



EVANGELICAL FRIENDS MISSION

2021 EASTER

OFFERING

Together to the Ends of the Earth

Lessons By Dan Cammack



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LESSON 1

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LESSON 1

THE NEED FOR THE GOSPEL IS HUGE!

Prepared by Dan Cammack



When I checked my email on Monday morning, February 1, I found a message from one of our missionaries in Asia. The next to last paragraph said, *“Our village has entered their quiet time while their idol is meditating. It should be over sometime the last couple days of February. It’s always just an extra dark time in the village. We just keep trusting and praying for God to open their eyes to the Truth!”*

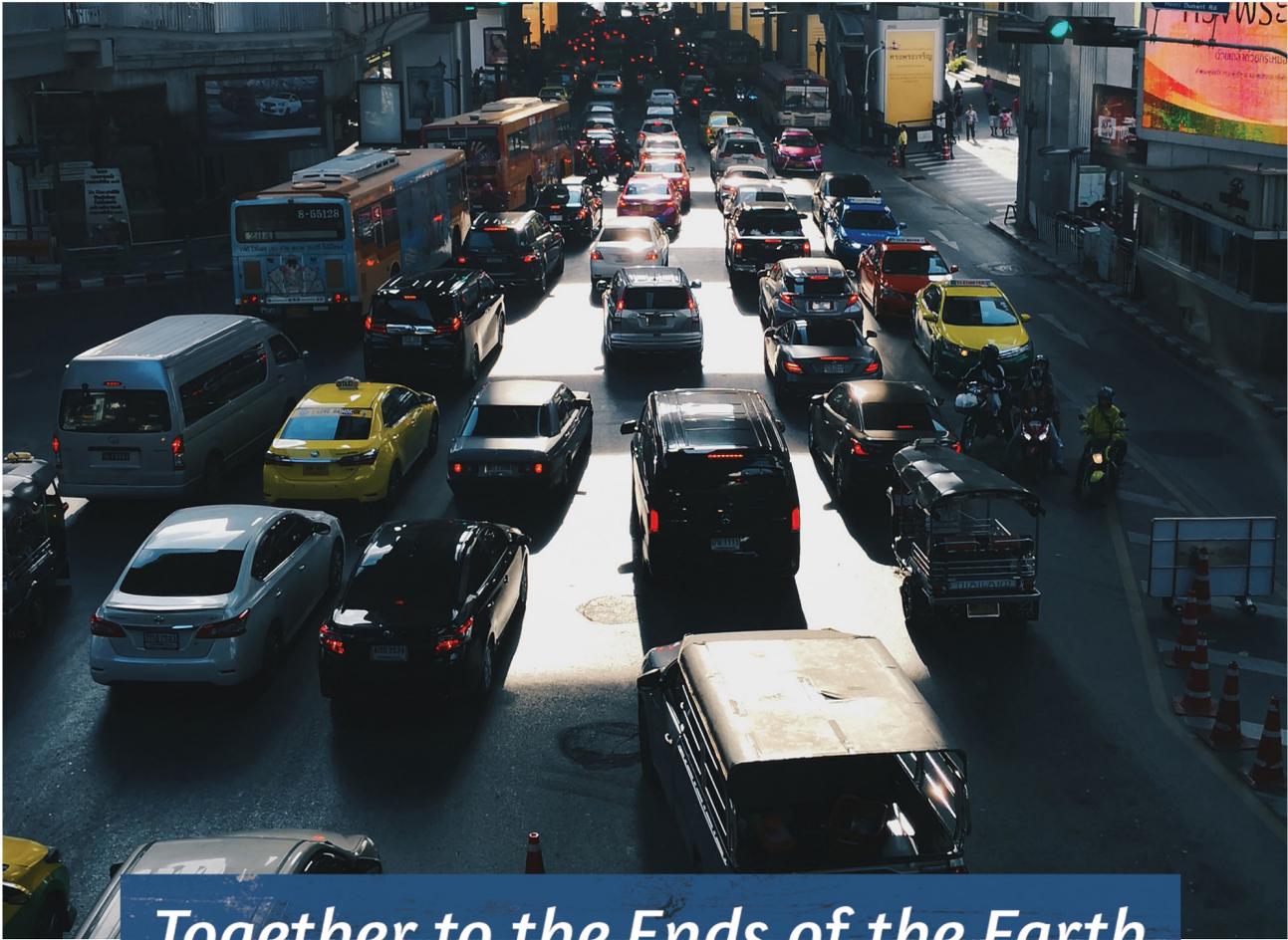
The missionary who wrote those words has been living in this village for about five years. He and his family are, at this point, the only Christians in the village. They have formed some great relationships with the villagers. They’ve worked side-by-side with many of them out in the fields and in the orchards. Quite a few of the villagers have been in their home, especially the children. The Good News of Jesus Christ is being lived out in various ways and sometimes shared verbally. It is widely understood that the missionaries do not worship their idol. Even so, the villagers continue to welcome the missionary family to live in their midst.

