



Evangelical Friends Mission

August 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.

This Story of Transformation comes from Tony and Agi Frei, who serve in Hungary. Their friend (and spiritual daughter), Kinga, has responded to a request for our women missionaries to participate in the Mid America Friends Women's Prayer Breakfast that happened on July 25.



My name is Kinga Horváth. I'm from Hungary and a member of Evangelical Friends Church Hungary since I was born. Pastor Tony, his wife Agi, and my mom planted this church 22 years ago in my hometown Tolna. I'm very thankful to God because I belong to this community and that I have lots of kind brothers and sisters in Him.

Now, I'm a 22-year-old kindergarten teacher. I got my degree two weeks ago and my wedding will be soon on the 18 of July. So, unfortunately, I can't participate on the online prayer meeting on the 25 of July, because I will be on honeymoon with my future husband. I'm very sorry! But, I will pray for you and for your ministries with my full heart!

I know that our God will be with you and you will have a very blessed event, because:

"Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:19-20

Sorry again, that I can't participate, but I will respond to the following:

On an ordinary day, who knocks on your door?

Now, I live with my nuclear family. Physically, on an ordinary day, the postman, or the courier knocks on our door, but sometimes somebody of our neighborhood, or one of my friends.

How do you respond?

I open the door for them, and I greet them with a smile. If the person who knocks is close to me and I know him/her well, I give a hug or a handshake.

How do you show Jesus to them?

I show Jesus to them with my manifestations: with my kind words, with my lovely smile, and with my love. I think we, as Christians, are lights so we must shine in this dark world with our acts. Jesus, who lives in us, can help with that.

How does meeting each need minister to you?

I think it's important to see the members of the other ministries.

Even if people don't physically knock on your door, how is hospitality a part of your everyday life and ministry?

I just share what I see in our mission/ministry. Hospitality is very important for us. We remember Hebrews 13:2: *"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."*

In the ministry, when we have believers and unbelievers as guests from abroad, they always say that they like our church, our town, and our country because people are hospitable here. For example, we introduce special Hungarian food, we talk with them a lot, we listen to them, and we organize programs for them. We surround them with love and care! But, it isn't our glory – it is the glory of the Lord!

In everyday life, we can show our hospitality to our family members, to the church members, and to our friends. When they are in our home it is important to make them feel that Jesus is the Lord of our house. He can make peace and love. If we can forward God's love in the hospitality, people can see that we are special.

With love,
Kinga

From the EFM Office

Praise God...

- For the many ways in which the Lord has been watching over our missionaries and national leaders during this pandemic. As far as we can tell their physical health is generally good and they have found ways to continue ministry in the midst of many restrictions.
- For the generosity of God's people during this worldwide health and economic crisis. There are many, many examples of believers who are sharing what they have to help with the needs of those who live close by as well as far away.

Please Pray...

- Continue to pray for the financial needs of your local church, your region/yearly meeting, EFM, and other Christian ministries.
- For renewed strength and wisdom as the pandemic continues. Pray that we will all grow in our experience of abiding in Christ and living out the fruit of the Spirit.
- That the Lord will enable Evangelical Friends in North America to send out ten new missionary households to launch five new fields by 2025.

From Maria Giron

Missions Mobilizer for Hispanic Friends

Praise God...

- For the privilege we had to speak through Zoom about this new Missions Mobilizer ministry and project VM32 at the NWYM missions banquet in July.
- For the good health of all our family members. None of our children, parents, nor any of our siblings have been affected by COVID-19.
- For the continuity of the Vision Mexico 32 project (VM32). Despite the opposition due to the pandemic, as a team we have advanced in working on the strategic plan through Zoom and three (couples) candidates are being trained to go out to the field soon.

Please Pray...

- For my ministry, so that I could be able to promote missions effectively with more and more Hispanics Friends, even when it has to be done virtually at this moment.
- For the three (couples) candidates getting ready to go start a Friends ministry under the VM32 project at a new city in Mexico, where there is still no Friends church. The cities that are being considered and being prayed for as new fields are: Zacatecas, Leon, Queretaro, and San Luis Potosi. All these cities are located in the center of the Mexican Republic, where there are still reported numbers as less than 4% of Evangelical Christians.

From Voicu and Ana Marian

Serving in Romania

Praise God...

- Several young people shared very personal matters recently, (related to their marriage, anxiety and fear) which gave us opportunities to counsel and pray for them.
- The Lord's protection from illness and harm for our family and those around us; his daily reassurance that he will never leave us nor forsake us
- A Bible Study Group of eager young ladies growing stronger in their faith; Voicu's junior high boys wanting shop classes during summer.

Please Pray...

