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Our purpose and passion is to fuel a worldwide movement of people who seek first the kingdom of God, planting churches that live and die to carry out the Great Commission in the spirit of the Great Commandment.

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It's amazing how a certain place brings up memories long forgotten. Moriah and I (Dave Howell) recently flew into the San Francisco airport. As we were deplaning, we came out of the walkway, into one of the gates. I was immediately transported back ten years. I saw not the fifteen-year-old young woman next to me, but the five-year-old girl running around, trying to burn off the excess energy before we boarded our flight to Ireland. I remembered the smell of the clam chowder that eight-year-old Jonathan was eating. As we continued walking through the gate to get on with our day, I became very aware of the blessing of serving in ministry over these last ten years.



Last Sunday, I was preaching at the church in the village of Redcross. My text was Isaiah 35:3-4, *“With this news, strengthen those who have tired hands, and encourage those who have weak knees. Say to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, and do not fear, for your God is coming to destroy your enemies. He is coming to save you.”* This is such an amazing passage that speaks to the heart of why we serve our Irish friends.

Two weeks ago, the community of Tiglin (the drug and alcohol recovery center we partner with) was rocked with a tragedy. During this painful time, Trish and I were able to cry with them and share comfort and support for them. For a group of people who were hurting and weak, the news of a Father who hears and loves them was desperately needed. It was our privilege to have that opportunity to serve.



Not long ago, another friend was struggling with severe issues. As Tricia spent time caring for her and guiding her in this struggle, the news of hope was desperately needed. As Tricia spoke love and healing into her life, she was told how much it meant. She shared that Tricia was often the only source of such news that they heard. This is something that has been repeatedly spoken to us.

The Irish people are some of the most passionate people that you will ever meet. Their joy and exuberance in storytelling or reliving an experience is mesmerizing, except when it comes to faith. As we have lived and shared among them, we have seen this spark fanned and that topic coming back into play. As they hear and see in our lives, the one true living God, it brings with it options. They can know that faith is not dead or irrelevant, they can challenge perceptions of what a religious one would look like, and they can freely wrestle with a God who we don't understand.

Our prayer is that for the next ten years, we can continue to begin “with this news” and through that to strengthen, encourage, and build up the Irish in their new understanding of Faith. Please continue to pray for us as we minister among them.

Grace and Peace,  
Dave

## From the EFM Office

### *Praise God...*

- For the new long-term EFM office staff that was hired in April. Debby McElroy is our Bookkeeper and Linda Steinacher our Administrative Assistant. Both Debby and Linda are from EFC-MAYM. Lori Anderson is our Director of Operations and Kimberly Mer our Communications Manager. Both Lori and Kimberly are from EFC-SW. Brendan Steinacher (Linda's husband) is our Systems Consultant. All of these folks serve EFM on a part-time basis and work from either their homes or office spaces near their homes. EFM has no central physical office.
- For the visit that Matt Macy and Galen Hancock were able to make to northern India and Bangladesh and the time spent with our missionaries who work in those places.

### *Please Pray...*

- For the new office staff as they learn their roles and get used to being a "virtual" office.
- For the EFM Board meetings May 31 and June 1 at Quaker Ridge Friends Camp (CO).

## From Brad and Chelsea Carpenter Serving in Rwanda (EFM)

### *Praise God...*

- For good meetings with leaders from Congo (DRC) and Burundi Friends Churches. They all continue to be very excited about whole life discipleship happening in and through their churches.
- That our Mentor in Training (MIT) group has met three times and we are having great times helping them better be able to lead their own churches in whole life discipleship
- For the \$30,000 that has been sent from the U.S. to help many EFC-Rwanda churches make significant changes to their buildings and properties so they won't be closed. We praise the Lord also for Rwandan leaders, pastors, and church members who are working to prioritize churches and programs, who are donating money, who are literally laboring to build up their churches, and who are working together so that several groups can worship in the same building at different times.

### *Please Pray...*

- That the Lord would continue to provide wisdom, solutions, and hope - and make his will known through this church-closing crisis.
- For wisdom as we continue to work with our MITs and as we plan for seminars at the end of May and in June for Great Lakes D for D expansion.
- That the Lord would raise up Africans and Americans to join in a growing vision to do our part to expand whole-life discipleship throughout Africa!

