

 **EVANGELICAL FRIENDS MISSION**

# EASTER

**OFFERING**

*Together to the Ends of the Earth*



EVANGELICAL  
FRIENDS MISSION



**EVANGELICAL FRIENDS MISSION**

# LESSON 1

*Together to the Ends of the Earth*

# LESSON 1

## The First Eighty Years of Missionary Sending by Evangelical Friends

*Prepared by Dan Cammack*

The yearly meetings that currently make up Evangelical Friends Church–North America (EFC-NA) have been sending missionaries to the ends of the earth for a long, long time. Not only have they sent missionaries, they have also reproduced themselves by planting other yearly meetings in these places.

Here's a quick history lesson that shows you what happened between 1887 and 1967:

- **Evangelical Friends Church-Eastern Region (EFC-ER)**, formerly called Ohio Yearly Meeting, sent Esther Butler to China in 1887. Five years later it sent Esther Baird and Delia Fistler to India. Many missionaries followed in both of these places. Today the most visible evidence of the labor of Chinese, Indian, and American workers can be seen in Taiwan Yearly Meeting and some churches in the Bundelkhand area of India.
- **Friends Southwest (FSW)**, formerly called California Yearly Meeting, sent the Robert Sams family and two single women to Kotzebue, Alaska, in 1897, and Ruth Esther Smith to Guatemala in 1906. Today Alaska Yearly Meeting (now a part of EFC-NA) and three yearly meetings in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador are the fruit of all those who served the Lord together (Central Americans, Inupiaq, and missionaries mostly from the Southwest).
- **Northwest Yearly Meeting (NWYM)**, formerly called Oregon Yearly Meeting, sent the Carroll Tamplin family to La Paz, Bolivia, in 1931 to join a work already in progress. Through the faithful labor of Aymara Friends, along with the many missionaries who followed Tamplins, one yearly meeting was established in Bolivia and another in Peru.
- **Evangelical Friends Church-Mid America Yearly Meeting (EFC-MAYM)**, formerly called Kansas Yearly Meeting, sent the Arthur Chilson family to Burundi, Africa, in 1934. Thanks to the hard work of Burundian Friends and many American missionaries who worked with them, there is a strong Evangelical Friends' presence in the heart of Africa today.
- **Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting (RMYM)** supported a work among the Navajo begun in the early 1950's by Nebraska Yearly Meeting and then took full responsibility for it mid-way through that decade. Rough Rock, Arizona, was the base. The Vern Ellis family did much to develop this ministry along with many others. Today there is a group of churches on the reservation that maintain ties to RMYM.

From 1887 to 1967 these five yearly meetings sent out more than 250 missionary households. Many of these were singles, some were couples without children, but the majority were families. Try to imagine how many people that represents! Can you think of at least one or two missionaries you have met or heard about who served in these places?

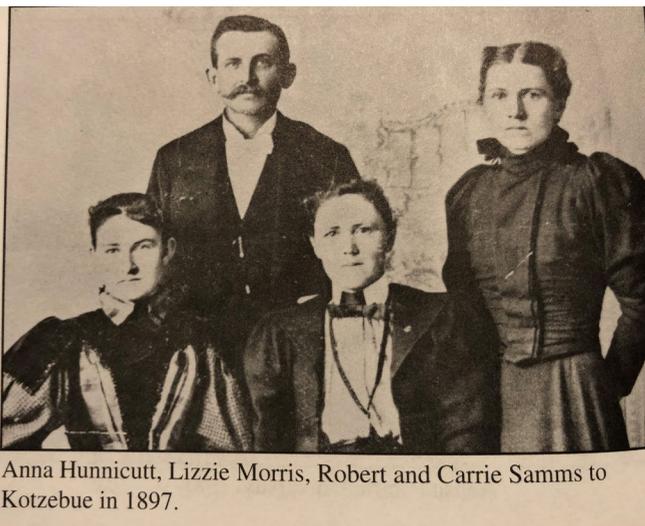
Please take a look at Table 1. This table attempts to show you what the world of Evangelical Friends looked like in 1967 (when I was five years old!). Here are what the colored dots mean:

- Yellow stands for the yearly meetings that sent out the missionaries.
- Red stands for the countries where these missionaries worked and where, in most cases, new yearly meetings were raised up.
- Blue stands for EFM's first field. There's more about that in the next lesson!

