

Missionary Prayer Bulletin



December 2024

NORTH AMERICA

◆ Jamaica

Little London—Richard & Renay Craig

Rev. Richard Craig rejoices in what the Lord is doing for His people in Little London. Some months ago, a friend from the nearby community visited one of services and since then has been faithfully coming to all the services including the prayer meeting and Bible study. Please pray for Travor.

Some elderly ladies in the congregation struggle with constant body pain. Pray especially for Sister Jean, who was not able to attend a recent prayer meeting because of intense foot pain. Pray that she will be healed if that would please the Lord. Richard acknowledges that with increasing age comes increasing physical difficulties. Please pray for much grace for those who suffer.

Over the past months, the church in Jamaica has had to cancel some services because of bad weather. Heavy rains were being forecast when Richard sent in this report. Please pray that the Lord will grant them the joy of assembling together, especially on the Lord's Day.

◆ Dominican Republic

Santo Domingo—Ramón & Wendy Sosa

Rev. Ramón Sosa reports that he has been able to start Bible studies in the homes of two men of the church using Dr. Alan Cairns's booklet *A New Beginning*. The goal is to have five such studies.

Ramón and Rubén Ramirez visited two young Haitian sisters in their home. The visit was a major challenge because they are not believers and are in a bad situation. Ramón knew one of the sisters when she was a child but lost track of her. She recently contacted Ramón through Facebook and asked for help saying she was being tormented by "dark forces." Her sister explained more of the

situation which involves some dabbling in witchcraft. Ramon advised the young woman that physical and mental illnesses need to be ruled out before inferring her problems could be caused by spiritual forces. He encouraged her to seek professional medical help and to get rid of all influences related to any dark and illicit acts before God. They ended the meeting with prayer for the situation and offered to help them in whatever they might require in the future. Please pray for these young women.

Pray that the Lord will continue to guide Ramón as he ministers in and through the church and on the internet. Pray for fruit for the preaching of the Word, that souls will be saved, and that the Lord will raise up men to serve in leadership. Continue to pray for Rubén as he does his internship, and for his wife, Cinthya, as she works in the preschool (CEPVI). Pray for the Lord's blessing on the evangelistic outreach and on the home Bible studies. Finally, please continue to pray for good health Ramón and his family. He has recently been suffering with gout.

◆ Mexico

Córdoba—Lalo & Liz Peña

Rev. Lalo Peña thanks God for the blessing that the congregation remains steadfast in its zeal to share the gospel with family and friends.

Please pray with the church that a certain woman who has visited the church will return. She once made a profession of faith in the charismatic congregation of which Lalo was the pastor before he became Reformed. She ended up marrying a Jehovah's Witness and had a son. Her husband died during the pandemic, and after that, she began to realize the inconsistencies of the JW heresy and the hypocrisy and domination of its congregants and decided to leave. Lately she has been struggling to return to the church of Christ and a brother of hers invited her to attend Lalo's church. Please pray that God will bring her back and that she will stay in the church.

EUROPE

◆ Spain

Madrid—John & Noranna Hanna

The Hannas wish all their prayer supporters a happy Christmas and pray all will have a blessed and prosperous new year.

Angel, the minister of the Alcorcón church, has completed a discipleship course with a young man who has recently professed faith in Christ. He is showing good signs of spiritual growth. The Lord has provided for him a good spiritual young lady within the church, which brings much joy to his mother and to all in the church. John asks prayer for the young of the congregation. Some do profess faith in Christ and show evidence of His grace, but others are still mere spectators. Pray the Lord will touch all who are still unsaved and that He will bring in others to hear the gospel preached.

John is keeping busy with the work in Toledo. He continues his study with the group of Ukrainian women every Thursday afternoon. He has commenced a discipleship class with a couple and their adult son every Friday night. Jonathan Hanna continues his discipleship course with another couple and a single lady. Pray for this ministry and for John as he now has to travel quite a bit. The Lord's Day services continue with a reasonable attendance. God's people testify to being blessed through the ministry of the Word. Prayer is much appreciated for the Lord's guidance to find God's man to carry on the ministry in Toledo.

