

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.

May was a busy month for a yearly meeting in Nepal called "Evangelical Friends Church-Nepal." This is the yearly meeting that EFM missionaries John and Sangi Vanlal established along with many Nepali Friends leaders. Today, it has more than 40 established churches and an average attendance of around 3,000. A year and a half ago, John and Sangi retired and returned to their home in India. EFC-Nepal continues to move forward under the leadership of Pastor Amen Thapa and an executive committee.



Pastor Amen recently reported that in the months of April and May, 130 new believers declared publicly their decision to follow Jesus Christ by taking water baptism. That is a huge step in a country like Nepal where Christianity is not legally recognized and where the government has anti-conversion laws in place. Persecution is pretty much guaranteed for these new believers.



On May 24, there were nine students who graduated from three months of training at EFC-Nepal's Bible school in Kathmandu. There will be another group of students who will receive training in the second half of this year. These students go back to their churches and communities in order to help with pastoral and evangelistic work.

In May, several from EFC-Nepal also did a Luke 10 trip to the Far West of Nepal where the need is great for the gospel. Along with EFM missionary Samson Retnaraj, they are exploring ways to plant churches in this vast area using CHE (Community Health Evangelism) methods. We look forward to hearing more details about how this trip went. Pastor Amen simply said, "It was an awesome mission trip."

Praises:

- That many people in Nepal continue to turn to Jesus Christ for their salvation and a new life in him.
- For the leadership training that is happening in EFC-Nepal.
- That EFC-Nepal has a vision for missions and has just completed their first Luke 10 trip.

Prayer Requests:

- For the new believers as they endure persecution of various kinds.
- That God will raise up workers to bring in a harvest in the Far West of Nepal.
- That the recent graduates from the Bible school training will find their places in ministry as they return home.



From the EFM Office

Praise God...

- For the EFM Board meetings that were held at Quaker Ridge and the time spent with Friends in Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting afterwards.
- For the trip that Molly Black and Elisabeth Harth are making in June to Rwanda in order to explore further God's call to missions.

Please Pray...

- For Molly and Elisabeth as they travel to and spend time in Rwanda. Pray for safety and good health as well as the Lord's direction.
- That Rupak Tamang and his oldest son, David, would be able to obtain visas to the U.S. in order to do some deputation this summer. The Tamang's serve in Bhutan.

Edwin and Maria Giron Serving in Mexico (EFM)

Praise God...

- Praise the Lord that this year we have been seeing more people coming to Christ and others making commitments to become active members of the Friends Church. Please pray for the new converts. We want to follow-up and provide good discipleship training for them.

Please Pray...

- That we would be able to see even more people coming to the feet of Jesus.
- For a pastoral couple to serve at Aguascalientes Friends Church.

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

Praise God...

- For admitting Voicu's uncle, who suffers with Dementia, in a senior facility run by Christians; God's grace and the lessons we learned through this experience.
- For being able to do ministry almost "as usual" while caring for Voicu's uncle; several parents of our students called to offer their help.
- For having trained a few 8th graders in English and Art for the high school entrance, and the opportunity to pray with them before exams.

Please Pray...

- For wrapping up the school year and planning summer ministries; vision and wisdom in reaching the new generation.
- For Uncle Augustin to adapt at the senior home (he was taken on trial), and to be saved, even in his state.
- For clear direction regarding August summer camp in Hungary and parental approval to take the kids across the border.

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

Praise God...

- That several people were saved in April through the efforts of the church planting teams Abe is working with. In addition, at the last conference both husbands and wives did street evangelism and several people prayed to receive Christ! Glory to God!
- The Financial Freedom project is picking up momentum with a big push for the larger churches here in Ukraine to do it with their people. That is 7,000 members. And many others are interested. We look forward to God using this, not just to give them freedom but to increase their faith and the kingdom of God.

Please Pray...

