

Missionary Prayer Bulletin



October 2020

NORTH AMERICA

◆ Jamaica

Little London—Richard Craig & Randy Gunnings

Richard Craig and Randy Gunnings say that their nation is in need of prayer as the corona virus seems to be getting out of hand in Jamaica. In no time, the country has recorded over six thousand cases and over one hundred and twenty deaths. The elderly are restricted by law from going out except to attend church or to go to a medical center or supermarket.

Due to the government restrictions on the movement of people and the nightly curfew, the Little London work is limited to having only the morning Lord's Day service. They have had to discontinue the evening services including their prayer meeting which would normally be held on Wednesday night. Please pray that the Lord will keep His small flock there safe from this virus, but they say, "If it is His will [for us to get it], well, let His will be done."

Please pray for Richard as he is scheduled to have surgery done on both his eyes to remove pterygiums, which are affecting his vision. Because of the pandemic the surgery has been put off two times. Please pray that he will be able to have the surgery soon, that it will be successful, and that Richard will heal well. He asks, "Pray that the Lord will truly have His way in this for His own glory."

◆ Dominican Republic

Los Frailes—Ramón & Wendy Sosa

Ramón Sosa asks for prayer that the church in Santo Domingo will see revival. Pray that they will see souls saved because of a correct exposition of the Word of God. Pray for spiritual maturity for the brothers of the church. Pray for growth in the knowledge and grace of God for those who regularly attend church. On a recent Sunday a sister who hadn't been

there for six months returned to meet in person with tears in her eyes.

Please pray for financial provision for Ramón as pastor, as well as for some other men in the church who are out of work.

Please pray for Ramón's health. He has to return to the physiatrist for a new general evaluation because his back pain has returned.

Please continue to pray for the preschool education program (PEPE). They have been trying to run it over the internet, but it hasn't been working well because many parents find it difficult to supervise their children in classes at home. The Sosas are asking the Lord for direction as to whether they should continue with the virtual classes or stop the program for this year until the Dominican government allows them to have face-to-face classes again.

Wendy has been able to maintain a nursery. She is caring for six children from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday. Please pray for the good care of these children and that the Lord will open doors for the Sosas to expose their families to the gospel.

◆ Mexico

Mexico City—Jason & Danielle Boyle

Rev. Jason Boyle says they reflected on Psalm 30 in a recent Sunday morning service. He says the Lord has taught many in the church lately that God's voice is heard clearest in affliction, and that we see God's beauty clearest when being lifted out of affliction. This was a precious Psalm to them as many are still very much affected by COVID-19. Many friends and family members have contracted the illness.

Amidst the trials of the pandemic and its effects on many people's work situations, they have had a season of blessing in the church services. They have had a good amount of visitors—family members of people in the church, as well as new families. They have had blessed times of prayer. Five new people were received into membership last month, and still others are preparing for membership.

They currently have two identical morning services which are at full capacity (taking the social distancing measures into consideration). They continue to have their Sunday afternoon service and Wednesday night services online. They have no plans at the moment for starting up Sunday school or Sunday meals again, but hope they can do it soon. Because the two morning services are full, they are looking at putting a television screen in the kitchen to livestream the service in there as an overflow option. They already use a television for livestreaming in the nursery, which is used in both services. Please continue to pray with them that the Lord would bring the funds together for the purchase of the property that is available nearby so they can have more room.

The Boyles hope to begin a Bible study on the far side of Mexico City. The short-term goal is that it would serve the purpose of fellowship among those who travel one and a half to two hours to the church and who cannot attend midweek meetings. There are ten to twelve people who would attend from the church and, Lord willing, who would invite more along with them. The long-term goal is that it might turn into a church plant.

The church recently had some families attend its services via Zoom from a neighboring city called Toluca, which is located about 45 minutes away from Mexico City. They are in prayer about their future with the Mexico City church and the Free Presbyterian denomination. One family has expressed an interest in having an FPC church plant in Toluca.

A theme in the church services lately has been that of a ripe harvest and a lack of laborers. Please do pray with them that God would see fit to call and equip men for the work as there are many opportunities of service in Mexico. Jason says, "We don't know if the Lord might see fit to call national men, or men from abroad, or both. All we know is that there is much work to be done."

For a few years now they have needed to get the process started for becoming a legal religious association in Mexico, but

EUROPE

◆ Spain

Madrid—*John & Noranna Hanna*

Unfortunately Jason has not had time to sort through the legalities of the process. Please pray that he can find the right person to take on the project and see it to completion. This will be the start needed for a Latin American Free Presbyterian denomination. The pastors of the six interested churches continue to meet regularly for study and prayer.

The Boyles say, “Thank you for your prayers for our small work in this part of God’s vineyard. We are encouraged to know that you stand with us and behind us, as you lift up prayers on our behalf.”

