



Evangelical Friends Mission December 2021 Prayer Letter

www.friendsmission.com
efm@friendsmission.com
303.421.8100

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.

David Thomas | EFM Whole Life Discipleship

It's Harvest Time, Let's Celebrate!

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:2

Pastor Tertullien, our Discipling for Development (D4D) leader in Rwanda, said, "Tell Debby and our Navigator coaches that it's time to reap the results of all the seeds you've sown in past years!" Tertullien's letter goes on, as follows:

We are praising God that many of our D4D leaders are doing well. Our national church leaders have good testimonies from applying D4D principles in their lives. For example, they are building their own homes, and even putting in place pastoral retirement plans (something that has long been a need). We see that D4D has impacted the Evangelical Friends Church of Rwanda as a whole. Our mentees also demonstrate more holistic transformation than seen in past years.

We are expanding by crossing denominational lines here in Rwanda, mentoring leaders in Congo and Burundi, and we hope to send our own missionaries to other countries. We thank God for new leaders who will continue the work with D4D as we continue expanding. For sure the kingdom of God is coming in Africa! We have a tool!

Even though COVID-19 has been challenging, it has become an opportunity to use the D4D "problem solving process" and to discover different ways of doing things, to expand our understanding, and to continue to do evangelism and discipleship.



Leader's Retreat at Tertullien and Verena's House.



Top: John Paul's new house in Kigali.

Bottom: Tertullien and Verena hosting leaders at their home.

When we recently visited our D4D communities, we saw the difference our way of thinking makes. The people we are working with have progressed! Family education is more purposeful and effective. Personal Development Plan achievements are more successful. We see God at work even in the difficulties.

After sharing Tertullien's texts with my wife Debby, she said, "We confronted the barriers of dependency, poverty mindset, so many unmet needs of our pastors and their families, as well as the overall poverty of our believers. We praise God that he gave the insight to overcome those barriers!" Tertullien goes on to say:

We celebrate pastors' holistic transformation, moving out of dependency. Our testimonies will make your tears for happiness. You will harvest your seeds sown. We have seen that you were prophets, and your prophetic messages are now fulfilled.

How? In the lives of our pastors and the lives of our Christians. In the transformation of various communities like Musovu and Kirambo. Our Friends Church denomination is now independent. Our new leadership structure, our decision making, our yearly meeting and local church leadership – all are self-supporting in every way.

Our mind set has totally changed!

From the EFM Office

Praise God...

- For the EFM Board meetings that took place in Canton, Ohio, in November. The whole EFM staff got to be part of these meetings. It felt like a mountain-top experience in many ways as we worshiped and did business together. We took time one evening to express our appreciation for one another through a special dinner at a special place.
- For the ways in which the Lord continues to provide for EFM's financial needs. During the entire COVID-19 pandemic he has been faithful!

Please Pray...

- For our missionaries during this Christmas season. For most of them it is a very busy time of year ministry-wise. Many of them are far from their home country and may be missing family and friends.
- For EFM staff members and others who are hoping to travel internationally as soon as January. The worldwide pandemic continues to make this kind of travel complicated.
- For a strong financial finish in 2021 so that EFM can focus on all the priorities and initiatives that have been approved for 2022.

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 sense of excitement that is building among Friends across North America as dates are set for Luke 10 Trips and team members identified. We are anticipating that at least ten of these trips will take place in 2022.
- For the women and men we continue to meet who are wondering whether God might be calling them to become missionaries and are willing to go through the discernment process that is part of the EFM Luke 10 Initiative.
- For the Luke 10:2 Gatherings that have been taking place once a month via Zoom since January of this year. Recently we have been focusing on the Luke 10 Trips. In November, for example, we heard a report about the Luke 10 Trip being planned for NE Brazil and then spent about 30 minutes praying in small groups for that trip. You can be a part of the next Luke 10:2 Gathering! To join see the special announcement below.

Please Pray...

- For the Lord of the harvest to send more workers into the harvest fields.
- Two trips are being planned for early 2022, one to South America and the other to Central Africa. The purpose of these trips is to meet with regional leaders on those continents and explore how we can work together in exploring where the Lord wants us as Friends to open new fields. We also want to keep encouraging these regions to send missionaries of their own.
- For the various groups that are planning Luke 10 Trips. As you can imagine, the ongoing worldwide pandemic presents many challenges.

