



Evangelical Friends Mission December 2018 Prayer Letter

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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.



Rosa's Mother and Siblings

Rosa is a new believer. Her husband and she just converted to Christ a few months ago. Her passion and love for the Lord is so noticeable; she never lets an opportunity pass by without talking to people about salvation. Rosa's mother, being a very strong follower of the traditional religion and faithful follower of many idols, was very upset at Rosa for her decision to convert to Christ and so the mother also hated to even hear about our names (Edwin and Maria Giron). Of course, she blamed us for changing her daughter to "another religion" (that is how she said it).

Suddenly, the Lord worked a wonderful miracle. Rosa has ten siblings and one of her brothers, Martin, came to Rosa asking for help. He was desperately deep in alcohol and depression. He told Rosa that he wanted the same happiness and the changes in marriage just like she was having. Rosa then invited Martin to our house for a Bible Study. That same night, Martin converted to Christ and from that day to now he has stopped drinking. We have seen his true transformation; he has a different face and different way to see life. Praise God!



After seeing the changes in her daughter and now her son, Rosa's mother asked Rosa if it was possible to bring us (missionaries) to her house to have Bible studies, so that she could gather her other sons and daughters together to hear about the Word of God too. The Mother wanted the rest of her family to have a transformation just like Rosa and Martin experienced. Praise the Lord! We were so amazed and happy to hear that the mother was now willing to host us in her house to introduce Jesus Christ to the whole family! We started three months ago and now there is a house church with a group of 18-20 people faithfully attending the meetings every week. Glory to God! What is happening in this family can only be possible because the Holy Spirit is working on these people's hearts. Rosa's mother is 83 years old; it is still a bit difficult for her to renounce her religion, but we trust that the Holy Spirit will touch her heart and reveal the truth about Jesus as our only Lord and Savior.

Please pray for this wonderful group. That we would see many become strong and committed disciples that will continue expanding God's kingdom in Aguascalientes and beyond.

From the EFM Office

Praise God...

- For the EFM board meetings that were held in Wichita, Kansas, in early November. The board restructured itself earlier this year and these meetings were helpful in making some basic decisions about how the board will function in the years to come.
- The highlight of the board meetings was receiving Northwest Yearly Meeting's decision to make EFM its missions agency and the proposal to make NWYM's Teaching Abroad program part of EFM's ministries. The proposal was approved!
- Immediately following the board meetings was an Igniting the Hope banquet to promote and raise funds for EFM's ministries. Around 175 people gathered for a delicious meal and a program that featured B. and D. A., Dave and Jonathan Howell (the four of whom were present), and some of our other missionaries and ministries via video. The response to the financial appeal was generous. Thank you for the great turn-out, Evangelical Friends Church-Mid America Yearly Meeting!

Please Pray...

- For the evangelism that is taking place on many of our fields during the Christmas season. May there be many who receive the best Christmas gift of all: salvation through Jesus Christ!
- That we would have just as much passion to see people in our lives come to know Jesus Christ and follow him as the passion that exists for this on our mission fields. And may this passion move us to action!
- Please continue praying for your local church, your region/yearly meeting, and EFM as we try to end the year in good financial shape. We depend on generous year-end giving to meet our budgets and get a good start to the new year.
- For the 2018 Friends Summit that will be taking place December 28-January 1. Evangelical Friends young adults and their mentors will be gathering in Denver, Colorado, for this conference and will be considering how God wants them to be a part of his kingdom life and work.
- Continue to prayer for Lori Anderson, our Director of Operations, as she battles cancer for the second time in her life. She is on medical leave from EFM and is receiving intensive treatment.

Kathi Perry

Serving in Ireland (EFM)

Praise God...

- My knee continues to heal, and I am thankful every day for improvements in my mobility, stamina, and balance.
- Thankful for a week in California with my family, and that I could spend time with my sister and be helpful to her.
- Thankful for the wonderful families that make up the "Little Friends" community, and how they contribute to the work I do.

Please Pray...

- Pray for our "Little Friends" families as we prepare for Christmas - beginning with a Thanksgiving meal, and then celebrating Advent together.
- Continue to pray for clarity working through the new visa regulations, and for Molly Morton, while she waits...
- I will be traveling to California for Christmas. Please pray for our family, and especially my sister, Lori Anderson, her husband and daughters, as she is treated for metastatic breast cancer.

Abe and Diane Bible

Serving in Ukraine (EFC-ER)

Praise God...

- For many testimonies of people being saved through participants in both the evangelistic workshops and the church planting workshops. Rejoice with the angels!
- Diane has had ups and downs with healing in her knee but after several weeks of physiotherapy seems to be moving "up."
- The Lord has provided financially through faithful people including in November a very large and unexpected gift.

