



Evangelical Friends Mission

January 2020 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 Voicu and Ana Marian | Serving in Romania

We immigrated to the US from communist Romania in the late 70s, in search of “the good life.” In our atheistic view, that meant abundance of things and the freedom to do what we wanted. Upon arriving in Ohio, we came in contact with God’s people through the Evangelical Friends Church. They embodied the love of Jesus and gave us a taste of “the blessed life.” In the year 2000 we returned to our people with a new passion: to proclaim the gospel to the lost.

Starting out in the city of Sibiu, we ministered to orphaned and abandoned girls, and some of those became Christians and part of our family. Though no longer children, they continue to bring a special spark to our holidays.

God enlarged our vision into teaching children in the public school. Through English and Woodworking classes we met some great kids, gained favor with their parents and soon started to do Christian camps. These were followed by weekly youth meetings, and over the years many confessed Jesus as Savior. **We continue to work in the villages of Orlat and Gura Raului.**



In the Acorn Shop, Voicu teaches woodworking to junior high boys. More than woodworking, they learn how to become real men, according to the Bible. As we’ve done many times in the past, this year for **Thanksgiving** we invited students for a special meal and celebration. The American history account was used as platform for a better lesson: Gratitude as a Way of Life. And this **Christmas season** we read about the birth of Jesus with several of our students, and sang, “O Come Let Us Adore Him.”

We’ve witnessed great changes, especially since Romania became part of the EU in 2007. With open borders and boundless digital access, in flooded “the good life,” and with it, plenty of evil. Having come to know these children, we’ve grown to love them deeply. Their life stories have become part of ours, and it’s quite painful to see some harden their hearts when they become adults. The Lord reminds us that our purpose here is not to change people, but to live for Him. **“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” (Heb.13:8) He remains faithful and he deserves all the glory!**



A recent picture, for those who’ve never met the Marians: Ana and Voicu, with son John (Sibiu, Romania) and daughter Christina (Columbus, OH).

Please Pray...

- That we’d keep proclaiming the gospel and loving people as unto the Lord.
- For the Word sown through the years to bear fruit, and God to call workers into the harvest (now and after our retirement).
- For wisdom as we plan weekly activities, God’s leading for the future, spring and, summer ministries.

From the EFM Office

Praise God...

- For the good visit that Matt Macy had to Sinaloa, Mexico, and Dan Cammack had to the Philippines and Hong Kong in December. Both trips were blessed with good fellowship, good health, and safe travel. We were also able to make progress on our working relationships in each of these places.
- For the time we were able to spend with our families during the Christmas season.
- For the privilege we have of being part of the mobilization of Evangelical Friends to carry out the Great Commission of Jesus Christ in the spirit of the Great Commandment among the unreached peoples of the world.

Please Pray...

- For the annual conference of Friends Southwest which will be taking place January 31-February 1.
- For the process of closing the books for 2019 and finalizing our budget for 2020. We look forward to seeing how our Father provided for EFM once again and for the part you played in that provision.
- For Dan and Matt as they finalize travel plans to Romania, Cambodia, Thailand, India, and Nepal during the first quarter of this year. Most of the time they will not be traveling together. Friends leaders from North America will be involved in all of these visits, especially from Evangelical Friends Church-Eastern Region and Friends Southwest.

From Denny and Michelle Craker

Serving in Taiwan

Praise God...

- Our newest and 6th grandson was born on November 4th. We are excited to be able to see him and the family at Christmas time.
- 27 people are going through our classes (four of them) to be make a public testimony of baptism at our Christmas candle lighting service. So excited about this!
- Denny has had some wonderful opportunities to travel to other countries to do member care for the Chinese who have been sent by the church to these countries. He has visited, Oman, Kenya, Jordan, Egypt and Taiwan.

Please Pray...

- The security in our area is very tight right now and because of that Denny hasn't been able to travel within country. Many are being asked to leave or forced out of the country. Right now we feel at peace to continue where we are, but the tightening is very noticeable.
- For the Christmas outreach service...we also have a dinner to help bring new families out.
- Traveling mercies for Denny as he travels to many countries.

From B. and D. A.

