



Evangelical Friends Mission

September 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.

Tony and Agi Frei | Serving in Hungary

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, God gave a lot of blessings to our church. There were many difficulties, restrictions and church closures but our God was always with us as he promised: *“Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you.” (Hebrews 13:5)*. We can be especially thankful for him on three main mission areas: (1) the children’s work, (2) the youth group’s work and, and (3) the gipsy mission.



The Children’s Work

After a long break, we could organize children’s days on three mission places: Ozora, Budapest and Tolna. I think it’s a very great opportunity for this way we can reach the unbeliever parents through their children. The program was similar in every place. We started with singing Christian children’s songs. After, my wife taught the children a story from the Bible (she included the gospel too). Then we prayed together with them. Finally, we made some handcrafts which kids enjoyed very much.



In Ozora, I made a deal with the local leader of the community house. She allowed us to organize occasions again, as the situation of the virus is better in our country. On the 14th of August, after a few church meetings, the first children’s day was there. Ozora is a village with a lot of gipsy families. People are very poor, but they have open heart to the word of God. At the end of the children’s day, we gave them little presents, candies and some donation dresses.

On the 15th of August, we organized a children’s day in Budapest. As it was just a few hours long, the unbeliever parents stayed there, they got involved in it, and heard the Good News too. I believe that the seeds fell into a good soil. On every fourth Sunday, we decided to organize a children’s day in Budapest, since this way new unbeliever parents come to the church and hear the gospel.



Thirdly, on the 20th of August, we had an all-day long children’s day in Tolna. The program was similar as in Ozora. There were about 30-35 children. After the lunch, we took the children to the bank of the River Danube where we played with them and organized a foam party with the help of the local fire department. At the end, we could invite the parents to the church.

The Youth Group’s Work

As I said, I’m thankful for our youth group, too, for they are loyal and enthusiastic. As you know, because of the pandemic the community house of Budapest was closed for a long period but our youth

kept contact on every Sunday morning on Zoom. Praise the Lord, the community house is open now, but they keep on organizing Zoom meetings. We’re also thankful, because they’ll have a youth camp from the 26th to the 29th of August. Please, pray for this camp that our youth group can be in agreement and in love in Christ (*Psalms 133:1-3*).



The Gipsy Mission

Praise the Lord, after a break of one and a half years we could visit our gipsy brothers and sisters from Serbia and Croatia. They were so happy for us, they missed us in the last hard period.

Thank you for your prayers. We are also praying for you and EFC mission work!

With love,
Tony and Ági Frei



From the EFM Office

Praise God...

- For the EFM Staff Retreat that took place in Southern California in August. We made some good progress in defining roles and identifying priorities. We also enjoyed being together in person!
- For people like you who God is using in his mission to the world. EFM is blessed to have partners like you!

Please Pray...

- For wisdom about how much and where to travel during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- Continue to pray for all our missionaries and national leaders as they navigate the pandemic in their respective places of ministry. Pray for strength, health, wisdom, resources, and even joy in the midst of pain.

EFM Five-Year Goal:

To send 10 new missionary households from North America to launch 5 new fields by December 31, 2025.

Praise God...

- For the excitement that is building in Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting to do a Luke 10 Trip to the northeastern part of Brazil sometime in 2022. This is one of the eleven places for exploration that were identified in May at the national EFM Luke 10 Think Tank.
- For the steps that regions/yearly meetings are taking to organize EFM Luke 10 Trips to the other places that were identified in May. 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.
- For the timing of the next events for those who are discerning whether God is calling them to serve him as missionaries. We are in the process of scheduling more Future Missionary Retreats and short-term trips as well as exploring ways to stay connected with one another in between events.
- For the regions/yearly meetings as they continue planning 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 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 this COVID-19 season our churches and our pastors have been safe.

Please Pray...

- That our churches will be vibrant as before as the lockdown opens up slowly.

From Kathi Perry Serving in Ireland

Praise God...

- So thankful that arrangements are made for someone to stay in my house while I am in the US for deputation - God has worked out a blessing for me, and for the woman who will be here for just the right amount of time.
- I'm excited to start work on an M.A. in Practical Theology at Barclay College. They are working with me to complete a degree I started a long time ago!
- I've enjoyed being part of the preaching team at a local church for the past couple of years and am thankful for their prayers over me as I preached for the last time two weeks ago (at least the last time this year!).

Please Pray...

- I'm flying to the States on September 8th. As I write, the US is still closed to visitors from Europe. Pray that the flights will go ahead as scheduled, and for safety as I travel.
- For my time visiting individual supporters and churches. Pray for encouraging, God-honoring conversations, and God's provision for the years ahead.
- That God would sustain relationships in Ireland and give me direction for ministry in an ever changing world.

From A. and M. A. Serving in Bangladesh

Praise God...

- That he has prepared people who have generously given to distribute food to our people. Praise God that we were able to distribute food to 332 families including non-believers. It was indeed a work of mercy. One Muslim family testified that they had no food for three days, but now they have received one month's food. Praise the Lord.
- That our team members who has distributed food has been protected by the Lord and none of them became sick.
- We are very much grateful to the Lord for our both boys who love the Lord and are growing in faith. Steve is doing well in Barclay and Edwin is now thirteen, a healthy boy doing good in his new grade seven.

Please Pray...

- For our disciples so that they can grow in great love and faith to the Lord.
- For new preaching points that the Lord opens and prepare the hearts of the people to accept him as their Savior and the Lord.
- For our people so that they can get a job and earn to support their family. Many either has no job, or doing job in half salary. Those who are selling their labor daily, their wages has been decreased, but the price of daily food has been increased very high. Ask God so that these people have a job and support their family as well as give to the ministry.

