



# Evangelical Friends Mission

## June 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.

Our vision is to see God’s kingdom coming into places of darkness and brokenness, bringing Christ’s healing and transformation. In 2018, our Discipleship for Development (D for D) team began the process of expanding our whole-life discipleship ministry into new groups outside of Rwanda. We are working with a group of 28 leaders from the Burundi Friends Church and with a group connected to a missionary friend in Burundi. We are also working with seven leaders from Congo Friends Church in the Uvira area and seven leaders from the Goma area. It has been fascinating to see the differences between the different countries and to see the unique opportunities and challenges that each country has.

A few weeks ago, our D for D team spent six days with the Goma group. They described challenges such as health issues, lack of infrastructure, kidnapers, mob justice, people not giving service without bribes, and many other examples of dysfunction. One of the pastors has often used the phrase, “if God wills it” when we talk about making goals and plans. I was struck with how heavy that phrase was as he spoke because they don’t know what’s going to happen tonight or tomorrow. In the US or in Rwanda we typically carry out our plans without catastrophe ruining them. But our friends in Goma have many things outside of their own control that can keep them from their plans.

So, we felt a confirmation as we met with them that God has called us to confront darkness. Jesus is greater than any of the issues that they face, and we can be a part of how God would chase away the darkness and bring his life and light into the lives of these leaders and those they will disciple in the time ahead.

We asked them to set goals for growth for 2019 and several of them responded with a great sense of inability or insecurity, saying “I can’t do that.” We spent quite a bit of time looking at scripture and looking at many different times people felt like they couldn’t do things and God told them that they can because He is with them. So, we are praying for God’s kingdom to come and his will to be done in Goma and Uvira, in Burundi, in Rwanda and beyond, as it is in heaven.

Brad and Chelsea Carpenter



The towns we mention are Goma and Uvira (in the DRC). We live in Musanze, Rwanda, which is labeled by the old name Ruhengeri on the map. A lot of the D for D work in Burundi is done in Bujumbura and Gitega.



### **From the EFM Office**

#### *Praise God...*

- For the EFM board meetings that were held the last two days of May. Board members from six regions/yearly meetings gathered at Quaker Ridge in Colorado, which is where we usually hold the spring meetings.
- For Matthew Zoller's first month on the EFM staff. He is taking on many of the pieces of the role that Lori Anderson had on our staff and is proving to be a quick learner.

#### *Please Pray...*

- For Evangelical Friends youth in Asia as they get ready to participate in the Elisha Generation conference that will be held July 1-6 in Bangalore, India. The goal of the conference is to mobilize these young adults for God's kingdom purposes.
- For the formation of our first Field Support Teams. We are praying that Field Support Teams will do much to mobilize Evangelical Friends in the United States for missions and be of great help to our missionaries and ministries around the world. Matthew Zoller will be giving leadership to this effort.

### **From Brad and Chelsea Carpenter**

#### **Serving in Rwanda (EFM)**

#### *Please Pray...*

- The discipleship movement in Rwanda and beyond is much bigger than we are. Please pray that God will raise up faithful servants to go disciple where he wants.
- For the four core leaders of D for D (Brad, Tertullien, Gerard, and Simparinka), that the Lord will provide for them and their families as they serve him in wholistic discipleship.
- For protection, faithfulness, and strength for our family as we begin to enter a season of travelling, hosting visitors, and generally doing a lot of things outside of our usual rhythms.

### **From Russ and Sarah Badgley**

#### **Serving in Ecuador (EFM)**

#### *Praise God...*

- For continued health for Matthew. Three months now and no paralysis. We are so very thankful for this and hope in our hearts this is his healing. Even so, we give thanks for the Lord's kindness to us in preserving our lil boy, the season of peace, and the health and progress he is making developmentally.
- We've been blessed to have significant help again through our naturopath in Medford. He's agreed to be available for us while in Ecuador as well, so that's a blessing.
- For the prayer and financial supporters God has called to our joint efforts with him, to continue to pray and to financially partner faithfully.

#### *Please Pray...*

- As we prepare to return to Ecuador this summer, Lord willing, we ask for prayer for our kids - for their hearts through transition, and for God to boldly reveal a role for each of our children in the work that they'd embrace, and with joy, fulfill the good work that God prepares for them.
- For the Shuar, their salvation and open hearts to following Christ.

### **From Rupak and Pramila Tamang**

#### **Serving in Bhutan (EFM)**

#### *Praise God...*

- For the south visit and our workers doing good job. We had one-day conference at Mirik and taught Luke 10.
- For the Wangdi FC visit.
- For five of us from Bhutan being granted to attend the Elisha Conference.

#### *Please Pray...*

- For the protection from monsoon season in south Bhutan. Heavy rain and hail stones ruin crops.
- For our friend's marriage coming this month in Thimphu Friends Church.
- That our cell churches grow big and preach, teach, and continue to send workers.

### **From Samson and Priscilla Retnaraj**

#### **Serving in Nepal (EFM)**

#### *Praise God...*

- Jhurjhure Friends Church is experiencing a lot of blessings as more and more unbelievers from far and near come to their church seeking after Christ due to the effective work of the CHE Trainer and volunteers from among their church members doing home visits teaching from CHE lessons and using it as an entry point into homes.
- Tek Bdr Magar and Gaman Singh Pun are the people who are helping us make contact with the Dalit community (Raidas) in the Simkothia village of Bardia. Among them is a Banjara (Gypsy) who came to Tapara church and wants to learn more about Christ.
- Arun, his wife Babli, and their daughter Asnet, who are living in Aurahi village (not far from Janakpur), are involved in working among the Musahar children, and lead a small house fellowship in the same place. The children come to them for tuition and are given more help using Children's CHE lessons and a mid-day meal is also provided.

