



# Evangelical Friends Mission

## August 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.

### On the Journey...and back in Ecuador! by Russ and Sarah Badgley

Our family arrived in Quito early morning of the 4th of July after spending several days in Idaho and Washington with churches, family and friends. After staying a night in Quito, we collected our vehicle from an organization that safely stored it for us, and in the early evening, headed southerly toward Macas. We had a short-term housing arrangement awaiting us.

Our travels were not uneventful however. Before we left the U.S., Russell ended up with a broken nose (church softball), Sarah with a kidney infection, and once arriving in Ecuador we encountered a landslide late in the evening that forced a retracing of travel and rerouting, costing us about 3 extra hours and an overnight stay in a hostel. Despite these bumps, we made it safe and sound!



Since arriving in Macas, we've been enjoying reuniting with friends and acquaintances one-by-one. It's been fun to see people's reaction to Matthew's growth and express their love and care for him, and yet they always ask where the rest of the kids are and want to see them as well.

Joseph and Ruth hit the ground running and have been volunteering at a local school with vacation Bible school and English camps. They're partnering with several short-term mission groups from the states who come each year. Emma has resumed training with her basketball team in Macas. She has one to two months of strength training to complete before she starts modified regular practice.



Russell and I have spent much time searching for housing and getting the kids needs met, as well as providing rides to the kids as they volunteer and have evening activities with the short-term mission groups.

We're thankful to have found a nice, comfortable and affordable house in town, near our language route areas, and in only one week into our time here. The landlord offered it up to us for the same price as several of the three bedroom apartments have been asking, and without carrying the risk of structural integrity issues during a time of heightened earthquakes here. The house also has a yard area for the baby and Emma's dog. God has blessed us for sure.

During our host church's men's group, Russ mentioned moving to our new place in a few days, and six or so men volunteered to move us. They brought a pickup and a large commercial truck and got the job done in a day. Gotta love South American hospitality and relationships!

Joe and Ruth are thinking they'll resume basketball and swimming once school begins.

### Matthew Health Update

Six months of good health, without any paralysis issues! Sometimes it's hard to process those words: "our baby" and "paralysis events." His neurologist initially thought he possibly had a genetic condition and would severely decline in the months to come. We've seen great progress and normal development in Matthew. Additionally, we recently learned that when Matthew had his lip tie cut as a newborn, he was severely overdosed with lidocaine. The words we were told were "near euthanasia." It seems his brain may have needed time to bounce back and "rewire" from that damage. But God has been good to us to spare and restore our boy, and we are grateful for your prayers in this matter. Thank you for your ongoing prayers.



## **From the EFM Office**

### *Praise God...*

- For the decision that Evangelical Friends Church-Eastern Region (EFC-ER) made to place its international missions work under EFM. This decision was made July 22 during their yearly meeting sessions.
- For the time the directors were able to spend with Friends at their annual sessions in EFC-ER, Northwest Yearly Meeting, and Evangelical Friends Church-Mid America Yearly Meeting.
- For the Elisha Generation Conference that was held July 1-6 near Bangalore, India. There were just over one hundred participants from eight countries where Evangelical Friends have work. The Spirit moved among the participants and made it an extra special event. We will probably see fruit from this conference for years to come!

### *Please Pray...*

- For the transition of EFC-ER's missionaries and fields to EFM starting on August 1. It will likely take 12 to 24 months for the transition to be completed.
- That those who participated in the Elisha Generation Conference will be obedient to what God is calling them to do.
- For Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting as they come together for their summer gathering at Quaker Ridge, Colorado in August.

## **From Kathi Perry**

### **Serving in Ireland (EFM)**

#### *Praise God...*

- I am thankful that I could be with my family for a time this month.
- I am thankful for the community of women and families that gather together for Little Friends and Family. I am thankful for the continuing desire to learn and grow together, and for the ways these women care for one another.
- I have been able to spend time with Young Friends in N. Ireland in the past weeks, and to visit the camp in the North. I am thankful for their ongoing ministry to one another, and for the relationship I have with them.

#### *Please Pray...*

- For Little Friends and Family, as we continue to grow and learn and try new ways of worship together. Pray for the families who attend, that each one would find that God speaks to them through the stories we use and times of worship. Pray that we can meet consistently in the months ahead.
- For our Bible study as the school year begins. Pray that we would be sensitive to the teaching of the Holy Spirit as we grow together.
- Thank you for your continuing prayers for my family, following the loss of my sister, Lori.

## **From Russ and Sarah Badgley**

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

#### *Praise God...*

- For finding a nice house where we can settle.
- For our permanent residency visas appearing to be valid since they let us in without questions.

#### *Please Pray...*

- Health: we'd like to stay healthy!
- For the hearts of the Shuar people to be open to the Lord.
- Grace for the kids as they transition. For friends, joy and meaningful involvement for them.

