



# Evangelical Friends Mission May 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.

## Philippine Evangelical Friends International Ministries (PEFIM) Update

### **EFM Director Pastor Dan Cammack Visits PEFIM**

We were blessed to be visited by beloved Pastor Dan Cammack last December 2019. He joined Pastor Cris in visiting PEFIM churches in Calbayog, Samar. His presence and support has been a great encouragement to PEFIM National Director and Board of Elders.



### **Bible Month Celebration**

The month of January has been designated as National Bible Month in the Philippines with the last week being designated as National Bible Week. PEFIM organized an event sponsored by Friends Evangelical Accelerated School of Theology (FEAST) and participated by PEFIM churches and students of FEAST. The event includes Creative Psalm Reading, Chorale Reading, Bible Quiz Bee, and Preaching Battle. It was a very lively and meaningful time of celebrating the powerful and unchanging word of God!



### **2020 Leadership Conference**

Pastors and leaders from PEFIM churches gathered for the annual conference, which was a time for worshipping the Lord together, equipping, ministry updates, fellowship, and relaxation. This year's theme was **Rest To Endure: Entering God's Rest Through Jesus Produces Faithful Endurance – Hebrews 10:19-39**. During this conference, two Pastors were ordained – one from Community of Hope Friends Church in Antipolo and the other from Sicud Evangelical Friends Church in Palawan.



### **Helping Others During COVID-19 Crisis**

The COVID-19 situation left poor sectors of the community unprepared even in providing their daily meals as most heads of the families were not able to work and earn during the quarantine. The Community of Hope Friends Church in Antipolo gave out relief goods for families in their community. We are also grateful to be used as channel of blessings by a donor-friend who provided cash assistance to seven families and three single individuals in Pasig, as well as to a group of Bible school students in Calbayog, Samar.



### **From the EFM Office**

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

- That our work as stateside staff has not been interrupted by the COVID-19 situation. We are as busy as ever!
- For the generous response we have seen so far to our appeal for emergency funds to help with needs created by lockdowns on our fields as well as the flooding in Uvira, Congo.
- For the many positive responses we received from the COVID-19 series of updates that we did towards the end of March and beginning of April. We can tell you are praying, and we are so grateful for that!

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

- For the EFM Board committees as they meet via the internet on May 28 and 29. One of the things we are working on this year is a strategic plan for 2020 to 2025. Please pray that as we plan for the future we will stay true to the vision that the Lord of the harvest has for Evangelical Friends worldwide.
- That EFM's financial situation will remain strong through this time of global crisis. Please pray the same for your local churches and regions/yearly meetings. We are praying in this way for you as well. We all truly depend on the Father for our daily bread and the resources needed to do the work he has given us to do.
- That through this time of crisis many more people will enter into new life in Jesus Christ and become part of his mission to the world.

### **From Roy and Jinky Twaddell**

#### **Serving in the Philippines**

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

- All of us and the communities we work with are healthy and as of this writing COVID-19 free.
- We now have transitioned most of our FEAST students to the distance learning program. We will hold a Virtual Graduation for the 4 students who have completed the 2 year Bible and Theology program sometime in May. Our ESL students in Purok Uno are well and the community is COVID-19 free as well.
- We continue to meet through social media, livestreams with worship service broadcast weekly. We have all found ways to reach out to our neighbors. Our unintentional garden has been a source of fresh vegetables to at least 6 families. This has been an important source of nutrition because the government only supplies these families with rice and cans of sardines and other tins of meat, almost no fruit or vegetables.

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

- With so much uncertainty about when the quarantines will end here, please pray for our churches and ministries to continue in the presence of the Lord. That we would continue to show God's love in all we do and find more ways to support one another in the church and those in our neighborhoods.
- For the future restart of our ministries here once the quarantines are lifted. We will need to shift to distance learning for FEAST for the foreseeable future as current indications suggest all schools will be closed for face to face classes till August. Please pray for Purok Uno as we wait to talk with the community leaders about how we can help once the lockdown ends. Especially remember Tagnipa our most isolated church and ministry. We have heard no news from them in a month as the team is prevented from visiting and there is no cell phone contact.
- For our boys. Joseph works from home and was planning to move with a promotion, but that is on hold. Chris works in banking and works 5 days a week still. Daniel currently is unemployed, a job he was hired for has cancelled all applications due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

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

#### **Serving in Nepal**

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

- Everyone in our ministry is safe from corona virus in Nepal.

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

- For the world that God will have mercy on the whole world and send his healing.

### **From Molly Morton**

#### **Preparing to Qualify for a Minister of Religion Visa for Ireland**

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

- My entire family is healthy and doing well in self-isolation. We are all making the best of a very difficult situation with long drives down to the beach (not getting out of the car), daily walks with our dog and learning how to make sourdough bread.
- My entire support system is alive and well. I've been blessed with a large group of leaders that pour into me in official and unofficial ways. That coaching and counseling continues in isolation and I'm grateful for it.
- The safety of my teammates abroad as well as my best friend who lives in China currently. They are safe and sound and I'm grateful for it.