Serving in Nepal

Praise God...

- For new souls that are being prepared to accept Christ during Christmas time.

Please Pray...

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

From Roy and Jinky Twaddell

Serving in the Philippines

Praise God...

- The first Thanksgiving celebration for Tagnipa was well attended. The church was full, with some standing next to the open windows. The service was translated into Palawano as most of the members are from this tribe. Ptr Pedro (Tabon Friends) also was asked to dedicate three children, it was a great service. Please pray we can find more Palawano Bibles, they exist but are hard to find.
- For a wonderful visit from Dan Cammack. Although he came to visit PEFIM, we did get to have him at our house for one night for fellowship and discussions and prayer.
- For his faithfulness to us and his presence in our lives in 2019. We look forward to 2020 and what God has in store for us here. Our sincerest thanks and praises to the Lord for all those who partner with us in prayer and finances.

Please Pray...

- For our outreach in Purok Uno. We have additional needs for another teacher and our church wants to add an additional outreach to the community. Please pray the Lord brings the right teacher alongside our work.
- For our yearly planning with PEFIM and our local churches we work with; Evangelical Friends Church Silangan, Tabon/Tagnipa Friend Churches in Palawan. We have much planned for 2020, but we need God's wisdom for the tasks ahead. In additions to our direct outreaches we also run the FEAST school and have a need for more instructors as we expand our programming in Mobile FEAST. Pray specifically for the launch of Mobile FEAST in Samar.
- For Roy because he recently hurt his right shoulder. He has an appointment with the VA clinic in Manila. We will know more then.

From Samson and Priscilla Retnaraj

Serving in Nepal

Praise God...

- The evangelistic outreach program by the Jhurjhure CHE volunteers in their communities. Anil Chepang and Gopilal Vishwakarma accepted Jesus in the last three months through these efforts and are now attending the local Friends church.
- The children of Kaptole which is besides the Aurahi village in Janakpur, are now being taught by Arun Kumar and Babli from Children's CHE lessons and also being provided a nutritious mid-day meal
- Suleman Rai completed his 15-day GDT Director's Discipleship Training recently and is also completing the last semester of a MDiv. course. He is currently working on completing his thesis to be submitted within the next 4-5 months for award of the degree.

Please Pray...

- Babli (wife of Arun CHE Trainer, in Aurahi Janakpur) is in her 7th month pregnancy and all has gone well so far. This is their second child, the first one being a 5-year-old girl.
- For the group of nine pastors who form a core group in Surkhet and are an encouragement to Janak and Thiru in their personal lives and ministry. Thiru is recovering from fractured ribs from a motorcycle accident last month.
- For the Musahars friends in Jugauliya and Khoriya tola, where we have been visiting regularly and where Suleman and Ram Prakash are conducting meetings with new seekers.

From Gabriel and Suzana Massey

Serving in India

Praise God...

- For the good Christmas program put by children of the Christian English College and followed by Christmas tree and dinner for the whole school staff on December 21st.
- That Christian Hospital at Chhatarpur celebrated their 25th anniversary of its working with EHA on 12th December. The hospital has grown under EHA.
- That the church has, up to this time, a very good and blessed Christmas program.

Please Pray...

- For the Christmas program on Christmas followed by a procession in the city. Also for the rest of the week program that it may be a witness of the Lord.
- For the CORN child Care Christmas Program with the children that will be on 24th December when they will get a Christmas gift and special meal.
- As I preach on Christmas Day at the New Believers Fellowship. We hope to have more than 100 believers.

From D. K. and Choity Sarkar

Serving in India

Praise God...

- This month we had the Bible classes smoothly. All the students have come and attended the classes.
- We had very good Christmas celebration program on 12 and 13 December. In this fearful situation, the celebration brought joy among the staff.
- Our outreach programs are going on. We are using the opportunity that God gave us to preach the gospel during the time Christmas.

Please Pray...

- For the difficult time in India and let the believers be stronger in their faith of Jesus in this time.
- In the whole month of December, we are having the outreach programs. All our churches have taken the initiative to preach the gospel out the four walls.
- In Kolkata, we also planned for an outreach program on 29th December.