## From Voicu and Ana Marian Serving in Romania (EFC-ER)

### *Praise God...*

- For the joy of the resurrection season and beauty of spring. Opportunity to teach our English students in the public school "Because He Lives."
- For Voicu's perseverance teaching Christian values and work ethics to Shop students. Ana's weekly prayer with a couple young ladies, former students.

### *Please Pray...*

- For God's daily grace while caring for Augustin, an elderly uncle with Dementia. We took him in because we are his closest kin.
- For Uncle's salvation, God's merciful intervention in his lost condition. A few legal and administrative issues to be solved. Finding the right care facility and knowing the right time to place him.
- For 9<sup>th</sup> grade Laurentiu, who's suffered through the divorce of his parents, and now the death of his father, with cancer. For the Lord to make his presence known to this sensitive young man.
- Thank you for continued prayer for our son John, for total openness to God's calling and leading.

## From Abe and Diane Bible Serving in Ukraine (EFC-ER)

### *Praise God...*

- That many people were saved in March through the efforts of the church planting teams. In addition, when they met in April, they did street evangelism for two hours and with 42 men on the street they prayed with over 100 men. Not the prayer of salvation but a personal contact with an audible prayer for that man's needs. And—two men got saved at the conference itself.
- For the arrival of spring with all of its glory. God has even planted hope in creation.

### *Please Pray...*

- The next church planting conference is May 11 and 12. Wives will be invited this time. Pray that these women would gain a greater understanding of their husbands' ministry and thereby become encouragers and enablers and prayer warriors.
- For fall plans to firm up in regards to further evangelism/church planting conferences; how and what. Also for how to proceed with Financial Freedom to get it into more churches. And what other ministries the Lord may want us to be involved. There are many opportunities, but his wisdom is needed to discern what is most effective.
- Diane has been having problems with her knee. Please pray that we can find medical help here---or that God would just heal it!

**From David and Tricia Howell**  
**Serving in Ireland (EFM)**

*Praise God...*

- For our visa being renewed for another year.
- For the new relationships within the community in order to support the marginalized.
- For the invitation to be involved in the lives of the Irish for the last ten years.

*Please Pray...*

- For Jonathan and Moriah as they have extensive school testing coming up. This will determine what colleges and courses that Jonathan will be able to attend.
- For our naturalization process that will be taking place in 2018. That we might find favour in the Irish Government.
- For the health and safety of our family.

**From B. and D. A.**  
**Serving in Nepal (EFM)**

*Praise God...*

- That 41 people accepted Jesus as their Savior during Easter time.
- That a new church plant has started where seven accepted Christ from one village.

*Please Pray...*

- For the new souls that they will be able to stand against persecution.
- For Gods work in these precious new souls into the kingdom.

**From Kathi Perry**  
**Serving in Ireland (EFM)**

*Praise God...*

- For a lovely celebration of Easter with Little Friends & Family - with a story, crafts, and a meal together.
- I've received the first delivery of Godly Play supplies and am very excited to use them!
- I am so thankful for the chance to study the Bible with a group of women each week, and for the insights and candor they bring to our conversations.

*Please Pray...*

- That our monthly gathering (Little Friends & Family) would be a time of learning that would engage the children, encourage and refresh the parents; and that we would experience what it is to be friends who are family.
- I have had more opportunities to preach, and to teach (for which I am thankful) and I would ask for discernment to know when to say 'yes' and when to say 'no' (because mostly, I want to say 'yes'!).
- I'd still like to find a space that can be our own...

**From Dave and Cindy Aufrance**  
**Serving in Hong Kong (EFC-ER)**

*Praise God...*

- Thanks for your prayers for Dave. His heart issue seems to be getting better and he's resumed most of his normal duties.

*Please Pray...*

- For Cindy as she'll be returning to the States at the end of May for a couple months. Dave is not allowed to travel by air yet so will remain in Hong Kong.
- Many in RiverGrace have been trained in the Train and Multiply strategy of church planting. Though it needs to be adapted, we will use it to better train our people to be able to use the tools to be a witness and multiply disciples.
- We will have our first Spanish-speaking service at the end of April... for now once a month. Pray that God would send a Spanish-speaking pastor to help minister to nearly 5000 Spanish speakers recently returned to Hong Kong. Most are actually ethnic Chinese, but have lived in places like Venezuela for year.

