

# Missionary Prayer Bulletin



June 2019

## NORTH AMERICA

### ◆ Mexico

#### Mexico City—Jason & Danielle Boyle

In May the ladies were very blessed at their annual women's conference. Jennifer Reyes spoke on holiness, and many commented on its being a blessing. Also in May, Jason went to Veracruz and Puebla to visit the churches where Lalo and Jair pastor. He was able to give special Bible studies and meetings while there to supervise both works.

The Boyles are gearing up for a busy August. Their VBS will be July 29 to August 2. August 3–8 they will take a team to Tehuacán, Puebla, to do the same VBS there at a sister church. That church has never had a VBS before, and the Boyles are hoping to encourage the church and help them make new contacts in the area. This is a test run for both churches. The Mexico City church has never sent out a team before, and this church has never had a VBS before. Please pray for God's blessing on these efforts.

The FPCNA mission team will be in Mexico August 9–24. They will be distributing copies of "A New Beginning," newly translated into Spanish by Jason and Ezequiel Ocampo. They will also be leading an evangelistic English class in the church daily for one week. Please pray that through these efforts people will hear the gospel for the first time and that new people would start attending the church.

A young man named Juan Josué has just taken over the youth meetings. He and his wife have a great burden for the youth and are bringing new energy to the youth meetings. Please pray that God would bless and give much fruit.

Continue to pray that the Lord will meet the need for a new meeting place for the church. They are actively looking either to rent or buy and are trusting in the Lord's provision.

#### Orizaba—Marcus & Jennifer Reyes

Marcus Reyes is very thankful for the opportunity he and Jason Boyle had to speak to the young people at the annual youth camp in Mexico. Many testified that the Lord was working in their hearts. Many of the young people are not living holy lives and are not showing evidence of regeneration, and many have left the fellowship, so the study at camp was on the warning passages in Hebrews. Marcus says the Lord graciously spoke to the young people, encouraging them away from apostasy and to a life of discipleship. Please pray for these young people even as the people in the churches in Mexico are praying for the young people from the churches in the United States and Canada who will be going on the mission team to Mexico in August.

## EUROPE

### ◆ Spain

#### Madrid—John & Noranna Hanna

John Hanna says they have just celebrated the second anniversary of the work in Toledo. They are amazed at what the Lord has been doing in this short period of time. An average of 25 to 30 attend both services on the Lord's Day, with a few more at the midweek service. They have visitors almost every week. They now have internet in the building and hope to have their Sabbath Day services broadcast live. Please pray that the Lord will give much wisdom to Mark, the interim minister, and to Santiago and Jonathan, the interim elders. Pray also that the work will grow sufficiently to be officially constituted as a church.

John reports that the work on the building project in Alcorcón still hasn't started as they are waiting on building permission from the Town Hall. The approval has been held up due to local elections. The church people are concerned to see if the change of government will help or hinder things. Please pray urgently that the permission will be granted soon.

The work in Alcorcón continues to grow with a new family being received into membership and another lady who will soon come into membership on the public confession of her faith. The addition of this lady is a great personal encouragement to Rev. Angel Alvarez since the lady is his mother.

## AFRICA

### ◆ Liberia

#### Monrovia—David DiCanio

Rev. David DiCanio says they have been quite surprised at the number of visitors coming to the church as a result of the radio station. People have been calling the station's "comment line" and also texting to say how much help the preaching has been to them. Some have professed to having been saved through the messages.

Please pray that the Lord will give them wisdom as they seek to establish the church in Paynesville. They've had to consider additional seating not only because several of their cheaply-made plastic chairs have broken, but also because of an increase in numbers.

When the new political administration came to power, the missionaries were surprised to get a cease-and-desist notice for using 92.5 FM. They were relieved to discover it was a mix up and were very happy to find out that the mission's use of 92.5 MHz had been finalized. They had thought the station was still on test status, but the Liberia Telecommunications Authority recently billed them for 2017, 2018, and 2019 and, once the bill was paid, granted a license for the frequency.