From Abe and Diane Bible

Serving in Ukraine

Praise God...

- We had a brief trip to Australia for our grandson's wedding there. One of the most Christ-glorifying weddings we have ever attended! Praise the Lord!
- For good responses and testimonies to seeing Jesus in action at the ongoing evangelism and church planting training that Abe leads.

Please Pray...

- For physical strength. Abe was hit really hard with a virus which he carried to Australia and back. Full recuperation will take time. He continues to function but needs to conserve strength until he's fully recovered.
- For a new opportunity to completely open up to hold Financial Freedom training for pastors all across Ukraine.
- For the 30 plus church plants as they seek to get their groups grounded, growing, and continuing to reach out as a body.

From Dave and Cindy Aufrance

Serving in Hong Kong

Praise God...

- That things in Hong Kong have settled down after months of protests, some causing us to cancel planned activities or telling our people to go home early because of planned protests. Continue to pray for Hong Kong. The protests have caused deep divisions, even in some churches and families. Some young people involved in the protests were kicked out of their homes by their parents. The grievances have still not been addressed by the government.

Please Pray...

- For the 2020 plans for RiverGrace and the continuing transition of the church as Cindy and I turn over more and more of the leadership in the church to Pastor Tommy Hui.
- For safe travels as we go to Thailand at the end of the month to have a retreat with our One Mission Society colleagues in Asia.

From Maria Giron

EFM Missions Mobilizer for Hispanic Friends

Praise God...

- For the approval of my new part time ministry position, EFM Missions Mobilizer for Hispanic Friends. A dear person said the following words, which are true for me: "I could never stop being a crazy missionary" and I love my EFM family. So I am very grateful, excited, and blessed for this great opportunity.
- For his grace and provision manifested to our family during these five months of adaptation into our new home in Southern California. And for his love and mercy every time we have experienced regressive culture shocks.

Please Pray...

- That God would provide the support I need and that I can soon begin the new task entrusted to me.
- For God to continue using the spiritual gifts of each of my family members in the different tasks that we know each of us perform for the expansion of his kingdom, and to hold us together, even though, we are each focusing in our own separate duties for his honor and glory.

From David Thomas

EFM Whole-Life Discipleship

Praise God (Thailand-Lahu)...

- For the leaders He is raising up in Ja Taw, for answering the Luke 10:2 prayer, "Ask the Lord of the harvest for laborers to work in the harvest field..." Thank Him for removing the lies, the veils, the strongholds the enemy has placed in their lives that keep them from truly seeing and knowing God! Thank God for raising up faith within each one of them, faith to accept him as Savior and Lord, and grace to grow up in his likeness and character!

Please Pray (Thailand-Lahu)...

- For providing our D4D team with all the wisdom, insight, grace and favor they need to interact with this community's leaders as they facilitate a process unifying the village around a shared vision for transformation (Daniel 12:3).
- For the village of Ja Taw 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 Lahu culture).” This village will become a beacon of light paving the way for many more Lahu villages to move deeper into God’s Kingdom transformation. Declare Isaiah 60:1-3 over them!

Praise God (Rwanda, Burundi, and Congo (DRC))...

- For our leaders (Tertullien, Augustin, Gerard and Brad). Praise God for all their families and all the leaders they are mentoring in Rwanda, Burundi and DRC. Praise God because he provides all the favor, blessing, wisdom and insight our leaders need to thrive in their work (Daniel 12:3, and 2 Corinthians 9:8).
- For his promises in Isaiah 60:1-3, 61:1-3, and 62:1-3! In thanksgiving declare these promises over our D4D leaders their teams, their churches and their communities in Rwanda, Burundi and DR Congo!

Please Pray (Rwanda, Burundi, and Congo (DRC))...

- 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 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 favor and wisdom to rest on our Burundi and DR Congo leaders as they seek out 2 Timothy 2:2 leaders who are (FATT = Faithful, Available, Teachable, able to Teach others), and who will join them in discipling their communities.
- That God would raise up intercessors to open up the way for his favor, blessing and grace to rest on our leaders, their families, their churches and their communities. Isaiah 62:6-7 “I have posted watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the Lord, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth.