



Evangelical Friends Mission

June 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.

A Story of a Transformed Life in Rwanda Submitted by Brad and Chelsea Carpenter



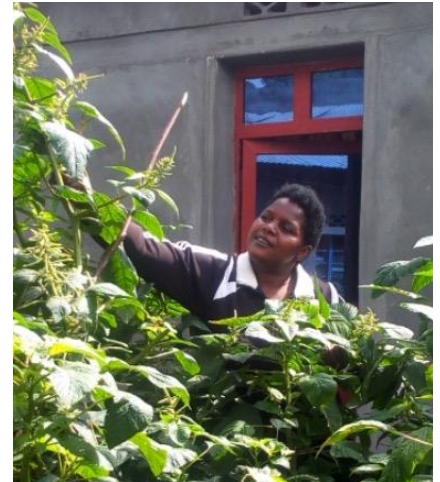
Christine: My name is Akingeneye Christine, I am a believer and a member of the Rugarama Friends Church. I have a husband and two children. I was trained in the D for D seminars. In the seminars I learned many things that helped me to change many things in my life.

I want to share my testimony about the transformation in my family in relation to the “4 key relationships” before being trained and after being trained.

My relationship with God: Before whole-life discipleship seminars I believed that going to church services and being in the choir was enough in my life with God. But after the seminars I set a goal to read the Bible two times per week and my family takes time each week to praise God together. During the children’s school vacations, we each take turn teaching from the Bible. The purpose of this is to disciple our children to study the Bible.

My relationship with Creation (Stewardship): Before being discipled I planted crops in our fields however I felt like at the moment without a plan which meant that the crops did not grow well, and we have poor harvests. After the seminars things changed very much. I now use fertilizer and plant with modern methods which has increased our harvests greatly! Now the field that used to produce 2 tons of crops produced 4 tons. Things have changed a lot! I planted fruit trees: guavas, mango, lemon, and avocado trees. They are growing well, and we are starting to harvest guavas.

My relationship with others: I used to visit people every once in a while, but with no plan. But now I make plans for who I will visit and when and I put those visits into our family budget. During these days of Coronavirus and mostly being at home, I have visited seven families.



My relationship with myself: Before being discipled I thought that drinking water was worthless. I mainly drank tea, porridge, and juice. But that changed after the seminars. Now I drink 1 liter of water each day. I have also taught my family to only drink boiled water (rather than bad water). Each week I exercise once by running 4 kilometers. As a family, during vacations, we play games as a family like cards and igisoro (a Rwandan game similar to Mancala).

The D for D trainings were impactful in many ways. I now have a plan for working and I set end dates for each task. In the pursuit of increasing our family’s resources I started a business of buying wood and then selling it to schools in our area and this business is going really well. Also I now have a bank account for savings and that is helping me save for the future. And I am in a savings group that helps me save each week.

The D for D teachings had a part in everything I have mentioned. I praise God because he is always with me and I praise the people who had a part in preparing the D for D lessons. I desire to see these lessons reaching many more people because they are very important for our everyday lives. Thank you. May Jesus be with you always.

From the EFM Office

Praise God...

- For the meetings that the EFM Board committees were able to have online during the end of May. We missed being at the Quaker Ridge camp in Colorado, which is where we normally meet in the spring, but we are grateful for the technology that allowed us to have these meetings.
- For the generous contributions that have been made towards our emergency funds. We have been raising money for COVID-19 related needs on our fields as well as the flood that happened in Uvira, Congo. So far we have been able to distribute these funds to the Philippines, Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Rwanda, and the Congo. The recipients of this aid are very grateful.
- So far we are not hearing of any Evangelical Friends in Asia, Africa, Europe, and Latin America/the Caribbean who have contracted COVID-19. There are probably some cases we don't know about. Nevertheless, we praise the Lord for his care and provision during this worldwide crisis.

Please Pray...

