

Missionary Prayer Bulletin



August 2013

NORTH AMERICA

◆ Jamaica

Little London

The work in Jamaica is progressing well with the majority of the duties taken by Richard Craig during the summer. Andrae Lyons is visiting family in the United States, and Randy Gunnings has been out of commission due to back problems. Please pray that Randy will soon be back on his feet.

Mrs. Lorainn Morris arrived in Toronto in early July and has been attending the FPC church there. She is trying to emigrate to Canada and would appreciate your prayers for the will of God to be done in her life. Since the death of her husband, Brian, she has not felt safe and desires to give her children a fresh start in a new land. It has been difficult for the family every day to walk by Brian's grave in their front yard.

The Toronto church has prepared a skid of theological books to be shipped soon for use in the book ministry in Jamaica. Pray that this literature will get into the hands of the people and be used of God both in salvation and edification. Continue to pray that God will yet do great things in Jamaica.

◆ Mexico

Mexico City—Jason & Danielle Boyle

Jason and Danielle say that the people from their church who went to camp with the FPC young people in Pennsylvania came back happy and with many stories. They felt very blessed to be able to go and to meet new friends and are eagerly awaiting next year.

July 21 marked three years for the Boyles in Mexico. They hope and pray that God gives them many more years

servicing Him there. They are rejoicing in answers to prayer in people's lives and are glad to report that attendance has been good on Sundays and Wednesdays. One family has visited as a result of the vacation Bible school. Please pray for great wisdom for the Boyles as they counsel families with various problems and as they give the gospel to different contacts.

Please pray for Mari and Rodolfo, who are new Christians. Mari was recently diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer that has already spread to other organs. Jason says she has been a great testimony to the rest of the church as she demonstrates peace, contentment, and joy. She is also a testimony to her Catholic family. One sister told her, "Keep going to that congregation because you are totally changed!" The Boyles say, "We're not sure what the future holds for Mari, but please pray for her and her husband, as he is having a harder time. They will soon be baptized and we hope to give a greater witness to her family when they come to see the baptism."

They have another youth sports day coming up soon. The last time 85 young people representing five different churches attended. Pray that more friends of those who came last time will come this time. The event will not only be an opportunity for Christian young folks to have fellowship but there will be an evangelistic message as well.

They have had an increase in the number of children in the church which has proved a blessing as well as a challenge. It is a challenge because of the layout of the church building and the lack of able helpers, but it is obviously a blessing since it means they are able to reach more families with the gospel. Pray for Danielle as she seeks to manage the kids and tries to work out a system.

They plan to have another baptism service soon at which four more people will

be baptized. The Boyles praise the Lord for His continued work in people's hearts.

Please continue to pray for the salvation of Yadira, Rafa, Charlie, Vero, Chava, Ashanti, David, Alejandra, Yun, Marco, Señora Nieto, Betzael, Alfonso, and Arturo. Pray also for the regular meetings and studies: Sunday and Wednesday meetings, the married couple's class, the Bible study with Raul and Eva, the Bible study with Mari and Rodolfo, the theology study with Hugo and Nacho, and marriage counseling.

EUROPE

◆ Ireland

Colin & Olive Maxwell

Colin says that no one can complain about the British weather this year because there have been many hot and sunny days. The better-than-usual weather has enabled him to evangelize at his usual summer haunts. The only exception was in Galway during horse-racing week. He was able to work in the busy center for only one day because torrential rain fell for the other two days; it was a great disappointment. However, the Word of God is being preached on the streets of Dublin city center. Colin says that in between preaching, he usually plays recordings of the Bible over the open air equipment, usually from the latter part of the gospels.

He had a beneficial trip to Knock Shrine, where he had coffee with a very zealous Monsignor from New Jersey. The man tried his hardest to evangelize Colin into the Church of Rome, and Colin tried his hardest to get him into Christ! Colin intended to return to Knock again soon. The work of the Consider Christ campaign is still moving forward with its monthly meeting in Athlone and efforts to evangelize in fresh areas.