What is the name of this missionary family? Their initials are M. and K. L. Where is this village where they are living? I’m not going to tell you. Why? Because this family lives in an area of the world that is opposed to people becoming disciples of Jesus Christ. Many of the countries in this region do not grant visas to missionaries whose main work is to make disciples and plant churches. If the governing authorities find out that is what they are doing they will kick them out of the country. So in this kind of situation missions organizations like ours have to take steps to protect the identity of our missionaries when presenting their ministries to a wide audience. The steps include using their initials, not being too specific about where they live and work, and not recording or writing their names in ways that could be tracked down on the internet. This is a case where we believe Christ’s command to go and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19) is more important than the laws that try to prevent this from happening. We must obey Jesus even as we do our best to be good citizens in the countries where we serve.



Jesus said we are to make disciples of **ALL** nations. He was most likely referring to ethnic groups when he used the word “nation.” According to the Joshua Project, an organization that tries to keep track of the progress being made in reaching all the nations with the Gospel, there are 17,433 people groups (nations) in the world today. Of those just over 10,000 have enough followers of Jesus Christ in them that they can reach their own people without much help from the outside. That leaves about 7,400 groups that have hardly any Christians in them. That may not seem like too much until you learn that those 7,400 groups have more than a third of the earth’s population in them. They contain approximately 3.23 billion people! And many of these people live in countries where there are laws in place to try to prevent them from becoming followers of Jesus.

EFM already has missionaries working with some of these unreached groups. The family I mentioned above is one of them. But many, many more missionaries are needed! There are still billions of people who don’t know Jesus. Because of this we at EFM feel compelled to send at least 10 more missionary households from North America to launch at least 5 more fields among the unreached before December 31, 2025. We call this our **“Five-Year Goal.”** Please watch the video at <https://youtu.be/q27QLIPvsw> or www.friendsmission.com/five-year-goal to learn more.



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LESSON 2

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HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Prepared by Dan Cammack



The M. and K. L. family is from the United States. How did they wind up in a village in Asia? Through a process of discernment that EFM developed and calls the **Luke 10 Initiative**. This process is based on Jesus' instructions to the 72 disciples when he sent them out two-by-two to proclaim the kingdom of God, heal the sick, and cast out demons (Luke 10:8 and 17). As far as we know, these early disciples embarked on their trips without knowing who would go where. All it says is that they went "to every town and place where he [Jesus] was about to go" (verse 1). We do know that they were ordered to travel light: No purse, no bag, and no sandals

(verse 4). They were to depend on the hospitality of the people they were visiting (verses 5-7).

How does EFM apply these instructions through the Luke 10 Initiative? First of all, we gather people together for what we call a **Luke 10 Think Tank** (visit www.friendsmission.com/luke-10-think-tanks to learn more). This is a gathering of spiritually-discerning people who help identify where to open new fields among the unreached peoples of the world. The gathering includes **four types of people**: Influential church leaders, persons with missions experience, those who are open to considering missionary service, and Friends from outside of North America (who may or may not be physically present in the gathering). Together we pray, discuss Luke chapter 10, consider where the Lord would have us do exploratory trips, and narrow the options by using what we call the **CAN GO Criteria** (visit www.friendsmission.com/can-go to learn more). This criteria was developed based on how Friends have gone about discerning where to launch new fields in the past.



During the first round of Luke 10 Think Tanks (see the next lesson) each think tank helps identify potential fields we believe the Lord wants us to explore. Then **Luke 10 Trips** are organized to visit those places (visit www.friendsmission.com/luke-10-trips to learn more). The same four types of people who were involved in the think tanks are also involved in these trips. In fact, some of those who were at the think tanks will likely go on these trips. Others will be added, especially from countries close to the areas we are exploring.

