EFM National Luke 10 Think Tank Participant Materials

Thursday, May 27, 2021 | Quaker Ridge Camp

To be read in advance.



EFM's Five-Year Goal is to send

10 MISSIONARY HOUSEHOLDS

*to launch **5 NEW MISSION FIELDS***

*in the next **5 Years.***

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May 18, 2021

Dear Friends, who are participating in the history-making **EFM National Luke 10 Think Tank** on May 27!

We are looking forward to this fifth Luke 10 Think Tank in 2021! Thank you for giving your precious time to this very important task of discernment!

Please continue to pray that the Lord of the harvest will lead us. Please read and reflect on Luke 10, especially versus 1-24. Come ready to share ideas that may be forming in your own prayerful thoughts and in conversations with others about where Friends might launch new mission fields. Come ready to listen to the Lord and others. Come with open hands and open hearts, as a church ready to say, if the Lord Jesus wants to include us in his mission, "Here we are, send us!"

This packet contains materials to help you prepare. Please take time to read through it before we start at 9am on May 27.

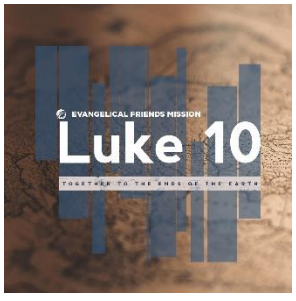
- A basic introduction to EFM's goal and the Luke 10 Initiative.
- The schedule for the EFM National Luke 10 Think Tank
- EFM's CAN GO Criteria
- A glimpse at the ideas that went onto the white board at each regional Think Tank
- The Simplified Strategic Plan for implementing EFM's Five-Year Goal
- Basic Benchmarks for Five-Year Goal
- Further introduction to Luke 10 Initiative
- EFM's Vision and Mission Statement
- EFM's Board Members
- What EFM Does and Doesn't Do
- 2021 Easter Offering Letter and Lessons, which tells an EFM Luke 10 Initiative story
- Pathway to becoming a Missionary at EFM

EFM's Five-Year Goal (www.friendsmission.com/five-year-goal)

EFM's Five-Year Goal is to send
10 MISSIONARY HOUSEHOLDS
to launch 5 NEW MISSION FIELDS
in the next 5 YEARS.

In launching these new fields we will pursue partnerships with Evangelical Friends groups on other continents who share our vision and wish to work with us.

How will EFM determine where the five new fields will be started?



Primarily through the **Luke 10 Initiative**. EFM depends on the regions/yearly meetings, churches, and individuals that EFM serves as their missions' agency to engage in this discernment process. The Luke 10 Initiative requires **four types of participants** who gather for **Luke 10 Think Tanks** and discern, based on **EFM's CAN GO criteria**, what locations and people groups to visit via exploratory teams called **Luke 10 Trips**. Out of these trips will come recommendations to the EFM Board about where to launch new fields.

EFM National Luke 10 Think Tank Schedule | Thursday, May 27, 2021

*The Lord **now sent** them ahead*
*He instructed, "Pray that **the Lord of the Harvest would send** more workers*
NOW GO,** and remember that **I am sending you

8:00am	Breakfast served in Dining Hall
9:00am	Think Tank Begins in Clark Lodge Upstairs Meeting Room • Welcome and Introductions • EFM's Mission, Vision and Five-Year Goal • Luke 10 Initiative, CAN GO Criteria, Benchmarks
10:00am	Reading of Luke 10 Prayer
10:20am	Each region/yearly meeting introduce the locations or people groups that emerged as their highest priorities for them to consider exploring further.
11:00am	Choose at least 10 potential fields for exploration. Identify what region/yearly meeting will take the lead to plan Luke 10 Trip to each place/people chosen.
11:30am	Potential-Field Focus Groups break out for brief discussion on next steps for each Luke 10 Trip. • Who should be included from within lead region and from other regions/yearly meetings in the U.S. and in target continent? • What month/s might the trip/s take place? (At least one trip before November 2022.) • What are the primary next steps for developing planning team, networking, research, communication, and going?
11:50am	Regroup and share insights
12:00am	Lunch break
1:00pm	Potential-Field Focus Groups. **Consider EFM's Mission and Vision:** What in EFM's Mission and Vision rises to the top that should be most considered as exploration moves forward so that the most likely result is EFM approving missionary applicant/s for a pioneering strategy on the potential field/s at hand?
1:25pm	Regroup and share insights
1:35pm	Potential-Field Focus Groups. **Build on EFM's CAN GO Criteria:** For the potential field/s at hand, what are some top key questions to consider before or during the Luke 10 Trip?
2:05pm	Regroup and share insights
2:20pm	Dismiss with commissioning prayer and group photo

