

Missionary Prayer Bulletin



February 2021

NORTH AMERICA

◆ Jamaica

Little London—*Richard Craig & Randy Gunnings*

The people in the Jamaican work are thankful to the Lord for His many blessings. According to the ministry of health, there continue to be many active cases of COVID-19 in and around Little London. However, no one in the congregation has tested positive for the virus and they thank the Lord for preserving their lives. Most of the members are elderly but they have expressed their love for the Saviour by coming out to the services. Please pray that God will continue to keep them safe.

Richard and Randy have rejoiced as visitors have been coming in almost every Lord's Day, among them three young people—Ann, Kerry-Ann, and Orlando—who seem to be paying close attention to the preaching. Pray that the Lord will save their souls.

Pray also for the Lord's help as Richard continues to conduct the Bible study for some people from the nearby Assembly of God church. They meet on Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.

◆ Dominican Republic

Los Frailes—*Ramón & Wendy Sosa*

Ramón Sosa requests prayer for a revival in the church in the Dominican Republic. He longs to see many souls coming to Christ. Pray for him, that he will correctly preach the gospel every day. Right now, they are being allowed to meet in person on Sunday mornings only. All their other meetings must be virtual. Pray that they will soon be able to meet in person during the week. Pray also that the Lord will add more men willing to assume the responsibilities of church leaders.

Pray for financial provision for the Sosas and for others in the church whose incomes have been affected by the pandemic. Pray for some men in the church who have various illnesses (asthma, heart attack, depression).

◆ Mexico

Mexico City—*Jason & Danielle Boyle*

The pandemic continues to draw unsaved family members to the Mexico City church. They have seen an influx of visitors and new attendees. The two morning services are full, with overflow in the kitchen, nursery, and online. The Boyles say it is sad to turn away visitors and ask them to connect online instead.

Pray for God's guidance and provision for the property that they would like to purchase in God's will. Before that can happen, the church must become a religious association. Pray that Jason will have time to work on that and that the right people would step up to help see it through. Becoming a religious association is also integral to forming a Free Presbyterian denomination in Latin America. Please pray much for progress in this area.

Over the last few years Jason has facilitated the translation of Geneva Reformed Seminary courses and prepared other seminary classes for Lalo Peña and Ramón Sosa. He has also taught seminary-type classes for the pastors of their sister churches and other men. Interest in such classes is growing. A homiletics class is starting on Saturday, February 13, with fourteen men from all over the country. There is talk about the need of a seminary—a matter for prayer, as other men would be needed to help with teaching. Jason says, "May the Lord be pleased to see that idea become a reality." There are multiple church plant opportunities, but at the moment no qualified or prepared men to take them on. Resources are also needed for the men taking the seminary classes. Most of the them cannot afford the books and materials they need.

In January, Sarahy, a lady from the Mexico City (MC) church, went on a short-term mission trip to teach children in the villages in the mountains of Zongozotla, Puebla. Upon her arrival, the schools closed due to the pandemic. However, while the Lord closed some doors, He opened others. Sarahy is teaching some children in their homes and is helping believ-

ers connect to the MC services via Zoom (albeit the internet connection is not the best). Some would like to see a church plant in the area with supervision from the MC church. Sarahy is assessing needs. Pray for her as she considers whether the Lord might lead her into full-time service.

As always, the Boyles ask for prayer that God would prepare and raise up elders for the local church body to help care for the flock. A recent sermon in a new series on the book of Joshua has provided them with a theme passage for this year: Joshua 1:8–9.

Cordoba—*Lalo & Liz Peña*

The Peñas are very grateful that the neurological treatment Liz is getting for Huntington's disease is helping. She has recovered from the loss of sleep she experienced, and the involuntary movements have stabilized. Please pray for the Lord to give wisdom to the medical team and for Lalo and Liz to be sanctified through this difficult time.

Lalo thanks God that they have continued with their normal Sunday services and Sunday school. Three new people have been attending the services for several weeks. Two of them, Letty Colina and Allan Soberanes, work under Lalo at the Potable Water Agency. The third is Letty Colina's niece, Dana Hernandez. The three seem to be blessed by the ministry of the gospel at the church and the church is thankful for their lives and testimonies.

