



Evangelical Friends Mission

October 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.

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” Genesis 1:1

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John 1:1

Creation is a central and foundational belief for both Christians and Muslims. These two verses speak directly to God as the Creator and His Word which was there at the beginning and spoken for the benefit of humanity, both physically and spiritually. It is a common ground area that speaks to both Christians and Muslims. It is a belief that brings up the question: Why God created human beings?

Our ministry at Purok Uno in Silangan Philippines has started a new study with our children, both Christians and Muslims, and the above verses bring together a belief that all the children know: God is the Creator.

So how does this work out in an ESL class? Not long ago I discovered a paper-based microscope called Foldscope. They were designed by two Professors at Stanford University, who were looking for a way to teach science to students in countries that couldn't afford a regular microscope. As we were praying the idea of using the foldscope to teach English was brought up. As we continued to pray and seek how this would work, the Holy Spirit showed us Genesis 1:1 and John 1:1. Thus our theme and teaching in English and science is “Understanding God's Creation through the Microscope.” (Big Shout-Out to Dwight Kimberly (Reedwood Friends) for being a Man of God and Scientist in our lives)

It has been a big hit with the children and the community. The children had to build the Foldscope thus utilizing all their learning skills from both the teacher (me) and video segments. And as we progress in this project the children have to answer questions about what they are seeing and learning about God's creation. Of course, we sing songs, play games, and have snacks. Yes, they are also using the basic scientific method of observation and testing.

It is amazing to watch them absorb the material and lessons. We are planning a semester end gathering on Oct. 19th. The children/youth and some parents from Purok Uno and Silangan Evangelical Friends Church will have a swim party and lunch. It will be a time to just gather, get to know one another better, have lunch, and FUN!

- Please pray for more parent contact of our students.
- Please pray they will understand the nature of God as the Creator.
- Please pray for more open doors of ministry to this community.

To the right is an updated picture of the church building in Tagnipa Evangelical Friends Church, Palawan.

Your fellow servants in Christ,
Roy and Jinky Twaddell



From the EFM Office

Praise God...

- For the EFM staff retreat that was held in Wichita, Kansas, in mid-September. We agreed that we want to learn more about how to discern the will of God together, so we are making a plan for how to do that. We were also able to evaluate where EFM and we as staff are at and set some objectives for 2020.
- For the speaking opportunities Dan has had recently. During the month of September he was in Kansas, Nevada, and Idaho.

Please Pray...

- We are beginning to implement a new system of teams that will help Friends across North America come alongside our missionaries, national workers, and ministries in supportive ways. The first team is being set up in October and it's for a ministry called Teaching Abroad (TA). TA is a program for short-term teachers who make disciples of Jesus Christ by teaching English overseas.
- For the missionaries and national workers connected to Evangelical Friends Church-Eastern Region and Northwest Yearly Meeting as they get more and more acquainted with EFM and vice versa. We are looking forward to working much more closely together for God's kingdom.

From the EFC-Democratic Republic of Congo

Please Pray...

- The Ebola virus disease is yet in our doors. It is in North Kivu, where Goma Quarterly Meeting is, and also in South Kivu in Mwenga, where our Burega Quarterly Meeting is. We have been praying a lot for the protection of people in desperation because it is such a bad and dangerous disease.

From the EFC-Nepal

Praise God...

- For recovery of our church members from Dengue viral fever; many were affected by it.
- That the long-awaited EFCN executive meeting and meeting with Nawalparasi leaders were successful.
- For the Mission Field Trip to three districts after a couple of months in spite of great challenges. The inauguration of Chapur Friends Church building and Amptar Nuwakot Friends Church building extension and rebuilding work has been done.

Please Pray...

- For the second FSTCL this year beginning from the last week of September formally. Informal classes have already begun.
- For the upcoming Regional Conferences in Nawalparasi and Nuwakot.
- For sound health of our pastors, leaders, and believers.

From B. and D. A. Serving in Nepal

Praise God...

- Our monsoon season is ending, and we were able to preach in difficult monsoon times in the villages.

Please Pray...

- For D. as she is having surgery on January 3rd. It is a major surgery.

From Abe and Diane Bible

Serving in Ukraine

Praise God...

- Abe held the first fall workshop for evangelism and church planting in September. Praise the Lord for the 86 men who attended from across Ukraine and the unity of spirit and enthusiasm that was shown.
- That 11 men were born again over the summer months through the efforts of the men Abe has been training for the last two years.

Please Pray...

