



Evangelical Friends Mission

August 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.

The Howell Family | Serving in Ireland

Two of the most powerful words you can ever use or hear are simply, “Thank you.” Recently I received a note that said just that. The author recalled a conversation that we had several years ago under an oak tree. That conversation had proved particularly powerful in their present circumstances. They commented how a simple phrase spoken at that time had proved life changing today. They wanted to reach out and share how important that was for them and to simply say thank you for taking the time to talk.

I must admit, so many times, I fail to fully grasp the way that God has been using and blessing our ministry in Ireland. At times it may seem so subtle that it is easily overlooked. It might simply be a precious moment of vulnerability that we are invited to share with someone and in that space, we share the Father’s love for them. This note was a powerful illustration of this.



I sometimes ponder the different interactions that Jesus had when he was on the earth. How would you choose these specific people, with all of the significant needs that would have surrounded him? For me, I imagine it was the Father’s heart, beating strong in his Son, Jesus, leading and guiding him. A Father’s heart, who sees the pain that his children are dealing with and will stop at nothing to get alongside them, to love them, lift them, and to carry them. I imagine this was the passion that drove Jesus as well. Without being too dramatic, this is the challenge for each of us as we see the people around us. Can we hear and feel the Father’s heart beating strong within, propelling us forward in love?

As we have been obedient, God has moved in simple and powerful ways. We have been blessed to hear these words: “Thank you for being there for me when no one else was. Thank you for all that you have taught me and helped me grow in my faith. Thank you for being a voice of truth. Thank you for loving me as I am. Thank you for being here in Ireland.” Face to face, heart to heart, one to one, family to family, God’s heart for his people is proclaimed. In light of the global pandemic, these words of life and love are even more vital.

As we took time to process each of these moments, you dear reader, were at the center of it all. Without you, none of this could have happened. Thank you to each and every one of you. Thank you for praying for all of us. Thank you for supporting us financially. Thank you for your words of encouragement. Thank you for responding to the Father’s heart within you, reaching out to impact the world. Thank you all so very much. May God bless you and keep you.

Praise God..

- For the new relationships that have grown out of the COVID-19 lockdown. Ireland has had an extremely restrictive approach to the pandemic. It has been difficult to gather in any form until fairly recently. As I look back at this time, it is encouraging to see new relationships being formed despite the lockdowns.
- For Moriah graduating high school and preparing for the next step in her life.
- For daily reminders and conversations of the impact that EFM-Ireland has had. Even this evening, I was shopping and a young man I knew stopped me and we ended up talking about life, faith, camps, the book of Revelations, prophecy, what a daily walk with God looks like, and more. All of this was made possible from a camp we helped with six or seven years ago. God is at work, even when we don’t see it.

Please Pray...

- For our naturalization paperwork that has been in the government’s office since Oct. 2020. Please pray that David, Jonathan, and Moriah will be granted dual citizenship. (Tricia’s was granted in March of 2020.)
- For a new home to rent. The current home that we are in will be sold at the end of this year. As such, we will need to move this summer. We have been searching for a home that meets our needs and is within our budget for months already and have found nothing. Please pray with us.
- Please keep our health and safety in your prayers. This has been a difficult year for us both physically and mentally. Pray that we will continue to be strengthened in the Father’s love and find rest in him.

From the EFM Office

Praise God...

- For the completion of the search process for a new executive director for EFM. Stan Leach moved into that role August 1 and Dan Cammack and Matt Macy moved into their new roles at that same time. Dan is now the Field Director focused mostly on the missionaries and fields, and Matt is the Director of Mobilization mostly focused on the EFM Luke 10 Initiative in support of the Five-Year Goal (see below).
- For the annual sessions that occurred in six regions/yearly meetings connected to EFM. Support for EFM's Five-Year Goal and the Luke 10 Initiative is growing!

Please Pray...

- For Stan Leach as he steps into the Executive Director role and Dan Cammack and Matt Macy as they transition to their new roles (see the praise section above). The rest of the EFM staff is, of course, impacted by these changes, so please pray also for Kimberly Mer, Debby McElroy, Krista Alvarez, and Maria Giron.
- The whole EFM staff will gather in Southern California for a staff retreat August 19-22. Pray that this retreat will be very helpful in all the transitions that are taking place in the executive leadership of EFM.

