

Missionary Prayer Bulletin



February 2018

NORTH AMERICA

◆ Mexico

Mexico City—Jason & Danielle Boyle

The Boyles are thankful to God for allowing their church to celebrate its sixth anniversary on January 1. They are very grateful for God's goodness and faithfulness in preserving the church over the years. As all churches do at one time or another, theirs is going through a bit of a dry period right now. There is a lack of power in the prayer meeting, numbers are down, a few people have left, and many are sick. They say, "We know that these are normal things that a church goes through, and we are praying that God would use it for the spiritual growth of all in the church, that this period would be what it takes to bring many in our church to spiritual maturity. At the same time, we are seeing some tokens for good, signs of spiritual growth and steadfastness. Would you pray with us for these things as well?"

Some events coming up are the women's conference on March 3 with Lydia Bowman as the conference speaker. The Boyles also look forward to their son Caleb's dedication on March 4 performed by Derrick Bowman. Their youth camp will be held March 27–31. Please pray that all will be accompanied by God's blessing and favor. Pray especially for the young people, that they would be brought to the Lord in salvation or into closer fellowship with Him.

Caleb has now been with them for six weeks, and they are very thankful for him. Jason and Danielle say, "Caleb is a big 6 1/2 month old, has a pleasant temperament, and brings so much joy to our lives. We are just starting to meet with lawyers to get the legal process going. Please pray for God's provision throughout it all."

Please pray for these individuals: 1) Ita, a single lady with no nearby family; she is a new Christian and is struggling to grow and be consistent with Sunday attendance. 2) The

Olivares family, whose son was recently released from jail. The situation has been a difficult trial for the family and has caused them to struggle in their spiritual lives. Please pray for great growth, peace, and reconciliation. 3) Sergio and Maribel, who may be showing some signs of grace. 4) Leo, Elena, and Pepe, who need to be saved. 5) Daniela, a young lady who has recently backslid and is hard to contact.

Finally, please pray that if it is the Lord's will, they will be able to elect a couple of deacons this year.

Orizaba—Marcus & Jennifer Reyes

The Reyeses have started a new Bible study for the Nahuatl indigenous church (Omiquila) to prepare the men who preach for reading, understanding, and sharing the Scripture. The seven men in the class really need prayer. They struggle with basic reading and comprehension. Marcus is also teaching them how to make their messages Christ centered and to have application for godly living.

The women in the Orizaba church hosted a regional ladies' conference. Women came from ten different churches. It was a good opportunity to teach them about modesty and about keeping their hearts pure for Christ.

EUROPE

◆ Spain

Beas de Segura—Lyle & Heather Boyd

Lyle sends warm greetings from a snowy white, cold Spain. Although the weather has been persistently cold this winter, and his heating system has given a few problems, he is encouraged with what the Lord is doing in the midst.

On the first Sunday in February they had almost full attendance in spite of the snow fall that had some worried about road conditions to and from the church. Lyle says it was good to see so many listening to the Word of God along with the few newcomers who have been coming recently.

Every twelve days or so, Rafa drives a truck across Europe for his job. Please continue to pray that he can find some other type of work so he can stay in the area and bring his father along to the church services.

Lyle gives thanks to the Lord for three people who are currently doing a Bible course and who hope to join the church in the summer. Two of them are young women who live in a village close to Cortijos Nuevos. Lyle hopes to be able to get some more of the family connection to come along to the services in the near future. Pray that this would soon be a reality.

Please pray for a group of eight young people led by Rev. Andrew Patterson from Mourne Free Presbyterian Church. They hope to travel to Spain to spend a week of evangelism in the area at the end of March during the Easter period. Pray that the Lord would bless the tracts given out and also give the group a vision of the immense need of that idolatrous land.

Lyle was encouraged at the book table in Cortijos when a man approached him with a radio in his hand as the church's gospel message was being broadcasted. The man, who was no stranger to him, informed Lyle that he listens to the messages every day. Please continue to pray for the radio broadcasts.

