



Evangelical Friends Mission

July 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.

M. and K. L. | Serving in Asia

As we sit here writing this update, we are so filled with gratitude. God has been abundantly faithful, and we are so very thankful. The newest member of our family, Benjamin Henry, entered our lives on June 11th, and we couldn't be more thrilled. As we anticipated his birth, there were quite a few unknowns—we did not know if he was a boy or girl, how the rest of the family would respond to him, or when he would even come. But we looked ahead with joyful anticipation. And as soon as he was born, we were all so full of rejoicing (even our daughter who was set on having a little sister). When we came home from the hospital hospital we were welcomed in with balloons and sidewalk chalk and the sweetest little five faces waiting to meet their newest brother. As a parent there cannot be much more that fills your heart than moments like this. Thank you for each of your prayers, we are so very thankful!



As we reflect on that time of waiting (sometimes not so patiently - especially for Mom as the due date came and went and went and went) it reminds us so much of the rest of life and ministry. There are so many unknowns, so many questions that we have yet to get answered. Those times of anticipation and waiting can be challenging and overwhelming, but even in the waiting, God is there. We do not have to have the answers or all the details. And we know that just like when Benjamin finally made his appearance, and we were all so filled with joy, God is so full of joy when we rest in him and trust him during the times of waiting. Now, we have a time of waiting on paperwork to return, and a time of waiting for those we serve to come to know Jesus. And just like with Benjamin, we know that there will be great rejoicing and we long for the day when our friends and neighbors will enter into the family of God.



Praise God..

- For a quick labor and delivery, healthy baby boy, and Mom's recovery has been good.
- For a good time with family and friends Stateside.
- For our friends back in our village have been staying healthy in spite of the recent surge in cases.

Please Pray...

- All the paperwork in order to return (passport and visa).
- Our family as we adjust to having another member.
- New challenges that have arisen with our business.

From the EFM Office

Praise God...

- For the report we were able to prepare for the regions/yearly meetings that are having their annual sessions this summer. We call it the "Summer Update" and will be sharing it with you in July.
- For the opportunity many of these regions/yearly meetings will have to gather again in person and enjoy fellowship with one another.

Please Pray...

- For the search for a new Executive Director for EFM. Pray especially for the EFM Board members who are involved in the search and that just the right person will be chosen in the near future. Dan and Matt remain in their current roles of Executive and Associate Directors until the new E.D. is able to start work, and then they will move into the new roles the Board has created for them.
- For the regions/yearly meetings that are having their annual sessions in July. Here they are in the order that they occur: Alaska Yearly Meeting (7-11), Evangelical Friends Church-Eastern Region (17-19), Northwest Yearly Meeting (18-21), Evangelical Friends Church-Mid America Yearly Meeting (23-25), Iowa Yearly Meeting (29-31), and Indiana Yearly Meeting (29-31). Dan Cammack and Matt Macy will be representing EFM at many of these sessions.

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 steps that regions/yearly meetings are already taking to organize EFM Luke 10 Trips to the eleven places that were identified in May at the national EFM Luke 10 Think Tank. Stay tuned for more details in the coming months!
- For the EFM Luke 10:2 Gathering that continues to take place every month by Zoom. There are people from almost every region/yearly meeting in the United States who are participating in these prayer times as well as Friends from Asia, Africa, and Latin America. There is always room for more! Please see the special announcement below for instructions on how to join this prayer movement.

Please Pray...

- For the Lord of the harvest to send more workers into the harvest fields.
- For the 15 individuals who participated in the Future Missionary Retreat held in May as they reflect on what they learned and continue to seek the Lord's guidance in regards to missionary service.
- For the Future Missionary Short-Term Trip that is taking place July 2-13. The destination is Aguascalientes, Mexico. There are 7 people participating who are exploring a call to missionary service and they are being led by Brad Carpenter, Maria Giron, and Matt Macy. Several leaders from Mexico itself will be among their mentors during the trip.
- For the regions/yearly meetings as they plan Luke 10 Trips to explore the 11 areas of the world that were selected at the national Luke 10 Think Tank. Pray for just the right combination of future missionaries, leaders from the regions/yearly meetings in the U.S., people with missions experience, and also leaders from the yearly meetings that are close to the areas that will be explored.

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. Our next meeting is Thursday, July 8. If you would like to participate, sign up 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 Babir and Lalita Gautam

Serving in India

Praise God...

- For his blessings in our ministry and family. In the midst of COVID-19, God has been so gracious. Thank you for your continuous prayer and support.
- For giving us a new field in the Uttar Pradesh district Hapood. This is a house church taken care of by Pastor Deepak Kumar in Hapood. It lies in the west of Bihar, our neighboring state. We have two pastors working in Uttar Pradesh. Thank you for your prayers.
- For his generosity in helping members with their medical bills. We were also able to provide food packets for one week to 250 families in the second wave of COVID-19. I personally thank you for your prayers and support.

Please pray...

- For our Bible School to start.
- For the pandemic and that everything gets back to normal.
- For Pastor Habil and Pastor Sanjay as they join me in full-time ministry.

From D. K. and Choity Sarkar

Serving in India

Praise God...

- For his protection for our family and staff from COVID-19.
- For the EFM churches that are growing by his grace. There are lots of house churches started in different villages. I thank God for our staff.
- That the banking system of the Indian Government for NGOs became favorable for our mission. Last week, we could give support to our staff.

Please Pray...

- For our church villages. Many of them are still suffering for food, shelter, etc.
- For our schooling system, which is now online, and villages do not have online facilities.
- For me (D. K.). I need wisdom to lead the mission in this difficult situation.

From Voicu and Ana Marian

Serving in Romania

Praise God...

