



Evangelical Friends Mission

May 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.

From Rupak and Pramila Tamang | Serving in Bhutan



Thirteen Bible students recently graduated! We would like to share the list of classes they took during their coursework.

Church Planting:

- We are sent (John 20:21) to everyone everywhere (Mark 16:15) with a strategy (Matthew 28:18-20). We are telling a message (Luke 24:44-49) and are empowered for the task (Acts 1:8).
- Introduction
- The Great Commission
- Planting Churches to Fulfill the Great Commission
- Five Stages for Multiplying Healthy Churches
- Church Planting Movements that Changed the World
- Leadership for the Mission of Church Planting
- What Does a Healthy Church Look Like?
- God Wrote a Book on Church Planting
- The Acts of Church Planters in Jerusalem (Acts 1-7), Judea and Samaria (Acts 8-12), and Reaching to the Ends of the Earth (Acts 13-28)
- The World's Greatest Church Planter
- Biblical Theology of Evangelism
- How You Can Reach the World with the Gospel
- Prayer and Evangelism
- The Evangelist and the Mission Church
- What Does it Mean to Make Disciples?
- Misconceptions About Discipleship
- Discipleship: Jesus' Plan to Reach the World
- The Disciple Making Pastor and the Disciple Making Church
- How Jesus Discipled His Men and Prepared Them for Leadership
- Growing Disciples to Maturity
- Understanding the Basics of Spiritual Life
- Applying the Basics of Discipleship
- Disciples Making Disciples

Old Testament:

- Introduction
- The Creation Stage
- The Patriarchal Stage
- The Exodus Stage
- The Conquest Stage
- The Judges Stage
- The United Kingdom Stage
- The Chaotic Kingdom Stages
- The Captivity Stage
- The Return Stage



On a personal note, our eldest son, David, married Ruth on 20 of December 2018 and has been sent to the second biggest town of Chhukha Bhutan (Phuntsholing) to serve as a missionary. Vision 2020 is very near to us and CPM is going fast with three days of fasting every three months. We plant churches because there is no better way to fulfill the Great Commission.

From the EFM Office

Praise God...

- For the centennial celebration that was held in La Paz, Bolivia for the yearly meeting that NWYM helped develop over a period of 71 years. Fourteen Friends from the U.S. were able to participate in this inspiring event. Thousands of Bolivian Friends gathered in a coliseum on Easter Sunday for the final day of the celebration.
- That we are adding a new EFM staff member to our team: Matthew Zoller begins on May 1. Matthew will be helping in some of the areas that were left vacant by Lori Anderson's passing away to heaven earlier this year.
- We are thankful for the nearly 20 years of service in excellence by Gregg Prickett (EFCSW) as EFM board chair.
- Syndi Root of Bethel Friends Church in Mid America will be joining EFM volunteer Future-Missionary Mentor-Coach, Molly Black, on a summer trip to Rwanda in exploring a call to missions.

Please Pray...

- After the centennial, nine Bolivian Friends were involved in a tragic bus accident as they were returning home. Four of them died and the other five were injured. Wives, children, and other family members are in mourning. Bolivia Yearly Meeting is doing much to help these families and welcomes your prayers.
- For the EFM Board as they convene May 30-31 at Quaker Ridge in Woodland Park, Colorado, and move forward with the board's work for EFC-NA/EFM's mission sending. This is the second meeting of the newly organized board. They will be ironing out a few more details and they will receive nominations for a new board chair and vice chair.

D. K. and Choity Sarkar Serving in India (EFM)

Praise God...

- We had a very good staff retreat on 25 and 26 March. All the staff, we went to a place called Krishnagar. It is 85 KM far from Kolkata. Two days we spent in prayer, fellowship, fun and sharing the Word of God. It was a good and encouraging time for all the EFM Kolkata.
- In that retreat we could set our Passion Week and Easter program and our goal for the rest of the year.
- As a family, we are very fine by his grace. Especially our grandchildren. They are cute. Our granddaughter, Rachel, did very good in her school. She is promoted to Class VI.

Please Pray...

- One of our churches, Gopalpur Friends Church, broke the back side of the church building to expand the sitting capacity of the church. Now they have 129 baptized members and also visitors. The church is small to hold this many members. They need tin and doors and windows. Please pray for their needs and for Pastor Profulla Hembram.
- Our Easter programs we distributed around 10,000 tracts and 8,000 New Testaments. Also, we had procession on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.
- That we may be able send a good amount of money to the EFM Easter Offering for the Rwanda Friends Mission Field.

