



Evangelical Friends Mission

October 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.

September 2020 Bangladesh Newsletter

*“How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them!
Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand – when I awake, I am still with you.”* Psalm 139:17

Yes, his plan for our lives is very precious. Everyone is valuable to him. We visited house to house for the last two months and saw how God cares for them. When we trust the Lord and allow him to work in our lives according to his will, miracles happen. He enjoys blessing us.

Dream Come True: Our elder son, Steve, dreamed to study at Barclay College in Haviland, Kansas when he first visited there in 2013. He loves music and computers. He also loves to worship the Lord. His dream came true in 2020. It was not so easy, but miraculous. God did everything on time. He provided the right people in the right place to complete each task. I bought a domestic flight ticket for the wrong date, but God corrected that mistake on time. It proves that he cares for us. God has provided generous and kind people to help Steve financially as well as emotionally. God has provided families who are taking care of him and giving family fellowship so that he does not feel homesick. Praise the Lord.



Physical and Spiritual Food Distribution: One of my desires is to give everyone a Bible. God is good. We were able to give every family a Bible while distributing emergency food to our flood victims. We shared one-month food to some very needy families last month. Our believers also shared food to others from their portion. Her name is Anjana. She is a non-Christian. She sells her labor daily. Her husband is sick and can do no work. They have four children. She had no work for some days. As a result, she had no food at all to feed his children. She expressed her joy and gratitude to our evangelist Depali Falia. She could not stop her tears and said that if the church did not provide food, they must starve. Thank you so much for your love and generosity that makes us able to distribute food to many.



New Church Building Construction: We are so grateful to the Lord for another new church building in North Bengal by local money. This would be a great blessing for believers to worship together as well as other church activities. A church member has given this land to build the church building.

Church Planting: Nothing can stop the kingdom work. Four new daughter churches have been planted by our lay leaders and disciples. They faced many oppositions while giving public testimony of baptism, but God protected them. Praise the Lord.

House Packed with Believers: Mafuza, one of our evangelists, offered her house for weekly fellowship from the day she became a believer. Now her house is packed with believers every week. It became very hard for her to give seats to them. She has already planted five churches. Praise the Lord.

Please Pray...

- One of our former pastors, Sawpon Roy, had a motorcycle accident a month ago. He is diabetic and in the hospital. The doctor found an infection in his left leg. Please ask God for his quick healing.
- As I am starting a new discipleship group of ten, pray that God would equip them to be his witnesses.
- For those four new church members so that they can grow in faith and plant new churches.
- Many have lost their jobs and daily income. Pray that they would be able to find new ones.

Thank you so much for your faithful prayer and financial support. We value and honor your partnership for kingdom work. Your giving will not go in vain. May the Lord bless you.

Under his mercy,
A. and M. A.

From the EFM Office

Praise God...

- That ministry continues to move forward around the world in the midst of the restrictions brought on by the pandemic. We receive reports of people putting their faith in Jesus Christ and joining churches.
- For the generosity of God's people. Donations for COVID-19 relief efforts continue to come to EFM. We have been able to help ten ministries so far, most of them more than once. Usually the funds are used for food.

Please Pray...

- That the Lord would send more workers into his harvest fields. EFM has committed itself to sending ten new missionary households from North America in the next five years to launch five new fields.
- For the International Friends Church Multiplication Conference which will be held November 11-13, 2020, using a combination of Zoom and YouTube. Missionaries and national leaders connected with EFM will join with Friends from around the world during those days to focus on church planting as part of the Great Commission.
- Please continue to pray for the financial needs of your local church, your yearly meeting, and ministries like EFM. May the Lord meet these needs, including any you may have, through his abundant resources.

From Voicu and Ana Marian Serving in Romania

Praise God...

- Schools re-opened mid-September and most kids are attending; no drastic increase in COVID cases so far.
- Students who attended summer classes were open to the Bible. We continue ministry from home, teaching in person or online. Young ladies Bible study (in person) is thriving.
- Good medical evaluations for both of us so far, with normal blood work; we will investigate further if stress symptoms persist.

Please Pray...

- Protection from sickness and fear of sickness. Strong immune system, since distancing and wearing a mask is observed "just for compliance."
- Open doors at the school and creative ways to teach under the circumstances; continued freedom to teach the Bible (at home) and youth to hunger for truth.
- Competent, honest people to win current elections; several former students of ours are now running for Orlat council. (Sadly, our village has been governed by corrupt men since 2004.)

From Roy and Jinky Twaddell Serving in the Philippines

Praise God...