Colin says his family is doing well, although Olive's sister was diagnosed recently with breast cancer and needed surgery. He says, "It is a potent reminder that our times are in His hands."

◆ Spain

Madrid—*John & Noranna Hanna*

The Hannas write from North Ireland where they are enjoying a break. They express their gratitude for the prayers of the Lord's people for the work in Madrid, Miranda, and Bilbao.

The work in Alcorcón continues to encourage, with unsaved attending the services. Pray especially for Antonia, Carlos, and Alberto. They continue to show interest and attend faithfully every Lord's Day morning. Last month the Alcorcón church mourned the loss of its oldest member. Carmen was 101 in June and has finally gone to be with her Saviour. Her burial was a good opportunity to preach the gospel to all her family and friends.

The work in Bilbao and Miranda is knowing much of the Lord's blessing, with souls being saved and new members being added to the church. Please continue to pray for Jordi and his family and the work. Please also pray for the annual family camp the last week of August. It is always a good opportunity to enjoy fellowship with other believers and to preach the gospel to the unsaved who attend.

◆ Czech Republic

Liberec—*Milos & Martina Solc*

Milos writes that in addition to rejoicing in the salvation of Dr. Jane Linhartova, they thank the Lord that another young woman, Pavlina Slesingrova, was saved near the end of June. Pavlina was one of the first students the Solces ministered to in their home some four and a half years ago. After being away for over a year, she visited the church and the Solc family, spending about two days with them. She was greatly affected by Jane's testimony, and it was their joy to lead her to the Lord. Milos says, "Pray for her as she will be away from us for several months due to some work in Greece and also because of her studies. May the Lord help her to prove by the fruit of her life that He has truly saved her, and may she work out her own salvation with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12)."

At the end of June, the Solces were encouraged by the visit of Dr. Larry Saunders and his wife, Jill. They had some special meetings planned and a number of people came to hear the testimonies of the Lord's servants as well as the preaching of God's Word. The fellowship with dear friends from their home church in Toronto meant a great deal to the Solc family.

They also had a very encouraging visit of a group of young women from the Ulster churches that all gave testimonies in various meetings. Milos says, "It was a joy to see the Lord working in their lives. It was also very special for some of our young people to spend this time together and have good Christian fellowship. May the Lord continue to use the witness of these dear young sisters."

Just after the group from Ulster left, Mr. Maher Louis, who is a deacon in the Toronto church, and his wife, Ria, visited for a couple of days. They gave their testimonies at the Wednesday prayer meeting. Milos says, "Again, we were all very thankful for this opportunity that the Lord prepared and for what we heard from His servants. It is a marvel to observe how our sovereign God leads His children along. Blessed be His name!"

In August they are expecting visits from Milos' brother David Solc and his family (members of the Toronto church) and Mr. George McConnell and his wife from Ulster.

Please pray for David Kohout, whom the Lord has called into the ministry. He will be leaving Liberec in September to study at the Whitefield College of the Bible in Ulster. Please pray that the Lord would strengthen and sustain him and look after his every need during his studies. Pray for the work in Liberec as well, since they will be short of this worker in the Lord's vineyard there.

ASIA

◆ Nepal

Kathmandu—*Wesley & Carol Graham*

Rev. Wesley Graham asks for the prayers of God's people regarding the ordination of a number of the Nepali men in November and then the setting up of the new Nepal presbytery. It will all require much wisdom from the Lord.

AFRICA

◆ Liberia

Monrovia—*David DiCanio*

Rev. David DiCanio expresses his thanks to everyone for continued prayer in regard to the armed robbery on the missionary compound in Dwazon. As most know, at 3:00 a.m. on July 23, four men tied up the compound's security guard and a construction worker, tore the kitchen window bars off house number one (where Mr. DiCanio was sleeping), and attacked him with machetes. They demanded that he open his double safe and hand over \$10,000 USD from the construction fund. They also stole a number of electronic devices.