Mr. DiCanio and Joanne Greer are looking forward to the visit of a mission team from Ulster in late July. Two from the team are coming early, one of whom, Jonathan Storey, Mr. DiCanio has been asked to mentor. Jonathan is a first-year student in the Whitefield College in Northern Ireland who has expressed a burden for foreign missions work. Pray that the Lord would lead him. He will be helping Joanne in the children's work also.

At Mr. DiCano's suggestion, the mission board found a temporary solution to the need for a second vehicle and purchased a Honda XR150L motorcycle for his use. Although riding it can be a challenge during the rainy season, it is saving him a lot of time.

Please pray regarding the political situation in Liberia. An element of the population has become increasingly dissatisfied with the new Liberian president and his administration. The exchange rate has been steadily rising—nearly one Liberian dollar per day against the United States dollar, and as a result, the price of basic commodities has risen sharply. Numerous groups have set June 7 as a day of protest. Because of a fear of violence and of a return to civil war, senior members of the United Nations and the African Union have been in town attempting to bring the parties together for talks. The missionaries are trying to stock up on food and are attempting to get additional diesel brought in so that they can continue to run the radio station. They have also been working on running the station remotely.

#### **Monrovia—Joanne Greer**

The missionaries in Liberia are constantly encouraged by the testimonies of listeners to Free Presbyterian Radio. Joanne got into a taxi a couple of weeks ago, and, without her saying anything, the driver switched the radio to the Free Presbyterian station, 92.5 FM. When Joanne asked the driver how he knew about the station, he said that he sees the banner outside the bookstore as he runs his taxi route. He named a few of the programs that he has listened to and said that he especially likes to hear the world news. Joanne discovered that he was a Roman Catholic trusting in his baptism to get him to heaven. He listened as she witnessed to him, and then he turned up in church the next Sunday! Please pray that this man will be saved.

Another listener came into the bookstore a few weeks ago when Joanne was working there. He is the pastor of a small independent church in the suburbs of Monrovia. He says he listens to the FP station constantly and encourages his congregation to do so also. The things he likes about 92.5 are that it is "very consistent, and conservative ... and does not deviate from the Bible." He said he was interested in learning more hymns to teach his people, so he and one of his elders attended the FP hymn singing practice the next Sunday after church.

Please pray for the team from the Northern Ireland FPC Youth Council that will be coming to help with VBS, which is scheduled for

July 29 through August 2. Joanne says they have been able to rent a nearby school to hold the VBS, which means that they can divide the children into two groups for teaching. This is an answer to prayer! Two of the eight team members are arriving early to get more experience on the mission field: Jonathan Storey on June 19 and Elizabeth Edwards on June 28. Please pray for safety for them as they travel and for the rest of the team, who will arrive on July 22.

### ◆ **Uganda**

#### **Nsaalu—Stephen & Ruth Miller**

The busy round of meetings at Emmanuel Church in Uganda continues. Stephen Miller says they are encouraged by those who faithfully attend and also help in the meetings. The Sunday school has recommenced after the school holidays with lessons continuing on the earthly life of the Lord Jesus.

The wedding of Master Israel and Madam Lilian took place on Saturday, May 11. Heavy rain delayed the arrival of the groom, but all went well in the end. Ulster Mission Board members Rev. Colin Mercer and Rev. David Brown, who were visiting Uganda on Mission Board business, participated in the service. Mr. Mercer conducted the marriage ceremony and Mr. Brown closed in prayer. It was a blessing to have a choir of young people from the church and school sing at the service. Please pray that Israel and Lilian will know God's blessing in their marriage. Sadly, Lilian's mother passed away one week after the wedding. Stephen says, "Bereavements are a common occurrence in the community, and it always reinforces the great need to preach the gospel to those not ready for eternity. We appreciate the prayers of God's people for us as we seek to hold forth the Word of life to the people of this community."

#### **Nsaalu—Noreen McAfee**

Noreen thanks all who continue to remember the work at Emmanuel Christian School in prayer. She says God has been faithful and they have seen many answers to prayer over the past few weeks.

In late April, Noreen and the Fosters were able to make a brief visit to Kenya to collect some of Noreen's personal effects. She says it was lovely to see some of the church family there and to renew fellowship with the missionaries.