The church rejoices in answers to prayer for Allan Soberanes' mother, who suffered a thrombosis in her left leg that almost resulted in its amputation. Even though she still has some pain and may lose some toes, she is confident in the Lord's love and faithfulness. Please pray for her and the family.

Letty Colina had been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, but her symptoms were actually caused by a medication she was taking. Lalo thanks God that the medication has been changed and the symptoms are going away.

Please pray for Mexico. Pray that the Word will be faithfully preached in the churches. Pray also for Lalo's job and good testimony in the Potable Water Agency in Cordoba. Finally, pray that the Lord will give Lalo the help he needs in the rest of his responsibilities, especially the preaching of the Word and taking care of the local church and his family.

EUROPE

◆ Spain

Cortijos Nuevos—Alejandro & Vanesa Bernabeu

Alejandro Bernabeu, his wife, Vanesa, and their children—Abigail, Elizabeth, and Ezekiel—arrived in Cortijos Nuevos in October 2020. Alejandro and Vanesa were both born in Spain and have fathers who are pastors there. Alejandro, whose mother is from Ballymoney, Northern Ireland, was called to preach while hearing Dr. Alan Cairns preach at a youth rally in Ballymena FPC in 2010. He graduated from the Whitefield College of the Bible in 2020 and the Lord has led him to take up the work in Cortijos Nuevos following Lyle Boyd, who is retiring.

The Bernabeus have faced numerous challenges since arriving in Cortijos Nuevos, mostly because of the pandemic. Very shortly after they got there, the regional government announced a semi-lockdown. Except for medical or professional reasons, people were not allowed to travel outside their towns. Ninety-five percent of the congregation lives outside the town, and they were not allowed to attend the church, so Alejandro set up online services using Facebook and YouTube. For about four weeks in December they were able to meet together in person. It was a time of great joy, but they are in a lockdown again now.

Pray that the Lord will bless the limited means they have of outreach right now, the daily devotionals that Lyle Boyd is sending out via email, and the scripture calendars that have been given out for 2021.

◆ Czech Republic

Liberec—Milos & Martina Solc

The Solces are very thankful that despite the pandemic they were able to hold their Christmas evangelistic service on December 20. A number of visitors came, including a few young people from the high school that their sons Timothy and Caleb attend. Milos says, "It was a great opportunity to minister the words of saving grace to them. We continue

to pray that what they heard would stay with them and that they would not allow others to keep them from the Lord. That is always a great challenge in this land where there is such an antagonism to the things of God."

The service on December 20 was the last public service they were able to hold in person after a partial reprieve from restrictions that came after the second-wave lockdown in the fall. Since December 27 they have been in what is being called the third wave of the pandemic in the Czech Republic. They continue to be in a state of extensive restrictions, including all schools closed. The church services are all online, including their week of prayer at the end of January. It will most likely stay like this to at least the middle of February.

Please pray especially for the ministry in the local school where Martina teaches. Some parents have complained about the things from the Word of God that the children brought home during the short time they were in school in December. Martina was called in for an interview with the principal, but the Lord answered prayer and gave grace in the whole situation. Much wisdom is needed in how best to minister to these needy children. The Solces are praying that the Lord would allow for a Bible Club after school for those who would be interested. This would only be possible once the pandemic is over, in the will of the Lord.

AFRICA

◆ Liberia

Monrovia—David DiCanio

Pray for wisdom regarding the building that the mission work in Liberia has been leasing for the bookstore, church, and NGO headquarters. Their landlord has said that if they agree to sign a new lease for five years, he will place a concrete roof over the entire structure (an improvement that would be a great help to the work). However, the World Bank is doing a road construction project in front of the building, which is not only making it difficult to access the building (delaying the work on the roof), but which may also result in the government's taking six feet off the front of the building. The bookstore is housed in the front and losing six feet would likely make the remaining space too small for the bookstore. An added complication is that it may be another year before they know what the government will do. Pray that the Lord will direct in every aspect of the situation so that the work can have premises that function well for all aspects of its ministry.

