

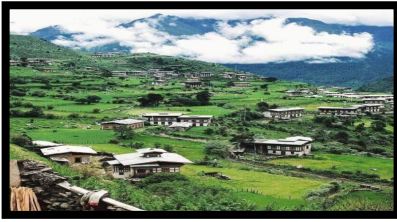


# Evangelical Friends Mission

## September 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.



### Bhutan Friends Newsletter From Rupak and Pramila Tamang



*“For he will rescue you from every trap and protect you from deadly disease.” Psalm 91:3*

#### FAMILY

Greetings from Bhutan and from our family. To give you an update about our family, my older son and daughter-in-law are doing well. They are excited and happy with the blessing God has given them - our granddaughter. She is two months old and will be three months on August 14<sup>th</sup>. Our two younger sons began college on August 4<sup>th</sup> at one of the best colleges in Bhutan, Royal Thimphu College ([www.rtc.bt](http://www.rtc.bt)). We're very much grateful to our partners prayer team and EFM for granting such a privilege. Samuel working on a BA in English and Kenchola is working on a BA in Political Science. We are praying for safety and healing for all and for the current pandemic situation which has taken place globally.



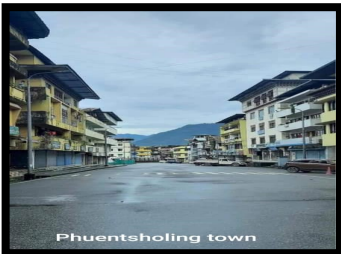
#### MISSION AND CHURCH ACTIVITIES

We have done several programs, which includes the appointing of leaders and elders (about 96 all over Bhutan), six wedding ceremonies, and completing the 16<sup>th</sup> batch of Bhutan Friends Bible School. Students were taught about the Old Testament, the New Testament, and the facts and history of the four gospel books of Jesus and their authors. The students were also taken on a field trip. The new training center is in the heart of Thimphu city. We have added ten new members to our church, and they all took a public display of baptism.

#### COUNTRY

Glory to God that our country, Bhutan, rejoices the 2<sup>nd</sup> Prince of Our Beloved His Majesty the King and Royal Highness the Queen was recently born!

Our country is also facing a lockdown situation currently. Below are some of the pictures of different parts in Bhutan following the lockdown which indeed helps in decreasing the threat of transmission of COVID-19.



#### Please Pray...

- For the current lockdown situation to open.
- For the completion of our end vision 2020 by December 10<sup>th</sup>.
- That more churches are being planted and that they fulfill the Great Commission in our generation.
- That the churches grow stronger in faith and accept the challenges for the Great Commission. It's crucial to plant churches.
- That we could send more missionaries outside Bhutan.
- Please pray for our churches in Bhutan and for the overall country regarding safety. With all that is happening, that it may leave advantages for the fulfillment and for the raising of his kingdom and his people in Bhutan.

## **From the EFM Office**

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

- Progress is being made in putting together a strategic plan for sending 10 new missionary households from North America to launch 5 new fields during the next 5 years.
- Several of our missionaries have had health challenges during the pandemic (not necessarily linked directly with COVID-19). Many of them have recovered while others are still struggling. Let's give thanks for God's healing as we continue to pray for health needs.

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

- That the Lord would send out more workers into his harvest fields.
- That our missionaries and national leaders would continue to sense daily the presence of the Lord as they navigate the multiple challenges of the pandemic.
- That our local churches, yearly meetings, and ministries like EFM would continue to have the resources they need to build up the body of Christ and to spread the Gospel both near and far.

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

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

- For giving all of us good health in spite of the crises created by the COVID-19 virus in Nepal. All our CHE trainers, leaders and committees have reported that they are now actively conducting CHE training again, and many are taking the help of on-line facilities in continuing with the CHE Trainings.
- We have been blessed with a good monsoon season so far for our farming communities in the terrain and also some in the hills. Landslides have happened as is usual at this time of the year, but people are now able to take care of themselves in a much better way by the preparedness lessons being taught in our training sessions.
- For success in the Bardia Hand Washing Station business which helped us reach communities far off, and our promise of good after sales service helping in giving us a good opportunity to evangelize among the non-believers directly into their offices and homes.

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

- Our communities in Province 2 (Rautahat, Janakpur, Mahottari) and Bardia Districts being very badly affected by the Coronavirus due to migrant laborers crossing over from India by foot. Many did not understand the importance of being quarantined and were let loose in their own families and communities unaware of by the government. Since there are no jobs in these areas there is lot of hunger and crime in these communities.
- Our efforts to teach people of the communities to make hand sanitizers and face masks for personal use and also for other people in their churches so that all can be safe. Many non-believers came forward to be helped by these trainings and we could share with them the love of Christ.
- For the Children of Aurahi village who are being helped in learning about Christ and witnessing to their family members. As every year, Arun is busy during this monsoon season treating snake bites and fevers and has to attend calls at even nighttime and whenever called.
- Dr. John Khadka is asking for prayers for him as he completes one year after graduation from medical school and where he has worked in Chaurjhari mission hospital which has inspired him tremendously enough to motivate him to serve on a long time basis in future in other similar and very needy remote rural communities to serve Jesus. He is now seeking to work under some more senior doctors which necessarily means moving from his present job to another bigger hospital also in rural Nepal. He is also considering appearing for his post-graduate entrance exam this year.

