



Evangelical Friends Mission

March 2019 Prayer Letter

www.friendsmission.com
efm@friendsmission.com
303.421.8100

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.

On January 14, I arrived in Ireland and quickly received my first answer to prayer with the gift of a 90-day visa. As most of you are aware, I am here in Ireland to meet and make connections with an organization to partner with me. Brand new visa regulations have made this a part of obtaining a long-term visa here in Ireland. Thank you to everyone who has been praying specifically for the logistics of this new path God has placed in front of me. I have been staying with my teammate Kathi Perry in Greystones while I search for a ministry partner. I have found a couple of groups willing to consider partnership and I am waiting for decision makers in those groups to decide to partner with me or not. In the meantime, I am learning how to drive on the left side of the road, baking for Kathi's toddler and baby groups while she's in California, attending church events, meeting new friends and having dinner together and taking long walks while I listen to God, podcasts and worship music. I am adjusting to all the little things that are different about living in Ireland instead of California. Little things like hanging laundry to dry, weather changes, how forgiving round-a-bouts can be when you miss your turn and reveling in the sun being out in a way I never did in California.

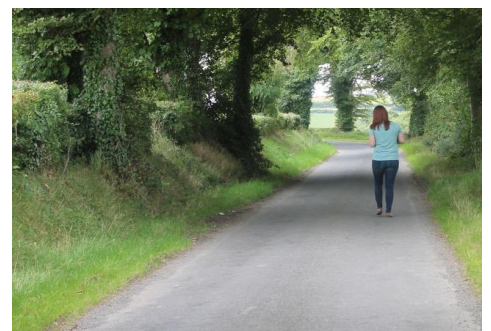


I've been constantly taking photos of paths, trails and roads for years especially in Ireland. The above photo is the cliff walk from Greystones to Bray that is literally a minute and a half walk from Kathi's house. Paths have become symbolic in my journey because I see God in these paths. I can only walk the path that is set before me. I cannot tread a path that I cannot see yet, so I shouldn't worry about it. I can prepare for that path by wearing the right shoes and checking the weather, but I cannot know the path if I haven't walked it before. Walking this trail almost every day, God has spoken to me about my path here in Ireland. Almost every day Kathi and I will look at each other and say, "We can only do what we can do." What we're trying to remind each other of is, we can only walk the path we can see right now. I prepare for that path by praying for grace and favor in each interaction with each person I meet here in Ireland. Preparations are also made through asking other people how the path went for them and listening intently to their answers.

The very first time I attempted the cliff walk I wore the wrong shoes; Dr Martens are not hiking boots for your information. About halfway to Bray which was about six km, I realized I had unforgiving shoes which had resulted in massive blisters on each heel. I stopped several times to readjust my socks, the laces of my boots and to just rest. By the time I reached the Bray train station, I could barely walk. After riding the train back down to Greystones I attempted to walk back to Kathi's house. I purchased blister band aids in town and took my Docs off on the side of the road to put them on my ridiculously sore feet. Shortly after that I realized I wasn't going to make it home. Kathi was back in California, so I felt like I didn't have anyone to come rescue me. But I remembered a few women from church and the baby groups that had given me their phone number. I rang a few of them desperately asking for a lift from the harbor which is as far as I had gotten. Thankfully, one blessed woman came to collect me while I waited in the rain because of course it had started raining as well. I needed help and asked for it. Then, God blessed it. I've journeyed down several paths in Ireland before but this path in Greystones and with EFM is brand new. I am trusting God as I walk this path with Him leading me to something I cannot even begin to imagine. I am truly excited to see who and what God brings to me on this new path because I cannot do this on my own. Sometimes it's as simple as calling a friend for a lift from the harbor.

I am so grateful to each of you for continuing to pray for this journey I'm on in Ireland. Thank you for praying for the uncertainty of it all and my response to that unknown. Please continue to pray for grace and favor with each group I'm talking to. Please keep praying for Kathi as she is in California with her family following the passing of her sister Lori. Please keep praying for David and Jonathon Howell who are on furlough in Ohio, Kansas and Oregon. Please keep praying for me as I look for only the next step and that I wouldn't worry about ten steps ahead, only what I can do right in front of me. Also, please pray that I would have clarity to see the next step and it wouldn't be lost in a sea of anxiety and fear. It's challenging to live in another country no matter how close to home it feels, please pray for my adjustment and my homesickness. Thank you so much from the bottom of my heart.

Molly Morton



From the EFM Office

Praise God...

- For the EFM staff retreat that was held in Wichita, Kansas. Since we all work in different locations it was an important time for worshipping the Lord together and drawing closer to one another. We were also able to do quite a bit of planning for this year.
- For the eight days Dan spent in Mexico following the staff retreat. He spent time in Aguascalientes with Edwin, Maria, and Edwin Isaac Giron and also with the Friends church in that city. He also participated in Mexico Yearly Meeting's annual sessions which were held in Mexico City. Dan was encouraged by the spirit of unity in those meetings and the vision for local and global outreach.