The police initially arrested the two compound security guards and the construction worker, but later released them because there was no evidence that they were involved. Neither Joanne Greer nor Mr. DiCanio suspect the workers. One day after the event, the neighbor called the police on three men who were snooping along the beach in front of the property. Mr. DiCanio was called to the police station to make an identification. He felt very strongly that these men were the ones who had attacked him, but he was unable to say for sure. While Mr. DiCanio and Joanne Greer sat with the suspects in the interrogation room, he was able, without accusing them, to give them the gospel. He said to the men, "These rogues think that nobody knows who did this, but there is one person who knows." The men seemed to be curious about that statement. Mr. DiCanio then got close to them and said, "God knows!" The police are also following other leads. Please pray that God would bring the culprits to justice.

Construction on the second house is currently on hold while efforts are being made to increase security on the compound. Although the missionaries do not want to overreact, armed robbery is a big problem in Liberia, and a number of people have been murdered during robberies. There is no 911-type number to call the police in Liberia in case of an attack. And even if you call the police, they will not respond because they are unarmed. A special unit of the Liberian National Police is armed, but it does not usually respond to citizens' calls because of the high number of fraudulent requests.

These police usually respond only to calls from an official security firm that is protecting a property.

The mission board has decided to temporarily hire the firm that guards both the British and Swedish embassies and is looking into negotiating a long-term contract. The firm is run by a disabled U.S. Marine who is a ten-year veteran of the Atlanta, Georgia, police force.

Upon the advice of Mr. DiCanio, the board has made the decision to redo all the window bars so that they are welded into the steel rebar pillars of the house, to reinforce all the doors (including the bedroom doors), and to raise the entire security wall to twelve feet and line the top with three levels of razor-wire. The board is also looking at the idea of personal protection dogs, but the cost is rather steep. A number of studies show that untrained dogs will retreat if faced with a big enough threat; however, trained police-type (personal protection) dogs will attack on command. Since the missionaries are unable to own firearms, the personal protection dogs seem to be the best option. It might be possible to purchase two of them for \$2500 each and breed them. Sales of their puppies would make it possible to recoup the funds expended on purchasing the pair and paying for their import and training.

Monrovia—Joanne Greer

Joanne Greer says the Lord answered prayer for the vacation Bible school in Paynesville July 15–19. Joanne and Nathan Barco did all the teaching, but three or four of the church youth came to help each day, and by the end of the week they had approximately 140 children in the meeting. A few of these children have come back to the Sunday school, Bible Club, and Reading Club.

Joanne wants to express her thanks for all those who have been praying and who have sent messages of encouragement since the armed robbery at the mission compound in Dwazone on July 23. She says, “Although this was a very serious incident with a great loss of property, we know that it could have been much worse, and we are thankful that the Lord spared our lives and health.”

Until some necessary changes are made to security on the property, Mr. DiCanio and Joanne are staying at a guesthouse owned by Baptist missionary friends. Please pray that they will

soon be able to settle again at Dwazone. Joanne says, “I would also value prayer that I would be able to continue with the children’s work as much as possible. I do believe that continuity and consistency are very important when working with little ones. Everything had to be cancelled or postponed for a couple of weeks after the robbery (including the annual game day on the Liberian Independence Day and the VBS we had planned in the Rivercess church). Now that things are slowing down a little again with regard to the police investigation, I am trying to get back into my normal schedule. We had planned a VBS in the Balla Creek church from August 26–30. I’m not sure if we’ll be able to go ahead with this, but please pray that the Lord will make His will known.”

◆ **Kenya**

Kapenguria—Margaret Russell

Margaret says God has kept His good hand upon them over the last two months, for which they are very thankful. At the beginning of August Kenya suffered a real setback in its economy when a significant section of its main airport was gutted by fire. Serious efforts have been made and within three days flight operations were back to normal but a lot of restoration work remains. Margaret asks us to pray that God would continue to keep His hand upon a nation facing many challenges.

With the academy and Bible college now on a four-week break the missionaries are finding some time for rest and relaxation. The third and final term of the year will commence at the beginning of September. Margaret asks us to pray that the Lord’s servants will know renewing of both physical and spiritual strength during this brief time of holiday.