In Aranjuez the work continues under the ministry of Rafael. As the work grows, so do the responsibilities and the problems. Pray the Lord will give much wisdom to His servants who have the spiritual oversight of this work. Some believers are being disciplined weekly with a view of becoming members of the church.

John says they look forward to the day when Toledo and Aranjuez will officially be constituted. Pray the Lord will bless His work to this end. John says it would be such a joy if this would happen in 2025. Speaking of the new year, John reports that the Alcorcón building will be opened officially on the third weekend of May 2025. They expect a number of visitors from Northern Ireland for that special occasion.

Cortijos Nuevos—Alejandro & Vanesa Bernabeu

Alex Bernabeu thanks the Lord for what He has done in 2024 in the congregation in Cortijos Nurevos. He says God's grace is sufficient every day and His faithfulness abides forever. He is grateful to have a front-row seat to view the work of grace God is doing in souls in the area. He says, "May He always find us abounding in the work of the Lord."

Alfonso, who was one of the founding members of the church, passed away in July at the age of 103. The church thanks the Lord for the tremendous legacy he left and for all those the Lord used him to reach for Christ. Rev. Lyle Boyd was able to go to Spain for the funeral service, and he preached the gospel very clearly. More than eighty people were present, most of them unbelievers. Pray especially for some of his family who are still unsaved. Some of them showed a renewed interest in the gospel during those days and came to some services.

At the three-day youth camp at the end of April, the Bible studies were on the book of Ephesians. Many of the young people spoke about the challenges they face daily. Alex says that he and the other leaders were amazed to hear of the difficulties and struggles the young people face. Pray that the Lord will raise a new generation that truly knows Christ as Lord and Saviour.

In May they had two baptisms. Alex says it was great to see how the Lord has worked by His grace in hearts and saved these persons from their sinfulness and depravity. He is presently continuing to do some discipleship lessons with some new believers and young people and has seen much fruit in this endeavor. Pray that they will soon confess Christ as Lord and Saviour.

In June the church had its anniversary gospel mission with Rev. David Park. More than twenty visitors attended the meetings, and the gospel was clearly and powerfully proclaimed.

This past summer they had the blessing of having a team of young people led by Colin Maxwell come to help with evangelism. The

church was very thankful to the Mission Board for organizing this trip. They had a very good time with the team, who helped a lot in the leaflet outreach, a vacation Bible school, and also by taking part in meetings.

In the summer Alex led the team that organized the annual family camp with seven other churches. The camp is growing year by year. This year they had almost 160 people, and it was a great time of preaching and fellowship. Alex says they were all edified and challenged.

Since September they have started to do different evangelistic efforts as a church. Every other month they have a Sunday evening open-air service in a town in the area. He thanks the Lord that the congregation is supporting this effort. Also, every other month they go out to a nearby town to hand out leaflets. The Lord has blessed these efforts. Since September they have seen an increase in visitors (both saved and unsaved) to the church. They are also very thankful to the Lord that there is a young Christian family that has moved to the area and is attending the church. This has been a great encouragement for everyone.

Last year they had thought about an expansion project involving buying a plot of land, but the Lord closed that door. However, they have done a small project that is helping much with their present needs. They transformed the old garage into a new room for the church creating a spacious room that they are mainly using for a minister's office, Sunday school room, cry room, and church library.

They printed 1,500 calendars with Bible verses and pray that the Lord will use them to bring souls to Himself.

The Bernabeus thank you for praying for them and desire that all have a happy Christmas and a happy New Year.

AFRICA

◆ Liberia

Monrovia—Joanne Greer

The Mission Board has sent Rev. Derrick Bowman, his wife, Lydia, and their children Maggie and Machen to Liberia to encourage the work. They will be there December through January.

Joanne Greer wishes to thank all those who have prayed for and supported her throughout the past year. She says, "I hope you all have a blessed Christmas and New Year."

◆ Uganda

Nsaalu—David & Rachel McAuley

The McAuleys have been in Uganda for two months already. On Sunday, November 24, the church held their official welcoming service. David McAuley says they have really felt the warmth and acceptance of the Ugandan people.