## **From Samson and Priscilla Retnaraj**

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

#### *Praise God...*

- For keeping all of us safe through intense weather issues in Nepal this year. First, the intense heat of summer and tornadoes, followed by delayed monsoons adding to the problems. When the rains finally came it was followed by floods, causing extensive damages in village communities and misery especially in the terai regions. Snake bite cases have been on the rise during these days. Despite these issues, we were able to carry out our activities as per plans and goals and reached out to people in needs with our CHE activities & programs.
- That the skills and tailoring classes managed by Asha in Cha'pur are going well and the women who are regularly attending have found peace with the activities which include prayer and Bible devotions. Tiliya Devi (a Mussahar lady) who attends these classes, heard the message of love from Romans 12 and how it helped in their fellowship and togetherness through the sewing classes.

#### *Please Pray...*

- For Deborah from Santpur who has started a house fellowship in her village and where Suleman and Asho now visit to lead and guide them.
- Kedar has planned a veterinary camp/training in Mahida to bring more people in contact with the local Friends Church, which he now pastors and leads all their activities.
- For John Khadka and his sister Salomy who are fresh graduates in medical and nursing training. They are seeking the Lord's will to serve him and give back what they received as help from the EFM student scholarship funds through CHE ministry in Nepal. They were able to attend the Elisha Generation meetings held in Bangalore India and have come back with a vision. John, who graduated from a medical college in Bangladesh, has also qualified in the National Licensing exams in Nepal and is looking for an appropriate job in mission settings/hospital.

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

*Praise God...*

- That the Elisha Generation youth camp was very successful. Thank God that he has given us opportunity to motivate and encourage through this generation camp.
- That we were finally able to buy a new car for the ministry. We thank the Lord as he has provided finance through godly people.
- That he is keeping us safe and healthy for his work.

*Please Pray...*

- That believers would stand firm in faith in all situations.
- For our persecuted evangelists. They are in trauma. Pray for their children also.
- For God to send many faithful and passionate evangelist in his ministry in Bangladesh.

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

*Praise God...*

- We have enjoyed a wonderful time at EFC-ER Yearly Meeting and connecting with old friends and new.
- We had children, grandchildren and friends flying in to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. What a blessing!
- We give glory to God to have ministered together in his kingdom for 50 years and are thankful that we have the health and ability to return to Ukraine and continue serving him there.

*Please Pray...*

- August will be a month of re-entry into Ukraine after three months away. Pray for our physical recuperation from travel and time change, and time to rest before the fall ministry heats up.
- For Abe as he sets up a schedule and makes a plan for the training of about 12 newly elected provincial superintendents. Abe has done this before with a few new men five years ago and the Baptist Union president has asked him if he would again work with this new group to provide direction, vision, and build lacking skills in time management and team building. A heavy responsibility indeed.
- That it would burn in the hearts of Ukrainian churches (especially the leadership) to plant new churches, to look at the lost in neighboring towns and villages and know that they must take the responsibility—and the privilege—to reach out. And that the Spirit would call men to step into the gap.

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

*Praise God...*

- For revival going on in Gausala village.
- For many Hindus coming to hear the Gospel there.

*Please Pray...*

- The monsoon makes it harder for us to go to villages due to muddy roads. Pray for grace.

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

*Praise God (Thailand)...*

- For unity among The Way Foundation D4D team leaders and members! Praise God for widespread growth and use of the Bible telling skill among many of them! Praise God for growth in many areas needed for discipling their villages!
- For Solomon, Yosapa, Charlee and Pla, the four leaders who lead the two D4D teams. Thank God for their different gifts, decision-making and planning skills!

*Please Pray (Thailand)...*

- For continued wisdom and favor as our D4D leaders disciple and mentor their team members. Pray for the Holy Spirit's blessing and favor as our Lahu brothers and sisters seek to grow by using personal development plans and by following up and encouraging each other through these plans.
- For clear discernment and insight from heaven as these leaders guide their teams in seeking God's guidance in selecting the communities he is leading them to disciple.
- For both Kibbe families as they travel back to America for the summer for safety, rest and good connections with their partners.

*Praise God (Rwanda)...*

- For five D4D church teams throughout Rwanda who have engaged their community leaders in a vision casting day to envision what their communities could look like as God's Kingdom is free to thrive among them! Thank God for a high level of receptivity among community leaders for these teams to mentor them in a transforming process.
- For Tertullien and Gerard and their training and coaching of the five teams focused on mobilizing their communities around a vision of transformation.
- For pastor Sam a D4D leader in Bujumbura, Burundi who is engaging his church and his community aiming to see God's Kingdom thrive among them!
- For widespread transformation among leaders in Burundi. They are learning to steward well the resources God has given them, and this is making a big difference in their lives and in the lives of other leaders they are influencing.

*Please Pray (Rwanda)...*

- For the five Rwandan D4D church teams to continue to have favor with their community leaders. Pray that together with their communities' leaders they will be able to select FATT (Faithful, Available, Teachable, able to Teach others, 2 Timothy 2:2 people) who they will disciple and mentor to lead their communities in a process of transformation. We need people of peace who can eventually influence the whole community towards God's Kingdom.
- For our Burundi and our eastern DR Congo leaders 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 Tertullien, Augustin, Gerard and Brad to be healthy, rested, focused and strategic, so that they can thrive and be effective in their work of leadership development. They have been working at a level that is not sustainable and have been getting tired and sick.
- For protection from Ebola for our leaders in Goma, DR Congo, and for wisdom in encouraging their church and community members to implement good practices for protection.