# Some of the Early Missionaries Sent by Evangelical Friends



Arthur and Edna Chilson with daughters: Esther and Rachel Chilson



Anna Hunnicutt, Lizzie Morris, Robert and Carrie Samms to Kotzebue in 1897.

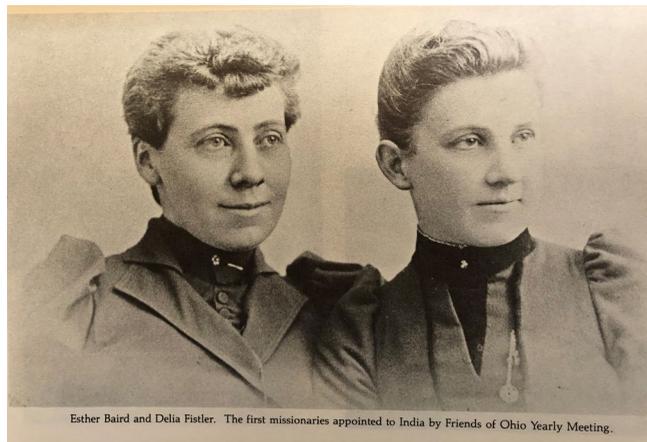
First Missionary Team from Friends Southwest



Carroll and Doris Tamplin and their daughter



Esther Butler



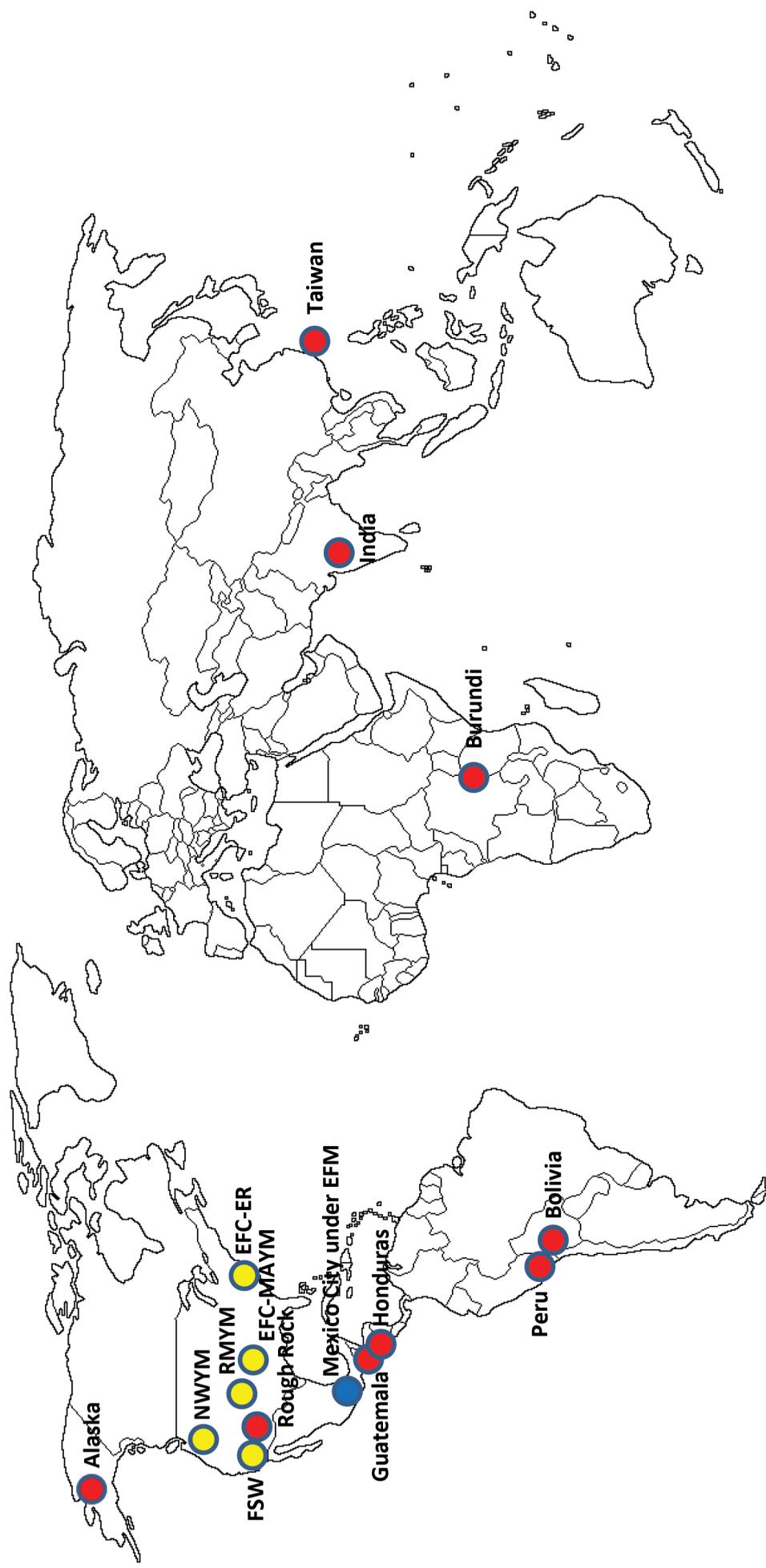
Esther Baird and Delia Fistler 1892



R. Esther Smith

# TABLE #1

Mission fields supported by Evangelical Friends in North America in 1967



**EVANGELICAL FRIENDS MISSION**

# LESSON 2

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# LESSON 2

## The Creation and Growth of Evangelical Friends Mission

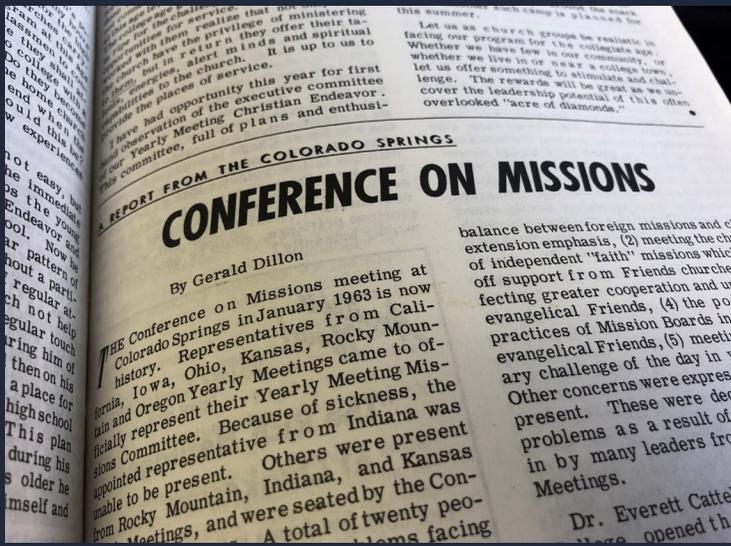
*Prepared by Dan Cammack*

When I was seven months old an important meeting happened just down the road from where I was living at the time. About twenty Friends gathered in Colorado Springs, Colorado, to have a conference on missions. It was January 1963. They came from the five yearly meetings