



Evangelical Friends Mission

February 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.

We, D. K. and Choity Sarkar, have two stories to share with you.

Pompa Acherya was a Hindu married woman and her husband was also a Hindu. She had a seven-year-old son and her family condition was not stable. Pompa worked hard for her family. She would come to our Kestopur fellowship where Brother Sanjoy Roy was the leader. There, she heard about Jesus and decided to take a public testimony of baptism.

I asked her, "If you take public testimony of baptism, will your husband accept that?" She replied, "It is my personal decision. I already talked with my husband and he has no objection." Praise God for the decision that she made! On August 4, 2018 she took a public testimony of baptism.

After her public testimony of baptism, Pompa attended our annual camp at Murshidabad and she received many blessings there. She became on fire for the Lord. But when she came back, she received shocking news. Her job had been taken away from her. However, she did not lose the hope. She continually attended the church service in Kolkata and we prayed for her. Last Sunday, we received good news. Pompa thanked God during church that she had found a new job at a new company. Then, we all thanked God together for this good news!



Kazem Shake was from a Muslim background and his family was conservative Muslims. In his old age, he met Jesus in one of our meetings and accepted him as his Lord and Savior. His family was not happy, but Kazem was strong with his decision and he took water baptism on November 6, 2018. His acceptance did not make any change in his family, but it did make some change in the society.

After the annual camp, a bridge was made among the church and village people. Kazem's conversion and distribution of blankets to the poor non-Christians of the village made some change among the village people and leaders. We hope and pray for betterment. The church needs prayer and support.

We are thankful for your support.

Blessings,
D. K. and Choity Sarkar

From the EFM Office

Praise God...

- That EFM ended 2018 financially in the black and that the outlook for 2019 is encouraging.
- For good progress during Northwest Yearly Meeting's (NWYM) Mid-Year Board Meetings in figuring out what it looks like for EFM to be NWYM's mission agency.

Please Pray...

- For Evangelical Friends Church-Southwest as it holds its annual conference February 1-2 in Southern California.
- For the EFM staff retreat that will be held in Wichita, Kansas, February 14-16.
- For Dan as he visits Mexico after the retreat in Kansas. He will spend time with the Giron family in Aguascalientes and participate in Mexico Yearly Meeting's annual sessions which will be held in Mexico City.
- Please continue to hold Lori Anderson and her family in your prayers. Lori was hired last April to be our Director of Operations and is now battling cancer for the second time in her life.

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

Praise God...

- About 35 people were saved throughout the holiday season through the efforts of our church planters. The angels rejoice!
- There was full attendance at the January church planting conference/workshop, cold and snow notwithstanding.
- Abe will begin holding a regional evangelism workshop in February. We anticipate that to become a new ministry track in the coming months.

Please Pray...

- February 18-23 will be a very intensive week as Abe has three conferences that week, all with different groups and topics.
- For the translation of the second part of New Testament Survey into Ukrainian and the editing that must take place as we move to producing individual lessons instead of whole workbooks. We live in a "non" committed era and need to provide smaller bites.
- That God would continue to provide. We have one man, Roman, traveling into Russia and having a very successful ministry there training men with the materials he has learned from Abe. But travel there is costly because of the great distances. (But God has provided everything to date!!!)

From Samson and Priscilla Retnaraj Serving in Nepal (EFM)

Praise God...

- For a good staff retreat and family get-together, the week after Christmas in Kathmandu. Our monthly staff meeting was also held simultaneously in this last month of the year 2018 with so much to thank God for.
- For the six teachers in our non-Formal adult education program in Salyan who completed the six months of their classes of 12 men and women in each group. The 'graduation' is to be held on the 25th January in their respective churches and certificates to be awarded. Jamuna our local leader and Janak are overseeing the process. Anita Syangtan from Jhurjhure church also helped educate 12 men and women from Jhurjhure Friends Church in Chitwan. She is being groomed for a role in the Friends CHE Ministry for the future.
- For the CHE Training of Trainers (ToT) that was successfully held in Bhawanipur (Rautahat District), and the 12 leaders from three different local churches who participated and are looking forward to adopting the CHE method of evangelism, development and church planting in their communities. Suleman, Janak and Gokarna helped to coordinate this training.

Please Pray...

