



Evangelical Friends Mission May 2021 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.

Maria Giron

Serving as Missions Mobilizer for Spanish Friends

We are very happy to have this opportunity to reach out to you and let you know what God has allowed us to accomplish these past few months. It is always very encouraging to know that we have prayers and support from people who love us and do not let us walk alone to carry out the tasks and ministry opportunities that God is entrusting us.

Missions Mobilizer Updates

As the **Missions Mobilizer for EFM**, I am excited to share that we are making many advances in translating materials in Spanish and EFM now has a bilingual website! We have made contact with more Hispanic Churches and even during the pandemic, I was able to connect through zoom and I was invited to some meetings having the opportunity to talk about our EFM missionaries. I am also excited to share that more of our Hispanic Friends have joined the EFM Luke 10:2 Prayer Gatherings. At our February meetings, about 1/3 of attendance were Spanish speakers. Lastly, I am excited to share that we made connections with Central America, Bolivia, and Peru.

Vision Mexico 32 Project Updates

My husband and I are happy to be **part of the strategy team** working together to fulfill the **VM 32** goal that God gave as vision to the Friends in Mexico. **VM32** is a project that has as goal to have a Friends Church in each one of the 32 States of the Mexican Republic by the year 2032 by sending 2-3 households to start new churches in different cities where Friends Churches do not yet exist. Two couples are ready to go out! They are ready to explore new fields and determine where to plant the next new Friends work.



Aguascalientes Updates

We are mentoring Israel and Daria De La Torre, Pastor of Aguascalientes Friends Church. They are following up with the work in two towns in **Zacatecas** -we are seeing fruit, after many years of hard work. More and more people are coming to the bible studies and gatherings every month! Israel and Daira, with at least 12 other leaders from Aguascalientes Friends Church, are planning to make extra efforts to make **at least two trips a month** to help these new believers mature in their faith in Christ and make them new disciples of Jesus. Churches in Aguascalientes are now allowed to gather in their temples and during the pandemic attendance increased!



Coaching Updates

We have been coaching Jaime and Lupita Leon in **Sinaloa**. In December, Lupita and Jaime had to leave Sinaloa for over a month due to Jaime losing his brother of COVID-19 in Aguascalientes, and in less than two weeks Jaime also lost his father as well. People carried on with the programed activities in December, without the presence of the Leon family. This talks about the good leadership and discipleship that Jaime and Lupita Leon have developed among the people in Sinaloa. Praise God!

We are also coaching the Chacon family serving in **Chetumal, Quintana Roo**. Oseas is originally from Guatemala and his wife, Jessica, is from Mexico. The Chacon family are starting a new Friends church in Southern Mexico.



Family Updates

Our son, Edwin Isaac, is a few months away from going to college. He will be leaving the nest this summer. I just cannot believe it! We enjoy having our daughter living close to us and we enjoy being together. We have been getting meals, playing games, and watching movies which is a great blessing after being apart for almost seven years. We have fully recovered, but our whole family was infected with COVID-19 in November. We are thankful that we only had minor symptoms.

Thank you for taking some of your valuable time to read our first highlights of this year 2021!

From the EFM Office

Praise God...

- For the progress that is being made on EFM's Five-Year Goal. See the next section of this prayer letter for more details.
- For the ways in which he is preparing Friends in North America as well as in other parts of the world to send more missionaries and launch new fields.

Please Pray...

- For the EFM Board as it meets at Quaker Ridge in Colorado on May 27 and 28. See the next section of this prayer letter for other things that are happening that week at Quaker Ridge.
- For the search for a new Executive Director for EFM and for Dan Cammack and Matt Macy as they get ready to move into new roles with EFM. Dan and Matt remain in their current roles of Executive and Associate Directors until the new E.D. is hired and able to start work.
- For Krista Alvarez, our Communications Assistant, as she gives birth and takes maternity leave.

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 two Luke 10 Think Tanks that took place in April. One was hosted by Evangelical Friends Church-Mid America Yearly Meeting on April 10 in Wichita, Kansas. The other was hosted by Evangelical Friends Church-Eastern Region in Canton, Ohio, on April 27. Representatives from Indiana Yearly Meeting participated in this one. Church leaders, people with missions experience, and some who are considering serving as missionaries gathered in both think tanks to help discern areas of the world to explore for the launching of new mission fields. Their recommendations will be considered at the national Luke 10 Think Tank on May 27.
- For the 70 plus people we are aware of who are open to the possibility that God may be calling them to be missionaries and for the steps he is helping us to take to help them in their discernment process (a retreat, a short-term trip to a mission field, a cohort, mentoring, etc.).

