

Missionary Prayer Bulletin



October 2017

NORTH AMERICA

◆ Jamaica

Little London—*Richard Craig & Randy Gunnings*

Jamaica is experiencing a very high rate of crime and violence. Even around the mission there are many criminal activities. Please pray for protection and that God will change the lives of people by the power of the gospel.

Please remember to pray for some of the young people who are not going on with God. It seems that the world's latest technology is robbing them of the true joy of the Lord. Richard Craig says, "The more we encourage and motivate them in spiritual things, the more they are departing from the truth of God's Word. We know that God is able to change hearts and we need His grace and power in the face of the unseen powers of darkness. We are very thankful to the Lord for all His mercies to us and thank Him who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ."

◆ Mexico

Mexico City—*Jason & Danielle Boyle*

In September the church in Mexico City had its first infant baptism, a church picnic to celebrate Mexican Independence Day, and a Sunday school series on the Reformers. It was a busy, but blessed month. The church also celebrated the birth of a new baby in the congregation. The Boyles also received the difficult news that Jason's mom had passed away. Jason went to Texas for five days for the funeral. He was able to preach at the funeral to several unsaved friends and family. He returned to Mexico for 24 hours, where he preached on October 1, and then left for the Ministers' Week of Prayer in Canada.

The church enjoyed hosting Rev. Armen Thomassian for a number of days mid-September. Ramón Sosa, from the Dominican Republic, visited the weekends before and

after the Week of Prayer. It is the first time the congregation had met Ramón, and the Boyles were thrilled at how hospitable the whole church was, especially since his visit coincided with the time Jason was away.

In September Mexico City experienced a number of earthquakes. The Boyles say, "We had a big one on September 19 in the early afternoon. It was the 32nd anniversary of the big earthquake of 1985 that devastated the city. To honor the victims of the 85 earthquake, there was a drill at 11 a.m. on September 19. A few short hours later we had an earthquake. Thankfully, everyone knew what to do. Over two hundred lives were lost and twenty buildings collapsed, as well as an undetermined number of houses. We praise God that everyone in the church was fine. There were some scary circumstances and events, as well as damage to houses and businesses. Our own house sustained minor damage. One man in our church was one of the brave paramedic volunteers that rescued people from collapsed buildings. He dealt with some very difficult cases. Many have had opportunities to help with relief efforts and sharing the gospel. The young people have been especially active in that regard. We have had many visitors to church lately, as many have been more sensitive to their spiritual needs. Please pray that the lost would be saved because of these events."

The Boyles' prayer requests for the next few months are that the Lord would bless the Reformation sermons and the Sunday school classes. Please pray that more children would come to Sunday school. Pray that the Lord would continue to bless the ladies who attended the women's meeting on October 7 at which Julia Orozco spoke on the subject of forgiveness. Please also pray that unity and humbleness would be preserved in the church.

In October the women will be starting up their Bible study again, and the youth group will be having a special Reformation-themed event. Pray for godly relationships among the young people. In November Jason will be traveling to visit a church plant that he oversees

in the state of Puebla. He will also travel to Nogales, Sonora, in the north of Mexico for another Reformation conference.

Cordoba, Veracruz—*Lalo & Liz Peña*

The church in Cordoba has been having some visitors attend its services in its new location, including a couple new families. Please pray for additional opportunities to preach the gospel in the new neighborhood.

October 27–28 the church will be having a conference with Marcus Reyes's church, Iglesia Cristiana Gracia. The theme will be the Five Solas. Some visitors will be coming from other cities such as the Port of Veracruz and Tehuacan in the Mexican state of Puebla.

Please keep praying for Lalo's family and for some brethren who are suffering and in pain: Luis Gerardo Mantecón, who has renal insufficiency and will soon receive a kidney transplant from his mother, Laura; Domitila Robles, who has bone cancer; Mary Esteves, who has leukemia; and Margarta Ordaz, who has cirrhosis.

Lalo has received an invitation to labor in the next municipality administration as an accountant. The elected mayor, a sister in the faith, says he can work without leaving his responsibilities as a pastor. Lalo says these kind of jobs have "very, very bad" reputations in Mexico, but there are Christians who have taken such jobs with the hope of making a difference in the city. Lalo was not expecting to be offered such a job and doesn't want to make a bad decision. He doesn't want to shirk his responsibilities to the local church, to his family, or to the FPCNA, but, on the other hand, he doesn't want to let pass up an opportunity to serve and to improve his family's financial situation if it is the Lord's will. Please pray for wisdom to know what to do.

EUROPE

◆ Spain

Madrid—*John & Noranna Hanna*

John Hanna says this summer has been the longest and hottest in their memory and there is a dangerous scarcity of water all over Spain with the reservoirs being at an all-time low. He asks prayer for this situation. The physical drought is but a picture of the greater spiritual drought that has afflicted Spain for centuries. They are reminded of their solemn responsibility to faithfully preach the gospel.

John continues to preach each Sabbath Day in Alcorcón and in the new work in Toledo. The attendance in Toledo is variable, recently ranging between thirty and sixteen. Mark continues his weekly discipleship class with the young woman who has asked for membership. Please pray much for this new work, that the Lord will move graciously in this idolatrous city.

In Alcorcón John says the Lord has been giving tokens for good. Last Sabbath morning the church building was full, with the extra chairs filled. In the evening service also there was an excellent attendance.

Please pray in particular for Miriam, Antonia, and Angel, as well as the young people who as yet have not professed faith in Christ: Richard, Luis, Lemuel, and Laura. Pray also for the unsaved family members of believers in the church.

At the end of October, they are holding a special service to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. All the churches in the region are invited. In November, they will have their second National Congress in Madrid. Please pray for these special services that the Lord will do a work, both locally and nationally, and that all will redound to His glory.

This is a particularly trying time for Spain. The region of Cataluña, in the northeast of the country, is seeking independence from the rest of Spain. The situation is very serious. Please pray earnestly with them that the Lord will save Spain from another civil war.

In closing, John and Noranna thank everyone for their faithful prayer support.

◆ Czech Republic

Liberec—*Milos & Martina Solc*

Milos reports that they had a few visitors from Toronto FPC over the summer, and they were very encouraged by the fellowship. The last of these visitors was Jill Saunders. Several women regularly come to the services, and

they enjoyed the special opportunity to hear Jill's testimony and to spend some time speaking with her. One lady who came to one of the meetings had come once before a couple of years ago. She is a friend of Jana (the saved doctor who attends services). She has a couple of young boys and various challenges in her life, and some of these things seem to be holding her back from stepping out in faith in the Lord. Pray for her salvation and that she would attend the services in order to hear God's Word.

Please pray for a young man in high school to whom the Solces' son Timothy has been witnessing. Hugo has started reading the Bible and has many good questions about the things of God. Timothy gave Hugo a copy of Dr. Cairns' *A New Beginning* booklet in Czech. Pray that the Lord would speak to Hugo and draw him to Himself. Another boy, Paul, overheard some of Timothy and Hugo's conversation and has shown an interest in coming to church.

The Solces' two oldest children, Milos and Abigail, started their second year of university. Pray that the Lord would use their testimonies and that they would truly be the Lord's faithful witnesses in their own circles. In the summer, the Lord provided an excellent job for Milos, which he is continuing alongside his studies. Milos has been able to witness to a couple of his superiors.

Milos, Sr., says, "May the Lord continue to strengthen us in the work He has called us to and use the messages that go out in Czech on the internet from this separated witness. May others be led out of compromise and apostasy to a biblical ministry, and may it all be for the extension of the Lord's kingdom and the glory of God."

ASIA

◆ Nepal

Kathmandu—*Wesley & Carol Graham*

Rev. Wesley Graham reports that there has been a slight delay in the completion of the new orphanage, partly because the recent monsoon rains hindered certain building supplies from getting through. It is hoped that the home will open in the early months of next year.

Monsoon rains in August caused major flooding in the south of Nepal affecting thousands of people. Hundreds of lives were lost and many people lost their homes and rice crops. One of the Free Presbyterian church leaders lost his life when an electric

pole fell and the wire struck him, killing him instantly. Pray for his widow and family as they seek to pick up the pieces of their lives. Others lost their crops. The Free Presbyterian denomination has been able to give them some assistance to purchase food and necessary supplies.

