



# Evangelical Friends Mission

## December 2020 Prayer Letter

www.friendsmission.com  
efm@friendsmission.com  
303.421.8100

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.

### The Kibbe Family | Serving in Thailand

#### Ministry Introduction

The Way Foundation was founded in 2016 by Ben Kibbe as an extension of the Evangelical Friends ministry in Thailand. Ben and Charity were first sent to Thailand by Damascus Friends Church in 2012 to join an already thriving team started by Ben's parents, David and Marilyn Kibbe, and their national partners.



After spending almost four years in language and culture studies it was time to formalize the organization and register with the Thai government. Since that time the Lord's favor has been with The Way Foundation both in their relationship with communities and their standing as a Christian organization with the Thai government.

#### Bible Teaching

Since 2011 David and his Lahu partner, Charlee, have been developing and teaching Bible curriculum to men and women who want to have a deeper understanding of God's word and who want to teach others. Pastors, Evangelists, and disciple makers have studied four days a month for two years in order to grow in their relationship with the Lord and be better equipped to study, teach, and most importantly apply God's truth to their daily lives. There are currently 35 students. Charlee is also starting with two new groups in two places, both about four hours from Chiang Rai.

There are currently three groups representing a number of villages, meeting in three different locations in northern Thailand. Approximately 40 students are attending these monthly sessions. Charlee is training five men to help him in the teaching.

#### Church Planting

The Way Church is located in the city of Chiang Rai and has two main purposes. The first is to reach people (both Thai and Lahu speakers) in the city who don't have a church. The second is to be both a model church and a missional church. The leaders of the church have a vision for training and supporting teams who will go out into the mountain communities and make disciples and plant churches. Pastor Solomon and the team have planted a second church in the village of Ja Saw Pa and are currently working in two additional communities.

#### Whole-Life Community Development

We believe that The Way to sustainable development is through looking at the whole life of a person and the whole community in which they live. Jesus did not separate the physical and spiritual needs of people. He also did not just address them as individuals, but also as a larger community. Every person in the world feels the effects of the fall in four broken relationships: the relationship between us and God, us and our neighbors, us and the environment, and us and ourselves.

Over the last three years our team has been working with D4D (Discipling for Development) and the Navigators. Our team has learned the theology of development and the results of dependency models and how oftentimes good intentions lead to an unhealthy relationship between outsiders and the communities in need of development. We have grown a lot as a team and started to take a different approach to the communities that we are connected to.

#### Farm Development

The Way Farm, directed by YawSaPa, is an educational farm used to learn better farming techniques and new cash crops that can be used by nationals in ministry to supplement their income and do more sustainable ministry as bi-vocational pastors and evangelists.

#### *Please Pray...*

- For wisdom for each leader. We want to hear from the Lord, especially on how we prioritize our time and energy.
- For additional funding. We strive to be good stewards with the resources that God has given us. Right now, we especially need additional funding for training scholarships for volunteers.
- For the Kibbe family as we look at a potential 2021-22 trip to the US. Travel is still very uncertain, especially when considering a timeline of returning to Thailand at the end of one year.

## **From the EFM Office**

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

- That the meetings in Yorba Linda, CA, were able to take place on schedule during the first week of November. Most of the EFM Board and staff and most of the Coordinating Council of Evangelical Friends Church International-North America were able to gather in person. The rest joined via Zoom. We are grateful for the fellowship that occurred as well as the important decisions that were made.
- For the International Friends Church Multiplication Conference that took place during the second week of November via Zoom and YouTube. The conference exceeded our expectations! Well over 500 Friends from around the world participated in the conference. The prayer gatherings were especially moving.
- For Liz Allen who has served as our Administrative Assistant during the last couple of years. She has served us well! Liz is wrapping up her time on the EFM staff this month.

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

- Continue to pray that the fruit of the International Friends Church Multiplication Conference will be more disciples of Jesus Christ made and more churches planted both at home and abroad.
- For the transition going on in the Administrative Assistant staff position. Please pray for Liz and the adjustments she is making as well as for the search for someone to take this position.
- For generous giving to local churches, regions/yearly meetings, and EFM during this month. The way we end the year and start the new year financially is significantly impacted by the giving that happens in December.