Please Pray...

- The speaking schedule for Abe has been very demanding this fall and with Diane needing extra help and then being gone to Kiev for most of a month for physiotherapy, he is feeling a bit worn down. Pray that the Lord would restore him and prepare his heart as he prepares for 3 workshops in early December.
- We return to the States December 13 for Christmas holidays to see Diane's mother in Ohio and then our children and grandchildren in Oregon. Pray that the travel would go smoothly and that we would be able to be renewed—despite time changes and weary travel days!
- Pray for the many evangelistic efforts that will take place over the holiday season in Ukraine—not only for the people we work with directly, but all of the churches who take advantage of this time of spiritual openness. Pray that a great harvest would be brought in! What better way to glorify Jesus Christ!

Molly Morton**Currently waiting to depart for Ireland (EFM)***Praise God...*

- For a lovely time with MAYM Friends Women's Retreat in September. I thoroughly enjoyed the speaker and worship centering on Psalm 139 and loved seeing old friends and meeting new ones.
- I had the best time helping to facilitate the Alpha Course at my home church Glendora Friends. My church parents, the Trzeciaks and Vilma Bagdasarian prepared the meal and dessert every week. It was a blessing to serve my faith community in this new way.
- Some forward motion has happened with my visa process. I'm excited for the prospect of a short visit to Ireland at the beginning of the year to help my team, begin some cultural training and take steps towards long term stay.

Please Pray...

- Continued prayers for my visa process. My team and I crave prayers for favor with the Irish government and potential sponsoring charities as well as clear and quick communication with everyone involved.
- For patience as I wait for the visa process to advance in exactly the right time.
- Some dear friends are fighting cancer right now and I pray for healing for each of them.

From Russ and Sarah Badgley**Serving in Ecuador (EFM)***Praise God...*

- Joseph seems to be mostly recovered from a long-term virus.
- An older vehicle was donated to EFM for our use.

Please Pray...

- For baby Matthew. He continues to have seizures and health issues. Pray for the doctors' guidance and swift understanding of the issues.
- For God to give strength during this difficult time.

From Edwin and Maria Giron**Serving in Mexico (EFM)***Praise God...*

- Aguascalientes Friends Church is celebrating its 10-year anniversary of the congregation becoming an organized church.
- For new opportunities to see people converting to Christ. Especially the 15 couples (non-Christian) taking the series of seven courses on marriage every Friday.

Please Pray...

- For the pastoral team that is being formed in Aguascalientes Friends Church. That God will bring or raise up a pastoral family for Aguascalientes.
- That we would be able to see the people taking the marriage courses make the decision to give their heart and follow Jesus.

From D. K. and Choity Sarkar**Serving in India (EFM)***Praise God...*

- We had a wonderful Annual Camp from 16-18 October 2018 at Chhaighori Village. The entire people of the village are Muslim. We have very few believers who invited us for the camp. Praise God that the camp was wonderful, and we could make a relationship with the conservative Muslim neighbors. Altogether, 130 believers from different Friends churches attended the camp.
- On 6 November, we had baptism program in Kolkata. There are fifteen adults that accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior and took water baptism. Two of them are from Christian background, one from Muslim people and all others are from Hindu background. Praise the Lord.
- There are three people among the baptism candidates who took water baptism on 6 November. These people stay in a place named Dumdum Cantonment near the airport. They requested us to start a house fellowship in their home. We accepted that proposal and decided to start a house church there. Thanks to the Lord for this new opportunity.

Please Pray...

- Pray for this new house church so that we may use the opportunity to win souls in that area. Our evangelists are few, therefore, Choity and I will have go there for preaching. My plan is to prepare a local leader within this year. Please pray for me also.
- Christmas is coming. We are planning to preach the gospel in our nearby villages and towns. We will use NTs and booklets. Pray for this project.
- We are planning to distribute blankets in Christmas season. May God provide necessary funds.

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

- For four that accepted the Lord since October and three that were baptized November 18.

Please Pray...

- For the Christmas outreach events in December.
- For a full-time Spanish speaking pastor to come and minister to the growing number of Spanish speakers in Hong Kong. Some speak a bit of English or a bit of Chinese (as many are ethnic Chinese from Venezuela or other Spanish-speaking countries).

From Rupak and Pramila Tamang Serving in Bhutan (EFM)

Praise God...

- That three children dedications, two marriages, and three cell churches were planted.
- That my son, Samuel, performed well in his class.
- For having 25 years of our marriage this December.

Please Pray...

- For Christmas celebrations in different places in Bhutan.
- For protection to our poor believers. It's cold here.
- For our upcoming bible school in January.

