

PRAYER BULLETIN

News and Prayer Requests from the Free Presbyterian Churches of North America



REV. PHIL OWEN
Berean Free Presbyterian

**Boston,
New York**

Rev. Phil Owen says the New York church enjoyed caroling in December at the homes of senior citizens. Please pray for the souls of those who are so close to eternity who heard the gospel sung and explained.

The Owens are overwhelmed by the love that has been poured out by the Free Presbyterian Church family following the total loss of their home (the church manse) by fire on December 5. Calls, texts, emails, and gifts have been tremendously comforting. The Lord's grace has surrounded them as they begin to recover. The Owens also express thanks for their dear Berean church people and especially elder Dan Breindel and his wife, Lisa, who have shown tender care and sacrifice, paving the way for the rebuilding of the manse.

The FPCNA also sent Geoff and Sandy Banister to assist. Mr. Owen says, "They were so sympathetic and helpful. Geoff's messages were medicinal. Craig and Brett Moody, Rev. Jonathan Hunt, and Ben Owen also ministered the Word. Please pray for many unsaved souls who have been generous, that God would bless them for blessing His servants.

REV. IAN GOLIGHER
Interim Moderator
Calgary Free Presbyterian

**Calgary,
Alberta**

Rev. Ian Goligher ministered in Calgary FPC on the first Sunday of 2020. He had the joy of announcing that Rev. Paul Backhurst, a recent graduate of the Whitefield College of the Bible in Ulster, had accepted the congregation's call to be their minister. The call had been extended at a congregational meeting on December 17 and was ratified, first by the presbytery of North America and then by the Ulster Presbytery on January 3. Rev. Craig Vosekalns and Mr. Chris Barnes followed by Rev. David Priestly will minister in Calgary FPC up until March 8.

Mr. Backhurst is to be ordained by the Ulster Presbytery in Crossgar FPC on January 31, and, in the will of the Lord, he, along with his wife, Arianna, and their seven children will arrive in Calgary in mid-March to commence his ministry. Pray for the necessary decisions and plans required of the interim session and committee to facilitate the Backhursts' arrival and their establishment in Calgary to minister among the people. A presbytery installation service in Calgary FPC is yet to be scheduled.

REV. IAN GOLIGHER
Cloverdale Free Presbyterian

**Cloverdale,
British Columbia**

The New Year commenced in the Cloverdale church with a visit from Rev. Andrew Simpson, who preached on the first Sunday of 2020.

The congregation met for prayer for three evenings to seek the Lord's blessing upon the ministry of the church and its radio ministry. Prayer focused on a new radio program on Taiwan Radio International, which reaches into Southern China and Hong Kong. Programs are to be aired on Sunday mornings at 10:15 a.m. Prayer also focused on an election of deacons to serve in the church. The election is to take place on January 15. Prayer was offered for spiritual growth in God's people, the youth, and the children of the church. This emphasis followed studies in Ephesians chapters one and three on Paul's prayers for the believers at Ephesus.

Please pray for Mrs. Jean Jones, who is in decline after enduring Parkinson's disease for many years. During these difficult times she has borne a bright Christian testimony for her Lord.

REV. ARMEN THOMASSIAN
Interim Moderator
Covenant Free Presbyterian

**Columbia,
South Carolina**

As mentioned in the last update, pulpit vacancies can be challenging times for any congregation and it is proving to be so in Covenant FPC. The church has suffered several losses, and January 19 will be the last Sunday for the church's sole elder, Paul Peters. He and his wife are moving out of state to be closer to their daughter. This will leave the church with five people in attendance.

Rev. Armen Thomassian says, "The future is uncertain, and yet when we met as a session on December 11, the words of Spurgeon's *Checkbook* for that day seemed like counsel to us. The text is Psalm 37:3 and Spurgeon remarks, 'We are not so easily to be got rid of as the LORD's enemies suppose. They cannot thrust us out nor stamp us out: where God has given us a name and a place, there we abide.' The need is great. If God has given this location as a place for His people, then we trust that He will strengthen the work and provide a minister. Brethren, pray for us."

REV. ARMEN THOMASSIAN
DR. ALAN CAIRNS
Emeritus
Faith Free Presbyterian

**Greenville,
South Carolina**

On the first Lord's Day of the new year Rev. Armen Thomassian preached on Psalm 37:4, the church's motto verse for the year. He exhorted the congregation to make delighting in God their primary concern in 2020, to feed their souls rather than giving in to distractions. In order to delight in God, we need to realize the presence of God, study the mind of God, and apply the will of God.

The church rejoiced with Chandler and Prentiss Allen when they welcomed baby Gabriel Easton on December 27. Easton joins three older sisters and two brothers.