The second Luke 10 Trip M. and K. L. participated in was made up of a team of 12 people. Eight were from the United States (including M. and K. and two children), four were Evangelical Friends leaders from nearby Asian countries. The trip lasted about 10 days. They were days full of adventure! Here's a couple of paragraphs from their report that give you a taste of what the discernment process was like:

In the city of J. we also had a plan, but God was determined to direct our steps—how thankful we are that he did! We met with a local pastor, and after some changes to the "plan," we were off to a village to see if this would be where we'd move for our language learning. The people and village were beautiful and so wonderful; we would have happily moved there to live among them. But we never had a deep sense of peace or excitement for this place; it just didn't seem like this was where God wanted us. As we were packing to leave this village, we were feeling a bit



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LESSON 3

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WHERE DO WE GO NEXT? AND WHO IS GOING TO GO THERE?

Prepared by Dan Cammack



There are still billions of people who don't know Jesus. Jesus still sends his disciples to these people to proclaim the kingdom of God, heal the sick, and cast out demons. We have not yet visited "every town and place" where Jesus is "about to go" (Luke 10:1). So where do we go next?

We have been working with the regions/yearly meetings in North America who are members of EFM to organize Luke 10 Think Tanks. There are **regional think tanks** taking place in the spring of this year. Visit www.friendsmission.com/luke-10-think-tanks to see the dates of those gatherings. We are anticipating that each of them will identify two or three potential fields to explore. Then, on Wednesday, May 26, representatives from the regional think tanks will gather for the **national Luke 10 Think Tank**

to discern together with the EFM Board at least 10 potential new fields to explore during the rest of 2021, 2022, and most of 2023. The representatives will return to their regions and help coordinate the Luke 10 Trips they are in charge of. The potential new fields will be visited at least twice, and the regional think tanks will continue to meet in order to discern which of these should be recommended to the EFM Board for the starting of new work. The Board will approve at least five of these fields in November of 2023.

As you may recall, EFM's Five-Year Goal calls for the launching of five new fields by December 31, 2025. By November of 2023, Lord willing, we should know where those fields are going to be.

The other essential piece of the Five-Year Goal, of course, is the **ten new missionary households** from North America who will help launch these new fields. How will we come up with ten new missionary households?



The first answer to that question is **prayer**. We notice that in Jesus' instructions to the 72 disciples he starts with, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field" (Luke 10:2). So, in order to help carry out this first instruction we have organized monthly prayer gatherings via Zoom. The first one took place in January of this year and more than 20 Friends from across the nation participated. We are calling this prayer effort the **Luke 10:2 Gathering**, and it takes place the second Thursday of every month at 10 AM Pacific Standard Time. Go to www.friendsmission.com/prayer-gathering to see the dates of

the upcoming gatherings and how to become a part of them.

Whether or not you can join the Zoom gatherings we encourage you to join this prayer effort with the help of **EFM's monthly prayer letter**. There is a section in that letter that gives updates and prayer requests related to the Five-Year Goal. Visit www.friendsmission.com/pray to sign up if you currently don't receive the letter.

We fully believe that the Lord is going to use the Luke 10 Think Tanks and Luke 10 Trips to help raise up and send out at least ten new missionary households. Discerning the place for EFM to send M. and K. L is the fruit of this kind of process. There are others who have been raised up and sent that way as well.

In the previous lesson you probably noticed that those who are open to considering missionary service are included in both the think tanks and trips. We often call these folks our "**future missionaries.**" If you are reading these words and you realize that you may be one of those potential future missionaries with whom we should be communicating, please visit www.friendsmission.com/five-year-goal-go to fill out the **Luke 10 Initiative Form** and Start a conversation with us. They are a crucial piece of the whole Luke 10 discernment process. In fact, it can't really be successful without them. So please pray that these persons will come to the attention of EFM and



regional/yearly meeting leaders as soon as possible. If you are reading these words and think of someone else who is considering missionary service, please encourage them to take the same step. These are ways in which you can be part of the answer to the Luke 10:2 prayer.

You may be wondering how to know if God is calling you to become a missionary among the unreached peoples of the world. If so, please take a moment to watch this video at <https://youtu.be/5MNHMeYAJQI>.

Questions for reflection and action:

- Would you be willing to support EFM's Five-Year Goal through prayer by signing up for the Luke 10:2 Gathering? If so, visit www.friendsmission.com/prayer-gathering to sign up.

- Is the Lord asking you to prayerfully consider becoming a missionary? If so, please let us know by visiting www.friendsmission.com/go.



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