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 Future Missionary Short-Term Trip that took place in central Mexico during the first half of July. The trip went really well and those who went who are exploring a call to missionary service learned a lot about what cross-cultural ministry and church planting looks like.
- 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. Some good progress was made in organizing these trips during some of the annual sessions that were held in July. Stay tuned for more details about EFM Luke 10 Trips!
- 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.
- Continue to pray for those who participated in the Future Missionary Retreat held in May and the Future Missionary Short-Term Trip that took place in July as they reflect on what they learned and continue to seek the Lord's guidance regarding missionary service.
- For the regions/yearly meetings as they plan Luke 10 Trips to explore the eleven 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 US, 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. 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 B. and D. A. Serving in Nepal

Praise God...

- That even during very, very strict lockdown in Nepal our churches have brought many people to the Lord.

Please Pray...

- For safety during this COVID-19 time for all our church people.

From Kathi Perry Serving in Ireland

Praise God...

- After a lot of drama and difficulty, I received my second vaccine injection on June 29th, which in Europe gives me a lot more freedom to interact with others and travel.
- Ireland has had some of the strictest COVID-19 restrictions in the world, and slowly these are being relaxed which means I am able to meet with friends again, some of whom (in Ireland) I haven't seen for two years.
- I am thankful for my garden, which will be the place I spend the most time with friends this summer, reconnecting before I go to the United States for deputation in the Fall.

Please Pray...

- I will be on deputation in the US (all going to plan!) in the Fall. Please pray for the arrangements for my home, my work, my life in Ireland to come together so that I may have peace about this while I am away.
- For the arrangements for my time in the US - visiting family and friends, being very grateful for those who have supported me and the opportunities to express that, fundraising, reporting, and praying.
- For clarity for ministry here. I may not be able to run the groups and things that I was doing pre-pandemic in the same way, or at all. Pray for direction for the next steps.

From Maria Giron

Serving as Missions Mobilizer for Spanish Friends

Praise God...

- So grateful for the Future Missionary Trip to Aguascalientes, Mexico. My husband, my son, and I enjoyed being able to lead this cross-cultural and ministerial experience time for six future missionaries along with Matt Macy and Brad Carpenter. We enjoyed learning from all of them and hearing about their hearts' desire to serve the Lord, each of their stories were very encouraging.
- It was a great blessing to visit our beloved Friends Church in Aguascalientes and give glory and honor to the Lord for seeing their growth and dedication to continue forward with ministry. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, we met new people who are now part of the church. We counted at least five new families. Glory to God!
- We were impacted by visiting two of the towns in Zacatecas where we chopped stone with the gospel and of which we only were able to witness two conversions before our return to the United States, now two years later, we find twelve more who have converted to Christ! In two years, this number of converts is a great achievement in a place where 99.99% of the population are still tied by religion and tradition.

Please Pray...

- We were invited to share about our ministry at the RMYM summer gathering banquet. We are excited to participate and to have the opportunity to visit with friends and to enjoy Quaker Ridge Camp! Please pray that God would fill us with his wisdom to share and to also have a renewing time as family.
- Our son's departure to college is happening August 13, please pray for my heart as we dropped him off in Reno, Nevada.
- VM32 project's first couple is moving to the new field in Zacatecas this month. Please pray as they start developing the new Friends Church in Guadalupe city, Zacatecas. They have a son that will start college, a teen girl that will attend her last year of high school, and their younger girl attending middle school.

From EFC-Nepal

Praise God...

- For new believers who accepted Christ and took a public testimony of baptism in all the different regions.
- For distribution of COVID-19 relief packages.

Please Pray...

- For gospel sharing by various ways, church growth holistically, and to plant new churches and cell groups in all provinces.
- Complete recovery of COVID-19 positive pastors, leaders, and believers, so that there will not be any post COVID-19 symptoms.