From Voicu and Ana Marian Serving in Romania

Praise God...

- We are extremely grateful for the love and generosity expressed toward us as we entered retirement season.
- For reconnecting with old friends and making new ones in Ohio; thankful for brothers and sisters from all denominations in this area.
- For a time of rest before returning to Romania Oct. 1st. God's work continues in many ways in people and places, we feel called back to live there for a while.

Please Pray...

- For good health and protection from harm, ability to return as scheduled.
- Clear direction, perhaps a new vision for ministry or support of other ministries.
- The raising up of new workers for Christ's kingdom, to harvest what is now ripe and continue the work in Eastern Europe.

**From Roy and Jinky Twaddell
Serving in the Philippines**

Praise God...

- That Jinky is continuing to get better and has regained enough strength to walk on her own around the house. She still tires easily and coughs. She was able to take a short trip to Subic Bay where she sat and viewed the sea.
- In spite of the pandemic, FEAST has continued to hold online classes with some residential classes happening at Taguig Friends and FLEC in Antipolo. Ptra Hildegarde recently started a new class on understanding the Bible online.
- Tagnipa Friends is celebrating its three-year anniversary. Along with Tabon Friends, this church plant has done well and continues to grow and reach out to its neighbors.

Please Pray...

- For continued recovery of Jinky's health. Her doctors view her as a long-haul COVID-19 patient. Although her oxygen levels are getting better, she cannot travel via aircraft.
- As most of you know, Jinky and I are retiring from EFM after 28 years. We had planned to come to the US for a farewell tour in Oct-Dec. Unfortunately, Jinky's health will not allow her to travel via plane. Please pray with us as we make alternate arrangements to visit maybe next year and possibly do some livestreaming visits with our partners, both individuals and churches.
- Although we are retiring from EFM, we are going to continue in ministry with the relationships we have built here with Friends in the Philippines and others in the Asian region. Please pray that God gives us wisdom and direction in our future journey with Christ.

**From Abe and Diane Bible
Serving in Ukraine**

Praise God...

- Diane had an accident ice skating in early June and broke her shoulder. We are grateful that it's healing well. She is having therapy to help with range of motion.
- Because of the accident—we decided to go to Oregon in July and visit family! Two of our children live there and between them six grandchildren from ages two to eight. It was refreshing and a chance for connection! (And a distraction from healing.)

Please Pray...

- September looks very full for Abe. He will be teaching at least two days every week, sometimes three or four, and it all requires travel. Pray for the Holy Spirit's work in the lives of those who attend. The emphasis will be on evangelism, and most of the meetings will be with youth leaders across Ukraine.
- That we would be able to get a website operational this month with training materials. It takes a tremendous amount of thought and organization. This is part of the heritage we want to leave—materials Abe has used or developed over the last 30 years of labor in Ukraine and Russia.
- Diane will be teaching at a ladies' retreat mid-October. People are "dying" for some fellowship after all this time of quarantining. The isolation spiritually has not been good for many ladies. Pray as Diane prepares in September to meet the needs of where the women are at right now.

**From Samson and Priscilla Retnaraj
Serving in Nepal**

Praise God...

- For giving us safety and security as we travelled around after the lockdown has been lifted. To some extent travel has again been curtailed because of landslides and floods, but we are able to keep to our schedules and meet our communities for various activities.
- Suleman Rai our CHE Trainer has successfully completed his master's level education and had a graduation ceremony organized jointly by the Nepal Ebenezer Bible college and DAI.
- For the two Musahar girls who took a public testimony of baptism in Aurahi and are regularly attending the Aurahi fellowship with Arun and his wife Babli and helping with the Children's CHE ministry.

Please Pray...

- For all our CHE Trainers and their families. As their children grow up their needs are increasing in education and other matters. So, we pray that they will be able to fulfill all the requirements and be able to take care of the children well.
- For the CHE Trainings and tailoring classes scheduled for this month in Cha'pur (Rautahat) as they (Solomon and Asha) try to catch up for all the time lost due to the lockdown and COVID-19 issues.
- For the Jhurjhure CHE Committee as they visited Parkhal, the community affected by landslides in which three people from our Friends church died. Relief material was distributed, and we are working with them to see how best we can help this community in their long-term needs of development and financial sustainability.

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

Praise God...

- For Holy Spirit's work – 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.

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

- Continue to pray for the dissolving of the thrombosis in Pastor Lusungu's leg, for his overall health, and that he can go home soon back to Uvira.
- Pray for wisdom for Burundi Friends church D4D leader Bernard as he seeks to give effective early discipleship to 270 new believers in the town of Kirundo. Pray for God to raise up leaders from this group whom he can mentor directly. Pray for wisdom for Augustin Simparinka (Rwanda D4D) as he coaches Bernard in this process.
- Pray 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-19 our leaders have been unable to meet in person for coaching. Pray the boarder with Uganda will also open!

Please Pray (Cambodia)...

- For the COVID-19 situation as cases continue to rise. Pray cases would decline, lives would be spared, and a 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. Pray they would find creative ways to worship and encourage each other (online, small groups, etc). May the love and hope of Christ shine brightly through them!
- Theara and Saophorn, gave birth to John who died in delivery with the top of his skull and some of his brain missing. We didn't get the healing we were praying for, but Scott shared that they had a meaningful funeral for him. Pray for healing and for Christ's name to be glorified in their extended family and in their village!