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

- Continued focus and motivation for schoolwork and Lab work. I am learning new ways to learn in my research methods class. But I'm invigorated by the material because I love getting to the bottom of how things work and come together which is what research is all about.
- My visa process is officially on hold right now since Ireland is no longer receiving visa applications since March 20. Please pray for me as I continue to pursue the plans God has for me during this preparation time in the USA. Please pray for the church that agreed to sponsor and my communication with them during these uncertain times. Please pray that I would remember that God is in the center of all of this and in control of it all.
- For the state of California and the US leadership as they navigate how and when to emerge from this pandemic. Please pray for wisdom and discernment during decision making.

### **From Gabriel and Suzana Massey**

#### **Serving in India**

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

- We thank God that our whole district is in the green zone, which means that we don't have any cases of Corona Virus.
- Our home examinations at the Christian English College were completed before close down. There are still board examinations for class X and XII. We are waiting to have the new dates from the council for the rest of the examinations.
- We both are doing well health wise by the grace of God.

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

- That all Sunday worship and other church gathering will start soon as usual.
- For the need of a study supervisor for the Christian English College. This is a temporary post for ten months in a year.
- Our childcare center in a village where we take care of 30 poor children for their health and safety during the summer holidays. For our New Believers Fellowship, which is also closed. Our pastors try to visit the families which are scattered all over the area.

### **From Kathi Perry**

#### **Serving in Ireland**

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

- I was able to spend two weeks in Spain in February as part of my "sabbatical" this year - returning to Ireland just ahead of the COVID-19 outbreak there.
- Thankful for a house with a garden, and friends who check in during this time of isolation.
- Thankful that people are willing to meet electronically for our Bible Study, and to encourage and interact with one another.

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

- For Ireland, as many face unemployment, recession, social isolation, grief, health services stretched - I know these things are happening all over the world. Lord, have mercy.
- For new ways to connect with and minister to the people around me, including our Bible Study that is, so far, continuing online.

**From A. and M. A.  
Serving in Bangladesh  
Praise God...**

- That we all are well in the midst of this most difficult time. None of our church members are affected by the Corona Virus.
- That most of our believers' families have started house churches because of restrictions from the government. If there is no Corona Virus attack, they might not have started any house churches in those families.
- For providing food for 135 families who live on a daily income basis. We are so thankful to the Lord and to EFM for providing food to those people.

**Please Pray...**

- That God would protect every believer from this Corona Virus attack. Also, pray for our country that God would protect each person living here. There are many Chinese people along with other foreigners are living in Bangladesh.
- That this virus would be destroyed completely from the earth in this month of May.
- That many souls would be reached during this crisis period. Pray that our believers can trust more to God rather than panic and live in anxiety.

**From Maria Giron  
EFM Missions Mobilizer for Hispanic Friends  
Praise God...**

- Some Hispanic Friends leaders from both Mexico and the United States have come together to form a team to kick off the "Mexico Vision 32" project. The Vision is to have a Friends work in each State of Mexico in a period of 10 years, sending two units to the field each year.
- We were reported that in the small town of Santa Elena in Zacatecas where for approximately five years stone was stung with the gospel, and there were only two converts, now it is bearing fruit with 11 new people who had committed their lives to Jesus Christ accepting him as their sole personal savior this past month. Glory to God!
- For the opportunities we have to encourage with monthly coaching sessions four couples and a single guy who are serving as new missionaries, pastors or planters in Mexico.

**Please Pray...**

- For the unity of hearts and minds of all of us who form the team of the "Mexico Vision 32" project.
- For an adequate couple to send to Santa Elena to follow-up with the new converts and for a Friends congregation that will be starting in the State of Zacatecas.
- For more opportunities to have virtual contact with Hispanic leaders from the United States and Latin America to promote EFM and for their greater involvement in missions.

**From M. and K. L.  
Serving in northern India  
Praise God...**

- We've entered a season of good health for our family! January and February were quite full of sickness, so we're extremely grateful for our current health.
- Our relationships continue to grow and deepen in spite of the country being on lockdown. Please pray for wisdom for how to help and encourage those around us that are affected by the virus (especially mentally and spiritually) and to appropriately convey the hope of the gospel during a fearful time.

**Please Pray...**

- K. has been having a lot of medical questions lately. She helps the best she can, but there is not always an answer to give. We always pray with the people who come to see her for medical advice and are thankful for the opportunities these moments present. Please pray for her and for those that seek her advice and go on to doctors!
- Our business was finally approved by the government! And then the country was locked down. So, we are waiting a little while longer. Thank you so much for praying for the approval. It was a long time in the making, but it is officially official!

