

Missionary Prayer Bulletin



June 2018

NORTH AMERICA

◆ Dominican Republic

Los Frailes—Ramón & Wendy Sosa

Ramón Sosa requests prayer for his family, that they would continue to be godly examples in their neighborhood. Pray especially for his twin daughters, Rachel and Esmirna, who are teenagers.

Pray that the Lord would provide for their financial needs and for their health. Ramón has recently been suffering some health problems but is grateful for the treatment he has received.

Pray for the Lord's blessing on the theological classes Ramón has been teaching to men who are coming out of charismatic churches. He says there has been some "spiritual resistance" to the class and some issues have been raised as a result.

A new family has been visiting the church; pray that they would join the work. Pray for the congregation, that they would preach the gospel faithfully, that the Lord would bring visitors to repentance and faith, and that the Christians would be strengthened and become mature in Christ.

◆ Mexico

Mexico City—Jason & Danielle Boyle

Rev. Jason Boyle is travelling quite a bit these days as he seeks to supervise several churches in Veracruz and Puebla and holds his monthly Bible study in the Toluca area two hours away. Please pray that he would be able to balance all his responsibilities well. Translation of some Geneva Reformed Seminary courses is progressing and is proving helpful to both Lalo Peña and Ramón Sosa.

Pray for the Mexico City congregation as numbers are a bit down. The Boyles thank the Lord that the three new deacons have stepped into their roles very well. They continue to pray that the Lord would prepare elders for the church.

The women's Bible study will start a new study at the beginning of June. Pray that they will see new ladies attend. The church is also gearing up for its annual vacation Bible school July 30 to August 3. Last year they had an overwhelming number of kids for their church meeting place, so they tried to find a larger place to hold it. They were unsuccessful, however, so this year they will have to limit the number of kids that can attend. It will be first come first served.

Orizaba—Marcus & Jennifer Reyes

The Reyeses are very thankful for the opportunity to serve in Orizaba, Veracruz. Certain men of Omiquila in the mountains have begun a discipleship program. Marcus has been teaching them biblical eldership every Monday night. They are studying in depth the doctrines of grace and soteriology. The purpose is not only for them to be grounded but also to help them preach clearly. Studying is very difficult for these men since they struggle to read, but they have been greatly encouraged by this class. They have also been motivated to evangelize more. At the same time, the women are studying Titus 2 with Jennifer. They have really enjoyed their time as they have had many questions answered on spiritual and practical matters. Please pray for the saints in Omiquila because in a place where there are no other believers, it is very difficult to find a believing spouse. Some of the young people have married unbelievers and have left despite much teaching on the subject.

Please pray that the Lord will provide a meeting place for the church in Orizaba. Right now, the Reyeses have 70 church members plus visitors meeting in their living room. On any given Sunday they also have some families sitting outside where they can barely hear what is being said. They need the Lord's guidance.

Marcus and Jennifer thank the Lord for a generous gift that will be used for a vehicle. They are always using their vehicle to take people to different places, often cramming

in as many as twenty. A larger vehicle be a tremendous blessing.

Cordoba, Veracruz—Lalo & Liz Peña

The church in Cordoba celebrated its fourth anniversary as a local church in May. The Peñas and the congregation rejoice in the Lord's blessing on them. They enjoyed having brethren from Marcus Reyes's church in Omiquila to celebrate with them.

Rev. Jason Boyle visited the church May 24–27 for a special meeting to talk about the Free Presbyterian Church distinctives. Lalo says, "The brethren were very happy and interested in all the matters treated by our brother Jason. Next day, on Sunday morning, we had a great time in Sunday school, the Lord's Supper, and the sermon with our brother Boyle. We want to thank God for His faithfulness and love towards us."

Please pray for unity among the brethren around the Word of God. Pray for the preaching of the gospel, for sanctification of the believers, and for strong marriages and families in the local church. Please pray for Lalo's family: his three sons and daughter (Lalo, Uriel, Gadiel, and Pamela), his wife, Elizabeth (who has been having health problems), and his 81-year-old mother, Cely.

Finally, Lalo asks us to pray for Mexico and the coming elections for president and the congress. He says Mexico is at risk because a leftist movement is very popular in the country, largely because of the bad government they have had since 2012, the corruption, the insecurity, and the bad economy. Lalo says, "May our good Lord have mercy. We are in danger of becoming a new Venezuela."