## **From Maria Giron**

### **Missions Mobilizer for Hispanic Friends**

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

- For his provision to this mobilization ministry. Thank you for everyone who supports this ministry both prayerfully and financially.
- Grateful for the opportunities so far to share at Churches and Yearly Meetings. This month the Missions Committee of Honduras allowed my husband and I to carry out two one-hour workshops per zoom.
- For the advances of the VM32 project. The structure and planification are being detailed. Soon, if it is the Lord's will, we will be sending the first two families who are preparing to go out into the field to one of the states in Mexico where there is no presence of Friends Churches yet.

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

- For our son Edwin Isaac as he begins his senior year of High School in virtual mode. The school district has decided to have all classes online. Please pray for his process of preparing to go to college. That God would guide him in all the decisions that he has to make for his future.
- To be able to reach more Hispanic Pastors and Friends Leaders and make known more about EFM and the need that still exists to complete the Great Commission. This way more Hispanic Friends are motivated to join efforts in praying, sending, and going.
- One of the candidate families of Vision Mexico 32 is experiencing challenges in the health of her youngest son, Samuel. Please pray that amid the challenges that are being presented for these candidate families, they will see the hand of God working in their lives and still feel encouraged to obey the call.

## **From Roy and Jinky Twaddell Serving in the Philippines**

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

- For the return to a lesser quarantine level. This has allowed us to visit Silangan Friends Church and limited visits with Pastor Manny, Pastor Alan, and some elders. We have been able to pray together and talk about what the Lord is doing in our lives and those in the community.
- We have finalized the FEAST Courses for the upcoming semester. Silangan Friends will host and record lectures on "Women in Ministry" and Friends Lighthouse in Antipolo will host and record "Friends Theology and History" and "Spiritual Formation." Students from outside these two churches will be able to download all materials from a G Suite Google Classroom and view lectures there and on YouTube.

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

- For the Church here. It is a struggle for many not to be able to get together and for Pastors to do visitation. Also, many are now just returning to work, most at reduced hours because of the quarantine rules.
- For our health as we begin visiting churches more frequently. We do follow all the safety requirements, but COVID is still on the rise. Pray we have God's wisdom in our visitations.
- Pray for our Friends in Christ Pastor Victor and his wife Sharim in Iran. They have now been sentenced to 10 years and 5 years in Prison for their faith. They must report to prison soon even amidst a serious rise of COVID-19 in the country.

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

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

- That even during this pandemic time Hindus continue to come to the Lord.

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

- For D. and the flight situation in Nepal. That it will open up and that she can return to Nepal.

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

***Praise God...***

- I was able to get away for almost a week up to the mountains at the end of July. It was a very needed retreat away from "all of this," before I began my fall grad classes again. It was a trip filled with morning hikes, lots of reading and praying, ice cream in town every day and so much nature! It was a week where I felt the gratitude for the ways my God has provided for me and helped me grow in the past year.
- Gateway Friends, where I've been interning for 10 months, began having in-person service, socially distanced with masks and lots of other precautions. It's a very special and holy thing that we are meeting together. I'm happy to see everyone and catch up.
- The Lab, my discipleship and leadership training cohort ended at the end of May. We managed to meet together socially distanced to see each other one last time as we officially ended our time together. The Lab has been a wonderful, safe and supportive space to learn and grow this past year.

***Please Pray...***

- My team, directors and I are beginning to gather documents and other paperwork to have my visa application ready to send, when Ireland allows new applications. Please pray for the logistics to be worked out. Please pray for God to show up in a big way when my application lands on an immigration officer's desk. Pray for favor and provision.
- Gateway Friends wants to ensure that we do not end up having two congregations, one that comes in person and one that watches from home. We are working to integrate our congregation and remain connected while being mindful of the different levels of comfort each church member has with meeting in person. Please pray as we launch programs and work to be intentional about connection and fellowship, which looks very different in these COVID times.
- I'm moving into my final year of graduate studies at Barclay College online. Please pray for time management, listening ears, perceptive eyes and open heart to what God has to teach me in each of my classes.

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

***Praise God...***

- August was interesting! One holiday plan totally failed as we were sick the whole time. But we regrouped and did some biking and other activities and still found time to rest and restore!
- Abe held a focused prayer meeting with three of the key Baptist Union leaders (the denomination we work under in Ukraine) and the Lord just put thoughts into Abe's mind of what the needs were. These are very focused prayer meetings going through point by point where God is working, or where they need to see God working. A wonderful time!
- The Church Planting Guide that Abe wrote has finally been translated into both Russian and Ukrainian and formatted. A big project! Praise the Lord it is finished!