Also in December the church enjoyed a visit from a friend from India who had attended the church years ago when he was a student at Bob Jones University. It was good to renew fellowship with him and to hear something of what the Lord is doing in India. He told of the salvation of his mother and a cousin and asked for prayer for the salvation of his father. Pray for the protection of Christians in India and for the gospel to bear fruit in spite of efforts to quash it.

Gregory Melsom has returned to Greenville after spending a year helping Bill Jones in New York City. Pray for Caleb Spann as he continues ministering there until the end of February.

The church's annual meeting will be held on January 31 preceded by a church dinner.

REV. GEOFF BANISTER
REV. RON BARNES
Associate Minister
Indianapolis Free Presbyterian

**Indianapolis,
Indiana**

Rev. Geoff Banister just returned from Northern Ireland where, along with Rev. Reggie Cranston, he represented the FPC of North America at the FPC of Ulster's annual Ministers' Week of Prayer. While there he got to visit a number of "our historic churches" including Crossgar, where the Free Presbyterian Church was born. He was also honored to have the privilege of preaching at Martyrs Memorial.

Please pray for the elderly folk in the Indianapolis church. Brenda Richter in particular is suffering chronic pain in her lower back and her ribs break very easily. She appreciates the prayers of God's people.

The church thanks the Lord for the new job Ron Barnes took recently. He has gone back to work with the company he used to work for before he left for Prince George. With his new hours he will be able to be much more involved in the church prayer meeting.

Please pray that the Lord will help the church plan more outreach efforts in this year. Pray above all else that the Lord will empower the preaching of His Word.

DR. STEPHEN POLLOCK
FPC of Malvern

**Malvern,
Pennsylvania**

Rev. Stephen Pollock says that at this time of year the church people in Malvern are conscious of the challenges of winter weather. While it has been a mild winter so far, they expect that more inclement weather is around the corner. Please pray for safety in travel and that they would know the Lord's presence each time they meet to pray and worship.

Please pray for the ministries that are supplementary to the worship services. The church has a monthly Bible club/youth fellowship meeting on a Saturday evening. After a shared meal they divide into three classes providing Bible teaching to 25 to 30 children and young people. They look to the Lord to raise a generation that loves Christ in the fear of the Lord.

The church also holds a monthly ladies' fellowship. Dr. Pollock is thankful for the ladies who want to meet to pray and study the scriptures.

January saw the start of a monthly Bible institute meeting. More than a dozen men, from both the Malvern and Leigh Valley congregations, met to consider the matter of preaching God's Word. Please pray for these men as they explore the gifts that God may have given so that they would use these gifts to the edification of the body.

REV. JASON BOYLE
Iglesia Cristiana El Redentor
(Redeemer Christian Church)

**Mexico City,
Mexico**

On January 1 the Mexico City church celebrated its eighth anniversary. The Boyles are thanking the Lord for signs of growth recently. They have had an increase of attendance at the Wednesday evening prayer meetings. On January 5 they had a baptism service for six people. They had over 100 in attendance, with people standing at the back during the two-hour service. Please continue to pray that the Lord would guide and provide for a new meeting place.

Another matter for prayer is that three churches in the states of San Luis Potosi and Queretaro are interested in the FPC. Jason will be visiting their churches in March. They first visited the Mexico City church in November, when they enjoyed sweet fellowship in the Boyles' home. The pastors are already studying books and documents on the FPCNA's beliefs (such as the translated version of *Separated Unto the Gospel*).

In February Jason will visit for the first time some remote mission churches in the state of Puebla that have also expressed interest in having supervision, teaching, and support. The pastors in this village have less training and are in a more humble setting with greater physical needs. Please pray for the Lord to guide in regards to their future relationship with our denomination.

DR. STEPHEN POLLOCK
Interim Moderator
Orlando Free Presbyterian

**Orlando,
Florida**

The Orlando church family continues to meet steadily for worship and prayer. They have held extra seasons of prayer seeking God to provide a shepherd of His choosing for His flock. Please pray with the people.

In coming weeks the pulpit will be supplied, Lord willing, by Rev. Maurice Baxter (Northern Ireland) and Rev. Ian Goligher. Please pray that these men will come as the Lord's messengers with the Lord's message.

REV. DAVID MOOK
Phoenix Free Presbyterian

**Peoria,
Arizona**

Rev. David Mook reports that the annual holiday season events brought joy to the members of the Phoenix congregation. The Thanksgiving service on the evening of November 24 provided testimonies of the Lord's blessing in various ways during the past year. The Christmas Fellowship on December 15 and the Service of Lessons and Carols on December 22 were also highlights of the season. The church rejoiced to have Kara Morrow home for the holidays.