- Because I am a Recorded Friends Minister (Ordained) I am allowed more freedom to travel and minister away from home. I have been visiting several of our team members in Silangan Friends Church and Friends in FLEC Antipolo. I recently was able to travel to help a church member attend a funeral because of this status.
- Joseph, our oldest son, was married to Sierra Dela Cruz on Sept. 8th. Although we couldn't be present, we were able to be there via internet live stream. It was a touching ceremony. We pray to be there to visit next year during our furlough.
- Our family is doing well. We are miles apart physically, but spiritually close.

Please Pray...

- For Roy's shoulder. His current doctor no longer works for the VA Clinic and now he has to wait until a new doctor is appointed or pay out of pocket to see anyone else.
- For travel restrictions to ease so we will be able to visit more of our ministry sites in person. Especially our outreaches in Tabon Livelihood Project/Tagnipa-Palawan Church Plant, Dawo Church Plant and Capiz Livelihood Projects and Church Plant.
- For continued safety of all team members as they become more involved in face to face ministries.

From Maria Giron Missions Mobilizer for Hispanic Friends

Praise God...

- In September, we were able to make a connection with COMHINA, which is the Hispanic Missionary Cooperation of North America. They are the coalition of many Hispanic missionary agencies and missionary mobilizers. We enjoyed joining them for their annual conference through Zoom. The Lord charged us with motivation through the speakers that participated.
- Our two candidate couples from Mexico are getting ready to go out to the field through the project VM32. They are feeling ready to move out of their hometowns and to go start a new church. Praise the Lord for their eagerness and readiness.

Please Pray...

- That many Hispanic Friends could participate in the International Friends Church Multiplication Conference (Nov 11-13, 2020). Pray that they would be fueled to keep multiplying the church of Christ.
- For the AMANA Annual Conference (Hispanic Friends Alliance of North America). My husband and I will be participating and sharing about missions. Pray the Lord would fill us with his presence and that we could have a sense of unity even though this is the first time we are doing it virtually. I know we are all going to miss being in the same place in fellowship.

From Samson and Priscilla Retnaraj Serving in Nepal

Praise God...

- The CHE Sangati (Fellowship) for our CHE Trainers and their families as well as our CHE committee members who are able to come online for a time of fellowship and worship each week via Zoom. Please pray for Suleman and Asha as they conduct this service regularly.
- Even as the problem of COVID-19 increases menacingly here in Nepal, all the people in our communities spread out over the terrain in Southern Nepal and other areas thus far are safe.
- Priscilla has got her nursing license to work in Nepal renewed again this year, even as we anticipated problems and obstructions due to new rules in the country for foreigners.

Please Pray...

- Many people are jobless and homeless these days because of the lockdown affecting their lives. Many migrant families who have come into Kathmandu valley as daily wages workers have been rendered jobless and homeless because of inability to pay house rent and some don't have money to even buy one square meal. It is difficult for children. There are many sick who cannot be cared for adequately because hospitals and clinics are unable to keep up with the crowds of Corona affected patients.
- For Radhika Rai (and her two-year-old daughter) who lost her husband Kedar Rai in Judibela Cha'pur. Kedar was one of our senior CHE Trainers and was a very skilled veterinarian in the villages of Cha'pur. He also was the lay pastor of Mahida village church.
- Pastor Dhan Bahadur of Chainpur Bajhang has a handicapped 14-year-old child named Pratigya (meaning promise). She is the eldest child and has Cerebral Palsy. The family, which has four other children, is frustrated in their efforts to help her and it is difficult for her father to manage the church activities and help many believers in this remote Far-West place.

From Rupak and Pramila Tamang Serving in Bhutan

Praise God...

- The lockdown due to COVID-19 is open within Bhutan now.
- That our mothers are visiting each house after the lockdown.
- For leading us to train people for mission.

Please Pray...

- For our leaders meeting on 28-30 September.
- For our Samtse visit in October.
- For completion of pastoral booklet that we are drafting.

**From Abe and Diane Bible
Serving in Ukraine**

Praise God...

- Abe had 85 men come to the first evangelistic workshop for this season! In the midst of all the restrictions it was hard to anticipate how many would be there. The group was very engaged and open. Some of the concepts (one on one evangelism instead of street preaching!) were basically new to them. Many are already involved in church planting, so it was a joy.
- Over the summer reports are that about 50 people have gotten saved through the men Abe works with.

Please Pray...

- Diane's complete recovery from eye surgery for a detached retina the end of September.
- Abe will be participating in a number of events this month.
- For the Financial Freedom training that will be held October 8. We've had a rich harvest from this but still only a fraction of the 2,000+ churches are involved.
- For the next evangelistic workshop that will be October 9 & 10, that it will be blessed even with the COVID restriction challenges.

