

Missionary Prayer Bulletin



December 2013

NORTH AMERICA

◆ Jamaica

Little London—

Mr. Richard Craig reports that the work in Jamaica is continuing with evidence of God's presence and blessing in the services. Mr. Andrea Lyons has been encouraged with the growth in the children's meetings on Friday nights. Please pray for all the services and outreach ministries of the church.

The Toronto congregation recently shipped a skid of new and used books for the bookstore, and Mr. Randy Gunnings says there has been increased interest in the bookstore. He has been contacting local ministers and churches to promote the good Christian literature in stock.

Mrs. Lorainn Morris has just moved to an apartment near to the Toronto church, and her boys, Daniel and Lorenzo, will be starting at Whitefield Christian School on December 11. Please pray for her family as they integrate into Canadian society. Her immigration status is still uncertain and she would appreciate your prayers for the will of God in their lives.

◆ Mexico

Mexico City—Jason & Danielle Boyle

The Boyles report that the Lord seems to be working in some hearts to draw them to Himself. Please pray for the salvation of Yadira and David. Pray also that the Lord will strengthen marriages in the church. Pray for spiritual growth in the congregation and for future church leaders.

Jason and Danielle are looking forward to having many visitors in their home throughout the month of December. Pray for strength and energy and for good times of fellowship and encouragement. John Crocker, a fellow missionary, will

be visiting as well as Marcus Reyes (another missionary) and his wife and six children. Rev. Colin Mercer and Dr. Charles Barrett from Faith FPC in Greenville will be visiting December 11–16.

Finally, please pray for the special Christmas service at the church. The Boyles plan to hand out a lot of invitations and hope that many will come out for it.

In closing they say, "We very much appreciate all the prayers. Sometimes the way seems like a tunnel of never-ending challenges, but we know that He is faithful who has called us."

EUROPE

◆ Ireland

Colin & Olive Maxwell

Colin has started into his winter work and is currently engaged in door-to-door evangelism again in County Monaghan. He printed a new eight-page folded tract, "The Great Treasure of an Open Bible," to encourage people to read the Bible for themselves. He is also deeply involved with the Consider Christ campaign, both in visiting and preaching.

Colin requests prayer for Olive's mother, who is quite ill at the moment.

◆ Spain

Cortijos Nuevos—Joy Gillespie

Joy is grateful for your interest and prayerful support for the land of Spain. Pray that God in His mercy will remember this land in a special way. At present Joy is busy giving out daily devotional books, which are well received each year, even though during the year the same people won't accept gospel tracts. Pray that God will open their eyes to spiritual truth. She is also giving out the Trinitarian Bible Society calendars which are also kindly received.

Please remember to pray for the children in the Sunday school as they participate at the Christmas Sunday service. Pray that family members will attend and hear the Word.

The Lord has opened a new door of service connected with the English classes. Joy has been asked to teach classes from January to May with the school teachers to help improve their basic English. The Lord willing, the classes will be a good way to make new contacts with the schools in the area. Pray that Joy will find favor with the students and that lasting contacts will be made.

Beas de Segura—Lyle & Heather Boyd

Lyle would like to thank all those who prayed for the work of God in Spain during 2013. He praises God for His goodness and faithfulness in every way.

The book table outreach continues with many conversations and contacts, but the people are very slow at coming to the church. Lyle says that there are many Muslims there for the olive harvest, and many of them have been amazed to see the Bible in Arabic. Some reluctantly take literature. Lyle was very encouraged when a young Muslim man stopped to shake hands with him and to tell him that he read the Bible that was given to him last year.

The radio broadcast continues each day just before 12 noon, so many have the opportunity to hear the gospel. Lyle says, "Oh that the Lord would break through in a mighty move of His Spirit in this barren part of the Lord's vineyard!"

Lyle continues with the homiletics class he started this year in hopes of encouraging the men to help out in the work.

José, a man whom Lyle has befriended from Beas de Segura, came out to the midweek service recently. He prays that it will not be José's last time, although it will probably be some time before he comes again because of the olive harvest.

The economic situation in Spain is not getting any better even though the government is trying to persuade the people that there is some light at the end of the tunnel. In spite of the dismal circumstances there have been many opportunities for the people of God to extend a helping hand, and Lyle wants to encourage the congregation to do just that. John Wesley once said, “Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, to all the people you can.”