Madrid—John & Noranna Hanna

The Hannas are very grateful to all who continue to pray for them and the Lord's work in Alcorcón and Toledo. As reported in their last prayer letter, they are in the process of trying to sell their church property in Alcorcón, with the aim of purchasing something more suitable. This project was approved by the church members in their annual meeting at the end of January. Please pray the Lord will give the needed wisdom to the end that all will be done to the glory of the Lord.

John says they had a visit from a family who define themselves as practicing Roman Catholics. They are very disillusioned with the R.C. church and found the Alcorcón

church on internet. They live an hour's drive from the church in a small town in the province of Guadalajara. A young couple with three small children, they say they are planning to come each week to the evening service. Pray that the Lord will work in their hearts and bring them to Himself. Over the past few years there has been a surprising response from the weekly webcasts. The Hannas thank the Lord for this means of reaching out not only in Spain, but around the world.

The work in Toledo continues slowly. This year the annual Reformed Ministers' Fraternal was held in the Toledo building. At the Tuesday evening meeting the building was officially inaugurated. They praise the Lord for a record attendance of just over sixty people. Please continue to pray for this new work that it will grow both numerically and spiritually.

◆ Czech Republic

Liberec—Milos & Martina Solc

In recent weeks, the Lord saved one of the little children in the Sunday school in Liberec. She expressed a desire to be saved and professed her faith in the Lord Jesus. Milos says, "May the Lord be merciful to this child and may her life demonstrate mighty evidence of her salvation."

Please pray for the father-in-law of Jane (one of the ladies in the church), who has for the first time come out to a couple of services in January. Jane has witnessed to him many times over the years, but it was not until now that he accepted the invitation to come to the Lord's house.

Around Christmas, the Solces were glad to see Lada and Tony, two of Milos's former university students who keep in touch. They visited in the Solc home and Milos was once again able to challenge them about the state of their souls. Continue to pray for these two young men and their salvation. Pray also for a young woman, Barbora, who visited them around the same time, whom they have known for many years. Some years ago she made a profession of faith, but all evidence is otherwise. The Lord gave a very good opportunity to speak spiritually with her as well.

In the second week of January, Milos was able to once again attend the Ministers' Week of Prayer in Ulster. This has always been a great blessing to him in the ministry in this far outpost of the denomination in the Czech Republic. While in Ulster, Milos was also able to visit a number of churches and bring the spiritual needs of the Czech Republic before the people.

The church's motto text for 2018 is from Psalm 74:22: "Arise, O God, plead Thine own cause." Milos says, "This is our prayer for the Lord's work in this country. Our only hope, and indeed the only hope of the Lord's people anywhere, is that the Lord would arise and plead His own cause. May we be ones that stand on the Lord's side in this age of great compromise and apostasy."

ASIA

◆ Nepal

Kathmandu—Wesley & Carol Graham

Rev. Wesley Graham reports that the new orphanage in Nepal is still in progress. It is hoped that the home, which has the potential to accommodate sixty children, will soon be open for use. Mr. Graham says, "While this is a big challenge financially, we are thankful to the Lord for His continued provision for the needs of the home and this truly demonstrates His faithfulness."

The Bible college session for men has recommenced after the Christmas holidays and will conclude in a few weeks. After this a number of women will begin their training. This year they will have a joint graduation service for the men and women, where previously they have had separate graduations. Pray for these young people, that the Lord will direct them. Some will be going back to their villages to work in the local church, while others will become involved in some aspect of full-time service.

The country of Nepal had elections at the end of last year. Pray that those who have been put into positions of power may grant liberty to the Christians to preach the gospel.

Kathmandu—Joy Gillespie

Joy thanks you for your continued prayerful support for the land of Nepal. Please remember the Bible students as they continue studying. She says the thirteen students who are there now are a really nice and friendly group. Since Joy returned from her Christmas break she has commenced teaching English three days a week with the students. As you can imagine, the group has a very wide range of abilities. Some know no English at all right up to a student who knows quite a bit and who acts as an interpreter. It is hoped that they will learn enough to want to continue studying English even after they finish the Bible college. There are only a few Bible commentary books in Nepalese, so learning to read English would be a great help in their ministry. Pray

that God will give these men a zeal to reach the lost for Christ.