mentioned in lesson one (NWYM, FSW, RMYM, EFC-MAYM, and EFC-ER) plus two more (Iowa and Indiana). All of these yearly meetings were already sending missionaries and most of them had their own mission fields. So why did these Friends get together?

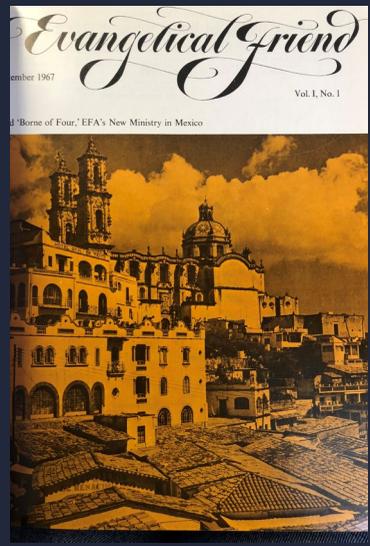
There is one page of notes that still survives from that gathering. It says they discussed a variety of problems and opportunities in regard to their mission work, and then they considered an idea that was already floating around. The idea was to establish a “coordinating council” that would work on issues that would help strengthen all of their missionary-sending programs. Some of the issues they had in mind were a unified philosophy of missions, better ways to screen and train missionary candidates, better promotional methods and materials, and expansion into new fields. Those who participated in the conference liked this idea so much they approved it! They then formed a “commission on missions” made up of members from NWYM, RMYM, EFC-MAYM, and EFC-ER.