Please Pray...

- For the Lord of the harvest to send more workers into the harvest fields.
- For the Luke 10 Think Tank that Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting will host in Denver, Colorado, on Saturday, May 8.
- For the Future Missionary Retreat that will take place on May 25-27 at Quaker Ridge, Colorado. Brad and Chelsea Carpenter are organizing and leading this retreat. We are expecting a good number of Friends who are exploring God's call on their lives in regards to missions and also mentors with missionary experience.
- For the national Luke 10 Think Tank that will take place Thursday morning, May 27, at Quaker Ridge. Representatives from the four regional think tanks will be there along with participants in the Future Missionary Retreat and the EFM Board. The recommendations from the regional think tanks will be presented and at least 10 areas of the world selected for exploration through Luke 10 Trips.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: Join us on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 10-11 AM PST for our Luke 10:2 Gathering via Zoom in support of EFM's Five-Year Goal. If you would like to participate in this gathering you can sign up for it at <https://friendsmission.com/prayer-gathering>. You will receive some prayer points and the link for the gathering a few days before the event.

From The Gautam Family Serving in India

Praise God...

- For a new program for women to learn candle making and earn a livelihood from home.
- For new members testifying their faith in public.

Please Pray...

- For our ministry in Bihar as COVID-19 cases grow and we face lockdown again.

From Voicu and Ana Marian Serving in Romania

Praise God...

- Thank you for your prayers and expressions of love at the death of Ana's brother in Romania. Though he had health issues, his sudden death in the hospital was a shock.
- Being able to meet in small home groups before Easter (May 2nd), in spite of local quarantine; we praise the Lord that our young students are hungry for the truth; we are grateful for God's protection all around.
- New airline tickets to the US for June 2nd, hoping for no more changes.

Please Pray...

- The true message of the gospel to be heard and received by every seeker during this resurrection season; many people rely mostly on old traditions and religiosity.
- Many youth who committed to follow Christ in years past to be revived, to have courage to confess Jesus in a generally hostile society.
- Wisdom in serving, and ability to tackle some health issues, as we prepare to get ready for a three month absence.

From Roy and Jinky Twaddell Serving in the Philippines

Praise God...

- We are thankful to be able to continue to serve the works in Tagnipa and Dawo. We have been able to send them needed children's Sunday school material in Tagalog.
- With the help of Ptra Ann Dasa from Friends Lighthouse Evangelical Church, we have been able to use the Christmas brochure children's craft project funds to all of our current ministry outreach sites (eight in total). Project funds will be used in coordination with these eight church's VBS programs in May and June.
- The livelihood projects continue to do well in supporting the ongoing needs of the families and churches where projects exist.

Please Pray...

- One of our Pastors is having a difficult time with a local NPA group (communist). Because of security we cannot name the pastor or the location. Please pray. We pray it is resolved before this is even sent out. *UPDATE:* We praise God that this situation was resolved in a very friendly manner.
- COVID-19 is still on the rise here and a vaccine is not readily available. One of our pastors in has contracted COVID-19. So far he is doing well, but the longer the delays in getting vaccinated the more likely COVID-19 will continue to spread. This is true for many Asian countries as well.

From Abe and Diane Bible Serving in Ukraine

Praise God...

- Diane's eye is healing! She does not have full vision yet, but eyesight is improving. She is basically back to full work on computer etc., and enjoying once again being able to exercise, do normal household tasks and move on with life!
- We had to delay the workshops in April because of an upsurge in COVID-19, but, we can praise the Lord that he continues his work and lets us participate in different ways.

Please Pray...

- For a new project to get all of our training resources up on a website this summer. The majority of these materials are geared to evangelism, church planting and prayer. Abe is working on organization of materials, Diane on editing, and several other team members are involved in this. We want to bless as many people as possible! These will be on websites in Ukrainian and Russian.
- Workshops have been rescheduled for mid-May. Pray that people would be able to meet to be encouraged, to continue learning, and to share what God has been doing in their lives and communities.

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

- Two weeks ago, we organized a church meeting in Kölked. We had a blessed time in the church house. We were very thankful for God, because Józsi bácsi, one of the founder members was come out from the nursing home. We talked with him, and he said: I have still have to work for the Lord.
- On this week our government was open the kindergartens and primaries schools. So now we can come back to the school for religious education. We are very glad to meet again our students. It was good to hear about the children's report. When they were in quarantine, they were participating with pleasure on lessons. They were remembering a lot of things, glory therefore to God.
- Pastor Géza from Komló has a health issues with his leg. He had a blood circulation problem, and it turned to gangrene. Thank God, because in this COVID-19 situation, the doctors were able to operate on time. We prayed for him a lot, and now he is healing quickly.