Please continue to pray earnestly for the Boyles as they seek to finalize the adoption of their three-month-old son Jonathan. The judge assigned to their case cancelled the hearing that had been set for September 30th. Some legal obstacles have to be taken care of and then it may take a couple of months to get a new court date. Please pray for favor with the judge and that the Lord will intervene so that Jonathan’s adoption will be finalized soon.

Cordoba—*Lalo & Liz Peña*

Lalo Peña says they continue with their normal Sunday services in Cordoba. They just restarted their Sunday school which had been suspended since March. They are studying the Westminster Confession of Faith. Lalo says, “Please pray that good spirits will be maintained among the brethren for the diligent study of this precious heritage that the Lord’s providence has given us.”

Lalo recently had the privilege of preaching the gospel for a program that was broadcast in the Cordoba region and its surroundings. Pray that God will save His chosen ones and allow new believers to join the congregation.

Please pray for the church. Due to the pandemic, two elderly brothers have not been attending and the church has not been able to make contact with them. Pray that the Lord will bring them back soon.

Lalo requests prayer that the Lord will keep him healthy and strong to carry out his work and business activities. The economic situation looks very complicated in Mexico for the next few months and even years because of the political situation resulting from having a socialist government.

Please pray for Lalo’s family, especially for the safe arrival of his granddaughter at the beginning of November and for the health of his daughter-in-law Carolina.

The Lord willing, the Peñas will visit the United States at the end of October. Please pray for a safe trip and for the Lord’s blessing on their fellowship with God’s people.

The Hannas give thanks for the prayers of God’s people. John says they are urgently needed as the pandemic continues to increase daily so that Spain is now the worst affected country in Europe. They are thankful to the Lord that they are still able to meet as a church on the Lord’s Day. There are several in the church who have had the virus, but thankfully they are recovering well. Mark Witte, the minister in the church in Toledo, along with his family, had the virus; they are also recovered, praise the Lord.

The number attending the Sabbath services is greatly decreased. Many of the elderly people, who have other medical problems, are not attending and others who are frontline workers—nurses, doctors, etc.—are not attending either. The prayer meetings continue by means of Zoom and John is encouraged by the number who attend.

Despite the difficulties the Lord is blessing. Three new people are attending the Sabbath services, one an unsaved young woman. Last Sabbath Day a young man who spent last year in Vancouver, Canada, and who attended the Free Presbyterian church there, requested to be baptized and to become a communicant member of the church. Pray that this step will be a challenge to the other young people to follow his example.

John continues to work mornings in the basement of the church building. The work is progressing slowly but surely. The building still needs to be painted and other minor things need to be done. They need approximately 10,000€ (not quite \$12,000 US) to be able to complete the work. Please pray that the Lord will continue to meet their financial needs.

Czech Republic—*Milos & Martina Solc*

Milos Solc says that a highlight in August was the baptism of two souls: the Solces’ son Caleb and a woman that the Lord saved over two years ago, Jarmila Svobodova, the mother of three little girls, ages one to seven. The baptism was outside and attended by unsaved family members along with some visitors. After the service everyone went to the Solces’ home, and they were able to get to know a number of new people. One young family later came to the church’s midweek meeting.

On a sad note, about a month after attending his daughter’s baptism, Jarmila’s father

died. He was an alcoholic whose life was completely wasted with riotous living. Milos and Martina visited him in the hospital as he was dying. Even though he had an oxygen mask on and could hardly utter a word, he was very cognizant. As Milos was pointing him to Christ and praying for him, there was a positive response that at least gave them some hope that he trusted in Christ at the last. He passed into eternity that same night.

At the end of the summer, the Solces invited the boy that came to the children’s day camp from the local school, for the beginning of the new Sunday school year. He came, and they were able to meet his parents and speak with them of the things of God. The Solces are thankful to the Lord for every such open door to minister to the people in their community.

Please continue to pray for new open doors into homes through the local school where Martina and Milos are involved. The school year has begun, and already there has been opportunity to minister to several new people. Another boy came to the Sunday school just a couple of weeks ago. They drove him home after the service, met his mother, and Milos was able to witness to her. Milos says, “There is such need in this spiritually devastated land and in this community where the Lord has placed us. Please pray that the Lord’s Word would penetrate the hardened hearts of the Czech people.”

In the last several weeks the number of cases of COVID-19 has drastically increased in the Czech Republic and many restrictions are coming back. What the next weeks will bring is yet to be seen, and the Solces leave this matter before the Lord, trusting in His protection.

AFRICA

◆ Liberia

Monrovia—*David DiCanio*

Rev. David DiCanio says they have been encouraged at the increased numbers at church from the radio station. They have had so many people that they have been forced to divide the church into two separate services each Sunday, one at 9 a.m. and another at 11 a.m. with about forty in each service.

