He needs to find a neurosurgeon to evaluate his spine to see whether physical therapy can help him recover his mobility and health.

◆ Mexico

Mexico City—Jason & Danielle Boyle

The Boyles report that the Mexican Ministers' Week of Prayer (with the ministers' families) was held the first week of July in Jalpan de Serra at the church pastored by Wenceslao Hernandez. They were encouraged by the presence of the new elders of the Mexico City church and their families. It was a time of blessed fellowship. It was also a blessing to have Bible classes and activities for the

children as well as a daily time in the Word and prayer for the women, thanks to having extra hands to help with the children.

July 22–26 the Mexico City church had its annual VBS. They had smaller numbers this year with half of the children having had no previous contact with the gospel. It was a blessing to see these children respond very warmly to the gospel. They also had unchurched children come who had attended last year, but whom they hadn't seen all year since then. The Boyles were encouraged to see their excitement to attend again. They trust the Lord that the seed sown will bear fruit. The puppets that were donated last year for the children's work have been a hit for two years now!

Ruben Ramirez's paperwork for his visa to go to the Dominican Republic is not quite completed, but they believe that he and his wife, Cinthya, will still be able to depart at the end of August. Please pray that all the paperwork comes together without any problems and that the internship will be helpful and a blessing to all involved.

The roof of one of the Sunday school rooms has collapsed, causing the church to have to combine two Sunday school classes into one. They praise the Lord that the second Sunday school room had just been completed and was ready for use when the first one's ceiling fell in. The deacons are negotiating with the landlord to rebuild the roof. Please pray for God's guidance. The church's building situation continues to be a source of discouragement and a hindrance to the church's operations. They look to the Lord to provide a permanent meeting place for the church.

August 5–9 a small mission team will load up in the Boyles' van with Jason and Caleb to head to La Escalera, San Luis Potosi, to lead a mini VBS in the church pastored by Pepe Luna and to do some needed work on Pepe's house to make it livable for him, his wife, Blanca, and their three children. The house currently has no electricity and lacks other basic necessities. Please pray that this would be a time of blessing to the church and

its pastor; it is the most rural of their sister churches and has many material needs.

As a family, the Boyles are gearing up for their upcoming two-month deputation trip to most of the American churches during November and December; they plan to get to the rest in the spring. They also look forward to a bit of rest and to reconnecting with family and friends. This will be Caleb and Jonathan's first trip to the USA, and Danielle's first visit in eight years. The boys will meet cousins, aunts, and uncles for the first time. Please pray for God's safety and blessing as they travel around.

Córdoba—Lalo & Liz Peña

Lalo Peña thanks God for the opportunity to have been in the United States in July while his sons Uriel (16) and Gadiel (15) attended the denomination's youth camp. During that time Lalo preached in a Spanish Baptist church in Manassas, Virginia, on two Lord's Days. He also received a 1998 Ford Club Wagon as a donation from someone in the church. The plan was to drive the vehicle back to Mexico taking along equipment for some of the other churches as well. Although the trip was filled with the care and blessing of the Lord, situations arose that made it difficult and that ultimately prevented the vehicle from being taken into Mexico. It remains in Edinburg, Texas, while the necessary documentation is obtained. Please pray that things will soon work out to get the vehicle safely into Mexico and to Córdoba. Pray especially for protection when traveling on the roads in Mexico where corruption by the authorities and crime are always present.

On the Friday following the Peñas arrival in Córdoba, the father of one of the most committed men of the church died. Lalo had the opportunity to preach the gospel to about thirty people of Romanist-Papist background at the funeral. Lalo says, "May God use this preaching so that many come to Christ. May God grant greater evangelistic zeal among the brothers who congregate in the local church towards their own relatives and friends, and may our God grant an abundant harvest."

AFRICA

◆ Liberia

Monrovia—Joanne Greer

The mission work in Liberia enjoyed a good Independence Day program with 67 children and 19 helpers on July 26. This was the highest helper-to-child ratio they've ever had.

Joanne says several of the young adults who helped testify that they have been saved in the past few years, and it is really encouraging to see them mature in the things of God and desire to serve the Lord. They held the games and served the food in their own building this year. That meant a slight reduction in the number of kids they could accommodate, but it also meant that they didn't have to rent a local school building as they've done for many years now.