## **EFM Five-Year Goal:**

### ***To send 10 new missionary households from North America to launch 5 new fields in the next 5 years.***

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

- For the short videos that have been produced to promote the Five-Year Goal throughout North America.
- For the regions/yearly meetings that are already planning to host Luke 10 Think Tanks in the coming months. These gatherings will help discern where to send teams to explore potential new fields (called Luke 10 Trips).

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

- For the Lord of the harvest to send more workers into the harvest fields.
- For the launching of the Five-Year Goal videos this month and a section of the EFM website that will have supporting information. Pray that the video will have many, many viewings in local churches as well as by individuals during the coming weeks.
- For regions/yearly meetings as they organize Luke 10 Think Tanks. These regional think tanks need to be completed in time for the national Luke 10 Think Tank which will meet in June of 2021 to determine at least 10 sites for exploration.

## **From Rupak and Pramila Tamang**

### **Serving in Bhutan**

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

- We started prayer meetings again every day from 12-1 pm.
- That we could visit Khachadapchu and Paro.
- For the reopening of churches after lockdown.

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

- For south Bhutan. It is still on lockdown due to Coronavirus.
- I am writing pastoral guidelines and it should be printed soon.
- That 108 churches can meet on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020. We are preparing to record pastors.

## **From Roy and Jinky Twaddell**

### **Serving in the Philippines**

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

- Livelihood Agricultural projects were spared any damage. The rice harvest in Capiz was completed before the first Typhoon.
- The FEAST classes have started limited in class instruction in three areas and we have started to live stream some of these events. We have over 20 students in these classes and another 12 in distance learning.
- Jinky and I made the move to Olongapo in-between Typhoons safely. A special thanks to you all for your Prayers and Support this past year. God richly bless each of you and Merry Christmas.

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

- Jinky and I will be presenting some of the mission work here in the Philippines for a Virtual Mission Trip project with Kaleo Academy and EFM. Pray that this will be a blessing to all who attend, and that God encourages many to take up the Cause of Christ in Missionary Service.
- December is a time when we come together to celebrate the Birth of Christ. Because of COVID-19 most of our people cannot gather together or travel. But our leaders can. Please keep all of the Pastors and Elders in prayer as they visit church members and pray and celebrate with each of them Jesus' Birth. Pray for protection from COVID-19 and ease of travel.
- For those recovering from the last two Typhoons. Many are still without homes and adequate food and shelter. Although most of our churches and people were spared some damage occurred to two churches and flooding swamped the home of Pastor Cris Dela Cuiz the PEFIM National Director.

## **From Voicu and Ana Marian**

### **Serving in Romania**

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

- Safety and protection during these perilous times: Ana's recovery from COVID-19, Voicu's good health and resistance; all family and church members are fairly well.
- We've continued lessons and strengthened relationships during the pandemic; we're reading Psalms of praise and encouraging our students to be thankful this time of year.
- Christina arrived safely in Romania (will be here for six weeks) so we'll have a special Thanksgiving with both our children.

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

- Approximately 10,000 new virus cases each day (reminder of Ps. 91:7) Please pray for a spirit of repentance and revival, so that the Lord would stop the plague.
- Wisdom to speak truth in love without sounding judgmental; for God's Word to take root in hearts, so none of those who hear and believe now would be lost.
- For truth to come out and prevail in society, for people to live in the light; Romania will have parliament elections on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

## **From Kathi Perry**

### **Serving in Ireland**

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

- I'm thankful for new ways to minister to the families I work with - Godly Play videos and a blog.
- I am thankful for the community of families that look out for one another in the midst of a pandemic.
- I am thankful for opportunities to preach online for the local church.

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

- For continuity in ministry as we are physically separated from one another.
- For Ireland (and the world - I know this is happening everywhere) as we continue to face a pandemic, economic crisis, weariness, isolation. Pray for moments of hope and connection, charity and a new openness to grace and faith.
- For me in Ireland, and for my family in the U.S., through the Christmas season. I had hoped to be with them this year.

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

- We had four Buddhists and 73 Hindus give their lives to Jesus during the biggest Hindu festival in Nepal.

**Please Pray...**

- For these new converts as their family and caste will persecute them.

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

- The Lord has allowed my husband and I to celebrate 27 years of marriage on November 15<sup>th</sup>. United by his love and grace!
- We are happy for the Hispanic Friends who were able to be part of the International Conference of Church Multiplication. Now there is a stronger connection between those who participated, and they plan to follow up on their multiplication ministries in meetings every three months.
- Thanking God for more opportunities that have been presented to us to give workshops on missions by zoom and some face-to-face.