Joy continues learning the Nepalese language and is progressing well. It is still difficult to hear and understand instantly what she is hearing, but bit by bit it is improving. Continue to pray that God will guide her in the language classes and give her opportunities to witness to her language teacher.

Please pray about Joy's need for a work visa. Her application is in the final stages of preparation and will be submitted in the next week or two, the Lord willing. Pray that there will be no problems and that it will pass quickly from official to official and be granted before the middle of May when Joy's visitor's visa will run out.

Pray for the salvation of the boys and girls in the children's home. Pray that they will all come to know Christ as their Saviour while they are young and that they will have a desire to serve Him. Pray for Paul Thapa's wife as she runs the home and has the great responsibility of looking after the thirty children. They all have problems and difficulties, among them the need to adjust to a new way of life separate from their families.

Remember the church congregations across Nepal. They are very far apart and have support only from one another. Christians are the minority and, especially in the countryside, many suffer persecution. Pray for those who are standing up for Christ that He will enable them to stand till the end.

AFRICA

◆ Liberia

Monrovia—Joanne Greer

Monday, January 22, when George Manneh Weah was sworn into office as the new president of Liberia, that nation experienced the first peaceful and democratic transition of power since 1944. Everyone is thankful that stability and security were maintained through the whole election process. Although the original results were contested, the dispute was settled peaceably in court. Keep praying for wisdom and for a God-fearing spirit for the new administration and for the citizens of Liberia.

Joanne is personally very thankful for your prayers over the holiday period as she took care of the radio station while Mr. DiCanio was on vacation. They had a couple of mechanical breakdowns on the compound during his absence, but nothing directly related to the station, and workmen were able to come quite quickly to fix the problems.

Mr. DiCanio brought back 10,000 business cards to advertise the station, and folks from the church have started taking some each week to share with their friends and neighbors. Joanne and Mr. DiCanio are also hoping to go out with the church people in the near future to take a card to every household in the communities within reach of the broadcast—or at least to start the process! Joanne says, “This job is bigger than it sounds, because there are no house numbers, few street names, and in many cases no streets connecting the houses.”

The children’s work has been busy over the last couple of months, with the usual year-end activities culminating with the Children’s Day Program on Christmas Eve. In November, Joanne held a first-aid workshop especially for the children’s workers, although several others from the church attended as well. The young people from the Paynesville church enjoyed a day of swimming and food at Duazon in early December, and on another Saturday they took seven children from the Bible Club on a field trip to the airport. The trip was a prize for getting the highest points for attendance, behavior, and memory work; the kids were thrilled to watch a plane landing and to tour the airport fire station, both of which were firsts for all of them.

Joanne closes her report with this story: “The dire state of many Liberian families was brought home to me again last night when I was leaving the church after our weekly Bible Club. Some of the children who had been in the meeting came running back to me to tell me that a six-year-old girl who sometimes attends the meetings had been sitting outside the church ‘drinking liquor.’ It transpired that this child’s mother makes and sells the liquor from her roadside shop, and her little daughter had gotten her hands on some of it. Nathan Barco and I took the girl home (she lives in the community right behind the church) to talk with her family. The thing that struck me most forcibly was that the mother seemed to be more concerned that the girl had embarrassed the family especially because ‘the church people found you’ with liquor than that she had been drinking liquor in the first place. Pray for this home and many others where there seems to be an entire absence of right and biblical thinking.”

Monrovia—David DiCanio

Rev. David DiCanio says he has been extremely busy since coming back to Liberia from his vacation in the States. The missionaries thank the Lord for those who gave

toward the new generator that they were able to purchase before Christmas. The machine was installed on January 18 and started running the radio station late that day. Although it has not run long enough to know the exact fuel savings, it is definitely using considerably less fuel.

