



# Evangelical Friends Mission

## March 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.

EFM Kolkata ministry started in 2003. In the beginning there were five fellowships in Kolkata's slum area. I used to live in a slum, and I saw there was no one to preach the good news. There were 3,000 slums in Kolkata and God gave me a burden for the slum people. I prefer to do ministry in the slums.

God blessed our ministry. It started growing. First from Kolkata to Malda, then Gosaba Island, the orphanage, and then a few more districts in the state of West Bengal. At present we are working in eight districts. We have twenty-two churches and around eighty house churches. We hope and pray that these house churches will be full churches in near future.

In 2014, we started the ministry in the state of Uttarakhand. It is in extreme North India. Now we have four churches there. Two ministers are working there along with some volunteers. In this state we have two full churches and around forty house churches.

Altogether we have thirteen full-time ministers and eleven honorary ministers. God is so gracious to our ministry.

Apart from the church ministry, by God's grace, we could start the following ministries:

1. **FBTI:** "Friends Bible Training Institute" is for the young people of Friends Church. It is a one-year course and each year we take ten students from different districts of West Bengal. We have two Bible Training Schools: One in Kolkata among the Bengali speaking people and the other is in Uttarakhand among the Hindi speaking people. Together, 27 young boys and girls that benefit from this course.
2. **Children Project:** In 2019, we started the Children Project in four districts of West Bengal. Each center has forty to sixty children attending and many more are waiting to join. They learn the Word of God and do their school homework. The teachers visit the homes of the children, pray for them, and invite them to our fellowships. Some miracles happen in these projects and all projects have made an impact in the neighborhood. Praise be to God.
3. **Women Empowerment Project:** We have a church in Murshidabad district among the neighbors. The people are very poor and illiterate. The women are very much neglected because of their poverty. We started a tailoring school in that area and ten poor women come to learn about tailoring. With these skills, they will be able to support their family and impact the society. Praise the Lord.
4. **Business Training Program:** We also have a business training program to support pastors and evangelists. They take the business training and then receive a grant for a small business which allows them to earn money.
5. **Red-light Area Ministry:** We have a ministry among the prostitutes in Girish Park, Kolkata along with Inologic. In 2006, a New Zealand couple started a business to help prostitutes transition into a normal life. They run the business and we are responsible for the spiritual side of the girls. The name of the project is "Love Calcutta Arts." By the grace of God, many girls have come to a normal life and few of them have come to Christ. Some of them are married and having families. Every Wednesday, my wife Choity goes there and conducts a Bible study and fellowship. Praise God for his abundant grace on these girls.
6. **Natural Calamity:** This year we had a massive cyclone named BulBul. It destroyed the villages in the coastal area. We have ministry in three villages in that coastal area. The names are Gosaba, Bali, and Nazatt. Many people lost their houses including our believers. By the help of Dan Cammack, our Executive Director, we were able to help 42 families. We gave them asbestos and bamboos to rebuild their houses. Thanks to the Lord and thanks to Dan Cammack and the EFM Board.
7. We sent a small amount of money to support Emmanuel Hostel (an orphanage). They do not have enough support to run the hostel and we also do not have enough to give them. So, we are giving a small amount every year. Our Gosaba Friends Church is in the hostel campus.
8. Almost every year, there is an addition of one or two churches within our ministry. We give importance to start more house churches, and our ministers are working hard for that. I am thankful to God for the ministers for their faithfulness and commitment to the task.
9. **Regular Function:** Each month, we have our monthly meeting. We gather together to learn the Word of God. We share the blessings of God in our midst and thank him together. We spend the time in prayer for our needs, for each other problems, for our children, and for our states of West Bengal and Uttarakhand where we have ministry. Our country, India, is going through a difficult situation and we pray for the leaders of our country. God is in control and we believe he will take care our country.