#### *Please Pray...*

- The Far West Ministry is without any leader now as our CHE Trainer Janak left, not having enough time for CHE work as he became very busy in running his own business (Advanced Language School for school and college kids). Please pray for the trainees of the 2nd Discipleship Training who now have to have another 3-4 day training in September-October 2019 to complete their discipleship course and become self-supported in their churches and ministry work.
- The Vision Seminar scheduled in Parewakot village where four churches will be coming together for the training to be held from 11th to 14th June. This is being organized by Friends Church in Parewakot, and Gokarna our CHE Trainer.
- For Pastor Kedar Rai as he takes charge of the Mahida church in Rautahat and helps with their activities which has encouraged the local community. Kedar has also been trained in CHE as well as our Small Business Development Training.

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

*Praise God...*

- 65 Hindus and Buddhists became Christians during Easter celebrations.
- There was great joy at Easter in spite of government restrictions.

*Please Pray...*

- For these new converts that they will stand strong in persecution.
- That we find new ways to evangelize because of government restrictions.

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

*Praise God...*

- That nine people received Christ as their personal Savior and the Lord this week. Pray that they can grow in faith strong.
- That we bought our ministry car last week. Pray that we can use it for ministry for long time.
- That he provided a partner who has helped us build a church house in Kanaidia.

*Please Pray...*

- We are facing a great dangerous time in our country. We are in a high risk of terrorist attacks. After the Sri Lanka attack, they are very much active in our country. The government is taking all kinds of precaution to avoid a terrorist attack, but it is really hard to identify an enemy. They always change their strategy. Most of the city churches are now on police patrol. Their main target is churches and foreigners. Pray that God changes their heart and transforms their lives. Pray that God protects this nation, giving more opportunity to share the gospel and bringing a great revival in this country.
- Our elder son, Steve, is taking his H.S.C. examination. His dream is to study at Barclay college. He needs supporters to help his study at Barclay college. We are planning to get his admission at Barclay college this year. Pray that God provide all his need.
- For God to provide four pastors for four areas. This is an urgent prayer request. It seems to me that people are less interested to serve the Lord rather they want a good salaried job. Pray that God raise many dedicated, passionate, and humble people for his kingdom work in this land.

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

*Praise God...*

- Recent youth camp was blessed in every way; kids were receptive to God's Word, lively in worship, and friendly with one another.
- For a good school year drawing to an end; new friendships developing.
- Evidence of God's work in lives, his grace in hard times, and people's openness to him during hardship.

*Please Pray...*

- For fruit that remains for eternity; continued good relationships with our students.
- For summer ministries, safe travels, and readiness for the Gospel "in season and out of season."
- Upcoming home assignment July 9-October 8. Wisdom in preparation for what we leave here and what we need ahead.

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

*Praise God...*

- For new decisions to follow Christ and four that will be baptized in June.
- Cindy and I will be in the US from June 24 to July 25. While we will enjoy time with family and friends, we will also need to work on issues related to our retirement in 2020.

*Please Pray...*

- For those in our church that are dealing with spiritual physical issues. Pray for God's healing work in their lives and bodies.
- Thank the Lord for the Alpha Course we are just completing alongside our sister Church Grace Church. Though most who came will fit into Grace Church better because of language, most were new to the faith, but some have started attending church. Pray that they will all come to the Lord.

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

*Praise God (Thailand)...*

- For an excellent May coaching visit, for progress in training their team members, for an excellent purpose statement and for progress in exploring potential villages to disciple.
- For a strong spirit of unity among us on our team! We have been and will continue to pray for unity.

*Please Pray (Thailand)...*

- For continued wisdom and favor as our D for D leaders disciple and mentor their team members. Pray for the Holy Spirit's empowering us to grow stronger and more mature even with all the responsibilities we have. May God give us wisdom in how we plan and work.
- For clear discernment in seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance in exploring and selecting the communities he is leading us to disciple.
- For both Kibbe families as they travel back to America for the summer for safety, rest and good connections with their partners, and pray for their team members continuing their work in Chiang Rai.
- Pray Philippians 1:6 that God's work among the Lahu and Aka people would be completed, and blessed, and that He would use us and our D for D ministry to do it!
- Pray that the Holy Spirit would breathe life into his church among the Lahu and Aka peoples like the "Breath" of God breathed over the dry bones (Ezekiel 37).

*Praise God (Rwanda)...*

- For excellent Bible-Telling and Adult Learning seminars 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)...*

- 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).

- For Brad and Augustin's leadership and ministry. Pray for rest and health and for finding a sustainable pace of ministry.

***Praise God (Cambodia)...***

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

***Please Pray (Cambodia)...***

- 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)...***

- 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 INELA outreach to Bolivian Friends living in Sao Paulo, Brazil and Buenos Aires, Argentina, as well as outreach to other language groups within Bolivia like the Chimanes.

***Please Pray (Bolivian Friends Church Centennial Celebration)...***

- For physical healing for five Chimane people among others injured in a bad Yungas jungle bus accident, which also included the deaths of four of our Friends Church Chimane people among other deaths. They are leaders from our Friends churches in the Chimane 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 Chimane 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 all he intends INELA to be and to do!