



Evangelical Friends Mission January 2019 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.

No Holiday at Christmas in Nepal

HAPPY NEW YEAR! May God's blessings abound to you in the year 2019.

Christmas News: No Holiday---Yet rejoicing!

The government of Nepal didn't give a one-day holiday for Christmas in Nepal. We were sad. Hindus burned Bibles on Christmas Day in Nepal. We had lots of anti-Christian pressure from political parties against Christmas. But in spite of all that, it didn't taper our joy and evangelistic programs. We decided to have our evangelistic meeting in our 20 different areas. To our surprise, even more Hindus came to the meetings. When we gave the invitation, one Buddhist and 34 Hindus gave their lives to Jesus Christ and became Christians. Our joy was uncontainable!



Even greater crowds came for our Christmas meetings.



Ex-Hindu man and ex-Muslim woman, both Christians, getting married.

Ex-Hindu and Ex-Muslim, both Christian's, Testimony:

This is the most incredible miracle you can imagine. Hindus and Muslims hate each other in the natural. Forget about marrying each other; they would rather hate and kill each other.

We had prayed three years to find a groom for this ex-Muslim Christian woman. The Muslim community had been making fun of the ex-Muslims Christians and mocking them.

They had been saying, "This is what will happen to you when you leave Islam. No one will marry you."

But God did a miracle of miracles. An ex-Hindu Christian man was willing to marry her. Our rejoicing was beyond control. This has opened doors now for our other young ex-Muslim Christian girls to find husbands.

The Gospel is able to break any barriers that man has made and bring JOY, RECONCILIATION, and UNITY among people.

Rejoice with us about this great news.

Blessings,
B. and D. A.

From the EFM Office

Praise God...

- For the Friends Summit conference that took place in Colorado Springs at the end of December. Many young people came to the workshops on missions and are expressing interest in short-term trips to EFM fields and internships.
- For Gregg Prickett's long and faithful service to EFM as the EFM Board chair. Gregg and his wife, Laura, live in Southern California and are part of Rose Drive Friends Church (EFC-SW). Gregg has recently stepped down as board chair. He will be missed!
- This prayer letter is going out before the EFM books are closed for the 2018 fiscal year, so we can't tell you yet how EFM ended the year financially. But we can tell you how grateful we are for all who gave to EFM's ministries in 2018. There are many, many of you. Thank you!

Please Pray...

- For EFM as we close the books on 2018 and finalize our budget for 2019.
- For the process of naming a new chair and vice chair for the EFM Board.
- Please continue to pray for Lori Anderson and her family. Lori is our Director of Operations and has been battling cancer since October. We continue to pray for a miracle.

M. and K. L.

Serving in northern India (EFM)

Praise God...

- Our Christmas party went well with our villagers. We had many attend and were able to share the Christmas story with a couple smaller groups of kids throughout the evening.
- Our family is all currently healthy!

Please Pray...

- For the hearts of our villagers to continue to soften towards the Gospel.
- For our relationships to really deepen this winter season as they have much more free time now.
- For continued good health and safety, especially for our children.

B. and D. A.

Serving in Nepal (EFM)

Praise God...

- In spite of the anti-conversion law that went into effect, we went ahead and did our evangelistic meetings in 20 different areas.
- Two Buddhists and 52 Hindus gave their lives to Jesus Christ and became Christians.

Please Pray...

- Pray for new ways to evangelize in Nepal.
- Pray for these new converts who will face persecution.

From EFC-Nepal

Praise God...

- For the National Women's Conference which was held in Chitwan. More than 300 women attended the program. The main speaker was Mathew Bradbury. He spoke on the topic of women's hearts and God's amazing grace. Speakers from EFC-Nepal included Rachel, Hem Kumari, and Gita.
- The Bardiya Regional Conference was held in Surkhet. The theme of the conference was from Ecclesiastes 9:10a. Khal Bahadur of Teshanpur, Bardiya, and Narayan Gurung of Tapara Evangelical Friends were recognized as associate pastors. Janak Narayan and Amen Thapa were the main speakers.

Please Pray...

- One of the main leaders of EFC-Nepal had the opportunity to minister to over 700 prisoners (including government officials and police personnel) during the Christmas season. Pray that the Gospel will take root in their hearts and that there will be more opportunities like this in the months to come.

Abe and Diane Bible

Serving in Ukraine (EFC-ER)

Praise God...

- We are receiving regular reports from our church planters of their efforts to reach out—beyond the confines of a church building! Lives are being touched and reports of people saved.
- We had a good trip to the US despite delays that nevertheless did not interrupt our travel schedule.
- We have enjoyed wonderful times with family—including our 10 grandchildren in the US.

Please Pray...

- January is still considered a very festive season in Ukraine with several celebrations climaxing January 19 with the celebration of the Baptism of Jesus—an Eastern Orthodox holy day. Pray that hearts would be turned to Christ the Savior and that they would start a new year with new life.
- For the conferences/workshops that will be held again a week after our return to Ukraine (Jan. 22 and on). That during the time of winter weather people would still be enabled to come and be encouraged.
- Pray for a new opportunity Abe has to begin holding evangelistic workshops in one region. He is contemplating whether this is the direction to follow later in 2019 rather than having a central meeting in Kiev. More travel for him, but greater opportunities for people who do not have to take time off from work etc. Pray for wisdom and direction.

**From Samson and Priscilla Retnaraj
Serving in Nepal (EFM)**

Praise God...

- For all the blessings throughout 2018 in our CHE ministry and for all the CHE trainers and their family. Many people's lives and communities have seen positive growth through the work of this ministry.
- The adult education class in Chitwan (Jhurjhure Friends Church) that completed their course and were awarded certificates and Bibles.
- Priscilla has completed her Ph.D in Nursing and completed her thesis and the oral defense of the dissertation. Her graduation and award of degree will be held shortly.