EFM'S CAN GO CRITERIA

During the first Luke 10 Think Tanks that were held the following criteria for where to launch new fields was set based on a study of missions history, especially how decisions were made about where to pioneer new fields:

C for Champions:	These are people who have a passion for a specific people and place. There is a strong sense that "We must go there!"
A for Affirmation:	This comes from the body of Christ at the local, national, and internatonal levels.
N for Need:	There is a compelling need for the Gospel in this unreached or under-reached people/place.
G for Gifting:	There are persons available who have the gifts and character to do pioneering work.
O for Opportunity:	There is openness in this specific unreached or under-reached people, even a sense of invitation.

A Glimpse at the Ideas that Went Onto the White Board at Each Regional Think Tank

The following are Luke 10 IDEAS lists from the white board at each regional/yearly meeting Think Tank 2021.

The highlighted notes are what emerged to highest priorities in the discernment discussions.

NORTHWEST Luke 10 Think Tank IDEAS BOARD | March 27, 2021

- Shuar People in Ecuador!
- Morocco, Palestine, and Ecuador and Russia
- West Nepal
- Greece and Josiah's Calling Refugee population. Island of Lesbos.
- Columbia.
- Hungary! Czech Republic. Vietnam.
- Russia and Ukraine.
- Eastern Europe. Eastern Europe keeps coming up
- India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan,
- Congo
- Somewhere in SE Asia
- Where are other future missionaries feeling called?

MID AMERICA Luke 10 Think Tank IDEAS BOARD | April 10, 2021

- Laos
- Japan
- Egypt
- Moracco
- Vietnam
- Ethiopia
- Somalia
- South Sudan/Ethiopia
- Tanzania
- Uyghur people group in China
- Mexico (Vision 32)
- Fiji
- India
- Listen to future missionaries

EASTERN REGION Luke 10 Think Tank IDEAS BOARD | April 27, 2021

- THEME OF DEVELOPING HUBS (work on 5-year plan with the 10, 15, 20 in mind)
- Indonesia
- ? Eastern Europe/Romania
- Cuba (via Jamaicans)
- Jordan
- Tanzania, Tunisia – Central Africa – interest in Tanzania from IYM, EFC-ER, Burundi, and EFC-MAYM
- Morocco
- Philippines
- Malawi
- Burma – Nepali people there
- Gulf Countries in Middle East – Dubai and Qatar, Nepali people there
- Malaysia
- Thailand, Vietnam, Laos – Lahu people in the greater region
- Vietnam
- China
- Ecuador/Shuar People and Central America/El Salvador, interest within EFC-ER and NWYM

INDIANA Yearly Meeting

- India
- Unreached peoples

ROCKY MOUNTAIN Luke 10 Think Tank IDEAS BOARD | May 8, 2021

- India
- Mexico (border) *follow up*
- Morocco
- Belize (English-speaking jews)(Guatamala Friends producing many pastors available to go out)
- South Sudan
- Native America
- NE Brazil