- For the 2nd phase of the 2nd CHE Discipleship Training to be held in Surkhet in March 2019, and for Wabash Friends Church as they help us with the training process. There are 12 leaders from West Nepal who are undergoing training.
- For the eight church leaders who received loans to start small business in West Nepal and are now expected to return their loans in regular installments from January 2019. Pray for their integrity and faithfulness and that their business does not keep them away from their church and evangelistic efforts and activities.
- For the safety and good health of all our CHE Trainers and their families as they go through winter this year, and in all their travels to get to ministry sites.

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

Praise God...

- For some new folks that are coming to RiverGrace, both the English and Spanish services.

Please Pray...

- For a Spanish speaking pastor to help with the Spanish speakers in Hong Kong, most of them from Venezuela. They're ethnic Chinese but are fairly newcomers to Hong Kong.
- For the one-day retreat at Chinese New Year.
- For Cindy's prayer ministry as it is going through some needed changes.

Kathi Perry
Serving in Ireland (EFM)

Praise God...

- I'm thankful for the community of families in Ireland, who love me in practical ways.
- I am thankful that I could be in California with my family for Christmas.
- I am thankful for positive interest in partnering with EFM to provide a visa for Molly.

Please Pray...

- For a "good fit" and favor from immigration to bring Molly to Ireland - and wisdom for me as I lead her through this process.
- For balance for me between work, and family, as my sister battles metastatic breast cancer.
- For my sister, Lori, and our family - a miracle, strength and stamina, comfort, and rest.

From Russ and Sarah Badgley
Serving in Ecuador (EFM)

Praise God...

- That Matthew has been having less severe and less frequent events lately.
- We have deep gratitude for the hospitality we've received, and that we now have a house for just for our family.
- For his continued provision for us during this time, just as he's always done.

Please Pray...

- For Matthew's continued diagnostic process and healing.
- For strength for our whole family, as this leg of the journey has been especially wearing.

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

Praise God...

- Voicu's successful prostate surgery; safe travels, access to good medical care in a larger city.
- The covering of prayer and expressions of love from certain students and their parents.
- For opportunities to minister during a time of tragedy in our village, Orlat.

Please Pray...

- For the family of an 18-year-old boy (high school senior) who committed suicide; 24-year-old Diana, hospitalized, clinically dead due to meningitis. God's mercy and redemptive power working for the good of these families and our community.
- Healing, protection and provision as we look ahead.
- The planning of a youth camp for this spring: location and message; calling of the kids and parental approval; open hearts and minds, etc.

From Molly Morton
In Ireland Working on a Visa (EFM)

Praise God...

- By the time you read this, I will have been in Ireland for a few weeks. Praise to God for orchestrating the timing of this short trip. I am currently pursuing different organizations to sponsor my long-term visa.
- I am grateful for excellent family time during the holidays with highlights including a birthday trip with my sister to Calaveras County, birthdays for my niece, brother, nephew and sister, good food with good friends, and family and I got to buy a plane ticket to Ireland!
- I can't say enough about the support and encouragement I have and continue to receive from EFM staff, my teammates in Ireland, and my Glendora Friends Church family. I couldn't do any of this without them.

Please Pray...

- For favor with each organization I speak with during my time in Ireland. Please pray for extra doses of confidence and eye contact when I'm speaking with each of them.
- For balance of pursuing visa sponsors, spending time with existing friends in Ireland, supporting my teammates, and listening for God's voice.
- It's hard to leave my family and my community here in California. Please pray a hedge of protection around my mind and spirit, that the enemy would not get a foothold through homesickness.

From David Thomas
EFM Whole-Life Discipleship

Praise God (Thailand)...

- For Ben Kibbe, Solomon, Yosapa, Charee, 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 greater understanding of our role in joining Jesus in the Father's challenge, "Ask of me and I will give you the nations as your inheritance (Psalm 2:8)." Let's join our Lahu brothers and sisters as they "ask for the communities God is leading them to disciple in the next few years. Our praying, "Your Kingdom come, your will be done" for these communities is an important part of their transformation.

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 some transformation happening in a few leaders and with excitement growing to reach out and involve their whole community in a whole-life, discipling, 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. Pray for Scott's relationship with a young teacher and the village he comes from.