The three children from the troubled family Lyle mentioned in his last report—Thalia, José, and Heidi—have been in foster care for three months. They really long to be able to get home, especially Heidi, who hardly stops crying. However, it looks as if they will not get out until they are 18 years old. Lyle has sent a signed request by the mother to the authorities to be able to visit them. He recently saw Thalia at a court case. She was escorted there by the nuns who run the children’s home. Please pray that he would be able to see them all soon, and that they would remember what they have learned in church. Pray for their parents, who both attend the meetings, although separately.

Madrid—John & Noranna Hanna

John Hanna writes that the apostle Paul in his letter to the Romans emphasizes a truth that has been much on his mind recently: “And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light” (Rom. 13:11-12). As another year is drawing quickly to the end he says we need to remind ourselves how precious our time is—precious because it is not ours, but the Lord’s. John says this fact has come home to him as in this last month of this year he comes to that ripe age commonly known as retirement. In the will of the Lord, and with the consent of the Ulster Mission Board, he will continue his ministry for some time yet. He says the years have gone past so quickly and yet there is still so much that needs to be done for the Lord’s cause in Spain. He asks prayer that the Lord would raise up laborers to toil in the Lord’s vineyard in Spain.

The Hannas say that since their last prayer letter the Lord has blessed them with another grandson, Alex. He was born

on the first of November and he and his parents, Jonathan and Miriam, are doing very well. They are most grateful for the prayers of God’s people. Also in the will of the Lord they expect to be blessed with a third grandchild in March. Please pray for Joel and Vicky, that the Lord will bless them during the pregnancy. The Hannas pray that the Lord will save all the little ones in their congregation early in life and raise them up to be men and women for God in the future of the Alcorcón witness.

The Lord has blessed the congregation in Alcorcón with new members. Another family is presently doing Bible studies for the purpose of becoming members. Some unsaved persons are regularly attending the morning service. Please pray for their conversion to Christ: Carlos, Alberto, Antonia, and Mari Carmen. The outreach work continues each Tuesday morning in the local open-air market. Many gospel tracts have been distributed and contacts have been made. Please pray that the Lord will give fruit for this labor.

Continue to pray for the ongoing work in the North. The church in Bilbao has been notified that they must leave their rented building. There is an ongoing campaign by the authorities to prevent new works within the city limits. It seems they will only allow the use of buildings in industrial estates. This will be a big blow to the work since there is no public transportation to these places on the weekends. Pray that God will intervene to stop this devilish plan.

The Hannas wish to thank all who have supported them in prayer during 2013 and trust they will continue to have their prayerful support in the New Year. They also thank all who sent Christmas cards and letters and wish everyone a very blessed and happy Christmas and pray the Lord will give all a spiritually prosperous 2014.

◆ **Czech Republic**

Liberec—Milos & Martina Solc

Please continued to pray for the salvation of the many university students that Milos has established contacts with and who are struggling on in their wayward state. Milos says it has been a real encouragement in recent months to see the faithfulness of the young woman (a former student of his), Pavlina Slesingrova, who got saved in June. She is away continuing her university studies in Sweden for one

semester, but she tunes in over Skype every Wednesday for the prayer meeting and every Lord’s Day for the morning service which is in the Solces’ home. In the evening she watches the live feed from the Toronto church, which she says has been a great blessing to her. Please remember this soul in your prayers as she is the only one saved in her family and has a difficult road ahead.

Milos says, “Another recent encouragement was the visit of Toronto elder George Robinson and brother Peter de Buda.... Brother George has been coming to visit the work here in the Czech Republic from the outset and it has always given us a boost in the Autumn months. We had a meeting in our home on Saturday evening and had some very good spiritual discussion with three young men, Peter, Paul, and Radislav. Another man who was present was the husband of our sister Jana. Please pray for the salvation of these souls.”

ASIA

◆ **Nepal**

Kathmandu—Wesley & Carol Graham

November 29, 2013, saw a one-hundred-strong congregation witness an historic ordination service of twenty-two Nepali men to the gospel ministry. The service of ordination was held in the church building in Kathmandu. Representatives of the general presbytery of Ulster, led by the moderator, Rev. John Greer, and comprising Mr. George McConnell (presbytery missionary officer), Rev. Leslie Curran, Rev. Ian Harris, and Rev. David Park travelled to Nepal for the special occasion.

