



Evangelical Friends Mission

April 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.

Her name was Mafuza Begam. She was born and brought up in a Muslim family. She was very devoted to Allah and kept all religious activities seriously. She used to pray five times a day at home and tried not to miss any Islamic assembly nearby. She always used a veil if she needed to go outside her home. She became very surprised and upset when she saw a Bible on the bed of her husband, Doc. Samsuddin. She recognized that it was a Christian religious book and asked her husband why he bought this book. Her husband actually hid his new faith in Christianity from his wife because of fear of facing persecution. Doc. Samsuddin had become a Christian in 2008 and he told Mafuza that he liked reading this book since there are many stories written about Islamic prophets. Mafuza watched that her husband was serious reading the Bible regularly. One day her husband took his son to attend a Christian seminar and his son received Jesus as his personal savior there. They were scolded by Mafuza when they returned home. She even beat her husband. Her husband requested that she read the holy book and find if there are any harmful words written in it. Mafuza was not interested in reading the Bible.



Mafuza is teaching Bible literacy class.



Mafuza is leading her cell group.

Doc. Samsuddin and his son attended Christian seminars often and that made Mafuza interested to know why and where they go. One day her husband requested her to attend a Christian Couples seminar. She went with her husband to find out what happened there. The Lord softened her heart there and she attended all the classes. She came back home and started reading the Bible. One day our lay pastor, Baror Ali, visited her house. He asked if she wanted to receive Jesus or not. Mafuza replied very positively. Then, Baror Ali led her in a prayer of faith and she gave a public testimony of baptism in a pond nearby.

Now she is very regular in reading the Bible. She has three cell groups: one is at her house and two are at other places. She uses Bible literacy materials to teach them how to read, write, and share gospel stories to them. She has already planted three cell churches and made two

disciples. Please pray that she can continue to win souls and plant more church this year.

Blessings,
A. and M. A.

From the EFM Office

Praise God...

- For the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. If it were not for his finished work here on earth EFM would not exist. Neither would your local church!
- For those who are responding to EFM's invitation to explore missions service as they apply to join Molly Black in an exploration trip to Rwanda this June.
- For the memorial service and celebration of Lori Anderson's life at Rose Drive Friends Church in February as she loved and served EFC and Friends Missions.

Please Pray...

- For Dan as he helps lead a group of 14 people to Bolivia to participate in a centennial celebration over Easter weekend. Most of the group is from NWYM. They will be helping Bolivian Friends celebrate 100 years of Evangelical Friends ministry in their country.
- For Matt as he heads to Africa towards the end of the month. He will be joining Lazarus John, of Omaha, Nebraska, in South Sudan, Ethiopia and Sudan to meet representatives of 17 churches who identify themselves as EFC churches as a step in discerning EFM's potential relationship in this region. Then at the first of May, Thayne Thompson of Wichita, Kansas will join him in Rwanda to spend time with missionaries and church leaders in Rwanda, Burundi and Congo, exploring our partnerships, leadership development programs, and missions-sending objectives.
- For EFM's Great Lakes Leadership Training (GLLT) committee and programs as they wrestle with some difficult challenges at this time in keeping up with the opportunities at hand among the successful and growing programs in Congo, Burundi and Rwanda. This includes new laws the Rwanda government is imposing on pastors for education requirements.

From Molly Morton

Currently in Ireland Working on Visa (EFM)

Praise God...

- A local church in Ireland has expressed a willingness to come alongside me in my visa process. Please continue to pray for the many conversations ahead that will clarify details. I feel really hopeful about this development and am happy to report this to you.
- I was able to get away to Dundalk this weekend for my birthday to see some of my old friends. It was a nice quiet weekend catching up with friends.
- For the ways in which I have been welcomed here in Ireland and especially Greystones during this short visit.

Please Pray...

- For final approval of my visa comes from immigration so please continue to pray for favor and grace with them. Please pray for clear mind as I begin filling out my application.
- The next two weeks will be full of important conversations which will clarify details of my partnership with the local church. Please pray for clear communication and grace during these meetings.
- I'm happy to return home to California in the two weeks, please pray for my adjustment back.

From Brad and Chelsea Carpenter

Serving in Rwanda (EFM)

Praise God...

- For a great discipleship group in Burundi that is ripe and quick to implement what they are learning.
- That we have been more intentionally using those we have been mentoring to mentor others - and they are doing a really good job!
- That our wonderful D for D leadership Team is working well together and dividing our tasks well according to our gifting.

Please Pray...

- For two groups in Congo as we mentor them, for blessing on them and their families. For safety as we work in some difficult situations.
- For family as Brad is away somewhat often these days.
- For the D for D team as we keep raising up others to help us expand this movement.

From Edwin and Maria Giron

Serving in Mexico (EFM)

Praise God...

- For our Yearly Meeting that took place in Mexico City. It was a great time of edification and good fraternalism.
- We are very grateful for the visit of our EFM Director, Dan Cammack. It was a good time of blessing and encouragement.
- There are more new individuals and families adding to the Aguascalientes Friends Church congregation. Praise the Lord!

Please Pray...