Please Pray...

- For our second batch of CHE Discipleship and Small Business Development Training starting on 17th December in Surkhet. Fifteen more leaders and believers from West Nepal will be trained over the next few months.
- For the plan of new areas/churches where CHE will be taught in 2019 using people already trained as trainers now.
- For our staff retreat and family get together held in the last week of December as we gather to thank and praise God for all his mercies in this year.

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

Praise God...

- Thankful for a year of growth, with our Little Friends family; for seeing the Holy Spirit work as we learn and grow together.
- Thankful for a new knee, and the broader life that gives me.
- Thankful for opportunities to visit my family as we walk through some difficult days.

Please Pray...

- Pray for the families I work with in Ireland, especially as I will be in California quite a bit in the next year - for furlough and time with family.
- Pray for me as I continue to work through the new visa regulations with and for Molly Morton. Pray for the right sponsor for Molly.
- Pray for my family, and especially my sister Lori, her husband and daughters, as she is treated for metastatic breast cancer.

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

Praise God...

- Joe continues to progress in his recovery from a longstanding viral infection.
- For God's continuing provision for us, via supporters, connections and our agency.

Please Pray...

- Please continue to pray for Matthew's doctors, diagnosis, and wellness.
- For our children, as the travel and lack of stability lately have taken a toll.

**From Rupak and Pramila Tamang
Serving in Bhutan (EFM)**

Praise God...

- For celebrated pre-Christmas in different places in Bhutan.
- For the child dedication at Wangdi Friends Church.
- For all the boys that passed their exams.

Please Pray...

- January 1-25 for the Bible school and for new students.
- For the marriage of David with Ruth Tamang on December 20. David will continue his studies going back to LPU Punjab India on January 13, 2019. Ruth will help us in ministry as it is an arranged marriage.
- For the gathering at Kado Village on January 1. It's a special meeting and will be the first big gathering in that area and village.

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

Praise God...

- That despite the turnover of people returning to their own countries, or being resettled if they are refugees, God continues to bring new people to RiverGrace.

Please Pray...

- RiverGrace is seeking to find a missionary pastor, even one from a Spanish-speaking country, if possible, to join us in ministering to the 5,000-6,000 Spanish speakers who are now living in Hong Kong. There are also an estimated 3,000 Spanish speakers in Hong Kong prisons who have been jailed for drug smuggling.
- For those western Christians working in the mainland. They are facing uncertainty in the continuation of their work inside. One Bible translation organization has been told that all their people must leave by the end of 2018.
- Hong Kong has also been experiencing increasing pressure from the mainland in terms of the erosions of freedoms here.

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

Praise God...

- For the Great Blessings of Family, Friends and People God has brought into our lives. This recent Christmas season has been a joyous time of Celebrating Christ's birth and rejoicing in fellowship with those in our life.
- For the wonderful generosity of our faithful supporters. This past year has been a time of seeing God's faithfulness through you all, both in prayer and financial support. Lives have been touched and changed because it is "In Christ's Service Together."
- For what God has planned for 2019.

Please Pray...

- Roy will be leading a Church Planting training with a new team from Marakina Friends Church as well as others interested in Church Planting. Pray for God's will to be revealed as we explore several different strategies based upon the Team Members and the Community for the church plant.
- For Roy and Jinky as they plan out their schedules for the dental and hygiene ministries, the follow-up on the sewing projects and the expansion of our ministries in Purok Uno with Pastor Manny and Brother Alan (Luzon), Malvar with Pastor Chito (Samar) and Tabon with Pastors Pedro and Rannie (Palawan). Pastors Chito and Rannie and Brother Alan are my three disciples, (jokingly my Peter, James and John). Please pray for wisdom in their scheduled training, courses and coordination with the local churches for our dental and hygiene ministries.
- For our upcoming PEFIM Yearly Meeting. We will discuss the finalized Faith and Practice and Lord willing, see it approved. Also pray for all the logistic of travel, housing and the program schedule.

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

Praise God...

- For Petruta's benign biopsy; her steady healing after a difficult operation.
- The Spirit of Jesus in this Christmas season; our opportunities to help and to witness.
- The love we received from families of our students; friendships forged by years of service in Christ's name.

Please Pray...

- For our English/Shop students to remain sensitive to the Gospel.
- For Christina and John's plans for 2019; to be totally directed by the Lord.
- For Voicu's travel to a bigger city for prostate surgery on Jan. 23; God's control and complete healing.

**From David Thomas
EFM Whole-Life Discipleship**

Praise God (Thailand)...

- For Ben Kibbe, Solomon, Yosapa, Charee, Pla and their other teammates. Praise God for progress in preparing their 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 over 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 these leaders continued inner transformation as they prepare to disciple these communities over the next few years.
- For Scott Sward, Ronald Mazune and David Thomas as they coach these Lahu leaders through the process of choosing the communities God is leading them to serve in. They will be there from January 23-30.

Praise God (Rwanda)...

- For an amazing Rwanda D for D team: Brad Carpenter, Augustin Simparinka, Gerard and Tertullien! Praise God for 18 other leaders they are mentoring. Praise God for six churches in Rwanda with a good number of leaders transforming and with excitement growing to reach out and involve their whole community in a whole-life, discipleship, community transforming process.
- For the growing vision and hope for whole-life, disciple-making, community-transforming and church-planting movements growing among leaders in DR Congo and in Burundi. Thank God for evidence of transformation in some of these leaders' lives.

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 their 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.