- For a growing burden in the hearts of church leaders, pastors, and elders to reach out in their communities and beyond. Pray God would open their eyes to the harvest waiting for willing workers.
- Abe will also be leading evangelism and church planting workshops in one province for the winter. This province has already had success in planting some new churches. Those men will be attending but they also expect about 25 new men. Pray that the vision would grow in that area—and that testimonies would spread across Ukraine to what God is doing and wants to do.
- For ongoing insights and wisdom as Abe has the task of mentoring several leaders. Knowing what needs to be done is one issue. Being able to communicate that in a way that is received and acted upon is the critical issue. Only the Holy Spirit can open eyes and hearts.

From Molly Morton

Preparing to Qualify for a Minister of Religion Visa for Ireland

Praise God...

- My family and I celebrated three birthdays this month and we had all kinds of different celebrations from Mexican food feasts, to escape rooms, to Angel Games. Celebrating the amazing family God has blessed me with.
- I've finished my first graduate school class, The Personal Life of the Pastor. It was an amazing experience and I'm looking forward to beginning Old Testament Hermeneutics next week.
- My participation in The Lab is quickly becoming my favorite and most sacred time of the week. I'm encouraged, challenged, and affirmed in the time I get to spend with Barb, Alan, Chase, Reuben, Luis, and Emily.

Please Pray...

- Next week marks the beginning of my internship at Gateway Friends through Equipping Leaders Ministries. I'm nervous for this last piece of "The Plan" to be put into place. I ask again for prayers for balance and time management during this busy time.
- Next week also marks the beginning of my Old Testament class which I'm looking forward to but know will be a great deal of work and reading. Please pray for focus and diligence in my studies.
- The Lab is moving into an in depth training of personal evangelism, I'm nervous about this piece. Please pray for boldness, trust in God's ultimate saving of each person, and the ability to find joy in this piece.

From Dave and Cindy Aufrance

Serving in Hong Kong

Praise God...

- For some newcomers to RiverGrace, both in the English-speaking and Spanish-speaking services.

Please Pray...

- On October 13, RiverGrace will celebrate its 2nd anniversary of being an independent church and the 8th anniversary since starting as a Fellowship. We'll celebrate at Noah's Ark replicas here in Hong Kong. One hundred people are signed up to attend. Pray that God will be honored through the celebration.
- The situation in Hong Kong continues to get worse. It started as peaceful demonstrations against an extradition bill that could send Hong Kong people to China for trial. The peaceful protests have more frequently ended with violence and vandalism, with policemen using more force than necessary, and the protestors fighting back against police. While we personally do not yet feel threatened, the protest movement has reached a critical stage. Please pray that God will restore the deep divisions that have arisen, in society, churches, and even relatives.

From Samson and Priscilla Retnaraj

Serving in Nepal

Praise God...

- His faithfulness in helping all our trainers with their work and also the provision for their families and children's education needs.
- The monthly CHE staff meeting held in Cha'pur and where we had two guests speakers speaking and advising our trainers. There was also an opportunity to visit Purahi Friends in Cha'pur as they dedicated their new church building. This has come after almost two years of CHE Training strengthening the community.
- The provision for paying for Janaki Bk (niece of Jamuna BK) in Salyan for a two-year veterinary training in Shreenagar (Junior Technician) with our scholarship. This young lady has completed the Bible School training course conducted by Evangelical Friends in Kathmandu.

Please Pray...

- Narayan and Saru of Gularia (Bardia) as they work among the Nimkothia community and provide fellowship to the Raidas people in Bardia
- For the Musahar community in Cha'pur and the house fellowship started by Deborah Manjhi after undergoing the tailoring training with Asha Rai in Cha'pur. Please also pray for Ram Prakash and another young man who come to this fellowship and encourage the new believers from the Musahar community.
- For Anita Syangtan (Jhurjhure Friends) as she is now engaged to be married to Solomon Gurung, who is working as a pastor in Dandabas (Makwanpur district) with the Church of God. They ask for prayer support, as after they get married on 20th September, they will consider moving to Far West Nepal to work in the CHE ministry as "missionaries."

From Babir Gautam

Serving in India

Praise God...

- Habil, Sanjay, and I visited Pastor Premchand. One of the members, Arun, recently started a small business to overcome a financial need. He has asked us to bless the business.
- A new group started by Habil Soren in Janipur. He continuously visited Janipur for the last six months. God opened a door for him to visit their house and arrange a meeting.
- On September 5 we had a meeting with a local coworker in Patna. It took place on the roof of our house. It was great time together of discernment and equipping each other with scripture. We ended our meeting with lunch.

Please Pray...