The church in Paynesville is planning a Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) flight to Rivercess to visit the mission church there where Andrew Joe pastors. They are taking their regular prayer meeting crowd (five people) and six from Mr. DiCanio’s Sunday school class. He challenged his entire class of ten students to memorize the Shorter Catechism. He promised them if they learned questions 1–87, they would be included on the flight to Rivercess. They are competing with one another and most can say up to 87. They are going to recite a portion of their memory work to the church in Rivercess. Mr. DiCanio says, “This will be the first time any of the young people have flown, so it should be a very exciting experience for them. Of course I will GoPro [take video of] the entire thing.”

Let the Bible Speak continues to air on the large Christian station, ELWA, but only on five days rather than seven. They are uncertain whether they will continue the program on ELBC, but are trying to negotiate a better deal to air the program once on Sunday night. They appreciate all the support the Ulster mission board has given toward the radio ministry in Liberia.

The mission’s station, Free Presbyterian Radio, 92.5 FM, continues to broadcast eighteen hours a day. They start at 5 a.m. and sign off at 11 p.m. and are gaining more listeners. Martin Gbahn, the bookstore manager and Mr. DiCanio’s personal assistant, said that people regularly come into the bookstore to express their thanks for the station.

They recently started carrying Dr. John McKnight’s 30-minute radio program from Reformation Bible Church. It airs twice on Saturday and twice on Sunday. They also started airing the lectures from Geneva Reformed Seminary under a newly produced program called *Seminary of the Air*. To start with, the program will air every Saturday at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. On a recent Saturday they aired the first two lectures on Christology with Dr. Mark Allison. They’ve been advertising the program on ELWA, the local Christian station.

The tower climbers were there on February 5 to paint the tower. They also replaced one thinner guy wire that was rusting. They were also planning to put the antenna on the

proper brackets rather than mounting each bay directly to the tower.

Mr. DiCanio says they were thankful to sell the pickup truck for \$3,280, a very good price for the “very used vehicle.” Although the engine was in excellent condition, the body was rusting. They plan to sell the RAV4 as they continue to pray for a second reliable vehicle. If they can sell the RAV4 for a good price (about \$5,000), they will be about \$15,000 away from purchasing another \$40,000 Land Cruiser. In the meantime, Mr. DiCanio and Joanne Greer will share the one vehicle they have with hopes that the rest of the funds for the second one will come in soon.

◆ Uganda

Nsaalu—Noreen McAfee

Noreen thanks God for the opportunity to renew fellowship with family, friends, and her home church over the December/January holiday. She says the 50th Missionary Convention Weekend in Ballymoney was one of the highlights and she prays that God would yet call many laborers into His harvest field as a result of the meetings.

When Noreen returned to Uganda in mid-January, Rev. Jonathan and Mrs. Jayne Creane were already on the ground and assisting with the various meetings in the church. Noreen says they were a great blessing to both Andy Foster and herself, as well as to the church and school community at Emmanuel.

During February, Mr. Barry Stewart, an elder from the Magherafelt congregation, and his wife, Ruth, will be helping in the work. They will be joined, for part of the time, by a four-man team who will begin the construction of a new toilet and wash block. Please pray that all the traveling will go smoothly and that God will give safety and wisdom to Andy and the team as they undertake this project. Noreen says it is great to have the kitchen work completed; the new stoves are a great improvement on the previous facilities.

The Emmanuel school staff reported back on January 22 for preparation and registration of new students with classes commencing on January 29 for all. Noreen says they have been greatly encouraged by the number of children turning up to enroll. She says it is a wonderful privilege to teach so many the Word of God in what is predominantly a Muslim and Roman Catholic area. She asks us to pray for true conversions and growth in grace in each of their young hearts and lives. It was wonderful to see 95 children and young people at the first Sunday school meeting of the term.

Noreen also asks us to remember the church at Emmanuel. One young man professed faith recently. Noreen says it is good to see most of the regular attendees back and some of the school parents visiting in the services from time to time.