Please Pray...

- For the last several years EFM has been leading the Personal Evangelism Seminar at Barclay College. All Barclay students are required to take this seminar before they graduate. This year the seminar is taking place March 1 and 2. Dan, Matt, David Thomas, and Molly Black will take part in teaching and facilitating learning experiences along with Kevin Mortimore, the missions professor at Barclay.
- Continue to pray that EFM will be more and more effective in its efforts to mobilize Evangelical Friends to carry out the Great Commission of Jesus Christ.
- Pray for the family of Lori Anderson, our former Director of Operations, who slipped from the arms of her husband, Greg, and into the presence of Jesus on February 5.

From Dave and Chelsea Carpenter

Serving in Rwanda (EFM)

Praise God...

- For a great D for D team! (Discipling for Development is the name of our whole-life discipleship process.)
- For great trainers/mentors-in-training.
- For a great team of those who partner with us through prayer, finances, and encouragement toward this vision of a disciple-making movement.

Please Pray...

- Trips to Burundi and Congo in the next few weeks.
- Our plan for Simparinka and Brad focusing on groups in Burundi and Congo while Tertullien and Gerard focus on groups in Rwanda.
- For Gideon (three years old) as he adjusts back (emotionally) from our short trip in the States last month.

From Dave and Cindy Aufrance

Serving in Hong Kong (EFC-ER)

Praise God...

- For the continued ministry of United Christian College (a high school) where Cindy and I taught for a few years. They are celebrating their 45th anniversary this month.

Please Pray...

- The Hong Kong Evangelical Church, of which RiverGrace is the 21st church, celebrated their 65th anniversary on Sunday. Pray that the churches will adapt to the challenges facing them in this age.
- For one of our former colleagues in RiveGrace who has stage four cancer and will have surgery next week. There are others in our church that have some health issues. Pray for God's healing.

From Samson and Priscilla Retnaraj

Serving in Nepal (EFM)

Praise God...

- The CHE and Adult Education and Arts & Crafts Trainings going in the Cha'pur (Rautahat) community, where the local churches came together and formed a committee of their own, to plan and implement their programs for the year under the banner of CHE trainings.
- The visit to Pyuthan district by our CHE Trainer Narayan Gurung and our efforts to start some work and house fellowships in two villages (Kaira and Sungure). Please pray for the Gurung families of Chhabi Lal, Shasi Ram and Thaman Lal as they come together in worship every week in their village house fellowship.
- The Community Learning center/library has been started by Janak and Thiru in Surkhet where young students come for tuition and reading in their library. We are planning to equip this library with a computer, printer and also books and christian journals and magazines to help the students read by themselves. Bhawani who was helping Janak in this work, has gone to Bangalore to be with his parents for a short while, and Bhagirath who was helped by our SBD loan to start an agricultural farm, has done well and now works in Jumla and Humla as the field evangelist and supervisor.

Please Pray...

- The forthcoming CHE Discipleship and Small Business Development Training to be held at Surkhet in March and the 14 participants from village churches in the Mid and Far West Nepal. Wabash Friends' Church (Eric and Ken) will be helping in the training process.
- Neelam Sada, a 13-year-old girl who accepted Christ from Aurahi (Janakpur), is a strong believer and encourages the other 13 to 15 children from the Mussahar community in their faith life who regularly meet in Aurahi for tuition and are involved in our nutrition program through Arun's ministry.
- Jamuna and her family as she faithfully continues doing the work in Salyan District for the adult non-formal education program and also leads three community churches in Salyan as their 'Pastor'.

From David and Tricia Howell

Serving in Ireland (EFM)

Praise God...

- For a wonderful time connecting with friends across the US with our time here.
- For continued growth in our relationships in Ireland and the way that they have supported us in our time away.
- For having a friend thank us for coming to Ireland. "Because if we hadn't come, they wouldn't have met Jesus and they couldn't have made it through the last few years without him."

Please Pray...

- For our financial needs to be met through new partners joining with us.
- For health and safety for our family as we travel and serve.
- For continued growth in our relationships and that the Good News of Christ would be heard and received in everything we say and do.

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

Praise God...

- That the thirteenth bible school was completed.
- For eight members who made a public testimony of baptism and for five who confessed this month.
- That three couples married this month.

Please Pray...

- For the public testimony of baptism service in Wangdi friends church next week.
- For the gospel youth music concert on 23rd February.
- Again, for mother church shifting and please pray for training rent house we are seeking and for protection.

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

Praise God...

- We have about a dozen or more faithful men who are planting churches. They go out when it is cold and look for people to evangelize and pray with! What a joy it must be to God's heart!
- Diane is making steady progress now after the knee surgery she had last fall. There were many ups and downs, but she has found a way to exercise and work on it and is experiencing less and less pain and more and more mobility.
- Roman, our coworker traveling to Russia, has more and more invitations to come and train men in New Testament evangelism. Praise God for this open door in an increasingly restrictive country.

