

Missionary Prayer Bulletin



April 2018

NORTH AMERICA

◆ Jamaica

Little London—*Richard Craig & Randy Gunnings*

In January 2018, the Little London congregation was delighted to have Colin and Joanna Tinsley, its former pastor and his wife, and also Hyacinth and Clifton Powell, who are from the Toronto congregation, spend the Lord's Day with them. They express their appreciation to the Tinsleys for their labor of love in paving the back and the roadway leading to the entrance of the church. They also express thanks to Hyacinth and Clifton, who contributed to repair the children's restroom and the water tower which had been leaking for some time.

Please join them in praying much that the Lord will draw people unto Himself. They ask that their brothers and sisters across the world remember the land of Jamaica that the people may find refuge and comfort in the Lord their God. The Jamaican government's latest report shows that crime has been reduced by thirty percent. The church people truly give God all the glory because they believe He answered the prayers of many Christians across Jamaica and the world.

Please remember the flock in Little London that God would breathe upon them and send a mighty awakening with lives transformed and living for the glory of God.

◆ Mexico

Mexico City—*Jason & Danielle Boyle*

The Boyles give much praise to God for answers to prayer. The Mexico youth camp was held March 27–31. A total of fifty people (campers and leaders) attended from four churches (Mexico City, Orizaba, Cordoba, and Omiquila). The campers enjoyed games, cabin devotions, preaching, a workshop on biblical repentance, campfire songs and testimonies, competitions, swimming, serving

meals, and cleaning up after meals. They are very thankful for God's blessing. Not only did the leaders make a great team, but more importantly, the Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of many of the young people, saved and unsaved. Please pray that this fruit would be permanent. Pray also for the young men who were especially challenged during camp: Yaham, Emiliano, and Patricio. As a follow up, the camp leaders have decided to have a youth conference on October 27 on the same topic as the camp (sharing your faith). It will be hosted by the church in Mexico City.

Please pray for the election of deacons that will take place on April 22. The men have been studying the topic in their men's study for about a year, and the adult Sunday school has also just finished studying it.

The Boyles praise God for His guiding and preserving the congregation up to this point. On the first Sunday in March they welcomed a new member into the congregation. Three more people are interested in membership, for which they praise the Lord.

The paperwork Jason and Danielle needed from the States has arrived so they can officially start the adoption process. They say, "Thank you to those who are praying for this process. We can't believe that Caleb has been with us for three months already! He is 8 1/2 months old, and we are loving every minute of being parents!"

The Boyles have a four-day trip planned this month. Three days will be spent in Orizaba, where Jason will teach on Presbyterianism at Grace Christian Church (Marcus Reyes's church). Please pray for grace and clarity in the teaching time and that God's will be done in that church. The last day will be spent in San Felipe del Progreso (about five hours from Orizaba) where Jason has a monthly Bible study. The people that attend this Bible study have no Reformed church in their area, so they attend this monthly Bible study to get something more substantial than what they receive in their churches. Pray for God's safety and blessing on the road.

Please also pray for the regular Bible studies and counseling that they continue to do. They have also started to take care of a six-year-old girl on most weekends (Friday to Sunday). This has been a challenge for them, but they are seeing how the Lord can use them in her life. She is the daughter of a single mom in the church.

Cordoba, Veracruz—*Lalo & Liz Peña*

Lalo requests prayer for Luís Gerardo Mantecón and his mother. Luís, who is a teenager, will be receiving a kidney transplant from his mother on Tuesday, April 17. Please pray that all will go well for both of them.

The youth camp held in March was a blessing to those from the Cordoba church who were able to attend. Please begin to pray now for the youth conference being planned for October of this year in Mexico City.