The radio station has started a series on dispensationalism with a talk show interview with Rev. Reggie Kimbro and a message by him. It also aired a sermon by Rev. Stephen Hamilton and a series by Rev. John Greer on the subject. Providentially, Faith FPC's 30-minute LTBS program also dealt with the subject, along with automatically selected sermons by Dr. Cairns. Rev. David DiCanio says many evangelical churches in Monrovia have been infected by a wrong understanding of the law regarding both justification and sanctification (legalism and antinomianism). The series has had a good response from listeners.

The radio station has begun a monthly Bible quiz with the offer of a prize. In January, the prizes were t-shirts with the radio station logo. Twenty contestants received the t-shirts and one of those winners was selected to receive a Reformation Heritage Study Bible. The contest is being financed by a member of the Bible Presbyterian denomination who saw one of the deputation videos produced by Mr. DiCanio.

Monrovia—Joanne Greer

In early January, the Paynesville church returned to its normal schedule for Sunday services, with Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. and one service at 11 a.m. Joanne says it has been good to meet with the children again on Sunday mornings, but they are holding just one class now, with children from three to fifteen years old all together. The room where she had previously taught the older children is very small and very hot, and she is not sure when or if they will move back there.

Because of COVID restrictions, they were unable to hold the usual year-end program with the children in December, but they did have them sing in church on January 10 and gave out the 2020 attendance prizes. Please pray for others in the church to be called and equipped to help with the Sunday school work.

Pray for some people in the church who are experiencing health issues, that they will be diagnosed correctly and be given the right treatment. With a very weak healthcare system in Liberia, it is often difficult for people to know whom to trust and whose advice to take. Joanne says that sadly, even many of the "qualified" health practitioners seem to have little care for their patients and place little value on human life. Those who do care are terribly hampered by a lack of resources and equipment. And then the patients themselves often are not consistent in taking medication or keeping follow-up appointments. Many times they wait to seek help until their condition is already very serious. Pray that the

Lord will give the missionaries wisdom as they seek to intervene in some of these cases and to help where possible.

◆ Uganda

Nsaalu—Noreen McAfee

Noreen reports that the recent elections in Uganda passed off very peacefully, no doubt facilitated by a heavy military presence on the ground and a complete shutdown of the internet. President Museveni was declared the winner of the presidential race. His main rival, Robert Kyagulanyi Ssentamu (Bobi Wine), has brought a legal challenge, but most people don't expect it to succeed.

Meanwhile, at Emmanuel, Rev. Gordon Ferguson continues to take the Lord's Day services and midweek meetings by Zoom, and the Sunday school and evangelism program have also recommenced. Noreen says they were much encouraged when a lady professed faith during their outreach. She asks us to pray that the Lord would strengthen Jackline and save the other members of her household.

The church family remains much in prayer for a full-time pastor for the work but are thankful to the Lord for how He is looking after their little flock in the meantime.

The O-level students commence their final exams on March 1, the seventh graders are scheduled for March 30–31, and A-levels begin April 6. Noreen says they would really value prayer for these students whose classes were so badly disrupted last year.

The government recently approved a phased return to school for other primary and secondary classes but have banned kindergartens until the COVID-19 pandemic is over! Noreen says they need much wisdom and grace to manage all the many operating procedures and to help students settle back into the classroom. It will be a blessing to have more children under the sound of God's Word every day and she longs that the Lord would visit them with salvation.

Please pray for some sick folks in the community: Douglas is battling with diabetes and many related complications including bleeding in his optic nerves, Moreen has kwashiorkor (severe protein malnutrition), and Baby Divine has been seriously ill due to malnutrition and septicaemia.

The Fosters are still on furlough in Northern Ireland, getting used to Baby Rachel and coping with an ever-changing schedule of meetings, most of them conducted by Zoom. Lockdown and other restrictions have made it difficult for missionaries on deputation, but they are grateful for the technology which

allows them to present the work to people in their own homes.