They are looking forward to their annual women’s conference August 19–23. The topic this year is family and public worship. Margaret asks us to pray for God’s blessing upon the conference. Please pray also for the young people who are finishing the youth ministries course. Some are returning to, or seeking to join colleges. Pray for God’s hand to be upon each young life. During that course they have been doing weekly house-to-house visitation. Pray that they will yet see fruit that will remain in the hearts of the many needy souls that were reached.

Hudson continues with his chemotherapy but becomes frailer and weaker with each treatment. He is in need of continued prayer. Amy, Margaret’s niece, is scheduled for spinal surgery in London on August 24. Margaret values our prayers for God’s hand to be upon her during and after the surgery.

The time is quickly approaching for the October anniversary celebrations in Kenya. As God’s servants, they are praying that it will be a time of much blessing as they have this special time of fellowship together. Margaret also thanks God for answered prayer for the renewal of her entry permit for a further three years. It is her desire that the three years ahead, in the Lord’s will, will be a time of reaping when many precious souls will be brought into Christ’s kingdom. Do pray to that end.

Kitale—Malcolm & Alison Patterson

Rev. and Mrs. Malcolm Patterson arrived in Kenya mid-January 2013 and have settled into the work and life there. Mr. Patterson is involved with the Bible college, where the three ministerial students have just completed their examinations for this term. The Youth Ministries course, which has eight students, concludes on August 24. There has been progress in the lives of the young people.

Mr. Patterson also takes the weekly prayer meeting in Bikeke, an outreach work in the Kitale Classical Session. He also preaches there on the Lord’s Day and in other churches in the Kitale region, including Nyaporo, which is near Kakamega where Gillian Gillespie is laboring for the Lord.

Alison speaks at ladies’ meetings which are held every two weeks. In addition, she is writing daily reading Bible notes to assist them. The first quarterly booklet should be ready for the ladies’ conference scheduled for August 19–23.

Please pray for the Pattersons’ elderly parents in Northern Ireland and also for their two sons, who are at university in Northern Ireland.

Kitale—Noreen McAfee

Noreen says that the Lord continues to bless in the Christian Academy and to bring young ones to Himself. She says this was a long term, but thankfully it was not disrupted by the four-week teachers’ strike in the public sector. Students are now on a short break before

the third and final term of this academic year which will see 56 fourth formers and 40 eighth-grade students sit for their national exams.

Noreen mentions that there is an urgent need for teachers in the secondary department and asks us to make this a definite matter of prayer. She says that finances are also tight with many of their parents being teachers in the state sector and therefore facing delays in their salaries. This is also “bean-buying” season, and they need to buy 120 ninety-kilo (almost 200-pound) bags of beans for the incoming year!

Noreen says the school staff and children are also looking forward to the much-anticipated visit of a large group from Ulster in the fall. Preparations are underway and the students are preparing a short concert program for the occasion.

Outside school, Noreen asks us to remember two individuals who sought the Lord after a recent church meeting in Morchichi, an area which has been the focus of intensive evangelism in recent months. She also reports that the BCFC young people will be having their August rally at Bethel BCFC Church in Kitale on August 17.

Nyaporo—Gillian Gillespie

Gillian has just returned to Kenya after spending some time with her parents in Ulster. She says it was also a time of renewing fellowship with those in her home church. Three days before she was to return to Kenya the international arrivals area at the airport in Nairobi burned down. She says the sight of the charred remains of the buildings at the airport was heart breaking. Pray that those who were responsible for this awful act would be caught and dealt with in the courts. The FBI and MOSSAD are helping the Kenyan investigators determine exactly what happened.

While she was at home in Ulster the words of Numbers 27:15–17 were impressed upon Gillian’s heart. Pray with her that God would raise up a spirit-filled man to lead the work forward in Nyaporo, Mumias. Pray for all the meetings held in the church: Sunday school, teens’ Bible class, youth, women, & men’s meetings, prayer meetings, and Sunday services. Laborers are needed, believers need to be wholly separated unto the Lord, and

the unconverted need to be born again. Pray for a breath of revival in the midst of these people.

*Grant unto thy servants, that
with all boldness they may
speak thy word.*

ACTS 4:29