EUROPE

◆ Spain

Beas de Segura—*Lyle & Heather Boyd*

The Boyds just had a group of nine young people staying with them from the Kilkeel FPC accompanied by Rev. Andrew Patterson, all of whom have a special interest in mission work. They managed to cover five villages in the area with gospel tracts and also gave out tracts in the town of Ubeda at the Good Friday processions. It gave the young people firsthand insight into the tremendous idolatry and superstition of the Spanish Roman Catholic Church. Because of inclement weather the procession was greatly reduced, but they witnessed a unique event which has been traditionally carried on for some five hundred years. It consisted of 24 men running up a steep hill carrying on their shoulders an image of the Virgin Mary that weighs some 1,200 kgs or 2645 pounds. Hundreds of people crammed the street to see this event. The image of Mary is covered with robes that are sown with 22 karat gold and wears

a golden crown upon its head. Mary is both worshipped and exonerated as the Queen of heaven. This is the sad state of the Spanish people, completely given over to idolatry.

Before their trip the young people raised a very generous gift of 814.50 pounds (\$1,155) for the work in Cortijos Nuevos. It will be of great benefit to the church. Please pray that the Lord would bless all the tracts that were given out in the six different towns and that souls would come to know the truth of the gospel and be liberated from the falsehoods of Rome for the glory of God.

Also pray for the possibility of starting a work in another town called Castellar that has never had a Protestant witness before. Contact was made through the young people with a lady from Venezuela who professes faith in Christ and lives there with her daughter and son-in-law. So far a suitable place for meeting has not been found, but pray that the Lord would open a door in this place soon.

Please pray especially for a dear old saint of God, an invalid called José Antonio. He has always been a great source of encouragement to Lyle and the congregation by his faithfulness down through the years. He has been suffering quite a bit lately. Pray that the doctors would have wisdom how to treat him and that soon he would find relief.

Madrid—John & Noranna Hanna

The Hannas thank the Lord for the privilege of being able to serve Him. They are also grateful for the prayers of God's people on their behalf. In the same light they continue to solicit prayer for their ongoing ministry in Alcorcón and Toledo. At the end of this month John has been invited by a Reformed church in the province of Madrid to minister at their annual weekend retreat. He would appreciate the prayers of God's people that the Word preached will be blessed of the Lord.

As reported in the last prayer bulletin, the church in Alcorcón is in the process of relocating. A price has been agreed for the sale as well as the purchase of a suitable building. The only obstacle is the bank. Their own bank has changed its policy and now doesn't lend money to churches. At present they are awaiting responses from two other banks. John says they would like to move, but they will rejoice in the will of the Lord being done whatever it is.

In Alcorcón there has been a lot of sickness, which has meant a decrease in attendance at the Sabbath services. Many of the older folk are no longer able to attend the services. John says these believers have been

very faithful down through the years. This is a reminder to John and Noranna that they need to serve the Lord while it is yet day, for the night comes when no man can work.

The work in Toledo continues to be very encouraging, with visitors in every week. Three families have expressed much interest and are praying to know the will of the Lord. Please continue to intercede much for this work, especially for the ministry of the Word from week to week.

ASIA

◆ Nepal

Kathmandu—Wesley & Carol Graham

It is hoped that the new orphanage will be open in the near future. When fully functional, the home will accommodate sixty children, doubling its capacity. It will also double the opportunity of reaching children with the gospel.

Another men's training session has been completed and their graduation will take place during the week of the annual Bible conference. Please pray for the conference as the moderator of the Ulster presbytery, Rev. Thomas Murray, goes to preach. The subject this year will be the Christian armor of Ephesians 6. At a recent presbytery meeting it was decided to ordain three more men to the ministry. This ordination will also take place during the conference. Pray for these men as they take up their work in the churches where they will minister.

Sarita, the young woman who wants to become a missionary doctor, has been doing well in her studies with excellent results in midterm exams. She will be sitting for her professional exams in a few weeks at the end of her second year. Please pray that she may be enabled to succeed in these important examinations.

The Grahams express their thanks to those who continually uphold the work in Nepal at the throne of grace in prayer. Without this vital contribution there could be no hope of anything worthwhile being accomplished.

Kathmandu—Joy Gillespie

Since returning to Nepal after the Christmas holidays Joy has been teaching English in the Bible college in Kathmandu. She says it was a joy to get to know better some of the men and then the ladies who are doing the courses. God willing the men will graduate from college during the conference that is held April 16–18. Three men will also be ordained to the ministry. This year the Rev.

