



# Evangelical Friends Mission

## November 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.

“That was awesome ladies! Thanks so much for a wonderful afternoon...”

“Thank you all for this afternoon, the girls loved it. They were asking if they could come back next week!”

“Thanks so much. I really enjoyed that meeting with you all... for me it was a lovely time to worship with my kids... to be together at their level. Looking forward to the next one!”

“It was fab! We don't get to too many services in the year, but was wanting to talk about and sing about God with my kids but not in the way I was brought up...”



These are a few of the comments that were posted in our “group” following our first “Interactive Family Worship Service”. We have called it an “experiment”, and it is one that these families are committed to. We spent another hour on Thursday talking about what worked and what didn't work, what they loved about sitting on the floor with their children listening to a story, hearing their questions and taking time to respond, creating a craft (or putting together a pie) as a family, and dancing and moving with the music. And most importantly we talked about “next time.” Next time is already on the calendar, and these women have already begun to invite others to join us.

As always, I am so thankful for the life that God has given me in Ireland. I feel privileged to be allowed to enter into the lives of the people around me – through baby and toddler groups, Bible Study, Godly Play, and this “experiment” of worship that invites the whole family to participate fully. And I am thankful for you who faithfully pray for me, and these people that I love.

### ***Praise God...***

- For this new way to worship together, and the commitment to continue our “experiment”.
- For the privilege of learning and growing deeper in faith alongside these families.

### ***Please Pray...***

- For our interactive service, that it will become a regular part of our practice together.
- For a deeper understanding of grace and love for each of us.
- For my family as we navigate this time of grief following the death of my sister.

## **From the EFM Office**

### *Praise God...*

- For the good trip Dan had during the first half of October to Ohio, Texas, Kansas, and California. Matt Macy joined him for the California part. Good connections with Friends leaders and churches were made along the way.
- For the steps that have been taken so far in incorporating Evangelical Friends Church - Eastern Region's international work into EFM's systems. It is going to take a while, but it feels like we are off to a good start.
- For the progress that is also being made in incorporating a program that Northwest Yearly Meeting created around the year 2000. It is a program that sends teachers on a short-term basis (usually a year or more) to other parts of the world to teach English and other subjects as needed. This is service done for Jesus Christ often in non-Christian contexts.

### *Please Pray...*

- For the EFM Board meetings which will be held at the Twin Rocks Friends Camp on the Oregon Coast November 6-8. The Coordinating Council of Evangelical Friends Church-North America will meet at the same place just prior to the EFM Board. There will also be an Igniting the Hope Banquet on Friday the 8th in Portland. All of these events represent a lot of traveling. Please pray for traveling mercies and gatherings that further God's agenda in today's world.
- For two young people who have been sent to Asia to teach English to university students under the program mentioned above. For security reasons we are not giving their names nor the country where they are teaching. Please pray for them anyway. Our Father knows who they are!

## **From M. and K. L.**

### **Serving in northern India**

#### *Praise God...*

- For health! We were sick for two weeks.
- For a great deputation stateside.
- For good travels and transitions back to our home here.
- For all the extra time God has provided for us to be with our villagers even during this very busy harvest season.

#### *Please Pray...*

- For safety and good health, especially for our kids.
- For opportunities as well as the ability to communicate the Gospel with those around us.
- For Michael as he is trying to get a driver's license here, which is turning out to be quite the ordeal!

## **From the EFC-Nepal**

### *Praise God...*

- For a successful Yearly Regional Yearly Meeting. Praise God for his ordination on our Leaders so that we have three new recorded pastors and three new licensed Pastors (Associate Pastors).
- For the deliverance of a lady from demonic spirit and also for great opportunity to share faith in different parts of Nepal through Evangelical Friends Churches.
- For 21 students who have come to join last session of this year Bible training. We have students from 12 districts.

### *Please Pray...*

- After a successful completion of Bible training, we pray for our students' sound health as our area has been a dengue affected zone. Many of our church members, students, and teacher also got infected by dengue. One of students has been admitted in the hospital.
- As we had regional meeting with the theme of "Beauty of Giving and Be Self-Supported" and all preachers were from within Evangelical Friends Churches, please pray that we would be able to apply this theme in Kathmandu Regional Friends Churches and be an example to other regions as well.
- For a leadership building. We would like to be self-supported and self-sufficient churches. Let God show us the right BASE to begin as self-supported Evangelical Friends Churches in Nepal.

## **From Dave and Cindy Aufrance**

### **Serving in Hong Kong**

#### *Please Pray...*

- For the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of RiverGrace becoming an independent church (8<sup>th</sup> anniversary overall). Recently we've had a growth spurt, but in these times, some are not attending because of the protests. We've had to cancel some planned events so people can go home in the early afternoon before the protests get started.
- Please remember Hong Kong in your prayers as the ongoing crisis continues to get worse. Hong Kong protesters with legitimate grievances, are not having them addressed in a reasonable way, so they feel they have no hope, but to protest. Most protests, even if they start out in a peaceful way, end up with violence and vandalism. Please pray that God will bring peace to this once most peaceful and safe cities in the world.

## **From Samson and Priscilla Retnaraj Serving in Nepal**

### *Please Pray...*

- For Deborah and her family as they worship in the Musahar community in Cha'pur. Pray that many more people will come to know Jesus through this small house fellowship. Also for the sewing ministry among the ladies of this community.
- For Jamuna as she goes around making contacts in Salyan for the adult (non-formal) education ministry. We want to continue this ministry because it brings about so many more people to a greater understanding of their faith in Christ and serving through the local church.
- For the Far West Ministry as we continue our search for someone to lead the team and move into all the older communities as well as the new ones and establish small house fellowships.
- For us as we are at the end of our deputation time in the US and wrap up our time here. After we depart on the 10<sup>th</sup> November, our son Prateek will stay and continue at George Fox University as a freshman in their Honors program.

## **From Rupak and Pramila Tamang Serving in Bhutan**

### *Praise God...*

- For fasting prayer for three days every three months.
- For every Friday, healing prayer for Thimphu Babesa Church.
- Our general church picnic is over.

### *Please Pray...*

- For visits in different places this month.
- For our mother's seminar.
- For a training center building for Thimphu to rent.

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

### *Praise God (Thailand)...*

- Correction: In November's praise, I (David Thomas) said our Thailand Lahu team choose three villages for their two D4D teams. From my pre-trip conversations I assumed the team had chosen three communities, but when we arrived for coaching, we realized they had not chosen a community yet. So, our coaching flexed to prepare the leaders to guide their team members through choosing their first village. They led a very good discussion over a couple days, and they chose the village of Ja Taw. They might begin work in this village and gain experience before forming two teams and choosing another community.

### *Please Pray (Thailand)...*

- For the village of Ja Taw that our team will be discipling over the next few years: Pray for God's grace, blessing and favor to rest on this village, leading to their transformation. Pray for a powerful, dynamic example

to emerge in this village of what it looks like to "disciple this nation." This village 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 Brendan Steinacher and David Thomas's excellent coaching trip. Our Rwandan leaders have a good sense of where they are in the process of coaching the team leaders mobilizing the five "pilot" churches and their surrounding communities.
- 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. Praise God for Rutikanga and Alphonsine's wedding. Our Rwandan D4D team (Brad Carpenter, David Thomas, Dancila and Godance) worked hard with the whole community and this couple in particular, studying what a healthy marriage looks like (2012).

### *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 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.