



Evangelical Friends Mission

February 2020 Prayer Letter

www.friendsmission.com
efm@friendsmission.com
303.421.8100

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.

Hello from M. and K. L. – all seven of us! Aren't the holidays such a mix of joy and stress? We know that this tension is always present during our holiday seasons! We are so thankful that despite our humanness and tendencies to complicate things, God works. He effectively completes all he desires to do, in and through us. For our family, Christmas is not just a joyful time to celebrate Jesus, but it is a day we look forward to filling our house full of our friends and neighbors and sharing the joy of the season.

This year, as we were preparing and readying our house, we learned that one of the larger local Hindu festivals happened to be on the same day! This hasn't happened before, and we weren't sure how this would affect who all would come to our party. We began to get discouraged because we knew that most of the people who usually came would be busy tending to the details that accompanied their festival. So, battling discouragement yet filled with hope, knowing that God wasn't stressed and would bring all that were supposed to come, we finished the last bit of preparations before the knocking on the door started. (Although, honestly, the knocking started before we were fully prepared!)

We opened the doors and began the party at 3:00 (some of our kids were still napping) with about seven kids on our porch. As we welcomed them in and let the party begin, our prayer was that God would use this day and our family to be a light even on a day that was set apart for the worship of their gods. And it was just that! Our home filled up with kids, about 20 total and about eight adults. We played games with the kids, passed out candy for prizes, and told the story of Jesus' birth (using our mouths and multimedia!). It was the first time some of them had ever heard the story before.

Then, food, lots of food. And after everyone had their fill of American sweets and savories, at about 7:30, parents were calling to collect their kids to have them present for their festival. And as they all left, we gave them each a gift bag to share a bit more joy with them. There were goodies in the bags to enjoy, but we also enclosed John 3:16-17 in both Hindi and English. We trust God to use our lives and his written Word to continue to soften their hearts. And we are thankful that even when the joyful events can be stressful to us, they are not to God. He already knows what is going to happen and has gone before us, beside us, and behind us! He is so good. Thank you for continuing to join us in praying that they will accept Jesus soon!



Praise God...

- The Lord blessed our Christmas party, and we were able to share the Christmas story with many children.
- Our kids continue to thrive and enjoy their lives and family in India.
- We are so thankful for the friends we have and that we continue to have meaningful conversations and deep relationships.

Please Pray...

- Our village is in the midst of a spiritually dark period while they allow their village god to meditate. No one is allowed to listen to music, watch TV, make loud noises, or work the ground. At the end of this 45 day period (which is towards the end of February), the priests will prophesy about upcoming events over the next year.
- That we could really communicate well with those around us, especially spiritual matters that tend to have a much harder and more specific vocabulary.
- That we would find favor with the government in the last steps of our business process.

From the EFM Office

Praise God...

- That EFM finished the 2019 fiscal year in the black. We are also praising the Lord for the best response to the Christmas Catalog we have ever had.
- That Matt was able to spend some time with the Marians in Romania and the Kibbe family in Thailand. These visits are related to the decision Evangelical Friends Church-Eastern Region (EFC-ER) made last July to put its international work under EFM.
- That Dan has had several opportunities to share about EFM in Northwest Yearly Meeting churches as well as Mid-Year Board meetings.
- For the first meeting of the first ministry team that EFM has created. Under the leadership of Matthew Zoller we are creating a new system of Field Support Teams and Ministry Teams here in the U.S. to help care for EFM's missionaries and ministries.

Please Pray...

- For Dan as he travels to California, Cambodia, Nepal, India, and Kansas. He will be away from home just over five weeks. Matt will be with him in India. Leaders from EFC-ER will be with him in India and Nepal. Dan will be with three leaders from Friends Southwest in Cambodia. Please pray for health, safety, strength, and wisdom for all these travelers.
- For EFM staff and board members who are working on a strategic goal and plan for EFM for the next five years.
- That we would all become more and more dependent on our Father in heaven and seek first his kingdom.

From Molly Morton

Preparing to Qualify for a Minister of Religion Visa for Ireland

Praise God...

- The fall semester is finished for my graduate program in Pastoral Studies at Barclay College. I ended the semesters with all As in my three classes. Looking forward to this semester especially an in-person weekend with my cohort in Haviland the weekend of February 14.
- Celebrating the Christmas holidays with my new church family at Gateway Friends (where I'm interning) was amazing. I'm becoming more comfortable and at ease in this new congregation. I've been able to share meals with some members and find myself connecting well.
- I'm feeling really grateful for the time I've been given in the States right now and the ways I've been not only financially supported but spiritually and emotionally encouraged by a whole crowd of people. Thank you.

Please Pray...

- My director, teammates, and I are beginning the early stages of gathering required documents and other resources to begin filling out a visa application in another few months. I'm very anxious about it but I've learned some tools over the past few months to cope with anxiety and fear. Please continue praying for this entire process to be covered by the Holy Spirit and protected from the enemy.
- Good time management, focus, and overall learning throughout the upcoming semester in my graduate program.
- Safe travels for my cohort and I as we travel to Haviland next month for our in-person weekend, where we will all be preaching sermons we've been working on for a month.

From Voicu and Ana Marian

Serving in Romania

Praise God...

- Our students returning this semester with much enthusiasm; many opportunities for spiritual discussions.
- For protection from accidents and illness for our students and our family.
- Ana's new Bible study for young ladies, an answer to a long time prayer.

Please Pray...

- For wisdom in ministry decisions, summer camp preparations.
- For wisdom in counseling several young people who suffer from anxiety and depression; God's deliverance.
- For Petruta, our spiritual daughter who was raised in the orphanage. She's had Addison's for a number of years, and lately developed complications, potentially life threatening.

From Rupak and Pramila Tamang

Serving in Bhutan

Praise God...

- Two people, Kinley and Sangita, accepted Lord Jesus as their personal savior.
- Nine students in Bible school completed OT and pastoral epistle of 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus.
- For Christmas celebration and new year picnic and promise card to all.

Please Pray...

- For our upcoming vacation starting on the 24th.
- For the school result for class 12. Our two sons, Samuel and Kenchola will get the results by 15th of February.
- For our protection as south districts officers warning not to become Christian in every household in the meetings. May Lord move their hearts to accept Lord as soon as possible.

From Roy and Jinky Twaddell

Serving in the Philippines

Praise God...

- In coordination and partnership with Pastor Hildegard, FLEC Church, and their members, we were able to deliver the last of our dental and hygiene kits (Christmas Brochure Gifts) to evacuees from Taal Volcano. The families served are related to members at FLEC. We were also able to provide needed items like diapers, children's vitamins, and bedding. We will continue to monitor this situation through FLEC.
- For all our prayer and financial Partners. We give God all the glory for your faithfulness in serving with us in Christ's ministry amongst Muslims in the Philippines. We ended the year in the black! Thank you and God Bless.

Please Pray...

- For the people near the Taal Volcano who are now being required to evacuate and lockout of their towns. No one knows if or when they will be allowed to return. Pray especially for the families of FLEC Church who have several family members in the evacuation centers.
- For Jinky and I as we have caught several viruses this year. Nothing serious but it wears you out. Also, pray for Roy who has a doctor's appointment for his shoulder on the 3rd.
- Continue to pray for our Outreaches in Purek Uno (Silangan Friends Church), the Church Plant at Tagnipa (Tabon Friends Church), FEAST, and our other ministry relationships as we go forward in 2020.

From Maria Giron
EFM Missions Mobilizer for Hispanic Friends

Praise God...

- For allowing us to start the year promoting EFM to the Hispanic Friends community.
- For the good health of each member of my family.
- For the work of my husband and his team in the launching of the Amigos Church in Anaheim, CA.

Please Pray...

- For the reunion of Mexico Yearly Meeting. It will take place from February 26 to March 1 in Ciudad Juarez. Please pray for this time to be of edification and much blessing.
- For the raising of sufficient funds for this new ministry. May God add more members to this mobilization team, in prayer and financially.
- For the plans EFM has to motivate Hispanic Friends to learn more about the worldwide missions of Friends.

From Samson and Priscilla Retnaraj
Serving in Nepal

Praise God...

- For keeping us safe and warm this winter, as it has been severely cold and snowed heavily in West Nepal and some other parts near Kathmandu. Without any source of heating in homes, life was very depressing but most of our churches reported good time of fellowship continuing.
- The great news of Mahida church being revived under the leadership of Pastor Kedar and Solomon. They are praying to acquire some land to build a church as more people are joining their fellowship. Blankets were distributed among the people of the community with help from the local school.
- 72-year-old Baladeen of Tapara (Bardia), who lives by himself, has recovered after being seriously ill for 15 days and came last Saturday for fellowship and to give thanks. Twelve poor families of Tapara have been provided support for purchase of Bio-Sand Filters for use in their homes.

Please Pray...

- For the people of Dhanusha District, who were reeling under a severe cold storm without sunlight for almost 15 days. We provided firewood, blankets, wool caps, and mufflers to Musahar communities in that area. Bisheswar, who is the leader of Gordaha Friends Church near Janakpur, lost his 78-year-old mother due to a stroke a week ago. Please pray for the father who is not a believer yet.
- For the family of four year old Titus from Paurahi church who drowned in a freak accident while his parents were working in a brick kiln. We have been conducting meetings and CHE trainings in the community for two years now.
- For Janak and Thiru in Salyan, as they struggle to run the Community Learning Centre as their main English language instructor is not very regular and dependent. Janak has not been able to make a trip to meet all the new leaders in West Nepal also because of heavy snowfall preventing road travel.

From Dave and Cindy Aufrance
Serving in Hong Kong

Praise God...

- We thank the Lord for his protection in the past few months of unrest in Hong Kong. Though the protests are now less frequent, anti-government feelings are still present in strong measure.

Please Pray...

- That God will bring together deep divisions within society, friendships, families and churches because of opposing views of the situation in Hong Kong that are often very strongly held.
- Please remember Dave for a medical procedure he will have done February 14. Doctors determined a stent was needed in his abdominal aorta as CT scans revealed it was enlarged (dissection in medical terms).
- For other pastors, missionaries to join us in our ministry in Hong Kong and our church, RiverGrace, and for our transition as we are in our final half year in Hong Kong.

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 God in advance for the leaders the community of Ja Taw is choosing for our D4D team to mentor, who will guide their community in a transforming process.

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 Lahu culture) nation." 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!
- For an excellent coaching trip for Scott Purser, Ronald Mazune and David Thomas from February 15-23.

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 on the teams around God's heart for their community. Pray for worldview change in the chosen D4D community leaders as they meet weekly with the D4D team learning various lessons (Romans 12:2).

- 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.

Praise God (Cambodia)...

- For Scott and Andrea Sward and Elise Paty living in Stueng Treng. Praise God for their partnership with a YWAM team focused on the Kavet people group.
- For open hearts among the Kavet, for some Christian leaders, believers and some churches among this largely unreached people group.

Please Pray (Cambodia)...

- For David Thomas's upcoming trip to Cambodia February 7-14. Pray for David and Scott Sward as they meet with various YWAM leaders working among the Kavet. This is a vision casting trip and also a time of discernment on all sides to determine if we use David's coaching to help this team establish a whole-life, disciple-making, church-planting, community-transforming movement among the Kavet.