- Tentative plans for a Day Camp in our yard the week of Aug 10-15th. It depends on government regulations at the time. We need extra protection and wisdom, knowing whether we should postpone for later.
- Special wisdom in knowing how to conduct Sunday evening meetings; clarity and a fresh spirit moving forward.
- More workers in the harvest; young people to accept the Lord's calling to proclaim the gospel to their peers and to children.

From Babir and Lalita Gautam

Serving in Bhutan

Praise God...

- I traveled to Lakhisarai district to see Pastor Pauloosh Masih. God gave me opportunity to interact with his church members and I encouraged them through the word of God. *"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"* Psalm 27 : 1
- I thank God that he is working through me amongst my school friends. In this pandemic I am in touch with them on a regular basis and sharing my stories. Two of my friends, from the Brahmin family, are showing interest. I have given them the new Bible to read and once a week I will be following up.

Please Pray...

- For Archana Trivedi, a seeker. Pray that she accepts Jesus as her personal savior.

From Roy and Jinky Twaddell

Serving in the Philippines

Praise God...

- Although we cannot travel we have been able to continue with our outreaches through the Livelihood Projects. We recently were able to finalize two of the Rice Seedling Project with Capiz Friends Church. What is remarkable is that during the many discussions, another opportunity for the church to serve in the community presented itself in Bongbongan where Capiz Friends reside. The entire community has to travel over two hours to get school supplies, which was always a burden. Because we were able to divert some funds from another Christmas Brochure account, the Capiz Friends Church will open a community school supply store, which will not only provide additional income for a church family but ease the burden for the entire community.
- Our Outreach in Purok Uno with Silangan Friends Church has been a part of our Christmas Catalog for crafts funds and dental mission funds. Initially these funds were meant to be used in our direct outreaches which was to provide both a meal, crafts, and instructions. Because we couldn't meet in person, the team decided to take the money for meals and give it directly to the children and families involved. This is all accomplished through the team at Silangan Friends Church. They will work with the families and the local school, and they have already begun the food packets. We will do this at our other outreach site in Palawan with pastor Rannie and in Samar with pastor Chito. All three churches will also buy dental kits locally and provide hygiene instructions that will be supplied.

Please Pray...

- For the continued health of the teams and pastors we are working with. And that the ability to travel outside the Manila area will be eased soon.
- For FEAST which will operate in a hybrid mode in August. Each local church will provide a set of courses (course material supplied in workbooks) for those members in their community desiring to study. They will record those sessions and will post them to the schools Facebook page so that others who cannot attend can view the course lectures and read or download the workbook. Currently only Pasig Friends, Friends Lighthouse and Silangan Friends will host residential classes. Please pray for all the other churches as they try to participate in the online lectures.
- For Roy as he tries to schedule some surgery to his shoulder with the VA clinic in Manila. Part of the problem is that the clinic is closed, and Roy has an appointment for August 3. The issue with his shoulder is causing some nerve issues in his right hand. This is frustrating for Roy as he is righthanded and writes a lot these days. Pray that he can keep this August 3 appointment.

**From B. and D. A.
Serving in Nepal
Praise God...**

- We thank the Lord that many Hindus continue to come to the Lord during COVID
- -19 time
- We also praise the Lord that no one from our churches has had the virus yet.

Please Pray...

- That the Lord's hand of protection will continue to be with our people.
- That many more Hindus will continue to come to Christ as there is panic in Nepal.

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

- That none of our Friends member have been affected by Coronavirus yet. We are so thankful for his protection.
- That we were able to distribute food and build houses for those who were affected by cyclone Amphan and the Coronavirus pandemic.
- That two of our disciples have finished their theology and graduated from the Philippines. We thank the Lord that they have returned to Bangladesh safely.

Please Pray...

- For our believers and non-believers in the Northern and Eastern part of Bangladesh as they are now affected by flood. It has been near a month that they have been in this situation. Many of them are now living in school or community centers. Pray for their food, shelter, and health. Especially pray for children and women.
- For our lay leaders as they are working very hard to help plant churches. Ask the Lord to bless and reward them for their work.
- For our son Steve as he will be studying at Barclay beginning in August. We are expecting his new passport to arrive and need to get his student visa. Pray that the Lord will make all arrangements for his study.

**From Abe and Diane Bible
Serving in Ukraine
Praise God...**

- We worship a Mighty God who is much greater than COVID and all the other stresses in our world! And we can rest in him. I (Diane) am reading a little book called "Letters by a Modern Mystic" with the challenge of "touching base" with God every minute! I'm not there yet (and may never be) but certainly have increased my awareness of Jesus and my contact with him—and continue to work on that! And it blesses me!!!
- Abe had a good meeting with 3 provincial superintendents and the vice president of pastoral care. He felt all were blessed. He has been asked to hold more meetings.
- We continue to get reports of people being saved through the men Abe works with in evangelism and church planting workshops, even during extended quarantine!