The Commission on Missions had its first meeting in September of that same year. In 1967, it opened its first mission field which was in Mexico City. In 1978, the commission was given the name Evangelical Friends Mission. It also received its first director, Robert Hess from EFC-ER. Another field was opened that same year, this one in the Philippines. From that point on this joint missions effort grew and grew. If you look at Table 2 you will see just how much it grew by 2017. By then EFM had missionaries in nine countries, eight yearly meetings established, and some new work just getting started.

The colored dots in Table 2 have the same meaning as the ones in Table 1. For example, blue still stands for EFM fields. But you also see orange dots. These stand for yearly meetings (some of which were planted through EFM) that provide their own leadership now but maintain a relationship with EFM. They are our “partners.” The vision is that they will send out missionaries of their own. Mexico Yearly Meeting is already doing that with some assistance from EFM. Their missionary couple, Jaime and Lupita Leon, is serving in the state of Sinaloa, Mexico.



1963 Conference on Missions in Colorado Springs



1967 EFM's first mission field

The goal of Christian Missions is to so present Christ to individuals and societies that they may receive Him in

PHOTOS BY FRED BOOTE

**Robert Hess, executive director of the Evangelical Friends Mission brought the Sunday afternoon message at the Evangelical Friends Alliance conference in Denver, July 12-16. This is a condensation of his concerns that challenged the attenders and evangelical Friends everywhere to a new vision of mission. (Please note specific goals of EFM in his column on page 20.) Pictured above are the two new leaders of Evangelical Friends Mission: Robert Hess, executive director, and Reta Stuart, administrative secretary.**

by non-Christian me themselves need faith Does this then m ed with results? Wl any pragmatic effec "non-attached" vie answered these que up . . . will draw clear reference to H ing centurion, Jose is still confirmed v follow vigorous fa Faith in Jesus Missions. Like a that it rejects ce Christ as Lord. more than by its any faith will s what one believe that one believe loyal allegiance.

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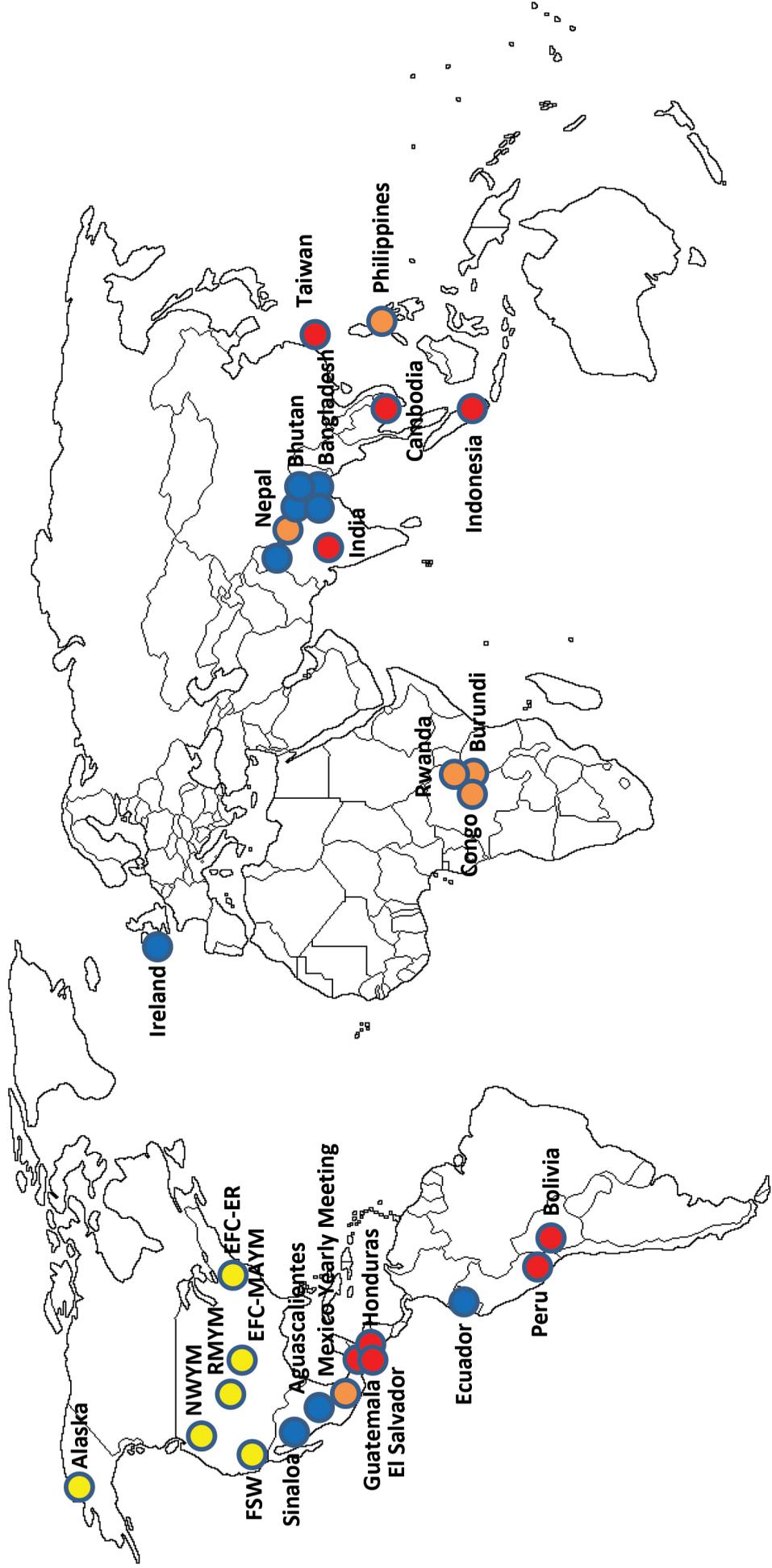
1978 First EFM Director and new name