The service, led by Rev. Wesley Graham, opened with the hymn “Have You Been to Jesus” and Rev. David Park offered the opening prayer. The ordination questions were then put to the ordinands by the Rev. Ian Harris (convenor of the Mission Board). After the signing of the Westminster Confession of Faith, the moderator addressed the men and led in the ordination prayer as they were set apart for the work of the ministry with the laying on of hands of the Ulster presbytery. The Rev. John Greer preached the ordination sermon from 1 Peter 5:2 on the minister’s work of feeding and overseeing the flock of God. He then asked the newly ordained men the following question: “Do you now consent to join

in the formation of the presbytery of the Free Presbyterian Church of Nepal and to come under its care and discipline?"

A charter setting out the Free Presbyterian Church of Nepal as a self-governing denomination and endorsing the special relationship now existing between it and the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster was duly signed by the men. Ordination certificates were presented to them by the moderator, and Mr. George McConnell brought greetings from the Ulster presbytery. Rev. Leslie Curran offered the closing prayer. The next day the newly constituted presbytery of the Free Presbyterian Church of Nepal met to elect a moderator and office bearers. The Rev. Paul Thapa was elected as the first moderator of the Free Presbyterian Church of Nepal.

Mr. Graham concludes, "This truly was a memorable day in the history of the work in Nepal. Please pray for us that wisdom may be given as we seek to advise the new presbytery in its initial stages."

AFRICA

◆ Liberia

Monrovia—*Joanne Greer*

Joanne reports that they had a games day with the Paynesville children on November 29, a national holiday. They had planned to hold it on Independence Day (July 26) as they did last year, but with the robbery at the compound on July 23, everything was cancelled. The kids enjoyed games and food, and then all the helpers went to Dwazone for pizza and ice-cream. Joanne says as they were driving the helpers home that night, they were saddened to see many children and young people drinking and hanging around the clubs. She says, "Truly, the work in which we're involved seems like just a drop in the ocean of sin and depravity all around us, but we know that the Lord can use even these small things to bring about great good for His glory."

The children's day in Paynesville is quickly approaching on December 15. Please pray that parents will attend and will be spoken to by the Word in song and recitation, and that the children will be encouraged in their learning.

The Bible club in Balla Creek is going steadily. Attendance has dropped down to about 25 children who come faithfully each week and are really interested in

the meetings. They have recommenced monthly women's meetings in Paynesville, and this month Joanne is starting to meet with the Balla Creek ladies. Please pray for the women. They work very hard to try to find food and school fees for their families, and as a result, they often find it difficult to make time for meetings. Several of them cannot read. Pray for wisdom for Joanne as she teaches God's Word to these dear ladies.

Joanne says, "A note of thanksgiving—We've been able to buy a new generator which we just got up and running a couple of days ago, and so far it's going well. It's wonderful to be able to use the washing machine and iron again, to have hot water, and to sleep in an air-conditioned room. All these luxuries make life so much easier!"

◆ Kenya

Kitale—*Malcolm & Alison Patterson*

The Pattersons say the visit of 42 people from Northern Ireland for the thirtieth anniversary of the work in Kenya was an exciting time and memories linger on. They believe that it was good for the visitors to see the work and become better acquainted with the missionaries. Since going home some have had the opportunity to speak at their own church prayer meetings. It is good to know that the work of God in Kenya is being spread before the people and prayer can focus on specific needs.

The Bible college term has concluded with the usual examinations and both students and lecturers are having a break from college routine. Although a holiday on the college calendar, many meetings, conferences, and camps are convened during the late November/December holiday period so life seems to be as busy as usual.

Alison had the opportunity to speak at the ladies' conference on leadership on the challenges and responsibilities of the pastor's wife. She is also speaking at some ladies' meetings in other churches in the Kitale area. She has completed the second Bible study booklet in the Gospels. Do pray for the distribution of this booklet.

Malcolm will be speaking at the youth and teens' camps in mid-December in addition to the usual services. He is also doing outreach in Bikeke with Shadrack, who looks after the work there.

The Pattersons will be leaving Kenya for a short time in late December and returning in early January. They still have some visa formalities to complete and this means that they will be able to spend Christmas in Northern Ireland with their families, the Lord willing.

In summary, please pray for the following: 1) the Bible college (for the present staff and lecturers and especially that there will be new students in January); 2) the outreach in Bikeke; 3) the ladies' meetings and the pastors' wives; 4) the Bible study booklet; 5) the camps and conferences held during the holiday period; 6) FPC registration and the Pattersons' work permits.