- Final church planting conference of this 'church' year will be held June 8 and 9. Pray that the men will be able to set goals for over the summer of outreach and holding services.
- We need a major infusion of the Lord's riches as we consider the fall and what needs to happen. Pray that God will move the right people at the right time and that we would be wise as we move forward.
- We will be spending three weeks of June in England visiting supporters and friends there. One week will focus on vacation, Lord willing. Pray that it would be a source of encouragement for us as we visit many Godly people and for them as we personally report on their kingdom investment.

From Kathi Perry Serving in Ireland (EFM)

Praise God...

- For families who have opened their homes for our Bible Study, and for Little Friends & Family monthly gathering; and for the welcome and warmth this brings to these times.
- 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.
- For the friendships formed through the baby and toddler groups (for myself and others); and how God uses this to form a community for the people involved. I am thankful for my "community."

Please Pray...

- Please continue to 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.
- In June, the baby and toddler groups will come to an end for the summer. Pray for unstructured time - for conversations, laughter, good weather that draws us out...
- For us, the Howells, Molly Morton, myself, and the EFM leadership, as we seek to understand and comply with new visa regulations - and get Molly to Ireland!

From Russell and Sarah Badgley Serving in Ecuador (EFM)

Praise God...

- For the many helpers and resources provided to us in our time of need with Sarah's pregnancy complications.
- For the safe delivery of Matthew James Badgley, born on May 1st at 7pm, weighing 6lbs., 7oz despite being almost 6 weeks premature.

Please Pray...

- For our visas to come through. There have been delays beyond our control, and recent delays due to hospitalization. Our visas expired on the 14th of May, and so pray for grace as we make a special request for exemption to the deadline.
- For our newborn, as he is having some health challenges related to prematurity. Pray for his immune system to be strong and for good mental development as well.

From Samson and Priscilla Retnaraj Serving in Nepal (EFM)

Praise God...

- For visiting seven of the Far West Districts and Nawalparasi by road over a 14-day trip with six Friends leaders from Kathmandu, Dulikhel, Thali, and Gorkha. This helped us to make many important contacts as we visited with individuals and fellowships and prayed for the land and people living in these dark areas. Bhanu Pokharel (a Hindu convert) was one such leader in Attariya (near Dhangadi) who has a successful business model and supports four churches and some evangelists by this ministry and non-formal skills training in a farmland.
- We started adult education classes in two more villages of Salyan and both of these places are reached by walking 4-6 hours over the hillsides. Jamuna (a local woman leader) will be supervising these trainings and will help coordinate this work in Salyan in future by traveling to all the places involved.
- For a Training of Trainers (ToT) was held in Chitwan at Jhurjhure Evangelical Friends Church for more Adult Education teachers. It was a blessed time for all the 12 participants and the Trainers.

Please Pray...

- For Smriti, as she has been chosen to do fulltime work in helping translate the Bible into a local Nepali dialect (Darai). She will have to give up working with us as the translation work is at least for the next 6-8 years.
- For the 4th Discipleship and CHE Business training to be held again in Surkhet in May and is to be organized by Janak. After this training, the trainees will be supported to start small businesses to help support themselves as leaders in the churches/fellowships in their communities.
- For wisdom in continuing the CHE and Adult Education work with adequate staff in all our current areas of ministry. We are beset with some key staff leaving our services and pray that God will send the right people with a specific calling and burden to continue this work effectively in the different places of Nepal.

From Roy and Jinky Twaddell Serving in the Philippines (EFM)

Praise God...

- The outreach and church plant in Capiz went very well. The team was able to minister through dentistry, health education, vacation bible school, and the start of the sewing machine project with funds from the Christmas Brochure.
- Our outreach in Silangan in Purok Uno has been blessed by a family who opened their home for our ESL classes. They have a large open covered patio, which has tables and chairs for the children. Plus, the family is well respected in the community. As we were invited in, God reminded me of Luke 10:5-6. "And into whatever house you enter, first say, Peace to this house. And if the Son of Peace is there, peace shall rest upon it: if not, it shall return to you." God's Peace remains in this house.