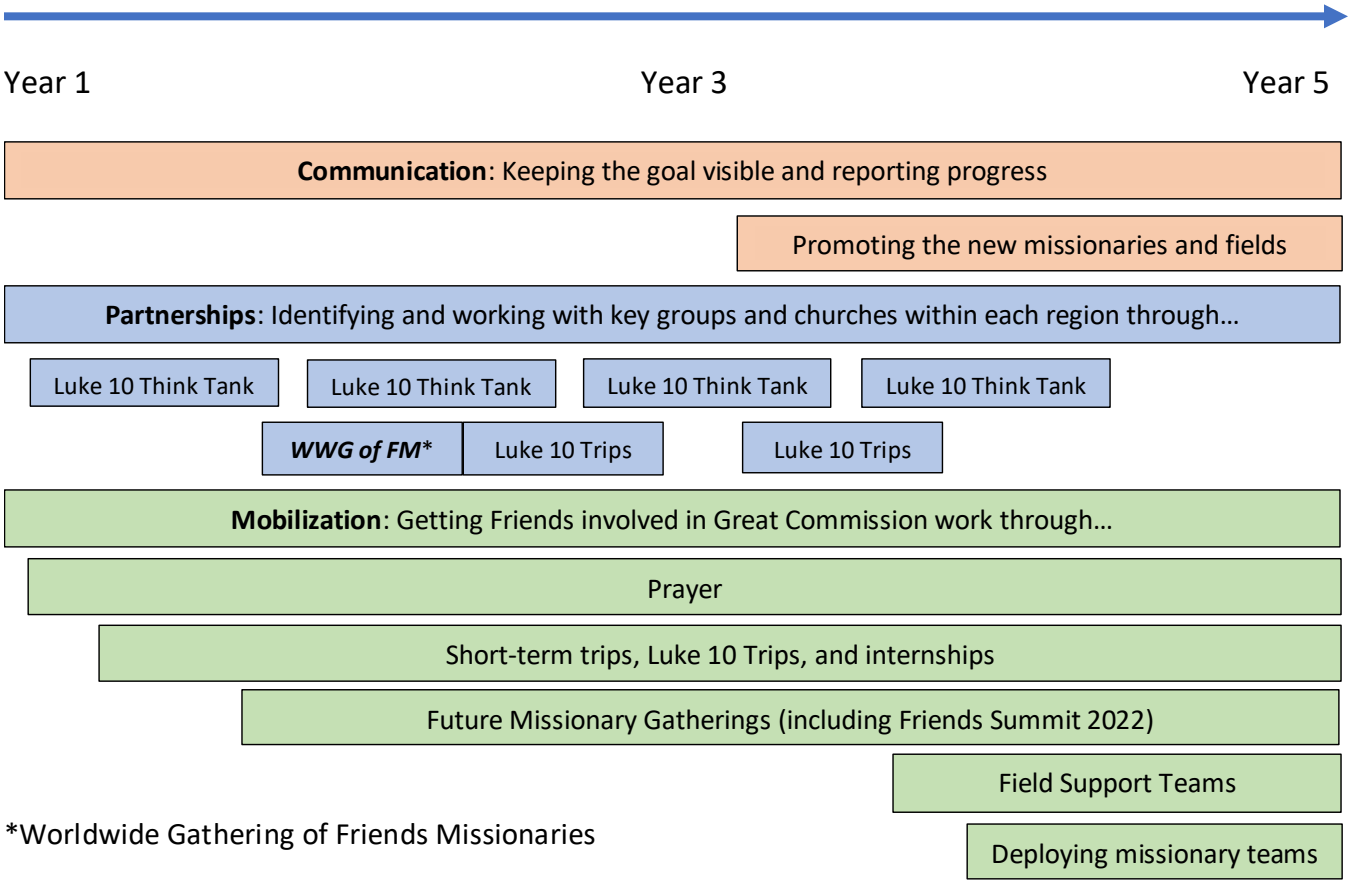
Simplified Strategic Plan for Implementing EFM's Five-Year Goal

Strategic Goal
To send 10 new missionary households from North America to launch 5 new fields by 2025.

Strategic Plan
We aim to accomplish the above goal through…

Communication:
Announce the goal, present the need for the gospel and how Christ would have us respond, and give updates about progress being made towards the goal.
Partnerships:
Work closely with current partners to identify key groups and churches in North America who can help discern, recruit, send and support. Pursue partnerships with yearly meetings overseas as those opportunities arise.
Mobilization:
Provide opportunities for Friends to pray, give, and go; identify the new fields; recruit the missionaries; and deploy the teams backed by their Field Support Teams.

Projected Timeline



*Worldwide Gathering of Friends Missionaries

An Overview of the Strategic Plan

Communication	
Tasks	Strategies

Communicate with EFM's constituencies through…
• Printed media
• Visual media
  ○ Videos
  ○ Social media
  ○ Website
• Speaking opportunities
  ○ Large group gatherings (Sundays, yearly meeting, and national events, etc.)
  ○ Small group gatherings (workshops, small groups, home visits, etc.)
Last two to three years: Introduce and promote new missionaries being sent out.
	Make full, continual use of all the types of communication to keep the strategic goal visible, report progress, and help get people involved in the various initiatives (prayer, Perspectives, Luke 10, Future Missionary Gatherings, internships, etc.).
	