1986 EFM opens a new field in Rwanda

1994 EFM opens a new field in Nepal

# TABLE #2

## Evangelical Friends Mission's Fields and Partners in 2017



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# LESSON 3

## Evangelical Friends Coming Together in New Ways through EFM

*Prepared by Dan Cammack*

As I have been getting acquainted with the mission work of the yearly meetings that make up Evangelical Friends Church-North America (EFC-NA) I have been struck by how much of the world our experience and connections cover. I see the extensive experience and connections of...

- Evangelical Friends Church-Eastern Region (EFC-ER) in South and East Asia, Europe, and the Caribbean.
- Friends Southwest (FSW) in Central America and Southeast Asia.
- Northwest Yearly Meeting (NWYM) in South America, North Africa, and Russia.
- Evangelical Friends Church-Mid America Yearly Meeting (EFC-MAYM) in Central Africa.
- Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting (RMYM) and Alaska Yearly Meeting (AYM) among indigenous peoples in North America (EFC-MAYM can be included here as well).

What if the Lord of the harvest were to knit us so closely together that we could make better use of the resources we all have to truly fuel a worldwide movement of people who seek first the kingdom of God?

I believe the Lord is doing exactly that in our time. I believe this because I sense a strong desire among the yearly meetings to work together in carrying out the Great Commission locally and globally. That desire has spurred some action as one-by-one the EFC-NA yearly meetings have been putting their mission work under EFM.

Actually, RMYM took this step clear back in the 1980's when it put its work among the Navajo under EFM. This did not mean, however, that RMYM ceased to be engaged with this work. They stayed involved the entire time it was under EFM's care and remain connected to this day with their Navajo brothers and sisters.

EFC-MAYM was the next one to take this step. They took it during the first decade of the new millennium. Though by that time they no longer had a mission field of their own overseas, they made EFM their sending agency and continue to send missionaries. Even before this step was taken, however, EFC-MAYM's experience and resources were crucial in developing EFM's work in Rwanda. They have also been generous with their connections in Burundi.