- That Evangelical Friends in Asia, Africa, Europe, and Latin America/the Caribbean would reflect the Gospel of Jesus Christ in their words and deeds as they reach out to those around them in the midst of lockdowns and other restrictions.
- For wisdom as we try to determine how much international and national (U.S.) travel to do during the rest of this year.
- For wisdom to know what financial adjustments to make if EFM begins to experience a drop in income. Please continue to pray the same for your local church and region/yearly meeting.

From Maria Giron

Missions Mobilizer for Hispanic Friends

Praise God...

- For the opportunities that Hispanic pastors in the United States and Latin America have to update themselves on using technology, as a result of the pandemic, and thus reach more nonbelievers with the Gospel of Christ through social media and live broadcast.
- In this month of June we celebrate the life of our son Edwin Isaac who turns 17. It's amazing to think that this fall he will be entering his senior year of High School and will be making arrangements to go to college soon! We give thanks for his heart of service to God and his talents!

Please Pray...

- Please pray for churches willing to host virtual workshops on mission's topics for their leaders.
- Please continue to pray for the Vision Mexico 32 team. May God guide us in the next steps of the project. That the whole team continues with the same feeling and unity to continue forward.

From Tony and Agi Frei

Serving in Hungary

Praise God...

- Joseph from Kölked („Józsi Bácsi”) is healing. He has to stay at home, and he has to relax a lot at this time. We are happy, because, he is stronger day by day! Glory to God!
- Our co-workers, Susan and Joseph's daughter, Enikő gave birth for her little baby girl, (called Euniké) in this morning. They are fine, praise God!
- Twelve children applied for our Bible study (RE lessons) in the primary government schools! All of them are from unbeliever families! We can start our lessons in September. We are thankful to the Lord!

Please Pray...

- For Marianne's family. As you know, her funeral was last Friday, in Kölked. Please, pray for her widow and for her four, little children (they are 10, 6, 4 and 3 years old) and also for her mother. Marianne was just 32 years old. We know, that just God can give her family real peace and strength.
- For Norbert. He is our friend's 28 year old son. He is a believer too. He lives in Poland with his wife and his two little boys. Norbert has muscle cancer in one of his legs. Please, pray for him, because it seems that his leg will be amputated on the 25th of May. Only God can make a miracle!
- For Géza. Géza is our gypsy pastor from Komló. He has a few serious problems, like kidney problem, diabetes. Nowadays, he has a big pain in his legs, he can't go because of this pain. Please, pray for Géza!

From Roy and Jinky Twaddell

Serving in the Philippines

Praise God...

- In coordination with our partners at Evangelical Friends Church Silangan, food packages of rice, eggs, and canned goods were given to each of our 17 students and families (Purok Uno) as a blessing of love and grace in Christ. A big shout out to the Friends Women of Silangan for bringing this all together.
- Even though this pandemic has halted travel and some ministry, we have been able to continue helping to expand the Livelihood Projects from the Christmas Brochure Campaign of 2019. Our project with Tabon Evangelical Friends Church in Palawan has begun planting crops. Food which will not only provide continuity and support, but a long-term food source for the community.
- We are staying connected as the Church (People). Technology is a great tool; we get to see people and minister to each other. It has been great to worship with our partner churches, and to celebrate milestones like Dawo Evangelical Friends Church's First Anniversary. Congrats to Dawo Friends and Pastor Chito.

Please Pray...

- That as the restrictions are lifted from our quarantines here in the Philippines we will see and hear what God wants us to do and have the wisdom to move forward. The Church Plant in Tagnipa (Palawan) and Tabon Evangelical Friends Church are adjusting to the challenges. They are moving forward and are growing. Please pray God will give them continued strength and courage. Also, that we will be able to travel there soon.
- Life in Silangan and Purok Uno are now under a more relaxed quarantine. However, both Pastor Manny and I live outside this area which is still under a heavier quarantine. Please pray that this situation will change and that we will be able to start visiting our friends again soon.
- For our Bible Theological training program as we transition to a more online and mobile interaction format. Please pray as we determine how to deliver our online courses, smaller church area-based courses and the mobile outreach courses. One of our biggest challenges is that many cannot afford to pay for extended internet access to view or download course videos.