The Mooks spent the holiday season with their family in southern California and enjoyed the refreshment of that fellowship. On January 5, Mr. Mook launched the new year in the church by preaching on the 2020 motto text, 2 Timothy 2:1 & 3: "Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ... Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." His theme was Warfare for Christ in 2020, drawing attention to the ongoing battle for the truth and the preparations to endure the hard trials of that battle. As part of the services that day, Mr. Mook, on behalf of the congregation, recognized one of the church's charter members, Mr. Carl Veenstra, who celebrated his 90th birthday on January 7.

During the week of January 13–17, Mr. Mook traveled to the Washington, D.C., area on behalf of the American Council of Christian Churches. He participated in various activities surrounding the annual meeting of the International Conference of Evangelical Chaplain Endorsers, the endorsing group to which the ACCC belongs.

On January 19, the church will observe the 25th anniversary of its constitution as a member congregation in the presbytery and of Mr. Mook's ordination and installation as the minister.

REV. REGGIE CRANSTON
Port Hope Free Presbyterian

**Port Hope,
Ontario**

Rev. Reggie Cranston reports that he was given the opportunity by two local radio stations to deliver a message about the birth of the Saviour. The one-minute message was repeated thirty times on each of the stations over a two-week period. Please pray that the Lord will use the message to speak to those who heard it.

Mr. Cranston reports that a blessed time was had by the members of the congregation at its annual church dinner, when they were joined for the evening by office bearers and their families from Toronto FPC. He says, "It was indeed a sweet time of fellowship."

The church's motto text for the new year is Romans 12:12: "Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer."

REV. ANDREW SIMPSON
Heritage Free Presbyterian
**Prince George,
British Columbia**

In October the Prince George congregation commenced a children's outreach in a town called Quesnel. Due to the encouraging numbers, the session has decided to continue these meetings indefinitely. Because of the encouraging reports from the Williams Lake evangelistic meetings, the session has also decided to continue that outreach indefinitely.

Rev. Andrew Simpson asks that people would pray for the university outreach he conducts each Tuesday when he goes on campus as a chaplain. This ministry has proven to be fruitful already with various contacts made.

Mr. Simpson asks that people pray for the Prince George congregation that the Lord would send people willing and able to work. He says much could be done in that city, but the lack of workers limits the congregation.

DR. LARRY SAUNDERS
DR. FRANK McCLELLAND
Emeritus
Toronto Free Presbyterian
**Toronto,
Ontario**

Toronto is enjoying a relatively mild winter this year with little snow, which greatly improves church attendance.

The church will be having its annual week of prayer during the last week of January with different speakers each night. It is always a highlight of the early year. They are praying for a blessed and quickening time and that the Lord will give His people "20/20" vision for His work in 2020. The motto text for this year is Micah 6:8: "He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God."

Please continue to pray for the Whitefield Christian Schools and the 250 pupils ranging from junior kindergarten to grade 12. The church's prayer is that the Lord will make it a "School of Christ."

REV. MYRON MOONEY
Trinity Free Presbyterian
**Trinity,
Alabama**

The congregation in Trinity, Alabama, thanks the Lord for His tender care throughout the old year and looks forward to all the Lord has in store for them in 2020. The year ended on a high note as Myra and Ernie Yarbrough welcomed Haddon Cromwell into their home on Saturday, December 21, 2019. Mother and baby are doing well.

The church family enjoyed caroling to several older and shut-in folks throughout the community, and were thankful also for some new places to visit. Several young men in the congregation participated in the relay team which raised support for the work in Liberia. The congregation is also grateful that several of the prisoners in the prison Bible study show good signs of growing in the Lord. The church was able to send some supplies to the prisoners to help with their needs. The New Year's fellowship was enjoyed by all who attended.

The new verse for the year is Luke 8:15: "The good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience."

Please pray for Mrs. Becky LaGrave, who is recovering from cancer surgery, and for Levi Frank, who is recovering well from eye surgery.

REV. IAN GOLIGHER
Interim Moderator
Victoria Free Presbyterian
**Victoria,
British Columbia**

The small congregation in Victoria continues to meet on the Lord's Day mornings to join Cloverdale FPC by live webcast. On December 30, a young man took his first communion after testifying of the Lord's salvation and his desire to honor the Lord by a faithful Christian life. Pray for his growth and freedom to attend the meetings. He communicates with Pastor Goligher each week for pastoral guidance and encouragement. He loves to read theology and learn the truths of the gospel while he is studying mechanical engineering at the University of Victoria.