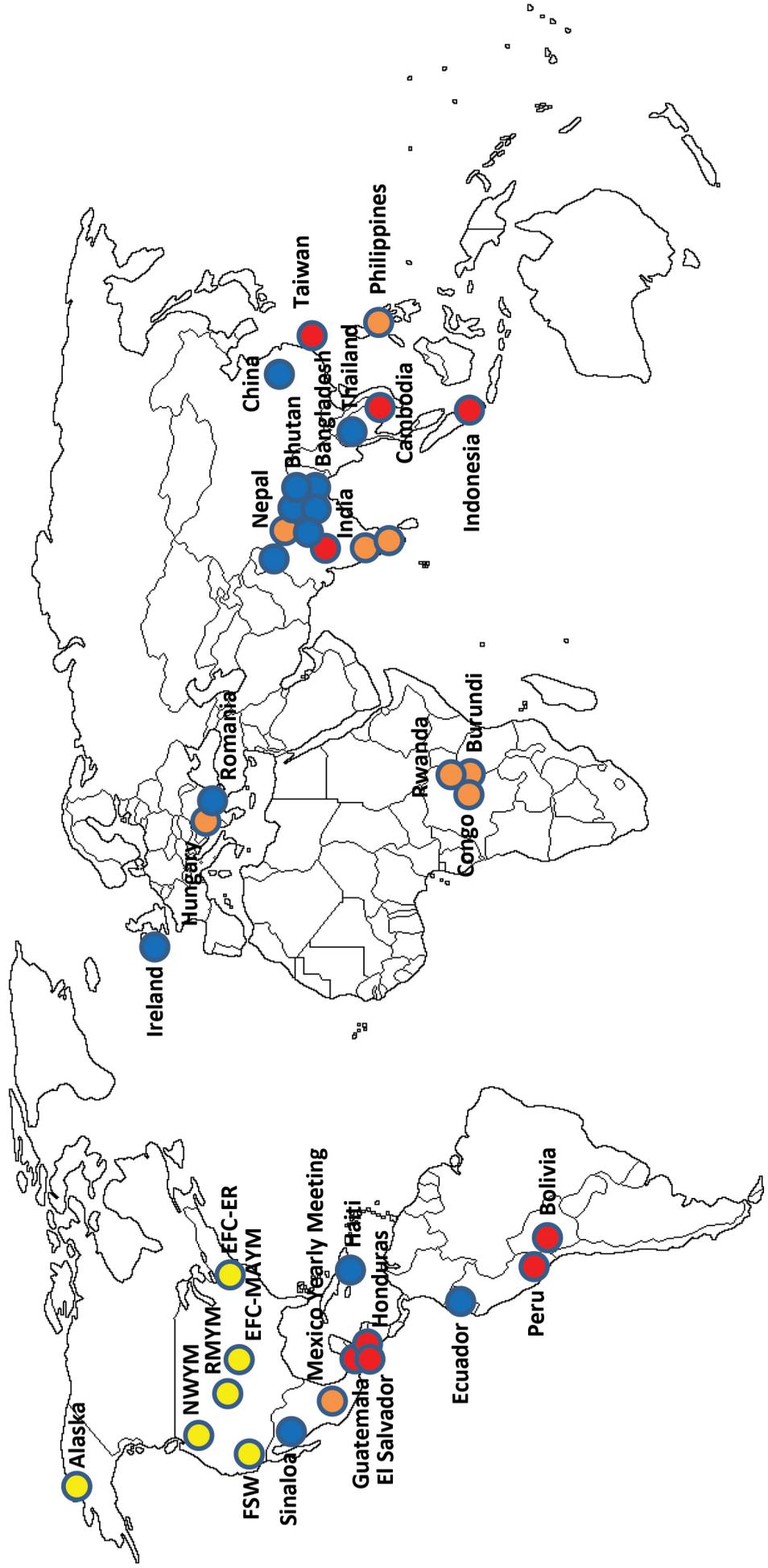
NWYM followed suit in 2018 by making EFM their sending agency and putting their one remaining missions effort under EFM. This effort is a program created 20 years ago and consists of sending teachers to teach English to university students. Up until now they have been doing this mostly in East Asia. It's a program that attracts teachers of all ages, but especially young adults. NWYM has also been generous in sharing with EFM its experience and connections in Bolivia and Peru.

EFC-ER is the latest yearly meeting to take this step. They took it in 2019. When they put their international work under EFM it nearly doubled the number of missionaries and fields that EFM cares for. You can see that by looking at Table 3 and also the page of prayer card pictures that accompanies this lesson. But it must be said that long before EFC-ER took this step they were instrumental in helping EFM get involved in Asia, especially in the Philippines, India, and Nepal.