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 Kathi Perry Serving in Ireland

Praise God...

- I'm very thankful for the opportunities I've been given to share about life and work in Ireland, and chances to see old friends and new while on deputation.
- For the generosity and prayers of so many, as I continue to raise up support to return to Ireland.
- For time in California with my family, after two years of being unable to travel.

Please Pray...

- For the rest of the financial support needed so that I can return to Ireland after Christmas, and so I can rest over the holidays.
- This is a time of many transitions in my family. Pray for us - as even good transitions can be stressful!
- For the Irish people, and for the families I work with specifically, as we head into the Christmas season. Pray that as they look for gifts for others, they would be profoundly aware of the gift of hope that comes with the gift of the Christ child.

From Abe and Diane Bible Serving in Ukraine

Praise God...

- Two young men were saved at one of Abe's evangelistic workshops in November. Through the men Abe is working with, around two people were saved every week this fall.
- The first court case for our receiving the house we have lived in for 20 years has been successfully completed and is put forward to the next court date on December 21 when we believe a final decision will be made.
- All our Australian grandchildren plan to be in Ukraine this year for Christmas! And our first great grandchild! We are blessed.

Please Pray...

- Despite an increase in COVID-19 cases, Abe has been able to go ahead with workshops as planned. Right now, there are three planned for the month of December. Pray for the men who attend. As we come up to Christmas there is a greater spiritual openness and many opportunities to engage people in conversations.
- For Abe's health, strength, and wisdom as he participates in and/or leads meetings. God has given protection many times and we are grateful.
- We continue to work on putting up a website to make materials for training available online here in Ukraine. Pray for all the details that go into that. For wisdom to do it well and to leave this heritage for the church here.

From Roy and Jinky Twaddell Serving in the Philippines

Praise God...

- This is our last EFM Prayer letter as we are retiring on December 31, 2021. However, we will continue to be involved with several of our Friends Church partners. This continued ministry will be to advise and assist in church planting, livelihood projects, and of course the school.
- As the government is easing restrictions and Jinky is feeling better, we are going to be attending Christmas services at Friends Lighthouse Evangelical Church and Silangan Evangelical Friends Church in December.
- Jinky is able to do more gardening, sewing, and baking. She has to pace herself but is getting better.

Please Pray...

- Because we are retiring, we are asking for prayers in the ministries we will continue on within our relationships here in the Philippines. Plus, Roy is taking on the Chaplain position at the American Legion here in Olongapo and we are already planning a church plant.
- For God's mercy, grace, and timing in our coming to the US in April 2022. During this time, we will visit family and friends, and say our personal goodbyes to our faithful ministry partners who have prayed and supported the work of God through us for the last 28 years.

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

Praise God...

- For the Bardia church building which was completed and dedicated to the glory of God and his people in November. Many Friends leaders from all over Nepal came together on this auspicious day and worshipped together for three days in this new building. Pastor Rabi Lal worked very hard to get the required funds locally from donations and gifts by other churches and local businesspeople. God in his amazing way convinced people to give generously for this noble cause.
- Amazing things are happening in Aurahi (Janakpur) where Arun and Babli are reaping the harvest of years of work among Musahar children who are now able to stand up and testify about their faith in Jesus to their own communities and families. Again here, God has brought about changes in the lives of many in this small community. Pray especially for Renu, Lacchminiya, Nita, Anjali, Neelam and Smriti- all in their teens but so bold to stand up for Christ. They hold fasting and prayer sessions once a week and God is answering them and all our prayers as we see amazing growth and awareness in their community. They are organizing a Christmas outreach program in December and are inviting many other children from unbelieving families in Aurahi, Baidehi, Rudauli and Kaptol.
- Prateek our son, as he plans to come to Nepal and be with us during Christmas and to meet other members of our extended family living in India, before going back to GFU Newberg for the second semester of his third year in college.

Please Pray...