From Rupak and Pramila Tamang Serving in Bhutan (EFM)

Praise God...

- Three were baptized in Thimphu FC.
- 14-15 April was a successful Bhutan Friends Yearly Meeting.
- We celebrated Easter Sunday on 21 April well in the village church at Kado. New families were taught about the power of resurrection. It was the first time for them.

Please Pray...

- For the meeting in Bangalore that five from Bhutan are attending.
- For new field opening at Phuntsholing, Bhutan.
- For the upcoming two days teaching the book of Acts at Mirik Friends Church on 19-20 April.

From Samson and Priscilla Retnaraj Serving in Nepal (EFM)

Praise God...

- Our two-day meeting in Bharatpur (Chitwan) was held to report on the activities of the whole of the last Nepali year and we prayed and thanked God for his mercy and wisdom in accomplishing almost all the goals set for the year. Many people from different communities have been blessed in their lives by their participation in our Adult Education program, CHE Trainings and community development work in four different communities.
- For the leaders of Jhurjhure church in Chitwan who have experienced many blessings. Many new believers traveling long distances have been added to their church after the CHE volunteers have visited homes and provided friendly advice and training regarding health, and education in this last year.
- For Jamuna in Salyan as she helped to complete Adult Education training in seven churches in the last eight months with the help of seven trained NFE teachers from the local communities. Now there are many other churches asking us to help in this great need in their communities.

Please Pray...

- All our CHE Trainers as they plan their activities for the new Nepali year (2076) in a staff retreat and led by God's word from Joshua 1-6. All of them have been blessed in the last year with good success in their communities and two of them have planned to explore new communities where there are no churches or house fellowships.
- For victims of the tornado that suddenly hit a few villages of Bara and Parsa Districts in the terrai. Many have been rendered homeless as most roofs and mud buildings got blown away and about 29 lives were lost (mostly women and children) and almost 300 people injured. There was also loss of many heads of cattle (cows, buffaloes, goats and chickens). Our CHE Trainers Suleman and Arun, with the help of some locals, provided relief in one badly affected community (Bharbaliya' village of Pheta Rural Municipality) with food, water, and also medicine and temporary sheds and tents to keep them safe from the very unusual weather we are experiencing in Nepal these days.
- For our son, Prateek, as he finishes high school here in Nepal and explores the possibilities of college admission outside Nepal. He has performed well academically but he will require a fair bit of financial support to get admitted in college of his choice.

**From Molly Morton
Currently Waiting to Depart for Ireland (EFM)**

Praise God...

- It's been a sweet return to California with my family. My time has been full of lunches with friends, Little League games, cuddles with my niece, and hugs from my extended family.
- We are moving forward faithfully with my visa application.
- I have a wonderful teammate in Kathi Perry who has a head for details when I have a head for panic concerning this application.

Please Pray...

- Waiting is hard and tricky. Please pray that I would remember that God is here with me right where I am. Please pray for me to remember to be present in these moments here in California.
- We have loads of details to sort out with my application. Please pray for all of the pieces to fall into place at exactly the right time.
- Continue praying for my sponsoring church and our brand-new relationship. Pray for their own ministry in the town and how I might come alongside them.

**B. and D. A.
Serving in Nepal (EFM)**

Praise God...

- For the wonderful pastors meeting. It was full of the presence of the Holy Spirit.
- For our dedicated pastors who take the Gospel to Nepal.

Please Pray...

- For God's blessings on church planting efforts.
- For new converts to stay strong.

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

Praise God...

- That we all are well physically, mentally, and socially.
- That our JF worker, Babor Ali, is recovering from severe pain in his back. He was in hospital and now he is in his house for rest.
- That all our team members are fine, and they are doing a tremendous work for the Lord.

Please Pray...

- For protecting of our city from the Jehovah witness group. There are now misguided believers and giving false teaching. They deny our Lord Jesus Christ and his deity. Pray that the believers from different denominations would be strong enough in faith and understand their tricky approach and save themselves from this cult group.
- That all Indian TV Mega Serials can be stopped in our country immediately. This is a great satanic strategy to divert Christians from the Lord to world.
- That the Lord would send immediately many workers in his field to harvest. Because the harvest is plentiful, but there are VERY few workers.

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

Praise God...