Rev. Colin Mercer and Rev. David Brown from the Uganda Oversight Committee had a very profitable visit in May. They were able to recruit head teachers for both the primary

and secondary departments as well as a social worker, who will assist in the program for orphaned and vulnerable children. These new staff members have already taken up their duties, and Noreen asks us to pray that they would be a blessing in the work.

Another staff member, Mr. Salongo John, lost his father during the May holiday, and one of the seventh-grade students, Sarah, lost her mother a few days after school recommenced. Please remember all who are sorrowing at this time.

The rain has been accompanied by the usual increase in malaria, colds, and flu. Others are suffering from more serious conditions: Blessing (aged 8) is still having liver issues but is responding well to treatment; Daniella (aged 2½) was diagnosed with a brain tumor and has undergone surgery but will need a second procedure; Madam Betty (aged 40), from Pastor Joel's church, has been admitted to hospital for tests for cancer. Please pray for all these dear ones and their families.

Mrs. Hannah Foster's mother and sister came for a short visit at the end of May. Noreen says they were a real encouragement to the missionaries and staff. The children especially enjoyed the new games they brought.

Plans are well underway for the VBS team who arrive on June 29, God-willing. Please pray for dry weather for the team.

A pastors' conference and Jubilee Service will be held at Pastor Joel's church in Lyantonde July 3–6. Rev. David Park, Rev. David Brown, and Rev. Stephen Miller will be the main speakers. Rev. David McMillan and Mr. Alastair Hamilton are also expected in early July for the mission's annual general meeting and other meetings. They really need the Lord's help and blessing in every activity. Meanwhile, the regular school programs and renovation and repair work continue as usual.

### ◆ **Kenya**

#### **Kapenguria—Margaret Russell**

Margaret Russell continues to appreciate support at the throne of grace. God has answered prayer over the last few months. Everyone one—people and animals—were greatly relieved to see the rain that came at the end of April! Margaret says it is a joy to look over the green fields and to see the crops growing, giving hope for another harvest this year. This turns their hearts to the precious seed of the Word being planted on a daily basis through the book tables, bookshop, personal evangelism, at the agricultural show, and in the Academy. It is a reminder of how much they are dependent on the Lord to give the

increase and to grant a real harvest of souls in Kenya. Please continue to pray to that end.

Margaret thanks God for His help during the month of April when they had their special Sunday school programs. Over 1400 children received Sunday school prizes. About half of those are regular attenders. God undertook for the special parents' meetings that were held.

The Sunday school teachers have now embarked on another Sunday school year. Prayer is needed for this vital ministry. Please pray for Eunice, one of the BCFC Sunday school teachers, who has been diagnosed with esophageal cancer. Pray for the management of her illness as she faces surgery and possible chemotherapy.

The BCFC Academy is now almost halfway through the school year. Margaret asks for earnest prayer for all those who hold positions of responsibility, particularly the board of management and the principal along with all the teaching and ancillary staff. The Academy has many academic, financial, and spiritual needs but still remains a place of great opportunity in the lives of very many children and young people.

Personally, Margaret asks for prayer for God's guidance as she prepares for retirement, God willing, in 2020. Her great burden is that God will raise up someone to take over the areas of ministry which she is involved in, particularly the Sunday school ministry. Margaret is making progress with the Sunday school visual aid project which has been on hold for some time.

She also requests much prayer for her family in Ulster. The great need is for her unsaved sister, Sadie, and many of her nieces and nephews to be brought to Christ. The last six months has been a time of great sadness for the family, but they are knowing the comfort of the Lord. Please also pray for some in the family circle who are sick, especially her brother-in-law, Rev. Ian Harris, as he commences chemotherapy, mid-June.

#### **Kitale—Malcolm & Alison Patterson**

The Pattersons have finally realized their desire to have a witness at the Kakamega Agricultural Show. Since the mission has the bookshop in Kakamega and broadcasts on the university radio station there, they knew it would be a good opportunity to advertise both of those ministries. There were many obstacles to overcome with this venture, but the Lord provided all that was needed. Over the three days of the show, twenty men and women from the various churches and student fellowships assisted the Pattersons in distributing literature. Pray that there will be fruit from the literature that was given out.