◆ Kenya

—Margaret Russell

Margaret Russell is now settled into life in Ulster but missing the sunshine of Kenya! She continues with physiotherapy and regular x-rays of her arm and the doctors are very pleased with her progress. Since the end of 2020, Ulster has been in total lockdown, but Margaret has not been hindered in the work she is doing remotely for the work in Kenya.

Reports from Kenya regarding the pandemic are that the number of infections remains low and since the beginning of the year in the areas where the churches are operating there are very few reports of people being infected.

All classes for primary, secondary, and college education re-opened at the beginning of January after nine months of closure. The Ministry of Health has been carefully monitoring health conditions in schools to prevent transmission of the virus. To date there has been no upsurge in cases. Pray that this will continue to be the case.

Kenya needs prayer for political stability. The next general election will be held in August 2022 when a new president will be elected. Campaigning has already begun and the political temperature is rising.

Margaret is working with the churches in Kenya—the GBC and BCFC—to see that the Sunday schools are re-established after the months of lockdown. It is quite a challenge. Please pray for the Sunday school superintendents.

Business in the Beulah Bookshops run by the FPC Mission in Kakamega and Kitale has known some improvement at the end of 2020 and the beginning of 2021. The Kitale shop is small and the staff has been looking for a larger but affordable place to continue this ministry. They are presently in negotiations to rent another place. Please pray that God will be pleased to open another door in a more strategic place in the town, in His will. Pray also that the bookshops will have an ongoing supply of Bibles, books, and other Christian literature and that the truth of God's Word will bear lasting fruit in the lives of all who frequent these shops.

Please pray for the Kenyan pastors and elders who are in laboring in different areas and departments of ministry: GBC pastors Andrew, Patrice, & Emmanuel, the elders, Sunday school teachers, bookshop workers, as well as all the BCFC pastors. Pray that God

will preserve them in His work and keep them free not only from the virus and but also from road accidents. Motorcycle taxis (boda boda) are a quick and cheap means of transportation in Africa but dangerous. Many of the men and women in the churches use them daily. Because of a motorcycle accident, one of the BCFC churches recently lost a young man who had a young wife and family. Accidents in relation to motorcycles and indeed all vehicles on Kenyan roads are extremely common; some are minor, but sadly many are fatal. Pray for God's preservation of all His servants.

Kitali—Malcolm & Alison Patterson

At the beginning of January Malcolm attended the Minister's Week of Prayer in Ulster held via Zoom. On January 12 he and Alison attended the Ulster Mission Board's time of prayer when FPCNI missionaries from different parts of the world met together on Zoom with members of Mission Board. The three FP Mission Society Africa pastors from Kenya also joined the meeting.

The church in Kakamega, Kenya, has returned to in-person services. The other churches have been meeting in person for some time. The pastors and Malcolm still meet every Monday morning over Zoom to spend time around the Word and in prayer for the Lord's work in Kenya. The Glory Bible Church central committee and sub-committee also meet via Zoom and have been working on documents to formulate the doctrine and practice for the church.

The Pattersons are thankful for the printing of "Behold My Servant" (1,500 copies in English and 1,500 copies in Swahili) and for two containers that shipped to Kenya with books, Bibles, etc., for the bookshops and pastors.

Please pray 1) that Kenyans would be kept safe from COVID-19 and that the government would be able to obtain sufficient vaccines; 2) for the pastors and their families (Pastor Patrice Akali in Kakamega, Pastor Andrew Cheptoo in Kitale, and Pastor Emmanuel Lilimo in Kapenguria); 3) for the preparation of the radio programs each week; 4) for the bookshops in Kakamega and Kitale and the staff (Kakamega: Josephine and Gladys and Kitale: Mercy and Jared); 5) for the "Daily Gleanings" distributed each day over WhatsApp and Facebook and "Daily Light" in Swahili on Facebook; 6) for continued help with ongoing translation and printing work; 7) for the the Pattersons' online deputation meetings around the churches in Northern Ireland; and 8) for the renewal of Malcolm's work permit in Kenya.