Thomas Murray, moderator of the FPC of Ulster will be the speaker.

Joy has also been busy signing forms and visiting government offices and has been granted a work visa for the establishment of the English academy. Just this past week she received her work permit for six months. After this trial period of six months, she hopes, the Lord willing, to be able to get a work permit for up to two years. She rejoices in this answer of prayer.

Joy had her first ladies' conference in March, and it was a great success. Ladies came from the different Kathmandu valley churches and a time of wonderful fellowship was had by all. God willing, next year the plan is to run the conference over two days. Part of Joy's work will be to hold ladies' conferences like this one all over Nepal, going to different states and holding them in one of the churches and inviting the rest of the churches in that area to join them. Pray for this plan, that God will touch hearts and open doors for the furtherance of the gospel as well as for the encouragement of the Christians.

Joy's Nepalese language classes continue. She can speak simple phrases and knows enough to shop for food in the local markets. Her greatest problem continues to be with hearing the language. She met another missionary who has been in Nepal for six years; he said it took him two years to really understand what was being said. Joy says, "I'm only here nine months so I'm not panicking, yet!" As you can imagine, it's a very lonely situation to be in when you can't speak to people. Please pray that God will in a special way help Joy with the language. She says, "I thank God for His help thus far, but I do long to be able to communicate effectively with the congregation. Pray for me that I will know the anointing of God on my ministry."

◆ South Korea

Seoul—Seongkyu & Sooyoun Lee

The year 2018 has been an apprehensive one for Koreans because of the threat of war. Rev. Seongkyu Lee says God has used the PyeongChang Olympics to open up conversations that had been suspended for a long time between the South and North. He says that it also helped open up a possibility for negotiations between North Korea and the United States. Pastor Lee says, "We are praying that God will intervene in this situation to bring peace to this nation."

The church group has been having an intensive reading period about godly speech

and about how to form biblical relationships between Christian parents and children. This has become a great challenge for them as a Christian lifestyle is not yet fully established in Korea. Please pray that they will become mature Christians with biblical homes and godly speech and live holy lives in this world.

Pastor Lee has continued the Bible study for college students. New students have joined the group and they have moved to a new location. It was difficult to find a convenient place to meet in such a large area as Seoul, but thankfully more and more meeting rooms are being made available for college students in Seoul so they were able to find something. Pastor Lee says, "We truly need God's grace for the college students. Please pray that through this ministry there will be a spiritual change and growth in our students."

AFRICA

◆ Liberia

Monrovia—Joanne Greer

"The time is quickly approaching for me to leave for deputation in North America and in Northern Ireland. This work of reporting back to sending churches and raising awareness and support for the future is both scriptural and vital to my being able to stay on the field. Because I have not done a full round of deputation for six years, I will be away from Liberia for seven months this time. I am looking forward to seeing many of you again and to bringing you up to date in person with God's work here in Liberia. However, this seven-month furlough does create challenges in the work I leave behind, since as you know, I am the only missionary working with the children in the FPC work in Liberia.

"I know from firsthand experience when we had to leave for nine months during the Ebola epidemic that a prolonged absence on the part of the children's missionary leads to children losing interest. Perhaps it should not be that way, but it is. After all, these are children, many are not saved, and many of them bring themselves to the children's meetings, rather than having parents send them.

"Another challenge, of course, is that a seven-month break for those who are taking individual reading or music lessons will mean that a lot of review time will be required when I return. In some cases it will mean starting all over again. For example, only one out of the six young people who were taking piano lessons when I left because of Ebola was still

persevering when I returned, and I almost had to start over at the beginning with him. With no one to help them, the others all lost interest and none of them has ever restarted lessons.

"I hardly know how to ask you to pray about this matter, but this is what I would ask. Please pray that God would 1.) either send someone (or more than one) to continue the children's work during my long absence along with the finances to support that person or persons; or 2.) that He would give me wisdom to find ways to still encourage and engage with the children and our one Liberian children's worker while I am away; or 3.) that He would solve the problem in some way I haven't thought of yet for after all, this is His work, He is sovereign, and His ways and thoughts are far above mine!"