EUROPE

◆ Spain

Beas de Segura—Lyle & Heather Boyd

Rev. Lyle Boyd would like to thank all those who remembered a deacon of his congregation named José Antonio. José had a very seri-

ous operation that he did not think he would survive, but the Lord's hand was upon him, and he is now slowly recuperating at home and giving thanks to the Lord.

Please pray for the inauguration of a new church building in the village of Castellar, about thirty minutes away where a Cuban pastor is laboring for the Lord. The small town has never had a Protestant witness before. It was one of the towns where the young folk from Northern Ireland had distributed tracts and where contact was made with a lady from Venezuela. Pray for the upcoming special meeting and that the Lord would bless His Word.

Lyle has recently come back from a two-week trip to see the work of the Lord in Cuba. Since 1959 the state has refused to legalize any new church buildings, thus many little churches meet in the homes of believers. What was most striking to Lyle was that in spite of the poverty and decadence on the island, he found joy among the small groups of God's people with whom he had contact.

The church in the Sierra de Segura in Spain has been able to help and to encourage in a very small way some Cuban pastors and their families. With the coming of hurricane season, they hope to send more aid to be able to help repair the roof of a pastor's humble abode where meetings are held. Please pray that through the preaching of God's Word in that land many more would come to know Christ.

Madrid—John & Noranna Hanna

May 20 marked the completion of the first year of services in the mission outreach in the city of Toledo. Rev. John Hanna says there is only one way to sum up this first year: "The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad" (Psalm 126:3). He says they could never have imagined what the Lord had in store for them when they started the services.

The work commenced with a commitment from three families, the ministers, and two elders from the church in Alcorcón. Right from the beginning there were visitors practically every Lord's Day either in the morning or in the evening and sometimes at both services. But it was from the end of January that three other families began attending all the services regularly. A little later another family began coming consistently. Now each Lord's Day there is an attendance of 25 to 30 believers.

A Sabbath school has begun and a Bible class is held each Lord's Day afternoon before the evening service. One lady plays the piano at all the services. Her son is also a pianist.

John says, "Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised for His bountiful provisions."

John continues to preach each Lord's Day, once in Toledo and once in Alcorcón. The work in Alcorcón continues with its encouragements as well as its challenges. The church is still waiting on word back from a bank for a loan to relocate. Everything depends on getting the loan. Please pray that the Lord's will be done. Pray also for the unsaved who continue to attend, in particular for the salvation of Antonia, Laura, Esther, Lemuel, Luis, and Richard.

The Hannas thank all who faithfully pray for them and the Lord's works in Alcorcón and Toledo. Pray that both John and Noranna will continue to experience the Lord's abounding grace so they can continue to serve Him.

◆ Czech Republic

Liberec—Milos & Martina Solc

Milos Solc reports, "In April we were greatly blessed to have with us our good friend and pastor Dr. Larry Saunders from Toronto FPC. Joining him were the Kims, a dear couple also from our home church, who visited us last year. Their ministry in our midst was a true blessing and encouragement in the Lord's work. We had a special time of fellowship in our home with the people in the church on a Saturday and it was good to have the unsaved husband of our sister Jane with us. It was an opportunity for much discussion and for a time together with the Lord's people. On the Lord's Day, it was good to see at least some of the people that were invited to hear Pastor Saunders bring the Lord's Word. We were able to have a couple of my former university students with us, who later came for some additional fellowship to our home. We pray that the Lord would continue to use this separated witness for the extension of His Kingdom."

ASIA

◆ Nepal

Kathmandu—Wesley & Carol Graham

Rev. Wesley Graham reports that the new orphanage is nearing completion and it is hoped that it will open in the next few weeks. Prayer is valued for the home as it will accommodate sixty children.

Sarita, who is studying medicine in Bangladesh, is coming to the end of her second year and is doing her professional examina-

tions. Please pray that the Lord will give her the needed help and that she will be kept focused on her desire to become a medical missionary.

Pray also for the radio stations that broadcast the gospel to large areas of the country. These programs have been greatly used to spread the gospel and have seen quite a number of churches founded.

Kathmandu—Joy Gillespie

Joy Gillespie asks for continued prayer for the land of Nepal, that God will keep the door open to the preaching of the gospel. In recent weeks there has been some opposition to the Christian churches. Pray for God's hand of protection to be upon His people.

Continue to remember the 29 weekly radio broadcasts that cover most of the country with the gospel message. Pray that God will continue to use these broadcasts to reach many remote areas of Nepal with His message. Remember the churches that have been formed directly from the radio outreach. Pray that the Lord will keep the people close to His Word and separate from the world.