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

- We could speak with the community house's leaders of Budapest and Ozora. Praise God, since June, we could start church meetings in Ozora again. Praise God, on the 8th of August, we will start meetings in the capital city too.
- The situation of the COVID-19 pandemic is better in Hungary. Because of the number of the vaccinated people, our government lifted the restrictions. For example, it's not obligatory to wear a mask everywhere and we are free to come again including those who have not been vaccinated.
- We got an invitation from Susan, who is the local leader of the community house from Budapest, where our church is. There will be a two-day long children days on the 10th and 11th of August. Susan invited us to help them in this event. It's a good opportunity because we can do some handcrafts with the children, and we can also sing Christian children's songs for them. But most importantly, we can make a testimony to the unbeliever parents, and we can call the families to the church.

Please Pray...

- If our God will help us, we would like to organize a public testimony of baptism event on the 12th of September. There are some people of our mission who would like to be baptized. Please pray for them and pray for new faces. Maybe God will send more people who will accept Jesus Christ to their heart.
- For Ági's father, my father-in-law, Árpád. You know that he is a widower now, because he lost his wife, Terike in the end of March. He is also in a painful situation mentally and physically. Árpád has a bone wear, so he has a big pain in his legs and in his hip. In June, he couldn't visit us because of this health problem. His doctor says that he will get a hip prosthesis, but it can take one or two years and my father-in-law's pains are bigger and bigger. Please pray for him that his condition get better or if it's possible, he can get early surgery date.
- For our co-worker, Susan's mother. About ten years ago, she got a stroke and her speech, her perception of the intellect isn't good since this case, but glory to God she is alive. But unfortunately, some days ago, Susan asked us to pray for her mother, because she has bad results. In the past there was a patch on her lungs. She was on X-ray again and she has some new patches on her lungs, so it has spread. The doctor said it's like a cancer. Please pray for her and that she accepts Jesus Christ to her heart, because she is unbeliever.

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

- My close friend and I had a lovely, relaxing graduation celebration vacation in Palm Springs.
- Gateway Friends had a successful "going back inside" Sunday on July 11. We had a fantastic turnout and a well-facilitated and safe Sunday school session for the first time in 16 months.

Please Pray...

- Irish immigration has asked for a few more documents to complete the review of my application. Please pray for the quick but thorough decision-making of the reviewer.
- I am currently fundraising again to increase my funds since a decrease over the last few years. Please pray for good communication and confidence as I go into this season.

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!
- For the church world-wide "standing in the gap," interceding on behalf of their people, their communities, and their nations for God's purposes through this time to be accomplished – that his kingdom come, and his will be done around the world!

Please Pray...

- For believers around the world to come to know God as Jehovah Jirah the one who provides for their needs! May he use his people to generously reach out to their neighbors in need.

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. Praise God for YoSaPa who is weekly mentoring these two leaders, and often visits them in their villages.
- For raising up new people to join The Way Foundation's D4D team. Thank God for Solomon, Yosapa, Chalee, Ben, Majise, Ma-e', Pim and others who are discipling and mentoring these new members.

Please Pray (Thailand-Lahu)...

- COVID-19 cases are up in Chiang Rai with some restrictions, but some of them are still able to visit the villages. They ask prayer for "wisdom and strength from God."
- For blessing, wisdom, and favor for the D4D team visiting the three villages. May Christ's light shine brightly in Ja Sa Pa, Ja Taw and Pa Mo villages!

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

- For Congo Friends Church pastor Lusungu's healing from his bladder and prostate surgery. Pray for the dissolving of the thrombosis in his leg, for the healing of the flesh around his big toe that had to be amputated, and for his overall health.
- For pastor Tertullien (Rwanda D4D leader), and the good stewardship of his family's property, for livestock, crops and fruit growing. He says now we have a place in Rwanda where people can take field trips to visit and experience whole-life discipleship (without going so far to Ilanga or Mbale, Uganda). He says, "We can teach through what is happening in our lives!"

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

- COVID-19 is resurging in Rwanda and in the region, with some regions in lockdown. 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 provide for their daily needs.

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 their own language

Please Pray (Cambodia)...

- For village church leaders, as they figure out how to minister to their people without being able to meet. Pray they would find creative ways to worship and encourage each other (online, small groups, etc).
- Theara and Saophorn, the young church planting couple (she is about to give birth any day). 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.