Dave has been unable to preach for about a month now after developing symptoms of COVID-19. He and Joanne Greer had to isolate after they both came down with symptoms. Dave is over the worst of it but is still very tired and unable to do much. He attended church on October 4th for the first time since becoming sick.

Monrovia—Joanne Greer

Joanne Greer has enjoyed meeting with the children again in the reading and Bible clubs for the past couple of months. In the Bible club they have resumed the series on “Last Things” that Joanne had started way back in January. She was surprised and pleased to discover that the kids still remembered some of what they had been taught back then. They are also still working on memorizing Psalm 91, which Joanne had asked some church families to teach their children during the lockdown period. One new family that started attending the church after listening to the radio station has sent their children along to Bible Club in the past few weeks.

Joanne says this has certainly been a year of stops and starts in the children’s work! Just a few weeks after restarting the children’s activities, she had to stop again and isolate for two weeks due to having several symptoms of COVID-19. Mr. DiCanio developed some symptoms a few days later and also went into self-isolation. Although they didn’t get tested for COVID, they both tested negative for malaria and were advised by several doctors that they most likely had “the virus.” Thankfully, Joanne had only mild symptoms, and, although Mr. DiCanio’s symptoms were more severe, he is well on the way to recovery now and is out of isolation. The missionaries are thankful that no one in the church or on the compound appears to have contracted it. Very little testing is happening in Liberia at the moment, although Joanne is told by doctors in the hospital where she volunteers that they are regularly seeing cases of probable COVID-19, some of which have been fatal.

They are, of course, still taking precautions at church, holding two church services so they can social distance and asking everyone to wear masks indoors. Like many, they long for the day when they can safely meet together without these restrictions and go back to their normal avenues of ministry.

◆ Uganda**Nsaalu—Noreen McAfee**

Noreen McAfee thanks us for our continued prayers during the COVID-19 lockdown. While the number of confirmed cases continues to rise slowly in Uganda, all are conscious that the country has been spared the worst of the pandemic.

Uganda’s president recently approved the reopening of the international airport and land borders. Church services have also been allowed to resume with up to seventy attendees and schools have been told to prepare

to re-open on October 15 for the students in examination classes.

Noreen says it will be good to see people back in God’s house and some students back in school. Others will continue on the home-learning program. Please pray that all will be kept safe and healthy and that God would give wisdom and grace as they seek to manage all the various control measures that have been outlined by the government.

Ministers from Northern Ireland will be bringing God’s Word by video-link each Lord’s Day. Please pray that it would come with freshness and power to the souls of the people and that many would be ready to receive Christ as Saviour and to really go through with God.

Noreen also asks us to remember Madam Joyce and her family following the sudden passing of little Daniela. Daniela had a complicated brain tumor and had undergone surgery and radiotherapy over the past eighteen months. Her mother had spent many weeks with her in hospital and is understandably both exhausted and heartbroken.

On a happier note, Noreen thanks us for praying for Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Foster, who are now back in Northern Ireland preparing for deputation meetings and looking forward to the birth of their first child. Pray that all would go well for them and that they would be kept by the power of God.

Finally, Noreen asks us to continue praying for their work permits which have not yet come through. There seems to be a backlog in the Immigration Department, and they keep saying, “Maybe next week, maybe next week!”

◆ Kenya**Margaret Russell**

Margaret Russell reports that restrictions in Kenya due to the pandemic have been relaxed somewhat and this has allowed a further opening up of the work of the Lord over the past two months. Cases of COVID-19 appear to have reached their peak. What is concerning is that the virus is spreading in the upcountry counties. Kitale (Trans Nzoia) County is one such county where there appears to be three clusters with increasing cases. Primary and secondary schools remain closed but colleges and universities are reporting back this month. Margaret is thankful for answered prayer for the country in how they seem to have managed the pandemic thus far and asks for prayer for God’s hand of protection to be upon those who are laboring in the gospel in Kenya.

Incessant rain continues in Kenya with continued destruction of crops and property

in some areas but not on the same scale as earlier in the year. In some areas they are having repeated downpours of hailstones which take quite a toll on tropical crops!

The radio and bookshop ministries continue in Kitale and Kakamega. Pray that during very difficult economic times in Kenya God will continue to bless the preaching and distribution of His Word. During the pandemic a new outreach work has begun near the border of West Pokot and Marakwet counties; please pray for God to work in hearts in that area.

Margaret was encouraged to see the distribution of the Sunday school prizes and the opening up of the Sunday school work in many of the local churches in the BCFC and GBC. Please pray much for this ministry and also for the teenagers and youth of these churches as they have been at home from school for over six months. Being idle is not a good thing for youth and there are many temptations and much allurements for them to get involved in the things of the world.