Please continue to pray for the other aspects of the children's work. Joanne re-started the Friday Bible Club after a few weeks' break and was glad to see the small but faithful group of kids ready and eager to learn again. They are studying church history at the moment. Joanne says it is amazing how many of the heresies that threatened the early church are still around in Liberia today in one form or another. Pray that the children will learn God's Word and know how to use it to discern between truth and falsehood.

◆ Uganda

Nsaalu—Noreen McAfee

Noreen says she is thankful to God for His continued help and blessing at Emmanuel. The students are busy with end-of-term assessments and mock examinations, and the staff with the related marking and preparation of reports.

The children and young people also participated in the district ball games competitions this term. They performed well in all events, especially volleyball where the primary school won the U12 Boys and U14 Girls categories while the high school girls and boys took second and third place in their respective competitions.

A number of the students have expressed an interest in baptism and church membership following Rev. Ray Carscadden's recent messages on those topics. Noreen says that while they may not all qualify because of age, it is encouraging to see that the desire is there. Please continue to pray for salvation and spiritual growth in the school community.

Noreen says they had an encouraging time with the work team from Northern Ireland. They managed to complete the first stage for both electrical and plumbing work on the new houses and are due at the end of August for the second stage. She says she is so thankful for skilled workers who are willing to serve God in this way.

The local construction team has made good progress and is now at the finishing stage. Noreen says she is grateful to all who

have contributed to the appeal for this project. She asks us to pray that the remaining work would go smoothly and that the houses would be ready for the arrival of the McAuley family. Their Sending Forth Service has been scheduled for September 26, and they hope to travel soon after that.

Finally, Noreen thanks us for remembering the expectant mothers in prayer. Madam Harriet gave birth to twins (Iranzi and Amanda) on July 4, Madam Molly had a baby girl (Yvonne) on July 14, and Master Ronald and his wife, Jascent, were also blessed with a little girl (Chloe) on July 27. She prays that these families would know the protection and blessing of God and that the little ones would grow up to know and serve the Saviour. She also asks us to remember Madam Irene, who is expecting a baby next month.

◆ Kenya

Glenn & Emma Hamilton

The Hamilton family is closing in on its long-awaited departure to Kenya in September. Before they board the plane, a lot of pieces need to fall into place. Glenn will be ordained to the Christian ministry on August 30, followed by the Sending Forth Service for the Hamilton family on September 20.

In amongst those meetings, they are waiting for the necessary work permit to be approved and the final parts of the refurbishment work on the missionary compound in Kitale to be completed.

Since Malcolm Patterson returned to Northern Ireland at the end of April, Glenn has been working remotely as missionary to Kenya, covering all of the administrative and financial responsibilities of the work. Some aspects of this work will become a lot easier when he is on the ground, particularly overseeing the growth of Glory Bible Church and advising the leaders in each of the congregations.

With deputation meetings now completed, the family is focussing on preparing to move out of their home of the last eight years, continuing in their Swahili language acquisition, and finalizing the home-school curriculum for Holly (6) and George (4), all the while keeping Isabella (1) out of trouble!

Pray that in these hectic final weeks their plans come together smoothly and that even if they don't, the Hamiltons will continue to rely on the Lord for guidance.

Pray that Glenn will adjust to and be useful in the work as he manages his responsibilities remotely for the next couple of months. Pray for Emma as she looks after the everyday

family needs and organizes the fine details of moving abroad with three young children. Pray for Holly, George, and Isabella as they make the major adjustment of leaving friends and family and attempt to settle into a new environment in Kenya.

Please also pray for Elizabeth Edwards as she progresses through her deputation schedule in anticipation of joining the Hamiltons in Kenya next year.

Pray for peace in the nation of Kenya, as recent anti-government protests have resulted in death, violence, and upheaval for people all over the country. Finally, pray for Glory Bible Church, as the existing churches continue to mature and evangelize while opportunities for new church plants are sought out.

ASIA

◆ Nepal

Kathmandu—Joy Gillespie

Joy Gillespie is grateful for your continued prayerful support for the land of Nepal. She returned from Northern Ireland to Nepal around the start of the monsoon season. There have been lots of flooding and landslides this past month. Sadly, over sixty people in two buses lost their lives as they were swept away in a landslide. Also, a plane crashed shortly after takeoff with the loss of eighteen lives. Joy says the dangers of travel have been brought before her again, and she would ask for prayer for herself and the pastors as they travel around the country. Pray that God will keep them safe from natural disasters as well as traffic accidents.