- Timely and successful medical intervention for Ana. She's recovering well and feeling much better with a pacemaker.
- Clear evidence of answered prayers; will share more while in the USA, Lord willing July 1-October 1.
- Wrapping up a school year, strong connections with our students and their families; God's provision for our homestead in Orlat in our absence.

Please Pray...

- Good health and protection for the upcoming trip and the three month visit in Ohio.
- God's wisdom, unity, and protection for Dr. Marilena's ministry team in Calarasi, SE Romania. This has been part of our mission outreach for almost 15 years. They have different projects planned for the summer, from aid to the very poor, to construction and renovation, to children and youth sports camps as tools for evangelism.
- Open ears and hearts to the gospel during summer ministries everywhere; much fruit from past labors, all for God's glory.

From B. and D. A.

Serving in Nepal

Praise God...

- That even during heavy COVID-19 time and lockdown, Hindus continue to come to the Lord.

Please Pray...

- That all our churches will be protected from COVID-19 by the Lord.

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

Praise God...

- I have submitted my visa application and all of its supporting documents as of June 15! It has been an incredibly long road to get to this point. I am excited and happy with my application and all the help and support I have received from my team and church communities.
- I completed my Master's degree in Pastoral Studies from Barclay College on May 16, 2021! I am happy to be done and proud of the hard work I put in. I'm grateful for my classmates, professors, and especially my research participants.
- My whole family, minus my 6-year-old niece, is fully vaccinated!

Please Pray...

- Patience and contentment while I wait alongside my teammates, co-workers, and partners to hear a response about my visa application. Please pray for favor and clear communication when my application is reviewed.
- Gateway Friends is going to go back inside our sanctuary on July 11. Please pray for safety, discernment, and joy as we begin fellowshiping in a more familiar way than we have been this past year.
- For my family and me as we remember my mom on her birthday, July 2, and her death date of July 12. We miss her.

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

Praise God...

- Our co-workers' (Joseph and Susan) son, Peter (age 18) finished his studies of the Secondary Grammar School and took his final exam. Peter grew up in our church. He is loyal to God and he is a talented boy. He can play guitar, piano, and drums so he uses these talents in the worship group.
- There was a Christian song contest in Hungary. Only amateur young people could enter. The jury consisted of Christian singers. Three of our youth group - Peter, Andrew, and Tamara wrote three songs (everybody wrote one). They sang and played musical instruments, and recorded their work. After, they sent these songs to the contest's jury. Glory to our Lord, they came in fourth place. The reward was in cash. This can be translated into additional worship songs.
- I wrote that my younger sister, Gyöngyi, was in bad condition because of her systemic sclerosis. Glory to God she is better now, and she can work again in her work place, which is an old people's home.

Please Pray...

- On this Saturday, some members of the church and I will go to Ozora. We would like to speak with the local mayor, and we would like to make a deal with her that we could organize church meetings in the community house again. We would like to achieve similar goals in Pécs and Budapest.
- Some of us began roof renovations at his time. Unfortunately, the material prices have doubled, and it caused significant additional expenditures. Our government noticed the problem, but no solution has been found yet.
- Nowadays, several unbeliever people die and suffer from cancer. It, always raises questions to their minds: where is God?, why me?, etc. Naturally, the members of the church try to give testimonies at these hard times. Please pray for those that are sick and for the mourning families to gain faith in God.

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

Praise God...

- For the Holy Spirit's work and for a world-wide softening of hearts! Praise God for many believers growing deeper in their relationship with Christ, and for many coming to know Christ for the first time! Praise God for the coming waves of awakening and for a great harvest of people coming into his kingdom world-wide!

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)...

- For, Ja Bo, our D4D leader in Ja Taw and in the neighboring Pa Mo villages and his investment in building relationships and in supporting their local church. We also praise God for Mo Pa working in 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 two key local leaders.
- For a safe trip back to the USA for Ben and Charity Kibbe and their girls. Pray God's blessing over their family as they settle in for a year in the States.

Please Pray (Thailand-Lahu)...

- COVID-19 cases are up and in Chiang Rai people are not allowed to meet, so the team is restricted from working together in the office and from going to the villages.

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

- For pastor Lusungu's healing from his bladder and prostate surgery (Congo Friends church leader). Pray for the dissolving of the thrombosis in is leg and for the healing of the flesh around his big toe that had to be amputated.
- For pastor Tertullien (Rwanda D4D leader), and the good stewardship of his family's property, for livestock, crops and fruit growing. Pray other leaders can follow his example of using well the resources they have even during pandemic lockdowns.

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

- COVID-19 is resurging in Rwanda and in the region, with travel and meeting restrictions. Pray for health and grace to get through this time, for those who are fighting for their lives, and those who are not able to work and have very few resources.
- For wisdom and insight for people in the region as they seek to support their families in the middle of COVID-19 lockdowns.
- For God to open the borders for our Rwandan D4D leaders to be able to travel again to Burundi and Uvira, Congo to continue mentoring and coaching our D4D teams in those places. Because of political tensions and now COVID our leaders have been unable to meet in person for coaching. Pray the boarder with Uganda will also open!

Praise God (Cambodia)...

- For Scott Sward's passion for empowering Kavet young leaders to learn to write and produce oral and written Christian resources in Kavet.
- For Benjamin, a healthy baby born last month to one of the Cambodian church planting couple's we've been praying for!

Please Pray (Cambodia)...

- COVID-19 situation: cases are rising again – pray cases would decline, lives would be spared, and vaccination program would rapidly and effectively move forward.
- For village church leaders, as they figure out how to minister to their people without being able to meet.
- Theara and Saophorn, the young church planting couple (she is eight months pregnant). Doctors say the top of baby's skull is missing. Earlier this year doctors said the baby's brain was missing. So, let's continue praying for a whole, complete brain, and now for the skull to fully grow in.