Please Pray...

- That we would find creative ways to spread the word about the Financial Freedom course. The main investment has been made to have it translated and formatted, as so many have no clue about faith and finances. How it would revolutionize churches!
- That the Lord would raise up more church planters through the evangelism workshop. The goal is to build Christ's Kingdom, to expand His church! That is what ALL of the workshops are about—even Financial Freedom, because that would release more resources for God's work.

**A. and M. A.
Serving in Bangladesh (EFM)**

Praise God...

- That we were able to visit each Friends church believer's house in the northern part of Bangladesh. They were very much encouraged to see us.
- That we can start our ministry in two new areas this year.

Please Pray...

- For hard working workers for our fields. We need at least five workers (couples) to help make disciples and plant churches in different areas.
- For Joy and Amiyo as they are studying at IGSL for their archeological study.
- For our discipleship training center.
- For a long-term computer teacher and bookkeeper for our Friends Computer Center.

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

Praise God...

- On March 23, we will graduate our first year ESL class of students. This will be a formal event with parents and community leaders. We have 15 students who will finish the first year with ESL levels 1 and 2. We are excited as the Muslim-Christian Housing Association (Purok Uno) has granted us the free use of their conference room and one of our church partners has sponsored the class photos. This has been an open door to minister to the whole community and they are now asking for other educational input, especially for the adults.
- We will be meeting with five families in Palawan (March 29-April 2) who want to join with Philippines Evangelical Friends. This potential group also has a plot of land with a building that would serve as a church. The other exciting thing is that the community is a Christian-Muslim community where they have great relationships.
- Our FEAST Residential classes are ending their first year with ten students who have completed a set of very demanding courses. Now on to year two. Our distance learning students now number five students with a new student joining the next semester. All of these students are also in the Recording process as well.

Please Pray...

- That we will have God's wisdom in Purok Uno. Pray for our planning for next year's ESL classes and what, if anything, we can do for the adults of this community. Continue to pray for open conversations about God and especially about Jesus.
- For our March trip to Palawan. This is a joint PEFIM and EFM trip as we partner together to plant a church and reach out to the whole community. Pray for discernment and God's will. This partnership will include the Tabon Friends Church in their first church plant.
- For Jinky and I to get some much-needed rest. PEFIM has just completed their Annual Conference. We had delegates from every church. The Palawan delegates were hosted by Jinky and I, so we had a full house of eight people, four cats, and Jinky and I. We also were drivers for the Conference worship team. Yes, we are tired.

From David Thomas
EFM Whole-Life Discipleship

Praise God (Thailand)...

- For a good coaching trip in the end of January for Scott Purser and David Thomas. We appreciate the growth in understanding, the unity and the excellent leadership Solomon, Yosapa, Charee, Pla and Ben Kibbe give to their team.

Please Pray (Thailand)...

- For God's favor as these leaders mentor their other team members in the foundational lessons of D for D, in making personal development plans, in developing Bible telling skills and especially as they grow in character.
- For clear discernment as they seek Holy Spirit's guidance in exploring and selecting the communities he is leading them to.
- Our leaders have many responsibilities. Pray for a clear focus, good planning, and good use of their time as they do their work and prepare their teams.

Praise God (Rwanda)...

- For an excellent training in D for D's Mobilization Phase by Brad Carpenter, Augustin, Gerard and Tertullien! The 18 leaders they are mentoring said this is exactly what they need, and that it brings them closer than ever before to living out their vision to shine Christ's light in their communities. They have chosen five churches and their D for D teams which will mobilize their whole communities around a shared vision of community transformation (throughout 2019).
- 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 Brendan Steinacher's coaching trip (and son, 7-16 March) with Brad, Augustin, Tertullien and Gerard empowering them to better manage all the tasks and responsibilities need as they expand their coaching work in Rwanda, Burundi and eastern DR Congo (Uvira and Goma).
- In Psalm 2:8 the Father challenges Jesus saying, "Ask of me and I will give you the nations as your inheritance!" Let's join Jesus and our Rwandan D for D teams as they ask for these five communities God is leading them to disciple in the next few years. Let's pray that God's name be lifted high, that his Kingdom come, that his will be done over these five communities!
- For our Burundi and our eastern DR Congo groups to grow in their understanding of whole-life discipleship and in their personal transformation, and in their Bible-telling skills. Brad, Augustin, Tertullien and Cyprien will be leading workshops in March.

Praise God (Cambodia)...

- For the relationships and opportunities God is opening for the Swards and Elise in Stueng Treng. Praise God for unity and a good partnership with their YWAM colleagues in this area.

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 a deepening of each team member's relationship with Jesus, and for discernment in the Holy Spirit's leading. Pray for Scott's relationship with a young teacher and the leaders in the village he comes from.