From Abe and Diane Bible

Serving in Ukraine

Praise God...

- Diane's mother passed away April 3 and was buried in Damascus, Ohio, with a graveside service that was live streamed which meant from Ukraine, from Australia and across the States family could watch. (Ohio was locked down.) After, we were able to "gather" with different family members and reminisce and rejoice over a life well-lived via Zoom.
- We have had extra contact with some of our churches and leaders as people experiment during this isolation time. **What a joy!**
- Many people have been kind to us with the restrictions, calling to make sure we had what we needed, even bringing some home cooked food to our door! And now a few things begin to open in the country—which is also refreshing and exciting!

Please Pray...

- Abe is very involved in mentoring and counselling some of the key church leaders. Pray that the Lord would give him insights and ways to express what the Lord is telling him so that the men would not just hear, but act upon it. Everyone is talking about the changes brought by the pandemic, but a lot of it is fueled with fear rather than seeking the Lord for "a new thing".
- Diane continues to struggle with pancreatitis and some indeterminate symptoms. Now that things are opening up again she will be going to Kyiv for testing and follow up. Pray that we can find good medical help.
- We have moved beyond the time when Abe will be able to hold anymore workshops until fall because people are looking to survival and travel is still very restricted, so he is looking for ways to encourage the church planters and keep them focused on their mission in the communities God has called them to. Pray that the Lord will give him fresh ideas and possibilities.

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

Praise God...

- Hong Kong has not had any cases of local transmission of COVID-19 for over three weeks. We thank the Lord that our church could meet in person on May 10, though still with social distancing.

Please Pray...

- For Pastor Tommy Hui, and that OMS could have his ordination ceremony on May 10. Pray that God will give him wisdom and guidance as he leads RiverGrace through these very difficult days.
- Now that the COVID-19 has become less of an issue, the protestors are back out against the encroachment of their cherished and promised freedoms laid out in the Basic Law which was supposed to be in effect for 50 years following the turnover in 1997. The police have been even more harsh in their tactics then before COVID-19. Pray that God will overrule the suppression of freedom which will likely affect the churches as well.

**From Voicu and Ana Marian
Serving in Romania**

Praise God...

- That NO ONE in our known sphere (church, family, friends, acquaintances) has contracted the Corona virus.
- Most everyone in our Sibiu church continued to work during this crisis, and God provided peace. Within our community we stayed connected and tried to assist those in need.
- Opportunities to read the Bible (online lessons) with our students, and to engage in spiritual discussions with many different people.

Please Pray...

- Continued protection from sickness and fear of sickness. God's healing on those with chronic illness, who could not get proper medical service the last couple of months.
- The Seed of Truth to remain in the young believers so they can bear fruit. Our students to trust the Lord with their future, as they face important exams under special conditions.
- To stay focused on the GOOD NEWS. Ana's group of ladies to continue Bible Study, hopefully face to face very soon. For love and unity among Christians and renewed compassion for the lost.

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

Praise God...

- Keeping us all safe thus far in this pandemic which has affected many people in neighboring countries but not so much in Nepal. All our Trainers reported enjoying this extra time they all had to spend now with their own families and learn to enjoy this difficult time. Priscilla goes to work every day in the nursing college mostly to teach the nursing students online, and sometimes to the hospital for meetings.
- Our many Friends and prayer partners providing us money to help at least 15 communities in Nepal with food, medicines, house rent and also cash in some cases, to visit the hospital for treatment.
- We thank God that all the children in our contact are healthy, having finished their school exams and academic year and mostly busy playing in their own homes. In Aurahi our Trainer has thus been provided with a great opportunity to teach such kids from Children's CHE lessons and Bible stories in his house.