- For the continuity of our process of leaving the field. For a smooth transition. That we could take good advantage of the months that we have left and to have good and satisfied farewells.
- For the Aguascalientes Friends Church leadership. That they would take completely over ministry with engagement and passion.
- For Israel and Daira De La Torre, this is the couple that are being considered to be the pastors of Aguascalientes Friends Church. That Israel would be able to transfer his job position from Guadalajara to Aguascalientes permanently. For Daira's pregnancy of their second child. She is in her second trimester now, but she has had some complications.

From Dave and Cindy Aufrance

Serving in Hong Kong (EFC-ER)

Praise God...

- For the good attendance at the Alpha Course (Evangelism) that we are doing in conjunction with our sister Church, Grace Church. Several newcomers are attending and hearing the Gospel.

Please Pray...

- For the outreach event, family run day, on the April 5 public holiday, and also the other special events at Easter.
- For a CT scan and other appointments at the hospital for Dave as they check out a shadow in one of my kidneys. Thank the Lord that minus the hiking of the mountains I used to do, I'm feeling fine.

From Samson and Priscilla Retnaraj

Serving in Nepal (EFM)

Praise God...

- The recently concluded Discipleship Training in Surkhet where the main lessons were on "Biblical Basis of Small Business Development for church leaders." 14 leaders from far and mid-west, as well as some local leaders of Surkhet participated and the discussions were lively and helped the participants understand the concept and to be able to teach it in their churches so that they can promote self-sustainability. There was also a time of sharing testimony and learning from each other's' life experiences in Christian ministry.
- Janak and Thiru who helped to facilitate this training with the help of Friends from Wabash Church (Indiana) in spite of their busy schedules and taking care of their two children one of who (Joanna) is 5 months of age.
- For the women's art and craft training in Cha'pur where 10 women from Cha'pur (including two Mussahar caste women from Santapur) started their training in late February led by Asha and Solomon Rai our CHE Trainers. Each of these women who come from local churches will be helped to start their own Tailoring and Crafts business on completion of this training along with a gift of sewing machines and other necessary equipment.

Please Pray...

- Our CHE staff meeting and seminar will be held in late March as we get together with all our CHE Trainers to bring in their reports for the current Nepali year ending in March 2019 and make plans for the new Nepali year (2076) for their ministry work.
- For the adult education classes in two different churches in Salyan as they conclude this month and 20 women and men will be "graduating" and each provided with a Bible and Christian songbook. After this we are planning to reassess our current method and technique and modify the training to make it easier and more suitable to the illiterate people in churches and communities. Please pray for Jamuna as she coordinates this work with Janak.
- The people of Parevakot Friends Church in Chitwan are requesting us to start CHE Trainings in their church community. Please pray for their leader Mr. Akkal and two others from Dhamile Friends Church in Chitwan who are helping to coordinate this work alongside with Gokarna our CHE Trainer.

From Russ and Sarah Badgley

Serving in Ecuador (EFM)

Praise God...

- Matthew has gone six weeks "event-free," which is the longest since his health ordeals began.
- Our family recently took a much-needed vacation together and were able to make good memories and have good times together. This was a special time after such a long season of trials.

Please Pray...

- Continued prayers for Matthew.
- For the Lord to prepare the children's hearts for another season of transition ahead.

From Voicu and Ana Marian

Serving in Romania (EFC-ER)

Praise God...

- The joyous spirit of our students and a fresh openness to Sunday meetings; we appreciate a few parents' friendship and support.
- Christina's surprise visit for Ana's birthday; overall good health and many blessings in our family.
- The beauty of snowdrops and daffodils blooming after a very cold winter... we also don't need to burn so much firewood to keep warm.

Please Pray...

- Youth camp is planned for April 22-24 with the theme "Light in the Dark" Thanks for praying for protection and guidance for every aspect.
- Open hearts for the Word and fruit that remains; loving perseverance and energy on our part.
- Christina is looking for work after a major layoff in her old company. God's wisdom for the future in every decision for our children.

Abe and Diane Bible

Serving in Ukraine (EFC-ER)

Praise God...

- Many people have been saved in the month of March and it rejoices our hearts—as we are sure it rejoices the heart of God!
- We have received excellent testimonies of how God has been using the course Financial Freedom in the lives of people and showing His faithfulness as they follow His principles.
- For the expansion of New Life for Men in Russia. Men are being saved there too—even in an atmosphere of oppression. As these men pray for the Lord to bring seekers to them, he does!

Please Pray...

- April will be the last month for most of the workshops. Pray that Abe would have strength and wisdom as he organizes, guides, and speaks to the various groups.
- Easter is on the last Sunday of April in Ukraine. (Orthodox calendar) This is a major time of spiritual 'harvesting'. Pray for the many people we work with as they go out and spread the Good News of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Pray that hearts will be prepared to receive a risen Lord into their lives.
- We are running almost 25% behind in our overall budget and yet we are grateful for how the Lord keeps providing and we have not had to cut any ministries. It does make us evaluate closely what should be done. Pray that the Lord would continue to give insights and that we would see Him gloriously bless as He has so often!