**From Tony and Agi Frei  
Serving in Hungary  
Praise God...**

- No one has gotten the Corona Virus in our EFC Mission in Hungary/Europe.
- We can be together with our church members/families on Zoom. We have an interactive church meeting every Sunday morning and can invite many friends to our online church meeting.
- We can teach the Bible study (RE lessons) online in the primary government schools!

**Please Pray...**

- Mihalovics Joseph, our Gipsy pastor, had a heart attack last week. He is in the hospital but is better at this time. He was the first Gipsy man who received Jesus 20 years ago. I started the Croatia and Serbia Gipsy Mission together with Joseph. Please pray for "Józsi Bácsi!"
- For our contact with unbeliever friends on the internet. We would like to invite lots of friends to our Zoom interactive church meeting every week. We hope they will receive Jesus Christ! This is a big possibility for us.
- For the Corona Virus to be stopped in Hungary and all over the World!

**From Dave and Cindy Aufrance  
Serving in Hong Kong  
Praise God...**

- For a good stent surgery. It took place on Friday, April 3 and I was released from the hospital on April 6. The doctor said everything looked good.
- We've not been able to hold a worship service for nearly a month. But we thank the Lord that we have been able to have some Zoom fellowship meetings and broadcasts on YouTube and Facebook at the very least.
- That the virus impact, in terms of health, has not been too bad. 990 cases with four deaths, and many have recovered already. Nearly half of the cases were brought in from international students/travelers (only Hong Kong residents) who brought a visa with them.

**Please Pray...**

- That the Lord can provide for our family some who've lost jobs or been laid off. Many churches are struggling to meet their expenses with big drops of offerings and tithes.

**From David Thomas  
EFM Whole-Life Discipleship  
Praise God (Thailand-Lahu)...**

- For the stability and unity of The Way Foundation (TWF) team.
- Because Chiang Rai started social distancing early, they have zero cases in their hospitals currently.
- The month of April (Thailand's New Year) is normally a slower month, so those working in TWF were already slowing down.
- Many of Thailand's hill tribe peoples have gone home to their villages where there is enough food and the forests are also close by to gather food.

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

- Village chiefs have locked down their villages, not allowing their people back from the big cities like Bangkok without first quarantining themselves for 14 days in the forest or orchards. Pray that the hill tribes keep COVID-19 out and stay healthy.
- For the TWF staff to use technology well, to keep working as they can (from home), and to stay connected and encourage each other and the people they work with.
- For Solomon, Yosapa, Ben, and Ja Bo as they see how they can encourage village leaders in Ja Taw through this time. Ja Taw and Ba Mo are the neighboring communities where they are beginning their D4D work.

**Praise God (Rwanda, Burundi, DR Congo (Uvira and Goma)...**

- Tertullien is thankful for the opportunity to focus on discipling his children at home during this crisis. His girls (four of his own plus two others staying with them) appreciate learning from many of the D4D lessons.
- For our D4D Rwanda national leaders (Tertullien, Augustin, Gerard and Brad) and for their plan to connect with Rwandan D4D team leaders leading 10 D4D Rwandan projects. They are distance mentoring people in Uvira and Goma, DRC, as well as

leaders in the two Friends Church Yearly Meetings in Burundi, as well as an interdenominational group in Bujumbura, Burundi.

- 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!
- For the healthy birth of Brad and Chelsea Carpenter's 3<sup>rd</sup> baby, Ian Dushimiye. Praise God that they were able to return to their home in Musanze before the roads were completely shut down due to travel bans to contain COVID-19.

***Please Pray (Rwanda, Burundi, DR Congo (Uvira and Goma)...***

- For wisdom for the local governments in Rwanda, Burundi, and Congo as they seek to protect their people from the spread of COVID-19, and also seek to keep their people from dying of starvation. Pray for wisdom on how to get their economies running again.
- For believers to encourage their neighbors through generosity in giving needed food and in giving people hope in these fearful times. Pray that God would meet people's needs for food by multiplying food (widow of Zaphath, five loaves and two fish).
- For the rain to slow down, and for the flooding and landslides to stop in the whole region.
- For Ian Dushimiye (Brad and Chelsea's Baby), to breath freely so he and his parents can sleep through the night. Pray protection over his and their whole family's health.

***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 many opportunities to support the Cambodian government in Stueng Treng. They have produced flyers to deliver to many people throughout the province. They have been training village chiefs and police about how to deal with COVID-19.

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

- For strength and health for Scott and Andrea and Elise and all the YWAM leaders they work with in Stueng Treng and in Siem Pang near the Laos border. Pray for favor in the eyes of local government leaders as they work together with them helping train up as many community and village leaders as possible in how to handle this COVID-19 crisis. Pray for God's blessing to be on all of these relationships and that they would develop into open pathways for the gospel to spread in the months ahead.