Please Pray...

- The community living around our house in Kathmandu, who are basically migrant laborers from the southern terrain areas of Nepal, and who had come over to Kathmandu looking for jobs or education for children. Most of these people have been rendered jobless because of the strict lockdown rules and have no money to feed the families. We are planning to extend relief to these non-believer families (mostly women & children) point them to the many local churches and house fellowships around us for follow-up.
- The Discipleship Training in Cha'pur which was scheduled for mid-May, now has been moved forward to July.
- The churches in the Far West Nepal and their leaders/pastors and believers. That we might be able to make a trip soon after the lockdown has been lifted to fellowship with them.

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

Praise God...

- That by his grace only, we are saved from cyclone Amphan.
- All our believers are saved from coronavirus.
- There are lots of destruction around us but by his grace we are okay.

Please Pray...

- That we can give relief to the effected poor people. The need is very big.
- The rooftop of my church building and Shyamnagar church have gone out due to the storm and also part of the roof of Tapan and Debda's houses are also gone away. Pray for all that we will need to rebuild.
- Our churches are split in many prayer groups due to lockdown. Please pray for them.

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

Praise God...

- That "the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." (Habakkuk 2:14) Praise God that he is doing this now, in our time! The enemy intended great destruction on the earth through Covid-19, but God is turning it around so that he is glorified, and many people set free and brought into his kingdom!
- 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. May all the barriers holding people back from an intimate relationship with him be removed through this special time in history!
- 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.
- 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 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, neighbors and others to figure out how to meet the needs of people around them.
- For protection from sickness from Covid-19, and for quick recovery for those who get it.
- Put Covid-19 under Jesus' feet! Declare his blood surrounding every virus worldwide, dissolving and destroying it! Pray for a release of Holy Spirit's creativity, insight and blessing over scientists worldwide who are seeking a cure to Covid-19. Pray also for Holy Spirit creativity and insight for government leaders, economists, businesspeople and everyone involved in getting world economies back up and running.

Praise God (Thailand-Lahu)...

- For the stability and unity of The Way Foundation (TWF) team.
- That because Chiang Rai started social distancing early and that they have been able to stay COVID-free.
- 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 other kinds of food.

Please Pray (Thailand-Lahu)...

- For the TWF staff to use technology well, to keep working as they can (from home), to stay connected and encourage each other and the people they work with in the communities.
- 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.
- For Mo Pa working in the village of Ja Sa Pa to have wisdom as he encourages the young church. Pray for favor in the eyes of the village chief, Ja Sa Pa (village carries his name) as they would also like to start a D4D work here as well.

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

- For Tertullien, Gerard and Augustin as they encourage D4D leaders in Rwanda, Burundi and Uvira and Goma in DR Congo.

Tertullien has been encouraging leaders to take time to use the D4D lessons to disciple their children.

- For planning Tertullien and others are doing to help their D4D teams encourage leaders and others to get their family businesses up and generating income for their families again after so long without economic activity.
- For the Carpenter's late May trip back to the USA (Brad, Chelsea, Sarai, Gideon and Ian made it back to their family's home in Wichita, Kansas.)

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 as they also seek 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 fear-full times. Pray that God would meet people's needs for food by multiplying food (widow of Zarahath, 5 loaves and 2 fish).
- The rains have slowed down, but many were affected by the flooding and landslides. Continue to pray for the city of Uvira in the DRC which lost two neighborhoods of houses and the city water tank when three rivers overflowed their banks (17-19 April). The UN, the DRC government and various NGO organizations have been helping, but the situation still remains critical. Pray for basic necessities to be met (food, shelter, drinking water, ...) Pray for energy and courageous leadership for the Mayor of Uvira, and for our Friends Church leaders Lusungu and Manasseh, along with leaders from other churches and organizations. Pray for an outpouring of blessing as believers seek to help those who have lost everything.

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 and delivered them 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 continued 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.