David and Rachel have been focusing their attention on learning the Luganda language with lessons twice a week. David says they are progressing "slowly slowly" as the people in Uganda would say and are enjoying learning both the language and the culture of the people around them. Please continue to pray for this effort as it is essential in sharing the gospel with the people in the local area.

Rachel currently homeschools their five-year-old daughter, Eloise, and four-year-old son, Arthur. This incoming year they hope to send the two to the Emmanuel Christian School there on site. Please pray for that adjustment. David says their son Jude, who will be two in March, is a real charmer who greets everyone with a big smile and takes them by the hand. He is always ready to explore!

The McAuleys are very thankful to God for how their children have settled into their new surroundings. They are thankful to the Mission Board and their supporters for the provision of a lovely, spacious home.

In the coming year, David will be getting more involved in the various outreach ministries: the prison ministries, open-air work, personal evangelism, etc. There are many opportunities and he would value your prayers as he undertakes this work.

Of course, please do pray also for the Carscadden family and Miss Noreen McAfee as they continue their work at Emmanuel Church and School. The missionaries are thankful to God for a great 2024 and are looking forward to seeing how He will continue to move and bless the work in the coming year.

◆ Kenya

Kitali—Glenn & Emma Hamilton

The Hamiltons have now been in Kenya for more than two months and are expecting to have a very different Christmas in their new home. Glenn Hamilton says everyone is getting up to speed with the new way of life. The food, the weather, and the routines all feel more normal with every passing day. Thankfully, the refurbishment work in the main missionary house has reached a point where the family has been able to move in.

This recent period has been very busy in the work. October is the time for the agricultural show in Kitale, at which the Free Presbyterian Mission Society Africa has a stand with tracts, books, and Bibles. The show runs for four days and welcomes thousands of visitors in that time. Many volunteers from the Glory Bible Church (GBC) congregations are needed to assist, which they do joyfully.

November and December are the main school holidays in Kenya, so it means the churches are holding their VBS and youth programs, both of which Glenn and Emma have been taking part in.

Holly and George Hamilton, however, took their school holiday in July and August, so their homeschool program will continue well into December. Both are progressing well and enjoying the different subjects they've covered so far. They particularly enjoy writing speeches on their favorite topics and delivering them in the living room to the rest of the family.

Glenn's work continues with overseeing the practical and financial affairs of the mission and getting used to the somewhat slower pace of administration in Kenya. He spends much time waiting in banks and offices for various things to be processed.

Glenn is also getting into the work of assisting the pastors and leaders in Glory Bible Church. In between preaching engagements in the churches, he also attended his first central committee meeting where all the church leaders meet to discuss plans for the growth and development of the denomination. He has also been attending local church committee meetings to provide advice and oversight.

One of the churches is soon moving to elect their first office bearers in the form of deacons. Glenn has been teaching a series of men's meetings to prepare the eligible members for the work. In the new year he will deliver messages to the whole congregation to guide them through the election process.

Emma's family will soon arrive to spend Christmas with the Hamiltons in Kenya, something which the children are very excited about. Their visit will ensure that one part of Christmas in Kenya will feel familiar!

Please pray 1) that the Lord will encourage the members of the GBC as they serve in their VBS and youth programs; 2) that evangelism work in the local communities will see the church of Christ grow; 3) that the Hamiltons will get their final immigration paperwork completed during a visit to Nairobi in December; 4) that Emma's family will have a safe and smooth journey to Kenya for Christmas; 5) for the work team arriving in January to

complete the final parts of the refurbishment project on the compound; 6) for Glenn as he assists the Glory Bible Church leadership and prepares men for the upcoming election of deacons; 7) for Emma as she continues homeschooling excited children who can't wait for visitors from home and their first Christmas in Kenya; and 8) for Holly, George, and Isabella, that the Lord will continue protecting them and enabling them to enjoy life in Kenya.

ASIA

◆ Nepal

Kathmandu—Joy Gillespie

Joy Gillespie sends greetings from the land of Nepal and wishes all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Joy Gillespie says the past months have been very busy with the ladies' Bible course being held at the church compound. Eight ladies came from across the country. Unfortunately, it started a week later than planned due to catastrophic flooding that caused major disruption to roads and the loss of over 240 lives. Every year there is flooding, but in this one event more people died than in the previous two years. Pray for the ladies who attended the Bible course. They enjoyed their visit and studies and have returned to their home churches with a greater desire to reach their neighbors with the gospel.