ASIA

◆ Nepal

Kathmandu—Joy Gillespie

Joy Gillespie requests earnest prayer for the elections in Nepal in March and April. Parliament has already been suspended. Pray that the political rallies will be peaceful. Some parties are promising to return Nepal to being a Hindu nation, which would have a catastrophic effect on the fledgling Christian church.

During the ten-year civil war (1996–2006) freedom of religion was gained and that freedom has been cherished by many people. However, some Nepalese people were not happy with the expansion of the gospel in Nepal. They feel it is a foreign religion that should not be allowed in the country. Pray that God will keep the door open for the preaching of the gospel and that people will be allowed to attend church and read the Bible freely.

◆ South Korea

Seoul—Seongkyu & Sooyoun Lee

Since Christmas, regular worship services have been impossible in South Korea. Due to the sudden increase of COVID cases in winter—especially in churches—it looks as if this situation will continue for a while. For the Free Presbyterian church, only fifteen people can meet to worship together with the rest of the congregation participating online in their homes. The situation is taking a big toll on every Korean church. Pray that they will soon be able to gather together again for services.

Some families in the congregation are struggling with unemployment. Two heads of families are currently unemployed, and the church is praying together for new job opportunities. Also, some are fighting against cancer. Mr. Myeongjung Lee's mother is under the care of the hospital after going through brain tumor surgery. Please pray for her health and for God's peace to be with the family.

Although they are banned from meeting in person due to coronavirus, the congregation is actively meeting via Zoom. The Sunday school classes are held online with the young people studying Romans at 2 p.m. and the adults studying Revelation at 5 p.m. The adult book club meets on Thursdays and Saturdays. The young people also meet online during the week to have fellowship.

The spring college semester begins in March. The church hopes to invite new college students to join in its campus gospel

meetings for the new school term; however, it seems as if most schools will open with online classes. Seongkyu Lee says many obstacles and restrictions are blocking their ministry. Pray with them that the Lord will open ways to spread His word. Finally, please pray for Korean churches to become spiritually strong with truly Bible-based ministry.

AUSTRALIA

Perth, Western Australia—Philip & Cherith Gardiner

Please pray for the Sunday school, children's Bible club, and youth fellowship as they recommence for the new year in the church in Perth. Philip Gardiner says they long for the Lord to work in the hearts of the youth. Pray also for new individuals and families to come into the church meetings and to become a part of the work.

Port Lincoln & Lock—Kyle & Eppie Graham

Kyle Graham says that in South Australia space restrictions due to COVID are still in place although they are no longer as severe as they used to be and do not normally hinder the church too much. Thankfully, the building in Lock is big enough that they can go ahead as usual. In Port Lincoln they usually have enough space although they have on occasion moved the services into the shed behind the building when they needed more room.

Sadly, due to COVID, the various agricultural shows and field days normally held across the Eyre Peninsula along with the annual January Tunarama festival in Port Lincoln were cancelled. These events always provided a wonderful opportunity for engaging with the local community, as they are attended by most people including those from the more rural towns. The church would normally distribute gospel literature but were unable to do so this year. They are praying there will be opportunities in the year ahead for this work and are seeking wisdom as to how best to reach out with the gospel in other ways at the present time.

Kyle has begun to post a short weekly video on the Port Lincoln FPC Facebook page, giving one main thought or a brief summary from one of the messages preached on the Lord's Day. The brief video gets some attention, and Kyle is praying that some from the area who see it will be led by the Lord to visit the regular worship services.

One of the young women in the Lock congregation was married recently and moved away from the area. The church family are

thankful that the Lord provided her with a godly husband, but they feel the loss of her worship with them and her service in the church, particularly since they are already a small congregation. Please pray that the Lord will bring others in under the sound of the gospel and ultimately into membership to make up the difference. The general population in Lock is small, and so there is difficulty in drawing new individuals in, but the Lord "is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20).

Brethren, pray for us.
1 THESSALONIANS 5:25

See the FPCNA Mission Board website at www.fpcnamissions.org for more news, prayer requests, and pictures. For more information about missionaries serving under the Ulster Mission Board see www.fpcmission.org.