In their last report the Pattersons mentioned a young man from the Bikeke congregation who was assisting Pastor Andrew in the book table ministry. He now has a book table of his own in the Kitale market. Two young ladies from Nyaporo also wish to be involved in such a ministry and Evangelist Patrice will assist them with this in the near future.

Patrice has continued ministering to the students from MMUST university who have attended the Tuesday Bible study and has commenced two fellowships in homes in different areas during the week. Also, a book club was commenced for students; they read and discussed *Studies in Psalm 119* by Dr. John Douglas.

Now that the students have completed their academic year and have left Kakamega, Patrice will be able to focus on other areas for ministry, in particular the opportunities in the schools and local prison. He continues his book table in Kakamega each week also.

Pastor Andrew continues to set up his book table in the Bikeke and Sibanga markets. He also has an opening in a local school where he takes the PPI (Program for Pastoral Instruction) class on Friday mornings and a service on Sunday morning.

Please pray for the radio ministry in Kenya. Malcolm continues to manage the radio broadcasts on Imani Radio and MMUST FM. In addition to Patrice and Andrew, Margaret and Alison have joined the team of speakers for the radio broadcasts. They hope to commence broadcasting on Labao Radio in the Kakamega region, which has a wider audience than MMUST, which just covers the town of Kakamega. When they begin with Labao FM, they will have coverage from Kitale to Kakamega and beyond since the Imani station reaches into Uganda.

They are presently awaiting a consignment of literature from Northern Ireland since all the literature they had has mostly been distributed. Please pray for its safe arrival in time for the Kitale Agricultural Show in September.

The vacation Bible schools in Bikeke and Nyaporo went well. Bikeke had around thirty children and Nyaporo up to sixty. Pastor Andrew's wife, Mercy, and Alison are already planning the next VBS; to accommodate more children in Bikeke they hope to rent facilities at a nearby primary school. Please pray for the vacation Bible schools to be held in Bikeke and Nyaporo in August.

Pray much for the needed registration for the churches and for the development of the congregations. Finally, pray for the Lord to raise up more laborers from Kenya and from the Free Presbyterian churches around the world.

## ASIA

### ◆ India

#### **Visak—Ravi & Neeta Pasupuleti**

Ravi requests prayer for their congregation, that the Lord would bind them together and give them opportunities and open doors for gospel ministry.

Please pray that Ravi and his wife would have wisdom as they make decisions related to their daughters' futures. Pray also for the salvation of Ravi's father and siblings.

### ◆ Nepal

#### **Kathmandu—Wesley & Carol Graham**

In April Rev. and Mrs. Wesley Graham travelled to Nepal for one of the twice yearly trips they make to assist in various aspects of the work.

The Nepal presbytery met in one of the remote churches outside the city of Kathmandu. Mr. Graham says it is good to see how the brethren under the leadership of Rev. Paul Thapa are adapting to organizing and running these meetings. Mr. Graham did not attend the presbytery meetings this time as it may have caused problems for the church if a foreigner were identified with the church. Over the last few years when foreign Christians were identified with local churches it sometimes brought the wrath of the authorities on the church.

Another new church building was opened in the Chitwan district, which is about five hours southwest of Kathmandu. It was packed to capacity. Mr. Graham performed the opening ceremony and preached at the service. Such buildings are essential for the churches as it can be very difficult during the monsoon season to meet in buildings of straw and bamboo.

The annual conference was held in the church building in Kathmandu with Rev. Andrew Patterson as the preacher. His subject was "The Fulfilling of Acts 1:8 in the life of the Early Church." Attendance was about 280 with ten one-hour sessions of preaching. Although everyone sits on the floor there is always good attention given to the Word.

At the conclusion of the conference a graduation service was held for four men who had completed the Bible college course. Following that the Nepal presbytery ordained three pastors and two ruling elders. It is encouraging to see the forward advance of the church in the ordination of these men. Please pray that more men will be called to pastor the churches as well as men to serve as elders.