Pray also for Joy's visa application which needs to be submitted by the end of August. The government is still giving only one-year work visas. Pray that she will again be given one. Pray for the ESL business, that more students will come in and make it a viable institute. If the institute doesn't increase its student intake, it is hard to see how the government will extend the visa. Please pray for this vital need.

Remember the weekly newspaper article that Joy writes. Pray for souls to be reached through the written word. Pray that people will communicate more frequently with her, so that she can share the gospel with them.

The economy of Nepal hasn't jumped back since COVID. It is sluggish and underperforming these past two years. Pray for the Christians that they will know the hand of God upon them, that they will be like Joseph and be blessed and that those around them

will be blessed for employing them.

◆ South Korea

Seoul—Seongkyu & Sooyoun Lee

Seongkyu Lee reports that Korea has been suffering from a severe heatwave after a long rainy season. In Korea, many people take a summer vacation to try to avoid the humidity and heat that plagues the country from late July to mid-August. Record high temperatures this year have killed fourteen people and over 250,000 livestock. Pray that the church people will stay healthy despite the severe weather.

Seongkyu says he had a vacation granted by God. He was able to visit Northern Ireland where he had the opportunity to meet Rev. Colin Mercer. He says although it was a short trip, it was meaningful. He enjoyed visiting Northern Ireland where our denomination began. He also had the joy of worshipping with Rev. Milos Solc's church in the Czech Republic. He says, "We shared Christ's love and fellowship. I felt that God is with faithful ministers and always takes care of them."

Sadly, Brother Cheol-an and his family have left the FP church. Cheol-an joined the church five years ago and spent much time studying the Word and having fellowship in Christ. God blessed his faith and family with much spiritual growth. During this time, Brother Cheol-an felt called to return to the student mission organization he previously served with, so he decided to leave the FP church to continue ministry there. Seongkyu says, "It was very sad and unfortunate, but we had to send him off with the expectation that God would work through his life."

The church members are somewhat discouraged by the departure of such a faithful family. They are experiencing how the departure of one family can significantly impact a small group. Please pray with them that God will comfort the hearts of the congregation and send new families to the church. This event has reminded them to pray more earnestly to God.

Pastor Lee's youngest daughter, Sejin, participated in the denominational youth camp in July in Pennsylvania and the Toronto FPC conference after that. The Lees are praying that she makes many friends of brothers and sisters in Christ, that she grows in God's grace and becomes a worker for this denomination, working together with others for the gospel of God. Join them in praying for God to send workers into His harvest.

AUSTRALIA

Perth, Western Australia—Philip & Cherith Gardiner

Phillip Gardiner requests prayer for the addition of new families and for the Lord's blessing on the church's outreach at Perth Stadium. Phillip has been speaking to a young homeless man (whom he will call Steve). Pray that Steve will be converted and delivered from addiction. Finally, please pray for a planned trip with Ralph Hall to the Philippines in November to visit pastors.

Port Lincoln & Lock—Kyle & Eppie Graham

In the last update from Kyle Graham, the congregations in South Australia were planning to hold elections of elders and deacons. Kyle says it was very encouraging to see the unity of heart in the congregations as those elections took place. Mr. Graham Spiers has been ordained to the eldership in the Lock congregation, and Mr. Ian Douglas to the eldership in the Port Lincoln congregation. This has already been a great blessing, and the service of these men gives much greater stability to the work.

The Grahams have been encouraged recently with a number of new children attending the children's meeting in Port Lincoln and are praying that they settle into it and continue to attend. They are praying that the Lord continues to bring other children in and that He will work in their lives.

August 13–15 the Lock congregation will be hosting a stall at the bi-annual Eyre Peninsula Field Days (an agricultural show). They will be distributing gospel literature and seeking to be a witness for Jesus Christ. The event is attended by multitudes from throughout the peninsula. Please pray for the efforts, that the Lord will bless the going forth of His own Word.

On a personal note, the Grahams are expecting a second child, due to be born in November, and would appreciate prayer for the health of Eppie and the baby in the womb.

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

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