- For Gokarna and the church leaders of Jhurjhure as they set up a library of Christian books.
- The need for a hand pump and pipes to bring clean drinking water into the homes of Brother Ashok and some members of the local church who are faithfully leading the Mahida fellowship in Cha'pur
- The need for clean drinking water for the Chepang people living up in the hills of Parevakot. The community has completed training and the WASH program will bring changes in the lives of the people by reducing gastro-intestinal diseases, and thus save them many trips to the nearby hospital and loss of working days for the men.

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

Praise God...

- For Attila Varga and his family in Tolna. As we wrote earlier, they were expecting their baby girl. On the 11th of November, their second baby was born. Her name is Bianca. She is healthy and her family is fine.
- Our old sister, Irene. She was suffering from COVID-19 for two weeks. She was in bad condition, but now, she feels better now.
- Kinga, our young co-worker lady (my nephew's wife), finished her portfolio document successfully. She is a kindergarten teacher and she had to write a portfolio for her career advancement.

Please Pray...

- For our brother, Pastor Géza. We visited him in the hospital. As for him, sometimes he conscious from coma. Unfortunately, his blood circulation was bad in one of his legs, and the doctors decided to amputate his limb.
- For the pandemic situation of Europe. For example, our neighbors, Austria and Slovakia, had a lockdown for two weeks. The numbers of the infections are increasing all over the continent.
- For Henrietta's father-in-law. Henrietta is a young lady from our church (Budapest). Her father-in-law, Zoltán, is suffering from COVID-19 and he is in intensive care unit. He is in bad condition and he doesn't know Jesus.

**From Rupak and Pramila Tamang
Serving in Bhutan**

Praise God...

- For more uplifting and openings in Bhutan during COVID-19.
- For my friend's marriage that went well in Thimphu.
- I am back from south Bhutan after a long lock down in the country.

Please Pray...

- For our two boys' third semester exams that are from December 10-29.
- For our church to grow mature.
- For our team to prepare for Christmas and celebrate it with lots of good news.

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

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

- For the Discipling for Development (D4D) tool which has allowed our Friends Church leaders in Rwanda and many people in their communities to move out of fatalism, dependency and a poverty mindset, to "*be transformed by the renewing of their minds* (Romans 12:2)," and to move into a place of abundance where they are faithfully stewarding their God-given resources, and are able to provide for their families' needs and contribute to God's kingdom growing around them in their communities!
- For the missionary sending vision growing in Rwanda and in Burundi. Praise God for leaders who because of Discipling for Development now see a way they can grow the kingdom of God around them discipling their neighbors in all areas of life. This D4D tool will enable them see communities transformed and to plant churches in new places.

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

- For our Congolese believers and their neighbors who are often caught between fighting factions in the High Plateau areas above Fizi. Pray for peace and provision and Holy Spirit's comfort and protection for these displaced people.
- 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!

Praise God (Thailand-Lahu)...

- For Ja Bo, our D4D leader in the Ja Taw and Pa Mo villages. He has been a great encouragement to his fellow villagers, and he now leads their local church. We also praise God for Mo Pa and his ongoing work in the Ja Sa Pa village. Praise God for Yo Sa Pa (Jehoshaphat) who is regularly mentoring these two leaders.
- For a missionary, Jason, now working with the Way Foundation who has been able to help our Discipling for Development coaches David Thomas and Scott Purser better connect with our Thailand team with excellent translation on Zoom.

Please Pray (Thailand-Lahu)...

- Pray for Ben's work visa to come through and for blessing in his late November into December visit. Pray for him to have a great connection with the team and to encourage them. Pray for David and Marilyn Kibbe as they move back to Chiang Rai and settle into life and ministry/work with their Way Foundation team. Pray for discernment to know what roles to fill during this term of service.

Praise God (Cambodia)...

- For a successful song writer's workshop for Kavet leaders.
- For the opportunity to visit and encourage church leaders in Battambang for the first time in nearly a year.

Please Pray (Cambodia)...

- For the Bible storytelling workshop for Kavet Christian leaders which occurred earlier this month.
- For God to strengthen, sustain, and encourage his people. This has been a difficult season for many Christians here-physically, emotionally, spiritually, and financially.
- Our colleague, Wendy, who is suffering from a severe form of chronic fatigue syndrome.