Another matter of encouragement is the work of the blind evangelist, Punya. Punya has completed the first draft of converting the New Testament into the Braille language. This is an onerous task that requires someone to read the Bible to him. As he listens, he punches out the words in Braille in special paper. The next stage of the project involves the Bible's being read to him again and then a third time to make sure there are no mistakes. At present, Punya is looking for someone to read the Bible to him for the proofreading stage which will take six to eight months of reading five hours each day, five days a week. After this it will go out for printing. You can see how much work such a project requires, and this is just for the New Testament! The Old Testament will take much longer and will require real determination on Punya's part. Please pray for Punya that the Lord will give him the strength to carry out the work and that the Lord will send people to assist him.

Sarita, the young medical student, is coming to the end of her third year at college in Bangladesh. So far she has excelled in her studies, coming near the top of the class in all her examinations. She has another two years to do before qualifying as a doctor. Pray that Sarita may keep her focus on becoming a medical missionary and also that she will be upheld by the Lord in the Muslim environment of Bangladesh.

Please pray for the political situation in Nepal. A few weeks ago four Christians were arrested for supposedly attempting to convert people to Christianity. One of these was an American, who was deported, while the other three, two Indians and an Nepali, were subsequently released. These incidents occur now and again and are used to intimidate the believers. Great wisdom is required by the local Christians as they seek to win their fellow citizens with the gospel.

Mr. Graham says, "Carol and I would like to thank all who support us practically and prayerfully as we continue our work for the Lord's cause in Nepal. It is intended that over the next while we will be doing deputation meetings at home to promote the work of the children's home in Nepal."

#### **Kathmandu—Joy Gillespie**

Joy reports that the few past months have been very busy in Nepal in the English institute, with the ladies' Bible course, and the regular meetings. This past week nine ladies graduated from the ladies' Bible course. They were a "lovely group" who have now returned to their respective churches. Pray for these ladies

that God will use them to His glory in their towns and villages.

Continue to pray for the language Institute. Joy still needs to find a teacher. Churches in the area have been contacted, but sadly, no one has come forward who is interested in the job or at least interested in working alongside a missionary! Pray that God will lead them to the person of His choosing even if it is from outside the Christian community. Joy thanks God for the students He has brought to the. Pray that they will be encouraged in their classes and speak about the institute to their friends.

Since Joy is working in the institute every morning, she doesn't have as much time to spend in studying the Nepalese language. However, she says the Lord is helping her to hear the language which had been a great problem. She thanks God for His help in this matter. Continue to pray for the language studies that God will loose her tongue and help her to be bold to speak for Him.

Joy continues to teach weekly in the youth fellowship and at various women's and home meetings. Pray that God will bless His Word to the hearts of the hearers. This week she's traveling out of the valley for a ladies' conference. Pray that God will go before and protect and use His Word to encourage the ladies who attend.

Nepal is in a time of transition. Every person has the right to worship as he pleases according to the country's constitution. However, some in the government want to change that and make Nepal like India, a Hindi state, and therefore restrict religious freedom. The police are arresting Christians for holding meetings in their homes and then hours later releasing them without charge. This is causing a spirit of great fear among the believers. Pray for the Christians that they will stand firm in the face of growing persecution. Pray for Nepal that God will keep it open for the preaching of the gospel. Pray for the church leaders that God will make them fearless in the face of opposition, that they will be like the apostles Peter and John, who, when ordered not to speak of Christ said, "For we cannot but speak of the things which we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20). Let this be their testimony also.

## AUSTRALIA

#### **Perth, Western Australia—Philip & Cherith Gardiner**

Please pray for the VBS to be held in the church in Perth in July. In previous years they have had children come from outside

the church and look to the Lord to see others come this time around. Pray that the Lord would use the VBS to bring children into their weekly Bible club and even to make contact with new families.

Please continue to pray for the evangelistic Bible study Philip conducts in a public housing unit. There has been opposition to this work. Pray that he would see the Lord overruling in bringing others in under the sound of God's Word.

Also please pray for a monthly ladies' Bible study that Cherith conducts at the church. The next one is this coming Saturday, June 8. Pray that ladies would be built up in Christ.

Please pray for the continued witness each Saturday in the city center. They are also hoping to conduct an outreach at a large sporting event coming up in July.

Finally, please pray for spiritual growth in the lives of the young people. Philip says, "We long to see them truly converted, on fire for God, and delivered from apathy."

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

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