In the last issue, prayer was requested for a young man named Isaac, who desired to study medicine. Unfortunately, he did not get the required test results and is now going to study information technology. He says he is content with God's will, whatever direction that takes. Please continue to pray for Sarita as she will soon complete her first year of medical school. The Lord has given her special help in her examinations.

The Bible college in Nepal has commenced for another year with fifteen men enrolled. The lecturers and students would value your prayers.

Rev. Paul Thapa will be speaking at the Youth Conference October 18–20 on the Five Solas to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Over two hundred young people from all over Nepal are expected to attend. Pray that God will use His Word to direct each of them.

Kathmandu—*Joy Gillespie*

Joy is thankful for your continued prayerful support as she adjusts to life in Nepal. She says, "Life in Nepal is very, very different. From the sights to the smells to the sounds, all are alien to me. Where else would you have a bus driver stopping—in the middle of moving bumper-to-bumper traffic—to jump out and pick up money that had just fallen out of a pillion passenger's pocket and give it back to him? Or where else would you see a goat tethered to a post at the shop door in the morning and by the afternoon he's skinned and gutted and waiting on a table to be sold to the passersby? No fridges here! Let's not speak of the smells! As I say, Nepal is very different."

The Lord has been encouraging Joy with the language, however. She has covered most of the tenses, and as long as it's written down, she can work out what is being said. Her ability to read the symbols is good and she can sing along with the slower hymns and is learning their music style. Her speaking is okay and she is slowly making progress with the pronunciation. Her biggest challenge is with hearing the language. She is having trouble hearing and understanding the words she knows by sight. Pray that God will give her the ability needed to conquer this mountain.

Pray for the work to finish on the new children's home so they will soon be able to enjoy this new facility. Pray for the salvation of each of the children. Pray for much wisdom for those with the oversight of the home. Pray that the renewal papers for the home and church will come through, as well as Joy's work visa to allow her to stay in the country.

At present Nepal is a stable country, but there are those in the government who would like to make it a Hindu state and ban all other religions. Pray that God will keep the door open for the preaching of the gospel.

AFRICA

◆ Liberia

Monrovia—Joanne Greer

Please pray for peace and stability in Liberia following the presidential election which took place on October 10. It was an historic election, since this is the first time since the end of the civil war in 2003 that there will be a transition of power from one elected president to another. Things went smoothly on the 10th. It will take about two weeks for the results to be tallied. With twenty presidential candidates, it is quite likely that a run-off election in November will be necessary. Joanne says, "Keep us all in prayer for the next month or two! So far, the only problems we have experienced have been delays on the roads because of rallies at various party headquarters.... However, there has been a bit of violence in outlying areas, and some candidates are rumored to be saying already that they will not accept defeat, so we are really praying that things will remain calm."

Joanne and Rev. David DiCano are very thankful for all the prayer going up for Free Presbyterian Radio 92.5 FM, the new radio station operating from the mission compound in Duazon since April 2017. Mr. DiCano has been doing most of the work of gathering up a database of programs, boosting or compressing the audio when necessary, and slotting each day's programming into the software that runs the station. Joanne is learning to run the software so she can take care of the station if necessary. Of the eighteen hours of daily broadcasting, seven hours include the preaching of over forty different FPC ministers from the United Kingdom, United States, Canada, and Australia. Other programs include daily devotionals, Scripture readings, church history, hymn histories, dramatized biographies of famous Christians, children's programs, science programs, Q&A with Dr.

Alan Cairns, and programs that focus on a biblical view of the family, education, and current events.

At the moment, they are praying that the Lord will continue to provide the finances needed to run the station for eighteen hours a day. They start broadcasting at 5 a.m., which is when many Liberians wake up and turn on their radios, and shut down at 11 p.m., which is when most Liberians go to bed. Some small stations close down for a few hours each afternoon to save money, but the missionaries have been loath to do so for fear of losing their audience. If the Free Presbyterian station goes off the air, those who were listening will probably flick to another station and may not come back. Also, the *Let The Bible Speak* program on ELWA Radio (the large Christian station in Liberia) advertizes the new FP station at the end of each program every afternoon. Joanne says, "We fear listeners would hear the advert and check our station, only to find static."