**Please Pray...**

- We would like to give thanks to God for the life and ministry of Pastor Fernando Yup. His efforts in the service of the Kingdom of God through his ministry in Mexicali, Mexico for over 30 years is recognized by Hispanic Evangelical Friends. Pastor Fernando Yup passed to be in the presence of the Lord, this past November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please we ask for prayers for his family, and his congregation. May God fill them with his peace and comfort.
- Please pray fervently for congregations in some locations in the United States and Latin America that are facing even higher restrictions for gathering. May God encourage them and would open doors for them to continue reaching out to those who do not yet know about the Gospel of Jesus Christ even amid so much opposition.

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

- In the end of October/beginning of November, we could renovate/rebuild our church house of Tolna. Lots of people helped in it. They were so hard-working and enthusiastic. It was a big blessing. We also had some guest workers from the Pentecostal church of Kecel and Békés. We were so thankful for them to God.
- Despite of the COVID-19 pandemic, everybody has a job in our mission. No one is unemployed, and we know this is God.
- Agi's mother, Terike, is better now. She had five chemotherapy treatments and got improving results at the end of October. Her doctor was very surprised. Naturally, Terike and her family also was very happy. Everybody knows that it is just our Lord's providence.

**Please Pray...**

- Unfortunately, our government banned all gatherings because of the COVID-19. Under this, we will start Zoom church meetings again - like in the Spring. We trust in God, that we can see each other in healthy condition, as soon as possible. Please pray for it!
- Some people of our mission (including me) caught COVID-19. As for me, I'm in poor condition because of this now. I'm still very weak and I have a strong cough. For days, I suffered from high fever. Please for health and strength.
- For our mission in Croatia and Serbia. Because of the pandemic, we haven't visited since Spring. We keep in touch on Facebook and Zoom. At Christmas, we always give presents for the children and also sustainable food for the poor families. Now, we can't do this. Please pray for them, that they could search God in this hard situation and pray that we can see them as soon as possible after the pandemic.

**From David Thomas  
EFM Whole-Life Discipleship  
Praise God...**

- For many believers growing deeper in their relationship with Christ, and for many coming to know Christ for the first time!

**Please Pray...**

- For deeper intimacy with Christ for our leaders and colleagues around the world. Fruitful ministry comes out of our "abiding in the vine." Pray people take advantage of this COVID-19 pause, a "Selah" moment, a time to grow in their intimacy with Christ.

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

- That Chiang Rai continues COVID-free. Churches are meeting together, and life is back to a 'safe' normal.
- For the freedom to visit church and community members in their homes.

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

- For Solomon, Yosapa, Ben, and Chalee as they train up new team members in D4D lessons.
- For Solomon, Yosapa, Ben, and Ja Bo as they visit and encourage families in the Ja Taw and neighboring Ba Mo villages. Pray for good relationships to be built.
- 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 an opportunity for pastors Juvenal and Charlotte to share their testimonies of using whole-life discipleship to start a church and renew a dead church.
- For the opportunity for church leaders to rethink how pastors can best serve the church and support their families at the same time. Thank God for D4D lessons that empower many to think outside the box of an insufficient or non-existent salary.

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

- For healing for Friends Church (CEEACO) Superintendent, Lusungu who is hospitalized in Burundi. Pray for strength and encouragement!
- For continued healing for Brad Carpenter's lower back and neck pain. Pray for rest, peace, rejuvenation and everything they need during this season of recuperation and renewal!

**Praise God (Cambodia)...**

- That Cambodia continues to be mostly COVID-free. Thank God for Scott's being able to continue encouraging the small groups meeting in people's homes during this time.
- Scott is promoting Kavet literacy among a few key leaders. There are no written materials for the Kavet people, but in a writer's workshop the Kavet team was able to produce four short, illustrated books about Jesus!

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

- For bright Kavet leaders to emerge who have the gifts and Holy Spirit insight to be able to translate the scriptures well into their own Kavet language. Pray blessing for quick learning as Scott and others mentor them in literacy and writing.
- For all the details to come together to eventually produce a Kavet Bible! Pray God would help create the right connections with the United Bible Society and/or Wycliffe to support and spearhead this translation work. Pray for a Kavet translation team to emerge with all the necessary skills. Bless Scott and the YWAM team's efforts in training during this time.