**From Molly Morton**  
**Currently waiting to depart for Ireland (EFM)**

*Praise God...*

- That I'm FULLY FUNDED!! God's provision was miraculous last week!
- For wonderful times of celebration for my birthday last month and now for being fully funded this month.

*Please Pray...*

- VISA DELAY: On the exact same day I was fully funded, the Irish Immigration office posted a notice regarding the religious volunteer/minister visa that our EFM team is legally in the country on. It stated that they are not accepting new applications for this type of visa because new regulations on this visa will be released on April 30. My teammates are not affected by this. I am affected by this in the following ways: I cannot book a plane ticket until after April 30, under the new regulations I am absolutely expected to apply for "pre-clearance" here in the States and this is all a very subjective process. Please pray for my patience as I wait for the new regulations to be released, I have an incredible amount of peace and that God is in the center of all of this.
- TRANSITION PROCESS: Saying goodbye and packing are overwhelming currently. Please be praying for me as I say "see ya later" to my friends and family.

## From Russell and Sarah Badgley Serving in Ecuador (EFM)

### *Praise God...*

- For the arrival of baby Matthew! He arrived on May 1, weighing 6 lbs. 7 oz. and measuring 19 inches long. We are grateful for a safe delivery and healthy baby.
- For Emma's full recovery from a serious kidney infection.
- That we have been offered a missionary visa from another church, that helps us bridge the time to get the process started on a residency visa.

### *Please Pray...*

- For God to provide a good long-term family vehicle.
- For the upcoming steps in the visa process these next four weeks.

## From David Thomas EFM Missionary Mentor

### *Praise God...*

- For good health on the last trip.
- For continued growth as a whole-life, discipling-movement facilitator and mentor.

### *Please Pray...*

- For creativity, insight and a coming together of ideas as I pursue the question of what an intercessory plan looks like for establishing a disciple-making movement.
- For preparation for the next trip to Rwanda scheduled for the first two weeks of July.

### *Praise God (Thailand)...*

- For an excellent Bible Telling, Orality and Adult learning workshop (March 21-30 in Chiang Rai, Thailand), and praise God for reports of Lahu leaders using this tool in their churches.

### *Please Pray (Thailand)...*

- For the **Lahu leaders** as they practice **Bible Telling** and foundational D for D lessons in **their churches and communities**.
- That their excitement would build and that they experience the value of these vital methods of discipleship.
- For a **growing commitment** among these leaders for whole-life discipleship of poor communities.

### *Praise God (Rwanda)...*

- For our Rwandan church leaders and their wise response to many of their churches being shut down because of high government expectations for their buildings and properties. We thank God for the opportunity to rethink what it means to be the church, and to be a blessing to our communities.
- For generous giving and hard work on the part of Rwandans and some outside friends coming to their aid.

### *Please Pray (Rwanda)...*

- For our Rwandan church leaders to continue to navigate well the government's shutting down of many

churches countrywide. Two thirds of the Friends Church's 60 churches were shut down, some have been reopened as they did the required improvements.

- For a greater outreach focus to grow among Rwandan Christians. "The fields are ripe for harvest (in Rwanda and outside), therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send (cast out) laborers into the harvest field." May God use this situation to "cast out (send forth)" Rwandan Christians into their communities and into neighboring countries to make disciples of Jesus and to see his kingdom come among them.
- For our Father to raise up the laborers (leaders) among people in Burundi and eastern DR Congo who our Rwandan D for D mentors will be discipling. The "fields are ripe for harvest!"

### *Praise God (Cambodia)...*

- For an excellent time together with David Thomas and Evangelical Friends Church – Southwest's missionary team to Cambodia as they explored together what planting a whole-life, disciple-making, church-planting, community-transforming movement among the peoples they serve could look like.

### *Please Pray (Cambodia)...*

- For Robert and Sara Radcliff and Elise Paty as they continue language and culture study.
- For God's direction for Scott and Andrea Sward and others on their team as they consider the opportunities before them.