Please Pray...

- Please pray for Capiz as they continue to reach out to the community. Youth and women's ministries are ongoing and doing well. Reaching the men is another challenge because of work, but also the drinking.
- Please pray for Purok Uno, the children are on a 3-week break as regular school starts soon. Our ESL classes have caught the attention of the local government; they want us to start more classes. We are praying for more church volunteers to receive ESL Teacher Training as this is the only way for this to happen.
- We praise God for the \$875 that has come in for the van we need. Please pray for God's continued funding of this project. We still need to raise \$9,125.

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

Please Pray...

- Please pray for safe travels and good rest for Cindy as she is currently in the US.
- At the end of May we had our first Spanish-speaking service in RiverGrace, since there are a growing number of Spanish-speakers who are now living in Hong Kong.
- Doctors are trying to figure out why my blood pressure spiked in February, likely the cause of the tear in my aorta. Still no conclusion, but I'm feeling fine and keeping a fairly normal schedule and activities in the church.
- For some transitions in the church in June; new time for the service, new meeting room, and other changes.

From David Thomas
EFM Missionary Mentor

Praise God...

- For coming to feel settled in Newberg, Oregon as a family. We praise God for Debby thriving in her work as a George Fox University professor of leadership in the business department.

Please Pray...

- Pray for creativity and insight as David writes up lessons on the intercession needed to establish disciple-making movements.
- Pray for preparation for a D4D workshop on coaching for the July trip to Rwanda.
- Pray for preparation for a reconciliation retreat focused on creating a healthier leadership culture within the Rwandan Friends' churches (early July).

Praise God (Thailand)...

- Praise the Lord for a growing commitment among the Lahu leaders for whole-life discipleship of poor communities.
- Praise God for Lahu leaders and volunteers who will be forming teams to disciple the communities they eventually choose. Praise God for Solomon and Yosapa (Jehosopah) who will be leading these two teams.

Please Pray (Thailand)...

- For the establishment of a disciple-making movement among the Lahu peoples!
- Pray for the Lahu leaders to be rooted and established in God's love, so that they may fulfill all God's purposes for them (Eph. 3:14-19).
- May the Lahu church leaders continue to grow proficient through practice in the skill of teaching adults in participatory ways and in the skill of Bible-Telling.

Praise God (Rwanda)...

- We thank God for our Rwandan church leaders and their wise response to many of their churches being shut down. We thank God for the opportunity to rethink what it means to be the church and to disciple their members outside of church.
- Praise God for 20 Rwandan leaders who want to see God's kingdom come more completely among the people they serve in their local churches and communities.
- Rejoice in the excitement seen in church leaders from Burundi and eastern DR Congo (Goma, Uvira) as they practice some of the foundational D for D principles and gain a vision for whole-life discipleship in their communities.

Please Pray (Rwanda)...

- Since "The fields are ripe for harvest, therefore ask the Lord of the harvest," to use the Rwandan government's shutting down of many churches "to 'send forth' (cast out) laborers into the harvest field-" Rwandan Christians into their communities and into neighboring countries to make disciples see Jesus' kingdom come!
- Pray for the establishment of disciple-making movements in Rwanda and in DR Congo (Goma, and Uvira) and in Burundi!

- Pray for our D for D leaders to be rooted and established in God's love, so that they may become complete in all God's purposes for them (Eph. 3:14-19). Pray for this foundation needed for the Kingdom of God to thrive among them!

Praise God (Cambodia)...

- Praise God for Scott Sward and his missionary team in Cambodia, and their desire to plant whole-life, disciple-making, church-planting, community-transforming movements among the people groups they serve.

Please Pray (Cambodia)...

- Pray for growing skill in the Khmer (said 'kamai') language for Robert and Sara Radcliff and Elise Paty, for growing insight into Cambodian culture, and for growing friendships among the people they are learning from.
- Pray for God's direction for Scott and Andrea Sward and the others on their team as they consider the opportunities before them.