B. and D. A.

Serving in Nepal (EFM)

Praise God...

- We celebrated our 25 years of God's faithfulness to our Friends churches in Nepal.
- We rejoice in God's faithfulness and goodness to us in the midst of great difficulty.

Please Pray...

- For one of our leader's wedding as he marries a Christian girl in another caste. His village Hindus are coming against him.
- Pray for new church plants that are going on.

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

Praise God...

- Thank you for your prayers for my family. My sister passed away on February 4th. I am thankful for the many people who stepped in to look after my life in Ireland while I was away.
- Thankful for a wonderful gathering of Little Friends and Family for St. Patrick's Day. I love these families and their thoughtful responses to the Godly Play stories (children and parents).
- Thankful for the reception Molly Morton has received from the local church where I attend, and for some very hopeful steps toward a visa.

Please Pray...

- Please continue to pray for my family as we learn to live without Lori.
- Pray for Little Friends and Family, as we try to regain some rhythm after my absences these past months. They have been wonderfully supportive and responsive.
- Molly returns to the U.S. on April 7th and must apply for "pre-clearance" for a longer-term visa from there. Pray for this process, and for the right immigration officer to receive her application.

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

Praise God...

- We completed our first year of Bible School with 10 students in the residential class and 8 students in the distance learning. We also graduated 18 students in our ESL class with most students reaching level 1 and a few to level 2.
- The ESL program has opened the door to begin discussions about God with the local Imam and parents. The work has brought together both the community and our local Friends Church.

Please Pray...

- For our conversations to be filled by the Holy Spirit as we meet in Purok Uno.
- For our church planting outreach meeting in Palawan this month. That God will give us and the families in Tagnipay wisdom in moving forward to plant a church there. It is a Muslim Christian community, please pray for favor in the Lord.
- For a time of rest over the next 3 months. We will be traveling both for ministry and vacation.

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

Praise God...

- That two were baptized in Wangdi.
- That the easy bag project is working to support youth ministry, especially singing spiritual song.
- For two more cell groups added.

Please Pray...

- For the 12-14 April yearly meeting.
- For the fasting revival meeting in 5-7 April.
- For the training house. We are still seeking for an appropriate house to rent in Thimphu.

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

Praise God (Thailand)...

- For a strong team and for their desire to deepen their roots in Christ, and to be used by him to bring his light, his goodness, his transformation, his Kingdom to the villages he is leading them to disciple!
- That a resistant older leader in a village with a new house church is becoming open to relationship with our leaders and open to hearing the gospel.

Please Pray (Thailand)...

- For God's wisdom and favor as our D for D leaders mentor their team members in foundational lessons, in making personal development plans, in developing Bible telling skills and especially growing in character growth.
- For clear discernment as they seek the Holy Spirit's guidance in exploring and selecting the communities he is leading them to.
- For Solomon and Esther and for their baby girl: for health, for strength, for being able to sleep through the night and for God's hand of blessing to be on them!

Praise God (Rwanda)...

- For an excellent Bible-Telling and Adult Learning seminar in Burundi. Brad says, "We are amazed at how quickly they implement the things we are learning together. They are the ripest (readiest) leaders I have ever worked with."
- For a great planning/coaching trip in March with our friend Brendan Steinacher who joins David Thomas in the task of coaching our Rwanda D for D team. We are especially thankful for planning tools, which help us better organize the complex work of leading multiple teams through the D for D process of transforming their communities.

Please Pray (Rwanda)...

- 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 five communities God is leading them 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 in these five communities!
- For our Burundi and our eastern DR Congo groups to grow in their understanding of whole-life discipleship, in their personal transformation, and in their Bible-telling skills. Pray for excellent learning and life transformation as they implement what they are learning in the preparation phase.
- For 18 leaders we are raising up who lead and mentor the groups in Rwanda and internationally. Pray for their transforming lives, for fruit that flows from (comes from) their abiding in the vine (their living in Christ's love).

Praise God (Cambodia)...

- For the relationships and opportunities God is opening up 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.

Praise God (Bolivian Friends Church Centennial Celebration – April 21, 2019) ...

- For the thriving Bolivian Evangelical Friends Church planted by NWYM, and the opportunity to celebrate with them. Praise God for all he has done in the last 100 years and praise him for all he will do through INELA in the years to come!
- For the opportunity for David Thomas to return with his sister Kristin (Gault) and their parents Harold and Nancy Thomas. They left in 1989, 30 years ago. It will be a wonderful time to reconnect with friends, and with all God is doing in their lives. It will be a special time of closure for them as a family.

Please Pray (Bolivian Friends Church Centennial Celebration – April 21, 2019) ...

- For God's abundant blessing to be on everyone involved in the celebrations! Pray for health and safety for all (including NWYM's visiting team).
- For David Thomas, Ken Comfort, and Dan Cammack (all former NWYM Bolivian missionary kids) as they will be preaching on Friday the 19th and Saturday the 20th, along with other speakers. Pray for a strong sense of God's presence and delight in us throughout these celebrations. Pray for God to be glorified and for the church to catch his vision for her future!