Please Pray...

- For Peti (who is Zsuzsi and Joseph's our co-workers son). He will take final exam on the next two weeks, in early May. He would like to go to the University of Pécs, so he needs a good result.
- For our family. As you know, Agi's dear mother, Terike was move to the Lord on the 30th of March. We have a big loss because she was the heart of family, she always had a good word for everyone. So please pray for us to may have peace.
- For our country/government. We desire to have meets again in Pécs, Ozora and Budapest. But now the community houses are closed due to COVID-19 pandemic. So please pray with us for the reopening

From Arun and Shoba Massey
Serving in India
Praise God...

- For healing those in Shoba's family who were positive with COVID-19.
- That our daughter Melissa has found a place to stay and work at during her summer vacation from Barclay College.

Please Pray...

- For India as COVID-19 is spreading rapidly. Every day we hear the news of someone we know dying of COVID-19.
- For a speedy recovery for those in our families who still have COVID-19.

From Molly Morton
Preparing to Qualify for a Ministry of Religion Visa for Ireland
Praise God...

- I'm half vaccinated! Praise the Lord for the opportunity.
- My niece and nephews are back in school, in-person for shortened days but for the whole week!
- My sponsor church in Ireland and I are corresponding weekly through email. We are excited to work together in Ireland on some very big goals.
- I'll finish my Master's in Pastoral Studies from Barclay College on May 16!

Please Pray...

- Energy, focus, and engagement of my research topic during the final weeks of writing my capstone paper.
- Favor and provision with Irish immigration when I turn in my application and patience while I wait for the visa office to open up again in Ireland.
- Wisdom and discernment about how to respond to nationwide tragedies, traumas, and loss.

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

- That during this year we had one Muslim, one Buddhist and 52 Hindus accepted the Lord.

Please Pray...

- For Debbie's annual checkup that everything will go well.

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 though the enemy intended destruction on the earth through COVID-19, God is turning it around, so he is glorified, many people set free, many workers released into the world's harvest fields, and many people brought into his kingdom!

Please Pray...

- For deeper intimacy with Christ for our leaders and colleagues around the world.

Praise God (Thailand-Lahu)...

- For Ja Bo, our D4D leader in the Ja Taw and Pa Mo village and his investment in building relationships by visiting families in their homes, and in supporting their local church. We also praise God for Mo Pa working in the Ja Sa Pa village. He lives about 25 minutes away by motor scooter. He helps lead the local church and has also visited the village families in their homes. Thank God for these local leaders.
- For raising up new people to join The Way Foundation's D4D team. Thank God for Solomon, Yosapa, Chalee, Ben, Majise, Ma-e' and others who are discipling and mentoring these new leaders.

Please Pray (Thailand-Lahu)...

- For the next Way Foundation D4D leader who will lead the overall D4D ministry as Solomon is going to refocus on pastoring the local Chiang Rai Way church.

Praise God (Rwanda, Burundi, DR Congo (Uvira and Goma)...)...

- For ongoing healing and strengthening for Brad Carpenter's lower back, neck and overall health. Thank God for rest, peace, rejuvenation and a strong sense of purpose for the next term of service in the Great Lakes region of Africa from their home in Musanze, Rwanda! Thank God for growing partnerships and for the funds they need for their D4D ministry coming in. They are planning to go back in July

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

- Continue Praying for peace up in the High Plateau in the Fizi, Uvira and Itombwe sectors above Uvira, Congo between various fighting groups.
- For God to open up the borders for our Rwandan D4D leaders to be able to travel again to Burundi, Uvira, and Congo to continue mentoring and coaching our D4D teams in those places. Because of political tensions and now COVID-19 our leaders have been unable to meet in person for coaching.

Praise God (Cambodia)...

- That even though COVID-19 cases have gone up and much of the country is now shut down, leaders can encourage and keep up with the people they are discipling and mentoring by cell phone.
- For young leaders who have been trained up through YWAM's (Youth With a Mission) DTS (Discipleship Training School). Praise God for the opportunity they have to practice what they have learned by discipling new believers in their homes and villages.

Please Pray (Cambodia)...

- For the Holy Spirit to bring a deep level of transformation to leaders as they are now in lockdown. Pray they will make good use of their time with (extra time in prayer, time to disciple their families, time to study God's word more in depth. Pray for wisdom on how to encourage the churches and leaders they mentor.
- Continue praying for two Cambodian church planting couples.