



Evangelical Friends Mission

April 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.

Our God allowed my family to complete a facet of ministry in Mexico that lasted 12 years. During that beautiful stage we were able to witness the hand of our mighty God transforming lives, restoring marriages, on leadership being developed and initiating new ministries. All of these in a very hard soil and difficult to sow the seed of the Gospel, that has been the center of Mexico. All the glory and honor to him! We arrived back to the United States in July 2019 and since then we have experienced many changes and challenges as family, but we are sure that God is in control of our lives and has good plans for our future. From August 2019 to February 2020 we were part of the Hispanic ministry in Friends Church Yorba Linda and even though it was for a short period of time that this experience lasted, we know God had a good reason to allow us to be there and we are thankful for it. Currently, we are back residing at our home in Las Vegas (where both pairs of our parents and daughter live). I feel very fortunate to be able to continue serving the Lord through EFM now as a Mission Mobilizer for Hispanic Friends. This part time ministry has been created to help our Hispanic brothers and sisters in the U.S. and Latin America become more fully involved in carrying out the Great Commission of Jesus Christ around the world and that also allows us to continue being part of the work in Mexico.



In February, the Friends of Mexico Yearly Meeting had their annual reunion in Ciudad Juarez and we had the privilege of attending this wonderful event. For four days, pastors, leaders, and representatives of 11 churches gather together to praise the Lord by sharing their victories and challenges. This reunion seemed to have been one of the best so far with the most attendance and enthusiasm. Praise the Lord! We could see more maturity and growth of the Friends Churches in Mexico. There, we launched a new vision called "Vision Mexico 32." It's about challenging the churches of the Mexico Yearly Meeting to join together to create a movement initiating new Friends ministries in each one of the states of Mexico where no Friends churches exist yet and to have covered the 32 States in about ten years. This could be achieved by sending two to three units of workers a year. This ambitious challenge seemed to be accepted with much enthusiasm and excitement by everyone present. There was so much enthusiasm that from it came three couple candidates willing and ready to be cast out to a new field this year. Praise God! We can see the answer of the many years of praying, for a church planting movement in Mexico, being answered.



Please pray for:

- More workers willing to leave their comfort zone and ready to be sent.
- For the necessary economical resources.
- For the strategic plan that is being developed to carry forward this vision.

My husband is taking a sabbatical from ministry and we are looking for God's direction and clarity for our next stage of ministry. Since attending the Mexico Yearly Meeting, we are seeking God about how to assist them in developing and pushing forward "Vision Mexico 32." Edwin is supporting me with the mission-mobilizing task. We continue having coaching sessions with Lupita and Jaime Leon serving in Sinaloa, as well as with the pastors in Aguascalientes, and also will be coaching the new candidates that are saying, "Here I am Lord, send me."

Maria Giron
EFM Missions Mobilizer for Hispanic Friends

From the EFM Office

Praise God...

- For a renewed missions-sending vision that is being sharpened by a small team of staff and board members to be presented to the board.
- For special opportunities for ministry and encouragement with EFM's missionaries.
- For each of EFM's office staff's faithful service to our missionaries. Kimberly Mer in California. Liz Allen in Arkansas. Debby McElroy in Kansas. Matthew Zoller in Michigan. Dan Cammack in Oregon. Matt Macy in Kansas.

Please Pray...

- That the Lord of the harvest would send out more workers into his fields.
- For ministries to be strengthened in character during these difficult times.
- For EFM staff as travel logistics impact the way leadership and ministry takes place.

From Molly Morton

Preparing to Qualify for a Minister of Religion Visa for Ireland

Praise God...

- My whole family and I are enduring quarantine/isolation/lock down as well as can be expected. We haven't gotten sick and continue taking precautions.
- My trip to Kansas last month, right before the virus started to take hold of our lives, was lovely and important as far as connecting with my classmates and professors
- My internship at Gateway is coming along very nicely. Before the virus shut it down, we facilitated Alpha for 5 weeks and had some really interesting and lovely conversations with our guests. I've had the pleasure of sharing meals with several families outside Sunday mornings and it has made me feel more comfortable in general in a new congregation.

Please Pray...

- My overall sanity during quarantine/isolation/lockdown. I would like to seize this opportunity to spend more time in prayer and in scripture, but I find anxiety and fear taking over too much. Please pray for me and our whole world to remember that God is in control.
- It has been incredibly difficult to find motivation and focus for my schoolwork. Please pray for divine intervention here. My final paper is due in two weeks.
- Connection during this time of isolation. I would like to connect with family and friends more not less during this time of isolation.

From Rupak and Pramila Tamang

Serving in Bhutan

Praise God...

- Five people made a public testimony of baptism and seven people accepted lord Jesus as their personal savior.
- Two boys, Samuel and Kenchola, passed grade 12, and are now going to college in July.
- For 300 houses given church calendar.

Please Pray...

- For our protection from Corona Virus.
- May many people accept in this opportunity of sharing the gospel during their fearful life.
- That we will be able to have yearly meeting May 10-11, 2020.

From Voicu and Ana Maria

Serving in Romania

Praise God...

- This special time, a chance to search our own hearts and see if there is any offensive way in us.
- Opportunities to share the love of Jesus with all people, demonstrating His peace in the midst of turmoil.
- Being safe and healthy, being able to communicate with family and friends across the world.

Please Pray...