Since April, therefore, they have been running the station (and therefore running the generator) six hours a day beyond the normal twelve hours for which fuel had been budgeted for the compound as a whole. The extra expense has been met so far by gifts for the radio work, but at this point, there is just no more money to run the extra hours. They are therefore facing the immediate possibility of having to shut down for several hours each day. Do pray that the Lord, who has provided for this station so marvelously already, will continue to provide what is needed.

Monrovia—David DiCano

Rev. David DiCano says that as the initial work of gathering programs for the radio station reaches completion, the next step has been to advertize. They've been doing this by giving out business cards and bumper stickers. Some of the church people have heard the station playing in taxis, others have heard the programs from houses in their communities, and one man even reported that a Pentecostal church was blaring it through its loud speaker a few Sundays ago! Each week a few visitors have come to church as a direct result of the new station, and they've had some listeners contact them by text message, such as this one received a few weeks ago from a Liberian soldier: "I'm gradually becoming a constant listener 2 ur inspiring radio Bible teaching and by d grace of God, I'm makin these teaching part of my every day's life."

They have been running the station eighteen hours a day, which is roughly six hours above the budget. A few extra gifts have allowed them to continue the eighteen hours,

but they are uncertain if they can continue.

This past Saturday an essential piece of hardware—a \$1000 interface—broke, probably from a lightning strike. They had to purchase another interface locally in order to get the signal out of the computer and into the mixer and transmitter. In the meantime, Mr. DiCano was able to re-route the signal through the earphone jack temporarily. They were unable to edit or cue up programs and the quality was not as good, but at least they were on air. Mr. DiCano says, "Our technician was out of town, so we called someone from a nearby Christian station to help us figure out the work around. I was rather discouraged about the whole thing happening until the technician arrived and said, 'My mother listens to your station every day, all day. She absolutely loves it! She can't believe there is a station like yours.'"

◆ Uganda

Nsaalu—Noreen McAfee

Noreen thanks God for His continued grace and help in the work at Emmanuel Christian School. She says the third term of the school year is passing very quickly and she asks us to especially remember the Senior Four and Primary Seven students, whose national examinations start on October 13 and November 2 respectively. She also asks us to pray that the Lord would guide these young people in their plans for the coming year.

Noreen says that the new children's play area caused much excitement at the start of term and she is thankful both to those who contributed and to those who constructed it. She says it was also good to renew fellowship with her pastor and some members of her home congregation in Northern Ireland who made up the work team.

The school needed some additional staff this term and Noreen thanks God for meeting that need and the great financial need required to run the school in such a poverty-stricken area. The Ulster Mission Board is currently planning various improvements to the school site and it is encouraging to see how the Lord has already begun to bring in the much-needed finance. But there is still a long way to go. Some of the improvements are urgently required as the school seeks to apply for a government license and, in due course, full registration. Noreen asks for wisdom and favor with the authorities as they submit their files for approval.

Charles, the young man who had the mental breakdown, is currently stabilized on medication and attending the hospital for

monthly reviews. He has improved but still needs much prayer.

Finally, pray for the work of Emmanuel Christian Church and Pastor Andrew, who has been preaching there since July. They are all looking forward to the arrival on November 3 of Dr. Nigel Campbell, who will be supplying the pulpit for the month of November, and their new missionary, Mr. Andy Foster.

◆ Kenya

Kapenguria—Margaret Russell

Margaret is very thankful for all the prayerful support during their election time. The general election of August 8 took place peacefully, but the opposition party challenged the result to the high court, resulting in an order to repeat the presidential poll within 60 days. The opposition party candidate pulled out of the rerun and tensions are even higher than they were. Margaret asks for special prayer for the nation at this time as the threat of chaos and violence continues. The prolonged election period has already taken its toll on the economy and every aspect of life is affected.