This past month Joy has been teaching English classes in the newly formed language school. Pray that God will help her to teach the language effectively and that the students will enjoy the classes. She continues to travel two days a week into the capital for Nepalese classes. Please pray that God would lead and guide in the next step of her language studies. Her present classes will be coming to an end soon. Pray for God to direct in the next part of her learning to speak Nepalese effectively.

AFRICA

◆ Liberia

Monrovia—Joanne Greer

Joanne Greer says the busy summer months are quickly approaching in the children's work in Paynesville. Vacation Bible school is scheduled for July 2-6 this year and she would really appreciate your prayers as they prepare. You may remember that last year they had between 300 and 400 children attend VBS when the team from Ballymena was there to help them. Joanne is very thankful that a young man from the FPC congregation in Kilkeel, Northern Ireland, is coming to help this year and that several of the young people from Paynesville will be helping as usual. However, they will still have to curtail the numbers to about 100. Pray that the Lord will sovereignly send those whose hearts He has

already prepared as the first 100 who show up for registration.

In preparation for the VBS and also for the Independence Day Games Day on July 26, they are holding a children's workers' training workshop on June 2 and June 9. Joanne is thankful that several of the young people have shown interest in learning more about teaching children.

Joanne says, "Thank you for your prayers regarding my upcoming furlough and the vacancy it will create here in the children's work. God has graciously raised up a couple to come out for three months, from September to December: Rev. and Mrs. Maurice Baxter. Mr. Baxter recently retired from the FPC congregation in Mulvin, Northern Ireland, and both he and his wife have many years of experience in children's work. Please pray for them both as they prepare to come."

Monrovia—David DiCanio

The radio station in Liberia continues to broadcast 18 hours a day with Rev. David DiCanio's rising at 4:30 a.m. to get the station on air by 5:00 a.m. The mission received its new Nautel VS1 1400 watt FM transmitter thanks to the generous gifts of the Lord's people and started broadcasting with the stronger and higher-quality signal on April 27, nearly one year to the day since the station's first broadcast.

The radio station, which is expected to give some news to the community, has signed a one-year contract with SRN News out of Washington, D.C. SRN does two minutes of world news, one minute of Christian news, and one minute of USA news hourly. Mr. DiCanio spent hours setting up the automation process to download and broadcast the news with Radiologik Scheduler software.

Liberian listeners are learning more about religious persecution around the world and getting a more fair and balanced view of the news—something they are not getting from BBC World Service which airs on 103.1 FM in Monrovia. SRN News and a few other Christian news programs that the station airs have helped to complement the daily gospel preaching of the more than seven hours of LTBS programs and over three hours of other preaching. Most preaching tends, of necessity, to mention in passing issues that most Liberians do not have the context to understand. These news programs are helping them build that context.

The station also airs over five hours of radio drama daily, mostly from Bob Jones University. Mr. DiCanio says he recognizes

the very young voices of Charlie Koelsch and Dave Mook.

Visitors continue to come into the church through the station, and Mr. DiCanio has tried to encourage them to continue to come. Some have continued but others seem to come only out of curiosity. The church was quite encouraged to see the room full again this past Sunday with about 70 attendees.

Mr. DiCanio is now teaching the high school and college age through the Ten Commandments with G. I. Williamson's study book on the Westminster Shorter Catechism. Several young men in that class seem to be doing very well and to have an interest in spiritual things. A number of the young men have taken an interest in reading the book *The Poverty of Nations* after an interview was aired with the author on the FPC station. The book, which is sold in the bookstore, looks at economics from a biblical perspective, a perspective many Liberians lack.

The missionaries appreciated a gift from Ulster to the bookstore to purchase theology books from Banner of Truth in Edinburgh (which gives an 80% discount to the store) and children's books from Christian Focus Publications. Mr. DiCanio notes that the Liberian economy is struggling and sales have been way down for most stores.

◆ Uganda

Nsaalu—Noreen McAfee

Noreen thanks all who continue to remember the work at Emmanuel in prayer. She says the conference in Lyantonde District went very well with almost 400 people attending. The Lord gave help to Rev. David Brown and Rev. David Park, and many commented that they had not heard that sort of preaching and teaching before. She says there is a great lack of sound teaching in Uganda generally.

Mr. Brown and Mr. Park also took various meetings at the Emmanuel Christian School and Church during their visit and six young people professed faith in Christ during that time. An older student has also come to Christ recently and Noreen praises God for these answers to prayer. She asks us to continue to pray that the believers at Emmanuel would be built up in their faith and that others would be added to the number.