- We received new residency permits for the coming year. It was stressful, but the Lord undertook before we knew it would be stressful! All is in order.
- The Lord has given Abe peace and direction about some of the plans for the fall. There are always many opportunities, but it is not wise or possible to pick up on all of those. He feels, after some leadership meetings, that he has focus now.

Please Pray...

- We will be doing deputation for three months this summer. Pray that we will be a blessing wherever we go.
- Because of some changes, we are debating how to continue the ministry in Russia. Pray that God will keep that door open and provide the resources in people and finances to continue the training there (which has been handled by a Ukrainian national, Roman).
- Pray for Ukraine. They elected a new president who has no political experience and is a comedian and TV star. Someone explained it as people electing a "dream" president—the guy who can do it all—lower taxes and raise benefits, stop the war with Russia and be friends with Russia at the same time moving into the European Union and stopping corruption. He won 73% of the vote with basically no political platform. It makes the country very vulnerable. But a big issue for us is that under the incumbent president there was great religious freedom. All of that could change quickly and dramatically. Pray that God's Kingdom would continue to go forward in this land with such great potential.

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

Praise God...

- For a new work to start in Tagnipa, Palawan. After a year of praying and waiting the door has opened to restart a church. This will be done in partnership with PEFIM, Tabon Friends Church and EFM. We look forward to seeing how God will use this new church to reach out to their neighbors, talk of which are from another religion.
- For upcoming vacation outside the Philippines. Most of our vacation time is spent in country, but we have saved up to take a trip for one week to Australia. We will meet up with my niece and self-tour around the NSW area. Yes, Roy gets to practice driving on the other side of the road again.
- For the remarkable discussions with the community in Purok Uno, both in the ESL classroom and with the community leaders. They have specifically allowed us to share God in our common beliefs and begun to ask us what we believe. God is moving.

Please Pray...

- That we will understand the questions the Purok Uno community is asking us about our faith and beliefs. That the Holy Spirit continue to lead these conversations.
- For all the upcoming children's programs where we will use the Christmas Brochure funds. Please pray specifically the the Children in Purok Uno, Tagnipa and Capiz. We will be doing joint programs of Dental/Hygiene/DVBS at all three locations this year. The first is Capiz at the end of April, Tagnipa in August and Purok Uno (Date to Be Determined)
- That Christ will be revealed in all we do here in the Philippines.

From David Thomas
EFM Whole-Life Discipleship

Praise God (Thailand)...

- For all the work the D for D leaders have been doing to disciple and mentor their fellow team members. Praise God for all the visits they have taken to the different communities as they observe, listen and seek God's heart to know which communities he is leading them to disciple.

Please Pray (Thailand)...

- For continued wisdom and favor as our D for D leaders disciple and mentor their team members.
- For clear discernment as they seek the Holy Spirit's guidance in exploring and selecting the communities he is leading them to.
- For wisdom and blessing for Scott Purser and David Thomas as they coach the Lahu team May 20-23 and pray for God's protection over this trip from May 16 through the first week of June.

Praise God (Rwanda)...

- For an excellent Bible-Telling and Adult Learning seminar in DR-Congo. Praise God for a good group of leaders in Goma and Uvira eager to learn and apply.
- For Brad and Augustin focused on Burundi, Congo (Goma and Uvira) and on coaching the Rwanda leaders. Praise God for Tertullien and Gerard focused on mentoring and coaching the Rwanda teams.

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 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 in these five communities!
- Pray 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.
- Pray 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!
- Praise God for a great trip for the Thomas family, the Cammack family, Carolyn Stansell, Ken Comfort and all the rest of the NWYM team. Praise God for excellent times of renewing friendships, sharing what God has placed on our hearts, and for being able to celebrate our INELA Bolivian Friends church!

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

- For healing for four people among others injured in a bad Yungas accident also involving the deaths of four people among others related to the INELA Friends churches in Bolivia. They are leaders from our Friends churches in the Chimani tribe. This was their first trip out of the tribal areas to the capital. Pray for comfort for the newly orphaned kids and other family members of those who died. Pray that the growth of God's kingdom among the Chimani and throughout INELA would continue to grow in spite of this tragedy.
- For God's blessing to be on the seeds planted in people's hearts and minds through Ken Comfort, Dan Cammack and David Thomas's messages (all former NWYM Bolivian missionary kids). Pray for leaders to catch God's vision for INELA's future!