Please Pray...

- Two meetings are scheduled for Abe in August—another group of superintendents and then a "graduation" conference for the men who have been faithful in developing their evangelistic skills and passing on what they have learned. Pray that these will be blessed meetings.
- Diane is mentoring a young woman, Lena, who is in a very difficult marriage. The husband professes faith in Christ but does not hold down any steady job and has given himself over to computer gaming, sometimes for 12 hours at a time. And of course his attitude to her is bitter and sarcastic. Pray for God to intervene somehow in this young man's life and bring him back to his first love for Christ.

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

- We are grateful for the generous offer of help by different people and groups to help prepare our new home near Columbus, OH, next door to our daughter, son-in-law and 3 grandkids... aged 4, 8, and 16.
- Praise the Lord that our helper at home and in the church was finally able to make it home to the Philippines after 5 flight cancellations. She will apply for her visa to return to Hong Kong as a full-time pastor in RiverGrace.

Please Pray...

- Our tickets to return to the US are for August 6. Please pray for safe flights and protection from COVID. We'll still self-quarantine for 2 weeks after we get home.
- For Hong Kong and the national security act passed by China that, in essence, takes precedence over the Basic Law that was supposed to allow Hong Kong to remain unchanged in terms of freedoms, etc. for 50 years after the handover in 1997.
- For pastors to have wisdom to know how to prepare their people and churches to negotiate through the expected rough waters ahead for believers.

**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 worldwide to "stand in the gap" on behalf of their people to intercede for their communities and their nations.
- For this time when people worldwide 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 time of crisis and rest!

Please Pray...

- That God would guard our leaders' 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 believers around the world to come to know God as Jehova Jirah the one who provides for their needs! May he use his people to also generously reach out to their neighbors in need.
- 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.
- For Holy Spirit creativity and insight for government leaders, economists, businesspeople, and everyone involved in getting world economies back up and running.
- For hearts world-wide to be softened and attentive to Holy Spirit's work in each one of them! Pray for believers to grow in their relationship with Christ! Pray for nominal Christians to come close to Christ! Pray for non-believers to be drawn to know Christ! Pray for a coming time of revival and for a great harvest of people coming into Christ's Kingdom!

Praise God (Thailand-Lahu)...

- That Chiang Rai has been able to stay COVID-free. Churches have started meeting together, and life is beginning to get back to normal.
- For the love, unity and strong sense of team that The Way Foundation (TWF) has. They have come through this time of crisis well and are reengaging with their work.

Please Pray (Thailand-Lahu)...

- For Solomon, Yosapa, Ben and Ja Bo as they look at 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 a couple families in their young church. Pray for God to bring the headman (Ja Sa Pa) and his children's families to repentance and to a right relationship with God.

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. They have been able to meet for the first time since isolation with a couple of the 5 pilot D4D church teams.
- For the positive working together of local churches and their local governments as they seek to open back up in safe ways to guard against the spread of 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 as they also begin to open up their economies.
- For Pastors Lusungu, Manasseh, and other Friends Church (CEEACO) leaders in Uvira, Congo (DRC) as they administer a project to build 10 homes for vulnerable, handicapped people and their families who lost their homes in the April 17-19 flooding which wiped out two whole neighborhoods. Pray for their health and protection, and for God's favor to rest on them as they serve neighbors in need.
- For peace up in the Haute (High) Plateau in the Fizi, Uvira, and Itombwe sectors between various groups. Pray especially for displaced people whose villages have been burned by the Gumino forces. Many have fled to the Moyen (Middle) Plateaux where Friends have 72 families (577 displaced people) among thousands.

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 few cases of COVID-19 in Cambodia and for the creative ways Cambodian churches have continued to worship Christ, encourage one another, and serve their neighbors during this global pandemic.

Please Pray (Cambodia)...

- For deeper intimacy with Christ for Scott, Andrea, Elise and their YWAM friends and colleagues. All fruitful ministry comes out of our "abiding in the vine," our intimacy with Christ. Christians around the world have found this COVID-19 pause a "selah" moment, a time to grow in their intimacy with Christ.
- Rainy season has arrived, but rains are still rather sporadic. Farmers are beginning to express a little concern. Pray for sufficient rain for this growing season these next few months and for a bountiful harvest.
- Wisdom in navigating (and helping churches navigate) ongoing restrictions related to COVID-19.
- Wisdom in coordinating the initial training of a Kavet Bible translation team.