In the midst of this political turmoil, school national examinations are still to be held, for primary grades at the end of October and for secondary grades during November. The school year will end for all non-examination classes on October 24 and reopen in January 2018. Please pray that God will undertake for finalizing a school year and planning for a new one. Margaret covets specific and earnest prayer for their examination candidates that they will perform well for God's glory. Also, they need prayer in regard to the ongoing financial needs of the school.

Margaret is thankful for the manner in which their new principal has settled in and how the students have accepted him. Continue to pray much for him, his two deputies, and all the staff. As they come to end of the year, pray that God's Word, which has been taught for almost ten months to the students, will not return void. Pray particularly for the students who will leave the institution, that God will keep those who are saved in the ways of truth and bring those outside of Christ to Himself.

Margaret asks us to remember all the ongoing areas of ministries of the BCFC: the pastoral work, the preaching of the gospel in BCFC churches, and the spread of the Word through their bookshops. They stand in much need of the enablement and blessing of the Lord at this time.

The missionary team in Kenya will become even smaller with Kathy Walker's

leaving in the coming year. Much still needs to be done as God continues to open doors for the gospel. Pray that God will send workers to Kenya. They can certainly cry as the man of Macedonia did, "Come over and help us!"

Kakamega—Kathy Walker

Kathy praises the Lord for recent spiritual blessings. In spite of the fact that the main anchor store for the mall where the bookstore is located is in financial straits, and even though ongoing road construction has made access very difficult, the Lord continues to send people to the bookstore. A man visited recently and purchased a number of books from the Study Helps section. He is not a pastor, but a Christian serving the Lord in the business sector. He is based in Nairobi and saw the shop when he came into the mall to get a shave. He plans to return next month.

The Bible study is now back to regular attendance. Just this week saw new attendees and Kathy says it was a blessing to see most of them stay after the study to ask questions and read books. A young lady who months ago was asking questions about Rastafarianism has been back in. Pray for Lillian as she continues to search for truth. Pray that the Lord will win her heart for Himself.

Continue to pray for the church at Nyaporo. The women's meetings continue bi-weekly. Pray for Peter, who has been suffering from headaches for months now; medication isn't giving him much relief. Also pray for Gilbert, who recently lost his mother.

Kathy will be on vacation for a few weeks in November and is looking forward to being with family. The Lord was very merciful to her family during the recent hurricanes in Florida. A tree that was leaning towards her parents' home after the storm was quickly removed by a group of men from a church in Tennessee who had come to offer their help.

Finally, pray earnestly for more workers for Kenya, especially for the witness and ministry of the bookshop in Kakamega, as Kathy will be retiring in the upcoming year. The opportunities are many and the fields are white, but the workers are getting fewer and fewer. Kathy says, "How we long for God to move in hearts with a burden for His work in providing the literature and training of pastors and laymen for the cause of Christ in this land."

Kitale—Malcolm & Alison Patterson

The Pattersons report that Alison is keeping well but is still under medical supervision. She will have another procedure in early

January. Please continue to keep her in prayer.

They continue to prepare radio programs for use in Kenya. At present they are doing a series on animals that are mentioned in the Bible. Pray that the messages will touch the hearts of the people. Pray that the technical glitches will be kept to a minimum and that when they do occur, they will be resolved quickly. Pray that the Lord will guide as to how the radio ministry can be further advanced both for the encouragement of the pastors and people of the local church and for the effective presentation of the gospel to the wider community.

Kathy Walker has received more requests in the bookshop in Kakamega for the correspondence course. Pray that the Lord will give wisdom as to how to proceed with this. Remember in prayer also the pastors who are doing the homiletics course. These men have busy schedules, some with work in addition to their pastoral and preaching responsibilities.

The translation from English to Swahili of the *Meditations in Mark's Gospel* is almost complete. Pray that it may then be possible for it to be printed as a book. The Swahili publication will be useful for pastors as well as for a general readership. Many of those who do speak some English have difficulty translating accurately from English to Swahili and the church services conducted by the pastors are in Swahili. Finally, pray for the Pattersons as they continue to work on learning Swahili themselves.

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.