## **From the EFM Office**

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

- Dan has returned from visiting fields in Cambodia, Nepal and India over the past month. Both Dan and Matt, as well as Rusty Savage and Zach Bohler of EFC-ER, have returned from participating in the all-India EFC leaders gathering. We are praising the Lord for the great things we are seeing and hearing, including some pockets of significant disciple multiplication!
- For Gene Stratton who has taken on the task of mailing out our printed prayer letter as well as overseeing some of our other mailings, which is yet another step in financial efficiency for the EFM office.
- We continue to celebrate strengthened partnerships among EFC in our missions sending efforts. The transition of Northwest and Eastern Region missions into the EFM umbrella has gone smoothly.

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

- For the EFM staff as they gather together for a staff retreat in California. EFM's staff are located in Newberg, Kansas, Arkansas, California, and Michigan, so these opportunities to gather in person for specialized work is greatly treasured!
- For Jim LeShana as he travels to Rwanda to further explore options with EFC-Rwanda leaders on how to best prepare church leaders in order to meet new strict government requirements. Jim is representing the Great Lakes (Africa) Leadership Training team of EFM, which is made up of Ben Staley, Lon Fendall, Jim LeShana, and Matt Macy.

## **From Denny and Michelle Craker**

### **Serving in Taiwan**

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

- The coronavirus has really run rampant through China. Continue to lift up China and all the people who are working tirelessly to keep this nation and the world safe.
- We are anticipating some changes as the security heightens and Denny can't travel quite as much within country.

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

- We continue to feel safe here in Shanghai and have a definite peace.

## **From B. and D. A.**

### **Serving in Nepal**

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

- D. is recovering well from her surgery. It is a slow process.

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

- Please continue to pray for her complete recovery.

## **From David and Tricia Howell**

### **Serving in Ireland**

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

- For approval for Tricia's naturalization.
- For new opportunities to serve our friends in Ireland.
- For transformed lives.

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

- Our family is going through a rough personal season.
- Discernment for new ministry opportunities.
- For health and safety for our family.

## **From Roy and Jinky Twaddell**

### **Serving in the Philippines**

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

- We had a great time hosting Pastor Pedro Sister Florita Damlino and Pastor Rannie Tayao from Tabon Friends Church while we all attended the PEFIM Annual Leadership Conference. The conference was a great blessing to us and it was a time to "Rest to Endure". It was a great venue in the mountains with nice cool weather and fantastic fellowship with many wonderful brothers and sisters in the Lord.
- For the great Blessings from the Christmas Brochure 2019. All of our projects: Livelihood, Sport Equipment, Dental Kits and Children's Ministry were fully funded. God bless and thank you to all who partnered with us!
- For the new Imam at Purok Uno who has embraced our work with the children. He gave me a big hug and wants to meet soon to talk.

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

- March is a busy month as we finish the second year of our FEAST Program. Please pray with us as we close out this year and prepare all the details for the four students who will graduate. Also pray for us as we prepare for the new year and for more students to join in studying God's Word.
- It is never too early to start praying. On April 4th and 5th we will be joining Pastor Manny Tres Reyes from Silangan Friends Church to host Tabon Friends Church's (Palawan) first ever Evangelistic Crusade. The Crusade will be a traditional message of Salvation in Christ along with music and testimonies. Roy will be one people to share a testimony which will be translated into Palawano. Please pray for the churches involved and for those coming to hear the message of salvation in Christ.
- For Roy's shoulder. The doctor ordered an MRI which was done last week. We now wait for the results.

## **From Maria Giron**

### **EFM Missions Mobilizer for Hispanic Friends**

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

- Thankful to God for allowing us, in January, to send the first Prayer Letter in Spanish to approximately 300 Hispanic Friends.
- For the opportunity to make contact with pastors and leaders of the Hispanic Churches in the Southwest during the Friends Southwest Annual Meeting.
- For the annual gathering of Friends Churches in Ciudad Juarez. For the vision of Mexico Yearly Meeting to plant more Friends Churches in the Mexican Republic in conjunction with EFM and other Hispanic Friends Churches from the U.S.