Kitale—*Noreen McAfee*

Noreen says that the staff and students at the BCFC Christian Academy are enjoying a well-deserved break after a year's hard work. She praises God for faithfully bringing them through another term.

The visit of the Ulster group and the special services marking the thirtieth anniversary were a real blessing. The school concert was much enjoyed by both the participants and the audience. The students were also delighted to make new friends and as one parent reported, "They talked about it all day, and the next day, and the next day too!"

Examinations went ahead as planned and Noreen asks us to pray that the Lord's name would be glorified in the results. She also requests that we pray for the young people who have now completed their time at the Christian Academy and who will be moving on to different courses in the New Year.

As usual, the school will be hosting the annual teens' and youth camps over the holiday season. Noreen asks prayer for every young person who attends and every teacher who teaches. She says they long to see the Lord move in their midst with mighty power.

Preparations are already underway for the new school year scheduled to commence in January 2014. Interviews for new teachers, support staff, and students have been lined up, and Noreen asks for wisdom as they seek to recruit the right personnel.

Finally, she thanks us for all our faithful support throughout another year and wishes us a blessed and refreshing Christmas season as we reflect on the Saviour's birth.

Nyaporo—Gillian Gillespie

Gillian thanks all who have remembered and the work in Nyaporo BCFC in prayer in the past year. She can echo with the Psalmist in Psalm 126:3: “The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.”

She praises the Lord that numbers have increased in most of the church services. They do need to see more people in the prayer meetings and Gillian asks us to pray that the church folk will see the importance of prayer. She is thankful for the opportunity of presenting the gospel to the children in the 5-Day clubs during the year. Please pray that the Word will prosper in the hearts of the children. Attendance at the ladies’ meetings has improved and the women seem to have more of a hunger for the Word. Pray for salvation and for love one for the other. The women are growing in their understanding and confidence in reading and writing. Pray for spiritual growth and that they would see the importance of daily Bible reading. Some of the teens and young people are evidencing a desire to know more of the Word and to live by it. Pray for repentance for those who have fallen into gross sin and for salvation of the lost. Gillian praises the Lord for the young men who came to the “How to Lead a Meeting” course. Pray they will put into practice what they learned in the meetings. She thanks the Lord for health and safety in 2013 and asks prayer for the same blessing in 2014. Finally, she praises God for all His answers to prayer in the past year. Please pray for God’s blessing upon the work in BCFC in the year that lies ahead.

Kapenguria—Margaret Russell

Margaret says the words of the hymn “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” have been much on her mind during 2013 as she completed her thirtieth year in Kenya. She does rejoice that while there were many hurdles to face and trials to overcome, yet God undertook in every situation and gave much-needed grace. Margaret thanks so many who have faithfully held the ropes for the team of God’s servants who, during the year, have gone forth bearing precious seed in Kenya.

God answered prayer for their recent celebratory services and for all their guests from Ulster, England, and Wales.

God undertook for every detail of their stay in Kenya, and His presence and blessing was evident during the special meetings. She really appreciated our support in prayer.

Margaret asks us to pray much for the Bible college of the BCFC. God answered prayer for its opening in May. They are now looking forward to another new year in the college, starting in January, and are praying that God would send other young men for training for the ministry. Pray much that the college would be used of God to fill the empty pulpits of the BCFC.

Kenya as a nation continues to face many problems with insecurity and road carnage being its biggest challenges. Pockets of unrest erupt throughout the country from time to time, and once one area is brought under control another one erupts. The causes are varied: land, animals, and tribal tensions, with terrorist attacks always a possibility. Over 2000 people have died on Kenyan roads this year! On December 12 the country celebrates fifty years of independence. Margaret says it has come a long way, but has yet much to do!

Margaret thanks God for the recovery of her niece after her spinal surgery, but her progress is slow and she is still in a lot of pain. In Kenya, Patrick, who is suffering from leukemia, has not been as well recently as he had been. Margaret asks us to remember both of them in prayer.

As they look forward to a new year in God’s will with new opportunities in the service of God, Margaret asks us to pray much for God to visit them with reviving and awakening of the souls of the Lord’s people in Kenya. Margaret was showing the DVD *An Uncommon Union* (the life of Jonathan Edwards through the eyes of his wife, Sarah) to the women recently. It really touched her heart and she is much in prayer that God, who has not changed, would visit them by His Spirit with such times of refreshing as Edwards knew!

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