Remember what the delegates to the conference on mission discussed in Colorado Springs in January of 1963? It seems to me that their vision of a unified philosophy of mission and expansion into new fields is being realized (along with the other points they discussed). There is still a lot of work to do to further develop these things, but I'm encouraged by the progress that is being made. I hope you are too!

# TABLE #3

Evangelical Friends Mission's Fields, Ministries, and Partners in 2020





**EVANGELICAL FRIENDS MISSION**

# LESSON 4

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# LESSON 4

## What Does this New Chapter of Missions Look like among Evangelical Friends?

*Prepared by Dan Cammack*

As we get deeper into this millennium I think we Evangelical Friends here in North America are growing more and more aware that we are not the only Evangelical Friends who are sending missionaries nowadays. Missiologists have been trying to tell us for years that missions is no longer “from the West to the rest.” It’s from everywhere to everywhere.

What evidence is there that we are experiencing this new reality among Evangelical Friends?

- Taiwan Friends have been sending missionaries to the Philippines for years, and also to places they can’t tell us about for security reasons.
- The yearly meetings of Central America have been sending missionaries to Cambodia.
- Rwandan Friends are starting to reach into the Sudan through Uganda. Friends in Burundi are making headway in Tanzania. North Africa is also on the minds of Friends in Central Africa.
- The missionary-sending spirit is stirring among Friends in places like Bolivia, Mexico, the Philippines, Nepal, and Bhutan. In some cases they are already sending workers cross-culturally in their own countries. It’s just a matter of time before they start going farther afield.
- Speaking of Nepal and Bhutan, did you know that there is church planting going on in North America among Nepali-Bhutanese refugees by workers who are themselves refugees? The same is true for refugees from Burundi and the Congo. This is leading to some significant growth and diversity in Evangelical Friends Church-Eastern Region (EFC-ER) and Evangelical Friends Church-Mid America Yearly Meeting (EFC-MAYM). This is a case of our mission fields (or, in some cases, former mission fields) producing workers who are reaching the lost in our own country! Of course, our Hispanic Friends have been doing this for a long time as EFC-ER, EFC-MAYM, and Friends Southwest can attest.

What does this new reality mean for EFM? Well, we’re still trying to figure that out! But, at the very least it means giving encouragement to yearly meetings around the world who are responding to the Great Commission vision.

To be clear, EFM is the missions arm of Evangelical Friends Church-North America. Our primary responsibility is to mobilize Friends on our continent to carry out the Great Commission of Jesus Christ. But it also seems like, given the long history in missions that EFM and our yearly meetings have, there are appropriate ways for us to partner with our counterparts overseas who want to “get in the game.” Please pray for us as we try to more clearly discern what the Lord wants our role to be.

In the meantime, as you can see from the green dots in Table 4, EFM is actively seeking to send missionaries to:

- Ecuador
- Central Africa
- India
- Sinaloa, Mexico

Please read the following descriptions prayerfully. Does the Lord want you to be part of the answer to any of these needs?

There is one EFM missionary family left in Africa. We’ve had to wrestle with the question: “Does this mean that God is done with EFM in Africa?” As we’ve prayed and talked about it we’ve become convinced that God would have us rebuild our team in Central Africa. We believe he wants us to be part of keeping the whole-life discipleship, church planting movement crossing borders through tools like Discipling for Development. He also wants us to be part of training African Friends to be missionaries to their own continent and beyond.

The state of Sinaloa is in the northwest part of Mexico and is one of the areas of that country that has the fewest evangelical Christians. We Friends have had a tiny foothold there in a village called Siete Ejidos but have lacked the personnel to make disciples and plant churches in the surrounding villages and cities. Thanks be to the Lord, Jaime and Lupita Leon responded to the call and are working in that area right now. But one missionary unit is not enough. Who will go and join them in this work?