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

- To be able to continue making contact with more Hispanic Friends. For more people to sign up to receive the letters and missionary news from EFM in Spanish and that more and more Hispanic Friends Churches include EFM in their efforts to fulfill the Great Commission.
- For the next steps in the initiative of the vision to plant more Friends Churches in Mexico. May God guide us to the most appropriate strategies. "Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest" Matthew 9:38. For passionate and courageous workers willing to give it all for the church planting movement.

**From D. K. and Choity Sarkar  
Serving in India**

***Please Pray...***

- For our staff, projects, etc.
- For our country and our government.
- For our new leader.

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

***Praise God...***

- Local funds have been raised from all of the prayer groups of Chandrapur for upcoming 'Women Seminar' in RAUTAHAT
- Main CHE Committee has been formed in Chitawan by taking members from four different CHE communities. (CHITWAN)
- 12 poor and disadvantaged people of Tapara have received bio-sand filters to be used to provide clean drinking water in their homes. (BARDIYA)

***Please Pray...***

- Annual CHE conference has been planned for in the month of March/April in Chandrapur, RAUTAHAT
- Santosh, Gopilal, Buddi, Sukmaya, and Rajan came to know Jesus in Jhurjhure CHITWAN through the work of the CHE Ministry led by Gokarna
- Gobre Lodh continues to engage in fellowship and Sukdi, Laxmi, Koili, Badkanni, from Lodh community are coming to our Tapara Fellowship and want to know more about salvation in Christ. (BARDIYA)
- For the safe delivery of Babli. (AURAH) in the final week of her pregnancy.

**From Dave and Cindy Aufrance  
Serving in Hong Kong**

***Please Pray...***

- For Dave after his procedure to put a stent in his abdominal aorta to protect it from enlargement.
- For the stop of the spread of the COVID-19 corona virus. It has led to cancellation of church services and activities, and many other public events. To this point, only 1 person has died in Hong Kong and mostly the elderly or people with other health issues are affected the worst.
- For the continued transition and preparation for retirement as we will return to the US in July.
- That the Christians can be salt and light in these difficult times in Hong Kong and China. In some ways the virus is worse than the protests as one could avoid the protests usually, but nobody who goes out the door of their house can avoid contact with others.

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

***Praise God (Thailand-Lahu)...***

- For Solomon and his team's working to build good relationships in the villages of Ja Taw and Pa Mu (the smaller village a few minutes away). They are facilitating vision casting lessons with leaders and various groups in these villages.
- Thank God in advance for the leaders these villages will choose for our D4D team to mentor, who will guide their community in a transforming process.
- For a good February coaching trip for Scott Purser and David Thomas. A special highlight was Solomon teaching "The Problem Solving Process," with the larger team. He and the team understand the significance of this important lesson.

***Please Pray (Thailand-Lahu)...***

- For the team as they visit these villages over the next few months continuing to meet with focus groups and teach the core vision casting lessons. Pray for a vital mindset change to happen as people in the villages come to choose an empowering way of doing development and transforming their village.
- For the villages of Ja Taw and Pa Mu 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!

***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.
- Praise God for open hearts among the Kavet, for some Christian leaders, believers and for three churches among this unreached people group (35,000 people).
- For a great trip for David Thomas, for safety, for good talks with Scott Sward, for connecting with Philip Scott the YWAM leader for the province (State) of Stueng Treng in Northern Cambodia. Praise God for the opportunity to meet with some Kavet leaders and to see a Kavet village.

***Please Pray (Cambodia)...***

- For the seeds planted with YWAM leaders and three Kavet leaders that they would sprout, flourish and grow! Pray for favor for David Thomas and Scott Sward in the eyes of the YWAM and Kavet leaders. Pray for a healthy partnership to develop, and for the opportunity for David and Scott to work together, and for David to use his coaching and mentoring skills to help this team establish a whole-life, disciple-making, church-planting, community-transforming movement among the Kavet!