- The Lord to stop the virus from spreading; Romania is very vulnerable, as tens of thousands of workers are returning from Italy, Spain, UK... where they've worked until now.
- The fear of the Lord, beginning of wisdom for all people, but especially for world leaders
- Solutions for continuation of work; opportunities for those seeking employment; God's provision during these critical months.

From Babir Lalita Gautam

Serving in India

Please Pray...

- For pastor Sriram Paswan new house.
- For training program every month we are carrying out for reaching Muslims.
- For Habil and Sanjay support.

From Denny and Michelle Craker

Serving in Taiwan

Praise God...

- We continue to use Zoom online video chat for church, fellowship groups, cell groups, mentoring, counseling and discipleship.
- This will be the 7th week for services online and we praise the Lord we can continue to have fellowship even though we are not together.

Please Pray...

- The coronavirus continues to 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. Plus, it has been even more so with the virus.

From Brad and Chelsea Carpenter

Serving in Rwanda

Praise God...

- We are so thankful for Tertullien, Simparinka, and Gerard's trip to Uvira, Congo; for the Lord's opening doors for whole-life discipleship in that community as well as for their safety in travel.
- At time of writing, Chelsea is still expecting Carpenter Baby no. 3 and we praise the Lord for her health and baby's health up to this point!

Please Pray...

- For the Carpenter family and the many tasks involved in preparing for their trip to the USA starting in mid-May
- For Simparinka, Tertullien, and Gerard in their D for D ministry as they prepare for Brad to be gone for several months
- For Pastor Tertullien to continue healing well from his typhoid sickness.

**From Tony and Agi Frei
Serving in Hungary**

Please Pray...

- My Mother-in-law suffers from lung cancer. (Her name is Teresa.)
- My Friend Norbert also has cancer and his leg has to be amputated...
- I sent to Hungarian court of law our church position application. I hope we can give back our church position!
- Next month we would like to renovate our church house/mission center in Tolna.

**From Maria Giron
EFM Missions Mobilizer for Hispanic Friends**

Praise God...

- In the midst of global difficult times, God is showing us that He still has mercy for humanity and wants us Friends to be part of completing the task of preaching the gospel to all nations. Knowing this make us feel more passionate to serve him and excites us even more.

Please Pray...

- That our family would keep following with peace in our hearts God's divine plan for our present and our future.
- For more opportunities to continue making contact and mobilizing Hispanic Friends Churches.
- That our prayer and financial partners would continue to be motivated to be part of this big missions mobilizing task.

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

Praise God...

- For good health so far among our staff and communities from the deadly virus which has so far surprisingly not affected many people in Nepal in spite of being next door to China where so many deaths occurred recently in Wuhan.
- For the safe delivery of a baby girl for Babli wife of Arun Kumar our CHE Trainer on 4th April. They have named their child Prastha.
- For the Women's Seminar held in Cha'pur on International Women's Day as organized by Asha and attended by almost 90 women from six churches in and around Cha'pur. Sabitri Mandal from Janakpur Friends Church helped to teach the women about women's health issues, and more importantly disseminate timely information about Coronavirus and prevention of the disease.

Please Pray...

- The Musahar children from Jugauliya village who are being provided a midday meal and basic tuition by Nathan Majhi from Eden Community Church, with the involvement of their local CHE Committee.
- For the one monthlong disciples training to be organized in May by Suleman as part of his Director's training in CHE and also for the trainees as they will be taken through this one month which has a strong evangelism training component as well.
- For Pastor Kedar and Ashok Prayer of Mahida Friends Church as they work hard in reviving the church after a period of slowdown experienced in the last two years. Kedar recently completed a course of Veterinary Training for the people of Mahida village and there were many participants from nearby communities too. The participants will be awarded a certificate on completion to enable them to take care of their own community vet needs.

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

Praise God...

- That we can still meet as a church, though fewer in number, and we can do live broadcasts of the services on Facebook and YouTube for those that cannot join us.

Please Pray...

- Though we are grateful Hong Kong has not been hit hard with the COVID-19 virus, it has complicated our transition plans with all the delays, cancellations and precautions that need to be taken.
- That I can have my stent procedure done soon while we are still in Hong Kong. This is one of the big factors in this transition process. When we return to the US, we'll need to start using Medicare coverage, find doctors, and probably do testing again. All our health records are here in Hong Kong.
- That during this challenging time that people would turn their eyes and hearts to Jesus, our only hope.

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

Praise God...

- For godly leaders who are actively seeking God's face interceding for their families, the people under their care (disciples and church members), their communities and their nations. Praise God for our D4D leaders and the encouragement they are to people around them!
- For cell phones, the internet and many useful apps like WhatsApp that allow leaders to communicate with each other and with the people under their care.
- For the opportunity for the church world-wide to "stand in the gap," on behalf of their people to intercede for their communities and their nations.
- For this time when people world-wide are more open and sensitive to hearing his voice.
- 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!

Please Pray...

- That God would guard our leader's hearts and minds with his perfect peace that passes all understanding as they rejoice in him, give thanks and intercede as the Holy Spirit leads them.
- That God's people would take advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to intercede for the people, communities, situations and nations God leads them to pray for.
- For Christians world-wide to reach out and love their neighbors. Pray for their readiness to love by meeting needs and by being ready to lead people to Christ. Pray our D4D teams would be able to be salt and light in their communities.
- For people at home who do not have ways to make more money, and who do not have the money needed to buy food at the markets. Pray for churches to figure out how to meet the needs of people around them.
- For protection from sickness from Covid-19.
- 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."