***Please Pray...***

- The rest of August meetings were canceled due to the ongoing situation with COVID. Abe is hoping to have the first evangelism/church planting workshop on Sept. 11. Pray not only that it will be possible, but that God will move in the hearts of men to become active in his kingdom. We are looking to find new men to work with.
- That we would be open to the Lord's doings in these rather strange times of turmoil world-wide. Satan is the author of chaos and fear. But we want to be found faithful where we are at because God's power is much greater, and we know he wants to work! Pray we will just use time wisely. And that the chaos will end, in Ukraine, but I'm sure all of you have the same prayer!

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

***Praise God...***

- We are grateful for God, because during the COVID-19 infection we could not go to church, but we could hold seminars in online Zoom meetings. Finally, in April, we could open the doors of church.
- Manuel married Kinga. They are happy, because they have prayed a lot for Jesus, that the wedding ceremony will be blessed. They are continuing the mission together.
- The daughter of Enikő and Dani (Eunike) was born in April. We celebrated the baby dedication in church. They would like Eunike to grow up in Jesus.

***Please Pray...***

- In our church, there are some wives whose husbands are not believers in Jesus, so we are praying for them. We would like to see them in church.
- For my mother-in-law who suffers from lung cancer.
- For the daughter of Susanna Feher (Enikő) and her family. They would like to move out. Enikő and Dani have two children. Salamon is 2-years-old, and Eunike was born in April this year.

**From Kathi Perry  
Serving in Ireland**

***Praise God...***

- My family added three to my grand count through birth and adoption - two grandnieces and one grandnephew - this past month. Very thankful for these lives and the parents who love them. Looking forward to hugging them one day.
- Thankful for some easing of restrictions in Ireland, allowing me to have visitors in the garden and meet up with people in very small groups.
- Thankful for opportunities to preach and teach throughout these past months.

***Please Pray...***

- As I write this, I still have no clear idea of what will happen in September with the groups I normally run. So - please pray for clarity, as well as other possibilities for ministering to the families that I am privileged to serve.
- Pray for Ireland (and the world - I know this is happening everywhere) as we continue to face a pandemic, economic crisis, weariness, and isolation. Pray for moments of hope and connection, charity and a new openness to grace and faith.

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

***Praise God...***

- That S., our son, received his passport back from the embassy and tested negative for COVID-19 so that he was fully ready to fly. He flew to Wichita on August 23 and Matt Macy picked him up and took him to the Barclay College. Please praise God with us for what the Lord has done for S. on time.

**From EFC-Nepal**

***Praise God...***

- That Sunita, who is one of the leaders of the church in Dhulikhel, tested negative for COVID-19. She works in a hospital and recently had to be quarantined.

***Please Pray...***

- Two leaders have died so far during the pandemic. One is Chandra Ale who was the associate pastor of the church in Gorkha. The other is Kedar Rai, an evangelist in Chapur. Please pray for their families and church members.
- One of the churches in Salyan has been damaged by a landslide. There have been heavy rains during this monsoon season.
- The number of those in Kathmandu who are infected with COVID-19 is increasing daily. This has led the authorities to impose further lockdowns which affect jobs and businesses.



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

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

- For being protected from disaster, while COVID-19 is spreading. Loredana, a spiritual daughter contracted it at work, but had no severe symptoms. We had to self-quarantine and Ana was tested also, but the results were NEGATIVE.
- For being able to teach online, keeping close contact by phone with students and their families; their sincere concern and eagerness to help during this time.
- Though our VBS plans (and most ministries around the country) were cancelled due to safety regulations, we are grateful for the open doors and other ways to carry out the Great Commission. God is shaking the world and is refining the Church.

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

- Ana has been experiencing unusual health issues lately, could be stress related. We are in process of comprehensive medical evaluation.
- Several local pastors and families have contracted COVID; please pray for complete healing and the salvation of their loved ones, inside and outside the church; many unsaved are now overcome with fear.
- For schools to reopen as scheduled on September 14, and society to resume to normality, all withing God's will and plan. (The prospect of elementary school online seems disastrous for teachers and parents alike.)

## **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 he is glorified, many people set free, many workers released into the world's harvest fields, and many 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 a world-wide softening of hearts for Holy Spirit's work! Praise God for many believers growing in their relationship with Christ, and for many coming to know Christ for the first time! Praise God for the coming waves of revival and for a great harvest of people coming into his kingdom world-wide!

### ***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 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 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 restoring world economies.

### ***Praise God (Thailand-Lahu)...***

- That Chiang Rai has been able to stay COVID-free. Churches have started meeting together, and life back to a 'safe' 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 their five pilot D4D Rwanda 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 help 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 fighting groups. Pray especially for displaced people whose villages have been burned by the Gumino forces. Many have fled to the Moyon (Middle) Plateau 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.
- We're thankful 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.
- For all the details to come together to eventually produce a Kavet Bible! Pray God would help create the right connections with Bible Society and/or Wycliffe to support this translation work. Pray for a Kavet translation team to emerge with all the necessary skills. Bless Scott and team's efforts in training during this time.