- For proper means of transportation (motorbike).
- For training program for new members in the group.
- For skill development training program for lay leaders.

From Rupak and Pramila Tamang

Serving in Bhutan

Praise God...

- Three made a public testimony of water baptism and one confessed.
- We had a successful gospel concert on 20 September.
- For our youth training on "How to Preach the Gospel" on 20-21 September.

Please Pray...

- For the mothers and women seminar that 50 will attend.
- For our church picnic.
- For a meeting of 45 leaders on 30-1 October.

From Voicu and Ana Marian

Serving in Romania

Praise God...

- For wonderful fellowship with loved ones in the US; God's anointing while sharing about His grace and His work; great opportunities for testimony to the young and old; travel mercies and provision for every need one day at a time.
- Though recently Ana broke her right wrist and had to have surgery, we are very grateful for God's protection from worse, and for prompt medical care in Alliance, OH; we are thankful for the expression of love and concern, for the many prayers during this time.
- Being able to stay in touch with several youth through email, their anticipation of our return and Sunday evening meetings in Orlat.

Please Pray...

- Good healing for Ana and smooth processing of medical/financial documentation for the international travel insurance by Oct 8th, our scheduled departure for Romania.
- Safe travels, good re-entry, and re-connecting with our students inside and outside the school; overall blessing of relationships with the youth and their families.
- To be driven by God's Spirit in unity in every major decision; to have renewed energy and fresh vision for his work wherever the Lord places us when we go back.

**From Kathi Perry
Serving in Ireland**

Praise God...

- For helpers for my groups, and a good start to another year.
- For the community of women and families that gather together for Little Friends and Family, for their continuing desire to learn and grow together.
- For some time to rest and restore coming up in the months ahead.

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 A. and M. A.
Serving in Bangladesh**

Praise God...

- That all four people in our family got USA visas for the next five years.
- That we came in the USA safely and are getting good care by the Friends family.
- That the local leadership team is taking responsibly of the ministry in absence of us.

Please Pray...

- That we can use our deputation time wisely and fruitfully for the glory of God.
- For the Lord to prepare 100 partners for His ministry in Bangladesh through this deputation. We need more people who will have passion for the mission and sacrifice their time, talent, resources, and treasure for the kingdom work in Bangladesh.
- For our elder son Steve as he has a strong desire to study at Barclay college. He needs to do his TOEFL in the USA and also needs individual supporters or any scholarship agency to start his study at Barclay.

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

Praise God (Thailand)...

- Great news! They have chosen three villages for the two D4D teams of The Way Foundation within driving distance of Chiang Rai, Thailand.
- For the members of these two D4D teams, for their growth in character and for their growth in Bible telling skills among others. We are grateful for Tom Yeakley's book, Growing Kingdom Character, which our Lahu friends plan to keep learning from.

Please Pray (Thailand)...

- For the three villages our two teams will be discipling over the next few years: Pray for God's grace, blessing and favor to rest on these villages, leading to their transformation. Pray for a powerful, dynamic example to emerge in these villages of what it looks like to "disciple this nation." These transforming

villages will become a beacon of light paving the way for many more Lahu villages to move into God's kingdom transformation.

- For our D4D teams to have all the wisdom, insight, grace and favor they need to interact with these communities' leaders as they seek permission to pursue a village transformation plan together.

Praise God (Rwanda)...

- For five D4D church teams throughout Rwanda who are engaging their communities visioning together what their community 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 Musovu leaders in Rwanda who are remembering all they have been taught over these past years and are now teaching these lessons and principles again with their wider community.

Please Pray (Rwanda)...

- For Tertullien, Augustin, Gerard and Brad to be healthy, rested, focused and strategic, so they can thrive and be effective in their work. They have been working at a level that is not sustainable. Pray for Brad to regain his health and energy.
- For David Thomas and Brendan Steinacher as they travel for a D4D coaching trip to Rwanda October 17-29. Pray for God's wisdom, insight and blessing to mark their coaching time, helping the team move to a sustainable and healthy pace.
- For the five Rwandan D4D church teams to continue to have favor with their community leaders. Pray for unity around their shared vision of transformation among various leaders in the community. Pray for worldview change to freely take place in the chosen D4D community leaders as they meet weekly with the D4D team learning various lessons. Pray Romans 12:2 over them.
- For God's blessing and favor to rest on our Burundi and our eastern DR Congo leaders as they grow in their understanding and experience of whole-life discipleship. Pray for the team to figure out how to mentor our team in Goma, DRC as the borders are currently closed because of Ebola cases in town. Pray for protection from Ebola for our leaders and their families.