The students are back at school following a short break in May. Noreen says they need the Lord to help them academically. Many have had a poor foundation and need much patience and help. She says they also need the Lord to protect them physically at

this time of year when there is much sickness around.

The Millers arrived back in Uganda at the end of April and have commenced language training. Noreen asks us to remember them as they learn the Luganda language and also settle back into the ministry.

Mr. Andrew Foster will be travelling to the Netherlands mid-July to make final preparations for his marriage to Hannah in August. Meanwhile, he is busy working on the apartment which will be their new home. Noreen asks us to pray for him and Hannah in these days.

Finally, Noreen requests prayer for Douglas and his family as they continue to struggle to adjust to life without Faridah. She says Douglas is lost in grief and really needs our prayers at this time.

◆ Kenya

Kapenguria—Margaret Russell

Margaret Russell is very pleased that God opened the door for Andrew Cheptoo to attend his graduation service at Geneva Reformed Seminary in Greenville, South Carolina. She is thankful to the Lord that Andrew was able to finish his course and also wants to express her appreciation to the seminary for all their assistance and also the folk in Faith FPC for welcoming Andrew and being so kind to him. Do pray for him, his wife, Mercy, and his two little boys that they will know much of the Lord's blessing and enablement as they continue in the work of God in Kenya. Also remember all the BCFC pastors with their wives and families as they labor in the gospel.

The work of the BCFC Christian Academy continues to know many challenges and needs our earnest prayers for the Lord's provision. This second term of the school year is very important, and much effort is being made by the teachers to see that the syllabus is completed in the candidate classes. As an institution they really need to see academic progress. Margaret says, "Our greater need is always to see the Lord move in hearts and lives of both students and staff alike and that the Lord will shower spiritual blessing upon the institution."

Margaret wants to retire from the work of the academy at the end of the year. She is truly seeking the Lord to raise up someone to take over her role. Please pray much that God will raise up the person of His choosing to fill this gap.

Margaret was thankful for the visit in May of Mission Board representatives. Their

ministry and counsel was much appreciated. At the end of July a group of ten young and older people from Ulster FPC will be in Kenya for two weeks. It is hoped that they will do some painting work at the academy. Margaret values prayer for the arrangements and preparation for this group. In the fall, another couple from Ulster is expected to come out to work for some months. Pray that God will provide health, safety, and His provision for all who will come over to help in the work of the Lord in Kenya.

Margaret was thankful for a successful pastors' conference held in Kakamega at the beginning of May. Before she left, Kathy Walker did much planning for that conference and Margaret says it certainly came to fruition. Over forty men attended the conference. Josephine, who had been assisting Kathy in the bookshop, carries on there on her own. Business is very slow right now due to the fact that other retailers have moved out of the mall and also because this time of the year is not generally good for business.

Kathy is much missed in the work in Kakamega and their thoughts and prayers are with her as she settles into life again in Orlando. They are praying for her father, that God will give great grace during this time of illness.

Pastor Cheptoo is now sharing the work in Nyaporo with Pastor Patrice from Nairobi. They go there on Sundays, if possible, take the prayer meeting in Nyaporo on Monday, and then lead the Bible study at the bookshop on Tuesdays. Do pray that God will bless their ministries, that lasting contacts will be made, and that there will be fruit in the work of God in that part of Western Kenya.

Certain parts of Kenya have known serious flooding and there have been some terrible tragedies due to dams bursting and rivers overflowing. Many have lost all of their belongings and, sadly, some of their family members. Continue to pray for the nation and for all affected, that the government will give sufficient and timely support to them.

Margaret thanks you sincerely for your prayerful support which has greatly strengthened her hand in the work of God in Kenya.

Kitale—Malcolm & Alison Patterson

The Pattersons received the good news on June 4 that all was well following Alison's colonoscopy. They are still waiting for the results from the scan she had three weeks ago. They appreciate continued prayer that the Lord would undertake and guide in the path that He has for them.

Malcolm continues to do the radio broadcasts for the two stations in Kenya that air the program each week: MMUST FM, which is based in Kakamega, and Imani Radio, which is based in Kitale. Malcolm has also commenced an online course on production and sound engineering which it is hoped will help with the technical side of producing the programs. The first assignment, which was of a practical nature, has been marked and Malcolm found the instructor's comments encouraging.

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

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