Monrovia—David DiCanio

On March 3rd eleven people from the Paynesville mission church traveled to Rivercess along with Joanne Greer and Rev. David DiCanio. Those selected to travel were the five regular attendees at the midweek prayer meeting (Pastor Moses Dahn, Nathan Barco, Martin Gbahn, Isaac Kollie, and Mary Yarsiah) and the six young people who memorized the Westminster Shorter Catechism questions 1–87 (Francis Peal, Abraham Kote, Richard Montgomery, William Tarnue, Jerry Dennis, and Gladys Gbowee). For most of them, this was their first flight and they were quite amazed (see the video posted at fpcnamissions.org). The young people participated in a service in Rivercess and helped conduct an afternoon children's meeting.

The radio ministry in Duazon is going well. People everywhere are saying they love the new station, and the church is enjoying a steady stream of visitors as a result of the broadcasts. *Let the Bible Speak* seems to be their favorite program. The FPCNA Mission Board just purchased a new transmitter for the radio station. Up to this point the station has been running with a very old used transmitter. It has done a good job and will be good as a backup, but it would have been very risky to continue to trust it. One of the dangers in a lawless society such as Liberia's is that if you have to go off the air for some reason (such as a broken transmitter), someone may jump on your frequency and take it. The Lord is to be thanked for bringing in the necessary \$8585 USD to purchase the new transmitter. Not only will it be more reliable, but more powerful as well. Pray that the unit will be transported safely to Liberia and that once it arrives in the port in Monrovia there will be

no delays getting it cleared through customs. There is always the danger that it could be lost or stolen on the way and it cannot be insured since it is being shipped into a developing country.

Right now, unexpected and unbudgeted expenses continue to pop up, especially since so much of the equipment used to start the station was second-hand. Just recently, the used cables that connected the antennas to the coaxial cable for the radio station had to be replaced at a cost of \$700. Pray that the Lord will continue to supply the funds to maintain and even grow this very effective and efficient means of preaching the gospel and edifying the saints.

Mr. DiCanio is happy to report that the new generator installed in January uses about half the fuel that the larger generator they've been using requires. The savings in fuel means that they are now able to run the radio station at no extra cost above the approved budget even though the generator is running an extra eight hours daily. Before they had the radio station, they ran the old generator from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. To power the station, the new machine is run from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. They are staying in budget but are having to learn to sleep without air conditioners, which is a challenge. Pray for wisdom as they seek to make the most of the resources the Lord has made available for the spread of the gospel in Liberia.

◆ Uganda

Nsaalu—Noreen McAfee

Noreen thanks God for answers to prayer regarding the construction team from Magherafelt in Northern Ireland. By God's grace, they were able to complete the first stage of the new toilet and shower block and to share in the various church meetings as well.

Noreen says it was also exciting to meet Mr. Andrew Foster's fiancée, Hannah, when she came to visit in February. Please remember both Andy and Hannah as they prepare for their wedding this August. Right now Andy is hard at work trying to get their living quarters ready in time!

Mr. Colin Maxwell also visited the Emmanuel Mission Station in March to conduct the various church meetings and to continue with Pastor Andrew's program of studies. Another soul professed faith after one of the morning worship services. Please pray that the recent new converts would grow in grace and in the knowledge of Christ.

Noreen says they greatly enjoyed Mr. Maxwell's fellowship and company and are indebted to him and all those who gave of their

time to visit Emmanuel and supply the pulpit while the Millers were away on furlough.

Easter Sunday was a sad day for the church family at Emmanuel as news came that one of their parents, a former member of staff at the school, had succumbed to serious injuries sustained in a road accident the previous Friday. Faridah, a converted Muslim, was only thirty-three years of age and left behind her husband, Douglas, and their three children—Jireh (11), Jairus (8), and Javeline (5)—as well as seventeen other children and young people whom they had adopted or fostered over the years. Remember this dear family as they come to terms with their great loss.

Rev. David Park and Rev. David Brown from Northern Ireland will conduct a pastors' conference April 18–21 in Lyantonde District. Noreen says they need the Lord to undertake for every aspect of the conference and to bless the teaching of His Word to all who hear it.