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

Praise God...

- We have had a great start to our FEAST Classes with all our students returning. We have our own dedicated classroom. Small, but it works.
- Our ESL outreach to Purok Uno was a week delayed, but most of our children have returned and they are excited to learn.
- We held a successful training with all our new Board Clerks/Chairs and began introducing the new Philippines Evangelical Friends International Ministries (PEFIM) Faith and Practice. The overall consensus was a big sigh of relief at finally seeing this process move forward. Approved was all the Board and Clerk/Chair positions and descriptions!

Please Pray...

- We have had many respond to our need for library books, but we need to get them from the USA to the Philippines. Please pray as we seek the best way to move forward on this matter.
- We have a series of training events being planned for both our Pastors/Elders and Members at large. Three big areas are worship leadership training, discipleship, and our new Elder's handbook. We are also discussing a seminar on ministering to those grieving due to death and other losses. Also, Jinky is teaching a seminar on a model of Biblical health, diet, and lifestyle for Friends Women.
- PEFIM has had a shortage of Pastors and FEAST will not produce any pastors for at least another year. Some of our students are preaching occasionally, but they need more experience. Plus, we have to supervise them on top of a busy schedule. One of our Pastors (Pastor Manny Tres Reyes from Silangan Evangelical Friends Church) is going to have surgery soon and will be out of commission for at least a month. This is the church involved with Purok Uno. Roy has been asked to bring leadership while Pastor Manny is recovering.

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

Praise God...

- For Thanksgiving season in our hearts and the opportunity to talk to students about the importance of being grateful. We are so grateful for this year!
- For God's mercy: Voicu's uncle had multiple chances to hear the gospel and receive the Lord before passing into eternity, which just happened November 24.
- For help in times of trouble: God brought people in our lives who became friends, and who are now offering to help and standing with us in hard situations.

Please Pray...

- For our adoptive daughter's (Petruta) healing after a difficult operation. She is suffering from Addison's and other health issues.
- For energy and inspiration in teaching; wisdom to know how to love our young students.
- For good health and protection for our family; God's will in our children's decisions.

From David Thomas EFM Whole-Life Discipleship

Praise God (Thailand)...

- For Ben and Charity Kibbe, David and Marilyn Kibbe, Solomon, Yosapa, Charee and Pla. Praise God for progress in preparing Solomon and Yosapa's two Discipling for Development teams, and for progress in exploring the villages where God is leading them to invest their time and energy in discipling over the next few years.

Please Pray (Thailand)...

- For God's favor and blessing to rest on these leaders as they continue preparing their teams and as together they seek Holy Spirit's guidance in exploring and selecting the communities he will lead them to. Pray for God's favor to rest on these leaders and for their continued deep inner transformation as they prepare to disciple these communities over the next few years.

Praise God (Rwanda)...

- For an excellent coaching trip with Brendan Steinacher, David Thomas Brad Carpenter, Augustin, Gerard and Tertullien in early November! Praise God for Brendan joining David (long term) in coaching the Rwanda D for D team! Brendan's experience and gifts in business coaching, and strategic planning are exactly what our Rwanda D for D team needs at this time. Praise God for enabling us to develop clear plans going into 2019 for both inside Rwanda and also for our expansion into Burundi, Congo and Uganda.

- For a great team of D for D national leaders in Augustin Simparinka, Gerard, Tertullien and Brad Carpenter! Praise God for 18 key leaders these men are investing in. Thank God for the gifts they have, for their maturity and growth in Christ, for their ministry experience, and for the many opportunities they have to invest in and equip other leaders.

Please Pray (Rwanda)...

- For the establishment of disciple-making movements in Rwanda, Burundi and in DR Congo (Goma, and Uvira)! May God's Kingdom come, and his will be done in the lives of these leaders, their families, their churches and in their communities!
- For Brad and Augustin as they invest in Tertullien and Gerard over this next year, passing on to them all the skills and responsibility necessary to lead the growing disciple-making movement in Rwanda!

Praise God (Cambodia)...

- For the Swards the Radcliffs, Elise and the Hernandez family with EFC-SW in Cambodia, and for their desire to plant whole-life, disciple-making, church-planting, community-transforming movements among the people groups they serve.

Please Pray (Cambodia)...

- For God's favor and blessing to rest on Robert and Sara Radcliff as they serve in Battambang. Pray for God's wisdom in working with their Cambodian colleagues and pray for great relationships with everyone they come in contact with!
- For the Sward family and for Elise living in Stueng Treng, pray for favor in all the new relationships and pray for wisdom and insight and for a growing vision of what Holy Spirit wants to do with them in their new setting.