◆ Kenya

Kapenguria—Margaret Russell

Margaret writes of the great need for prayer for the Christian Academy at this time. The effects of the long political campaign of 2017 on the Kenyan economy are now hitting hard. Also, because of reforms in the ministry of education, the government is now offering free education for the first time. That has affected the enrollment in the academy. While they are very thankful to have 500 students, enrollment is down by fifteen percent, which of course affects the school's finances. Please pray that enrollment will pick up and that the Lord will continue to provide for them. She asks us to pray also for the daily ministry of the Word. She says there is a good spirit among the students this year. She thanks God for the continued contribution of the new principal and asks us to continue praying for him and all the staff.

Please also remember the Sunday school ministry of the BCFC. Annual examinations and parents' meetings will be held during March and April. Margaret values prayer for this special time in the ministry to the boys and girls of the BCFC and especially for the teachers who are ministering the Word of God each Lord's Day.

Please pray for Rev. Nathaniel Kendagor, that God will comfort him and his family circle at this time. Last June his mother passed away, and this past week his father went to be with the Lord. Both were active in the service of the Lord until prevented by age.

Margaret is thankful for the peace and stability that Kenya has known over the last two months even though there is still a lot of tension and resentment regarding the newly elected government. Please continue to pray for Kenya as a nation.

It is very hot and dusty right now and they are looking forward to the rains due in March. Pray that these will come as expected and needed.

Margaret hopes to go home to Ulster for a holiday during the month of March, and she values prayer for journeying mercies and for the work in general that she will leave behind.

She asks us to pray continually that God will raise up laborers for the harvest field in Kenya.

Kakamega—Kathy Walker

Kathy is thankful for a new year and for the promises of God to lead us and follow us with goodness and mercy. Already there have been challenges, but also blessings. The bookshop continues to serve those in the area as well as those from a distance. In spite of the closing of the anchor grocery store in the small mall where the bookstore is located, sales have increased some over last year. The current word is that the grocery store, which has been closed since the end of October, will reopen in March, which would be very good news. The bookstore is currently having a sale on used Bibles, and many of the young people from the local university are coming in to purchase them. Kathy says they have noticed that many of the young people who show the greatest interest in studying the Word of God come from the Seventh Day Adventist church. Pray that they will continue to feel welcome, and that the truths they learn will bring them to a true knowledge of the only hope of salvation—Christ alone. The Tuesday Bible study began again the second week in January and this past week saw eight in attendance. Pray for Josephine as she continues to learn more about the office end of the bookshop. Pray also that God will call someone to carry on the work in Western Kenya. Kathy will be returning to the United States in May of this year.

The second annual pastors' conference is being planned for the first week in May. Pray for those who will be coming from Northern Ireland to preach and for those who will be attending from the area. They are also looking forward to the visit of Rev. Gregory McCammon, who will be in Kenya for the month of April. Pray that his time there will be a real encouragement to the people.

The church in Nyaporo is raising funds to do some needed painting of the church. Attendance has remained steady and the women's Bible study continues twice monthly. The Sunday school sees between twenty and forty children each Lord's Day. Pray for Praxides and Francesca, the young ladies who teach these young ones. Pray also for Benson as he takes most of the Sunday morning services in the absence of a church pastor. This is in addition to his fulltime job teaching in a secondary school, where he also has opportunities to speak to the students. Pray for his

wife, Phoebe, as they are expecting a child, and there are some complications.

Kitale—Malcolm & Alison Patterson

Alison had a polypectomy in mid January and at a subsequent appointment with the surgeon he indicated that he was happy with what had been done and that the pathology report from the biopsies was good. A scan and another colonoscopy have now been scheduled for some time in April. Alison and Malcolm are thankful to the Lord for His goodness and continue to appreciate prayer.

Please pray for the Pattersons as they continue to prepare programs in Northern Ireland for broadcast in Kenya. Malcolm is conscious that he needs the Lord's help in this as much and more than for the pulpit ministry. Pray that the programs will not be looked upon as imports from a foreign source but as messages that are relevant and that touch the hearts of the people.

Malcolm has been able to improve the technical quality of the programs with a new laptop and a greater awareness of the intricacies of sound production. Pray that he will be able to maintain a consistent professional standard in the recording of the programs.

Please continue to pray for the pastors in the BCFC, that the Lord would be pleased to bless them in their labors for the Lord.

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

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