There are no missionaries on the ground in Kenya at present, but Margaret asks for prayer for the Kenyan pastors, elders, and Sunday school teachers who labor every week in the gospel. Through them the work of God is going on and the seed of the gospel is being sown on a regular basis. Pray for fruit that will remain.

Margaret has been able to continue with mission administration work in Kenya from Northern Ireland and is thankful that the electronic platforms that she is using to do this have worked well thus far. On a personal note she asks for prayer as she needs further surgery on her arm that sustained a fracture in January this year. She had surgery at the time to insert a plate to reduce and repair it. She was recently disappointed when she was told that the fracture had not healed. She is scheduled for surgery on October 12. Please pray that the surgery will go ahead as planned and that good healing will take place this time.

ASIA**◆ Nepal****Kathmandu—Joy Gillespie**

Joy Gillespie asks us to continue to pray for the work of God in the land of Nepal. As a result of the COVID-19 restrictions many people have not been able to sell their vegetables in the markets. This has caused much heartache as rents and mortgages still need to be paid. Travel to and from Kathmandu is restricted because of the high infection rates in the city and that means it is difficult for

fresh produce to get in. Joy lives in the next city from Kathmandu so is able to get fresh produce easily; however, her friends in the capital say it is hard to find fresh fruit and vegetables and that when they do find them, they are very expensive.

Schools and other teaching establishments are still closed to students but some are offering online classes, but no graduations or final exams are allowed. The students are left in limbo until the schools and universities are able to reopen. Joy has been able to get a few English classes online but really needs more. Pray that God will give her acceptance among the people.

All churches are also closed as people cannot meet in big crowds; groups are limited to around six people. The lack of fellowship is causing spiritual problems for the congregations. In the city they can do Zoom meetings and that has gone well, but in most villages the internet is poor and so Zoom meetings are not an option. Please pray that God will bless and draw near to the members at this time of separation, that He will encourage them and enable them to be encouragers to the wider neighborhood.

Joy is still writing for the local paper. Some twenty-five people communicate regularly with her about the articles, which is very encouraging. Pray that God will use the articles to create an interest and curiosity about God but most importantly that they will be used of God to the saving of souls in Nepal.

Pray for Nepal and India as persecution of Christians is on the rise. Pray that God will keep His people safe and faithful right to the end. The people of Nepal are very fearful of the virus because they do not know the God who is in control of all things. Pray that the light of the gospel will shine forth in these dark days.

◆ **South Korea**

Seoul—Seongkyu & Sooyoun Lee

The members of the Free Presbyterian church in Korea pray that all the members of the Free Presbyterian Church in the world will be healthy by the grace of God. They are deeply saddened because the church in South Korea is again unable to worship together due to the rapid increase in the number of COVID-19 infections since August. Because of strong government control, most churches are worshipping online, which is a threat to the religious life of the members.

The situation with regard to restrictions because of COVID-19 in South Korea is very

complicated. Some suggest that Protestant churches have been singled out with tougher restrictions because the Protestant churches are conservative and some of them have been actively participating in campaigns against the center-left government (Buddhist and Roman Catholic churches have not had the same restrictions).

At the same time, while many Protestant churches have been careful to maintain social distancing and to comply with the health rules put in place by the government, others have flouted them and have been the epicenters of large infections. Now it appears that all are suffering because of the folly of a few and some fear that the government may be taking advantage of the situation to bring the churches under increasing control going forward.

Seongkyu believes the situation is a warning from God to the church because the Korean church is “in a secular and compromising state of faith.” He says the stance it has taken is not biblical. The continued presence of COVID-19 infections in Protestant churches has been the reason the government has once again restricted meetings, and the churches cannot deny their responsibility. The churches that flouted the health rules put many at risk and have caused those outside the church to think badly of it. Please pray that the Korean church will behave in a godly manner with a holy and biblical attitude and that it will be able to restore its exemplary testimony in society.

The Free Presbyterian church in Seoul has moved to a new, larger place of worship. Considering that rents are high in the area, Seongkyu thanks God for guiding them to a space their church can afford. Because they cannot worship God together in person, they are broadcasting the online worship services on YouTube. During the week they hold prayer meetings and reading meetings together by Zoom. There are some conveniences that online gatherings bring, but the church recognizes that it is absolutely necessary for the members to meet, socialize, and worship God in whatever way they can. Seongkyu says, “I pray that God will look after our situation so that we can restore full worship and meetings.”

AUSTRALIA

Perth, Western Australia—Philip & Cherith Gardiner

Philip Gardiner requests prayer for their outreach which has recommenced in the city center and for the WhatsApp meetings he is having with some folks in Pakistan. Pray also for visitors to come into the church meetings, especially the unconverted, and for the salvation and spiritual progress of the children and young people.

Brethren, pray for us.
1 THESSALONIANS 5:25

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.