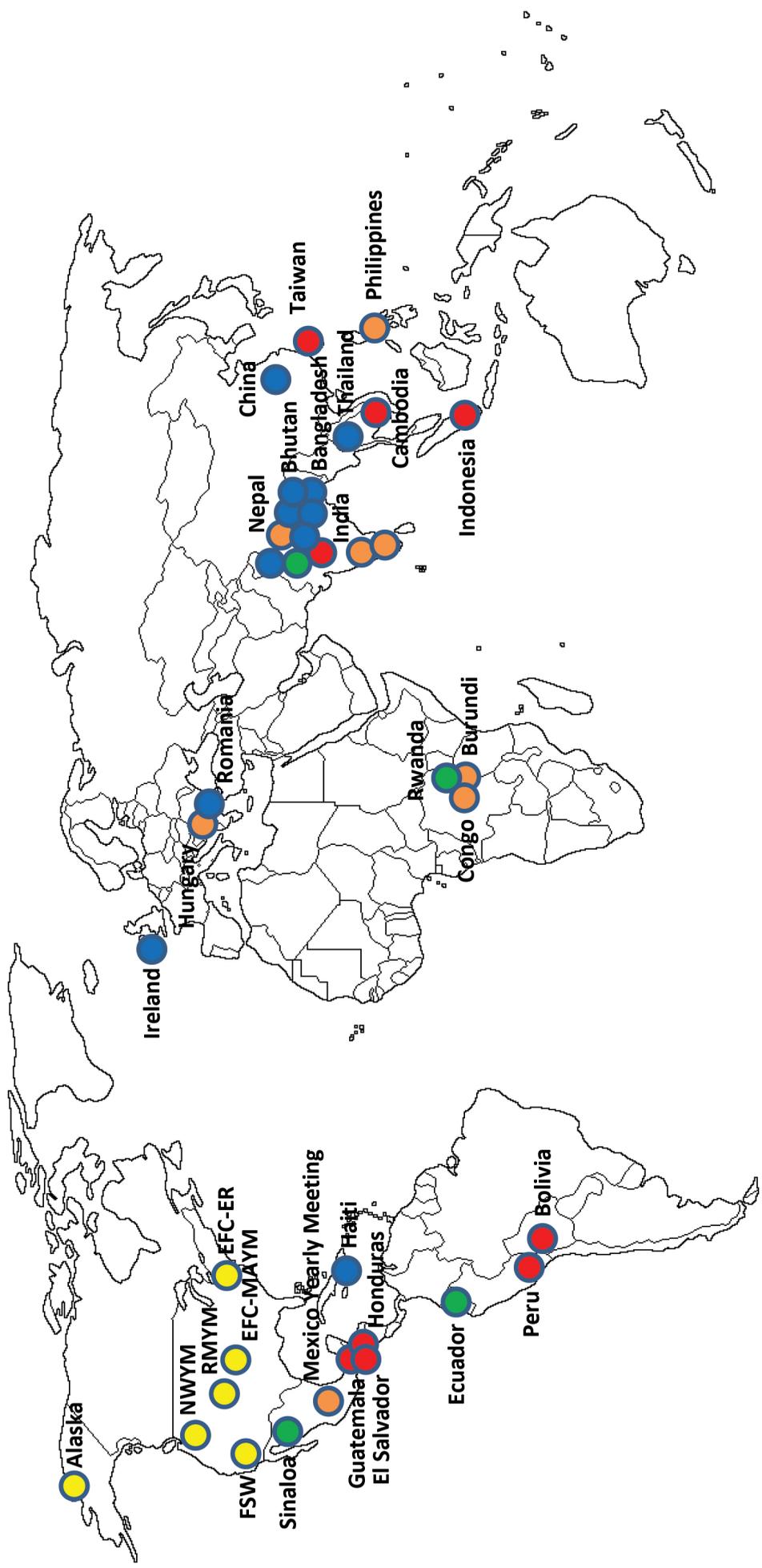
Several years ago the Lord called Russell and Sarah Badgley and their family to go to the southeast corner of Ecuador and share the good news of Jesus Christ with an unreached tribe called the Shuar. Badgleys were able to spend the equivalent of two years in Ecuador building relationships that will help make this kind of work possible. Now that they are back in the States to stay, who will go and build on the foundation they have laid?

According to the Joshua Project, India is the country with the most unreached people groups in it. More than two thousand! It's a tough country to get into, and a tough country in which to carry out the Great Commission, but God still opens doors and sustains those who are working there for his purposes. M. and K. L. recently completed their first term pioneering a new work. Who will step through the next door he opens?

If you feel the Lord is prompting you to talk with someone at EFM about these opportunities, please contact us at 303-421-8100. You may also visit our website at [\*\*www.friendsmission.com/easter-offering\*\*](http://www.friendsmission.com/easter-offering).

# TABLE #4

Where Evangelical Friends Mission Is Currently Seeking to Send Missionaries







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