The following week, other members of the Mission Board are expected for special meetings, and Rev. and Mrs. Stephen Miller will be returning from furlough. Pray for journeying mercies for all and for Stephen and Ruth as they settle back into life in Uganda.

◆ Kenya

Kapenguria—Margaret Russell

Margaret has just returned from one month's break in Ulster. She enjoyed the fellowship of family and friends and was blessed to be able to attend the Easter Convention at Martyrs. She is settling in again and catching up with what went on during her absence. She continues to deal with change among the missionary personnel on the field. Kathy Walker will return home mid-May. That will leave Margaret as the sole full-time missionary. Much prayer is needed for God's work in Kenya that He will not only raise up others, but strengthen and encourage the Kenyan believers as they see those whom they have loved and worked with and who have been their mentors for so long, move away one by one. Margaret knows that her own retirement from the field is also not far away.

Rev. Gregory McCammon from Ulster is in Kenya for one month assisting with the preaching in Kakamega. He will also spend one weekend in Kapenguria. At the end of April a delegation from the Mission Board is coming and then in August, a group of ten will come to do some painting at the school. Pray for journeying mercies, safety, and help with all the planning involved.

The annual Sunday school programs are underway with 26 special parents' meetings with prize-giving for the children planned for April 15 and 22. Margaret asks for prayer for these opportunities to reach parents with the gospel. After this the Sunday school teachers will embark on another year's Bible lessons and Scripture recitation. Margaret asks us to pray that God will be pleased to bless and use the teachers in the ministry among the boys and girls during this new Sunday school year.

The Academy has now finished the first term of another school year. Margaret thanks the Lord for His provision thus far for safety, health, and financial provision for all the students. But there are always sorrows among staff and students: one child's mother was buried recently and a member of the staff buried her sister on the same day. Pray for comfort for all affected. There are still two terms ahead in this school year, the second one starting April 30. Margaret asks us to remember very especially the ongoing financial needs in the Academy and very particularly to pray for the principal and all the teaching staff as they work in the school, that God will also touch their hearts and use them to see spiritual blessing and academic success among all the students.

Margaret expresses her sincere thanks for our prayers and urges us to continue to remember her very especially during these changing days in the work of the gospel in Kenya.

Kakamega—Kathy Walker

The literature ministry in Kakamega is preparing for its second annual pastors' conference to be held April 30 through May 2. Radio announcements begin on the university station next week. Please pray that many more local pastors will be able to attend this year. Pray for the men coming from Ulster for the conference—Rev. Ian Harris, Rev. John Gray, and Rev. David McMillan—that the Lord will greatly use them in the ministering of His Word. Pray also for safety in travel and for all the logistics involved in the visit.

Rev. Gregory McCammon is now in Kenya for five weeks and has already been an encouragement to the little church in Nyaporo as well as the Bible study group in the bookshop. Easter Monday prayer meeting saw fifteen people in for prayer, with all but one or two participating. Mr. McCammon encouraged the people to earnestly seek God's face for a pastor. The congregation is busy giving the church building a facelift. It has been painted inside and out. The women of the church

contributed valences made of "kitenge" (local fabric) which add a bright touch. There is still more to be done, especially the renovation of the outside toilet block. Please pray for this church as it continues faithful to the Lord.

The Tuesday Bible study at the bookshop also saw fifteen in attendance. Kathy says it is always an encouragement to see them slip in one by one during the lunch hour to meet around the Word of God.

Pastor Andrew from Kenya will be graduating from Geneva Reformed Seminary in May. Pray that his passport and visa will come through in time for him to make the trip to the States. Pray also that the Lord will raise up workers to carry on the ministry in Western Kenya.

Kathy thanks all who have prayed during the recent illness and hospital stay of her father. Testing has shown that he has multiple myeloma. Kathy will be returning home about a month sooner than planned. Please pray for wisdom and strength for her family in the days ahead. Pray also that Kathy will be able to easily readjust to life in the States. She plans to visit some of the churches in North America at a later time.

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

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.