At the beginning of November, eight people came from Northern Ireland to visit the work in Nepal. They arrived just before the youth conference, which was attended by around 160 young people from across the nation. Some travelled over eighteen hours on a bus to get there. Rev. Jonathan Creane was the speaker and brought messages from the life of Abraham. Many of the youth have testified of being greatly blessed. Over the weekend and conference meetings, the group from the UK sang, testified, and spoke at various meetings. The group also visited two works along the Chinese border, the radio station of the church, and two other local churches. Joy says it was an interesting and blessed time for all who came. Mr. and Mrs. Creane stayed for a few more days and travelled with Joy up out of Kathmandu Valley into the interior of the country to encourage the country churches and pastors. It was a blessed time for all, especially when the opportunity arose to distribute needed food and clothes among the congregations.

Please pray for Nepal. It is the poorest country in South Asia and the seventeenth

poorest in the world. Statistics show that approximately 25% of Nepalese live below the poverty line. Due to political uncertainty, there is little investment and poor job creation. Each year, around a million Nepalese youths, including students, leave the country in search of job opportunities to provide for their families in Nepal. Seven men and women have left the church in Kathmandu this year for employment abroad. Please pray that God will move in this land spiritually but also politically to bring stability and prosperity.

As we remember the birth of Christ we consider the words of John in 1 John 4:14: "And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world." Nepal needs to know this Saviour; pray for the door of opportunity to remain open and that the power of the gospel message will reach into the highest realms of society.

◆ South Korea

Seoul—Seongkyu & Sooyoun Lee

A few days ago, South Korea experienced record-breaking snowfall for November. In Seoul, about forty centimeters (fifteen inches) of snow fell, the heaviest snowfall in 117 years. Typically, Korea doesn't usually see much snow in November; it is more common between late December and February. Unfortunately, the heavy snow caused significant damage. Many farmers, especially those who rely on greenhouses for their crops, were greatly affected because the snow was particularly heavy and wet.

In Korea, many types of greenhouses are used not only for farming but also as temporary storage spaces. Many of these structures collapsed under the weight of the snow. One of the brothers from the church also suffered some damage to his agricultural greenhouse. Because of the snow, the church couldn't gather for its Wednesday prayer meeting and had to quickly switch to holding it via Zoom.

Rev. Seongkyu Lee says they are facing a challenge within the church. One of the women has been causing ongoing issues with others. She struggles to control her words and actions and has been hurting others. Pastor Lee has met with her and counseled her regarding these matters, but the problem has not been easily resolved. He points out that as the body of Christ, we are called to unity and love for one another, but he says this situation has brought sorrow and difficulty. Please pray for this woman, who has yet to be born again, that she will truly encounter the gospel, come to a genuine understanding of herself in Christ, and develop a heart to love the saints.

They are planning a retreat for the young adults in December. Some of the young people are still unsure about their own salvation. Pastor Lee is preparing a study on the book of Romans, hoping that through this study, they will be able to personally apply the gospel to their hearts and gain clarity. Please continue to pray that the young adults in the church will be born again and take the step of faith to receive baptism.

AUSTRALIA

Perth, Western Australia—*Philip & Cherith Gardiner*

Philip Gardiner is grateful for prayer for his recent trip to the Philippines. He says, “It was most blessed of the Lord. I was blessed to minister to pastors as well as local congregations.” Please pray with him for fruit to follow his labors. Pray also for the youth camp they will hold in mid-December in Perth and for various outreaches over the holiday period.

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

Pray for ...

- Open doors
- Boldness in witness
- Salvation of souls
- Fullness of the Spirit
- Love for Christ & others
- Protection from Satan’s attacks
- Wisdom & guidance
- Families
- Political stability
- Adaptation to the climate
- Health and safety
- Victory over loneliness
- Good relationships with national Christian leaders and fellow workers
- Facility with language
- Cultural adaptation
- More laborers

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