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

Praise God...

- In August, we changed the gutter of Kölked's church. In the foundation house of Tolna we expanded the electrical grid.
- After eight years we got our EFC Hungary Church position! So, we are not a Religious Association, we are Evangelical Friends Church!
- A new family joined the church of Pécs. Andrea and her family moved to Pellérd, which is a village next to Pécs. She wants to belong to our church with her three children.

Please Pray...

- For the churches of Ozora and Kölked, that God sends us co-workers.
- Next week we will star to renovate/rebuild our church house in Tolna.
- For Ági's mother Terike, as she has cancer. She had chemotherapy in August and September and is in poor condition. But she trusts in the Lord that just he can heal her.

**From Molly Morton
Preparing to Qualify for a Ministry of Religion Visa for Ireland**

Praise God...

- My long-standing ladies small group began meeting in person, safely again this month. The women in this group have walked together for almost ten years through many life changes.
- I've finished my first class of the year, Pastoral Care and Counseling. I've discovered gifts of holy listening and good question asking. I'm grateful for the education I am receiving at Barclay College.
- We began Alpha Online at Gateway Friends and we have an average of 8-10 guests each week from all age groups. We are learning together how to duplicate Alpha in an online setting and enjoying success.

Please Pray...

- I'm still waiting for Ireland to begin receiving new visa applications after COVID shutdowns. Pray for patience as I desire to be present here in California while anticipating my future in Ireland.
- I am waiting to hear from the leadership of my Ireland visa sponsor about specific questions regarding their sponsorship. Please pray for patience and that I can allow God to carry the burden of waiting.
- The group of leaders that have been pouring into my life over the last year and half will be meeting soon to discuss how to move forward. The Plan that we designed is almost finished except for my schooling and my internship at Gateway. Pray for wisdom and clarity of communication during that meeting.

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

Praise God...

- We thank the Lord that during this pandemic God has kept all of our believers safe.

Please Pray...

- That God will continue to use our churches as lights in the community during this pandemic.

**From Babir and Lalita Gautam
Serving in India**

Praise God...

- That new members were added to the village cell group through water ceremony. I thank God for his presence and working the people's hearts.
- For blessing my brother with a new baby boy in our family.
- For taking care of us during COVID.

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

Praise God...

- That though the enemy intended destruction on the earth through COVID-19, God is turning it around.
- For the church world-wide "standing in the gap," interceding for people and that God's will is being done around the world!
- For a world-wide softening of hearts for Holy Spirit's work!

Please Pray...

- That God would guard our leader's hearts and minds with his perfect peace.
- For believers around the world to come to know God as Jehova Jirah the one who provides for their needs!

Praise God (Thailand-Lahu)...

- For the freedom to visit church and community members in their homes.

Please Pray (Thailand-Lahu)...

- For Solomon, Yosapa, Ben and Ja Bo as they encourage village leaders in Ja Taw through this time. Ja Taw and Ba Mo are the communities where they are doing their D4D work.
- For Mo Pa working in the village of Ja Sa Pa to have wisdom as he encourages families in their church. Pray God to brings 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.
- For freedom for four Rwandan churches to open back up and hold COVID-safe services.

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

- For Pastors Lusungu, Manasseh and other Friends Church (CEEACO) leaders in Uvira, Congo (DRC) as they help build homes for 10 vulnerable, handicapped people and their families who lost their homes in the April flooding.
- For peace up in the High Plateau in the Fizi, Uvira and Itombwe sectors between various fighting groups. Pray especially for displaced people whose villages have been burned by the Guminio forces. Many have fled to the Middle Plateau where Friends have 72 families (577 displaced people) among thousands.
- For healing of Brad Carpenter's back and neck pain. Pray for rest, peace, rejuvenation, and everything needed during this season of recuperation and renewal!

Praise God (Cambodia)...

- For Cambodia's quick, decisive COVID response and for a mostly COVID-free country.
- For the opportunity for Scott to participate in an intensive two-week discipleship school for young Kavet church leaders in Siem Pang (on the Lao border).

Please Pray (Cambodia)...

- For bright Kavet leaders who have gifts and Holy Spirit insight to translate the scriptures well into their own Kavet language. Pray that the details come together to produce a Kavet Bible!
- For deeper intimacy with Christ for Scott, Andrea, Elise and their YWAM friends and colleagues.
- For Andrea and their boys Zachary (3rd grade) and Samuel (kindergarten/3rd) as they start this new homeschool year.