	Prepare regional leaders to be "ambassadors" who can speak to large/small group gatherings in their areas of influence and use the media produced by the EFM office.

Partnerships	
Tasks	Strategies
Work closely with partners in North America that already exist (full and associate members of EFM). Identify and form partnerships with key churches in the regions. Involve missionaries and national leaders in the process of discerning the location of new fields and possible involvement of the yearly meetings they work with.	Keep in regular contact with partners. Form and/or strengthen partnerships through… • Luke 10 Think Tanks: Engaging yearly meetings, EFCI leaders, local churches, missionaries, and other stakeholders in the process of seeking new fields and missionaries. • Luke 10 Trips: Discerning where to open new fields and who to place there. • A Worldwide Gathering of Friends Missionaries

Mobilization	
Tasks	Strategies
Mobilize Friends for the strategic goal through… • Prayer • Education (children, youth, adults) • Special events • Short-term missions trips and internships • Recruiting missionary candidates and guiding them through the application process • Fundraising • Pre-field training/preparation • Field Support Teams The EFM directors and office staff will be the primary ones to see that this mobilizing happens and will seek help from EFM Board members, regional missions directors, regional missions boards or mobilizer groups, and other volunteers.	Prayer network Children's Missions Focus materials Kaleo Academy Camps and youth/college/young adult conferences Friends Summit 2022 Perspectives Course Short-term trips and internships (3-12 months) Luke 10 Think Tanks Luke 10 Trips Future Missionary Gatherings Time spent with the EFM Board Deputations Field Support Teams

Basic Benchmarks for Five-Year Goal

The Five-Year Goal

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

In launching these new fields we will pursue partnerships with Evangelical Friends groups on other continents who share our vision and wish to work with us.

Major Benchmarks for All Five Years

2021: At least 10 potential fields chosen for exploration (May)
Each region commits to adopting at least one of the new fields (Sept)

2022: All potential fields visited at least once (Nov)

2023: At least 15 potential missionary units getting field experience (May)
All potential fields visited for at least the second time (Nov)
At least five new fields approved by the EFM Board (Nov)

2024: At least 12 potential missionary units in the application process (May)
At least 10 missionary units approved by the EFM Board (Nov)

2025: At least 10 new missionary units placed on at least 5 new fields (Dec)

Further Introduction to Luke 10 Initiative (June 2020)

1. History

a. The Luke 10 Initiative dates back to 2013. It was created by EFM.
b. Much of the initiative was shaped at a Luke 10 Think Tank that was held at Quaker Ridge, CO, preceding EFM Board meetings in the spring of 2013. A good group came together for the think tank and included the EFM directors and some of the board members. There were also active missionaries, former missionaries, and future missionaries.
c. This initiative was instrumental in opening a new field in Northern India and another in Ecuador. It has also been used to some extent in exploring possible new fields in Africa that would be opened primarily by African Friends. It also helped us decide that Ukraine was not a place to go at that point in time.

2. Purpose

a. The Luke 10 Initiative exists as a strategy to help EFM identify where to launch new fields.
b. It has also been helpful in other ways:
    i. Confirmation for some of those sensing a call from God to be career missionaries with EFM.
    ii. The placement of these missionaries.
    iii. Involvement of regional and local church leaders in the discernment process for both identifying new fields and confirming those sensing a call to serve. (Their recommendations have been taken seriously by the EFM Board in its role of approving new fields and new missionaries.)
    iv. As a result of the previous point, investment of these regions and local churches in launching the new fields and supporting the missionaries involved.

3. Main Components

a. Luke 10 Think Tanks
    i. Description
        1. A Luke 10 Think Tank is a face-to-face gathering of people who are interested in the topic of launching new fields and sending more missionaries.
        2. A Luke 10 Think Tank typically lasts the equivalent of one full day and is held in conjunction with EFM Board meetings. Those who are not EFM Board members have the option to stay for the board meetings as guests.
        3. The Luke 10 Think Tank typically includes superintendents and other EFM Board members, regional leaders who are interested in this topic, those who have burdens for opening new work in certain places, and some who are currently serving as missionaries as well as former missionaries and potential future missionaries. The EFM directors and other staff also participate.
    ii. Fruit of their deliberations
        1. Identification of the groups that should be involved in the discernment process (i.e. Luke 10 Trips):
            a. Potential future missionaries, especially those who seem gifted for pioneer missionary work.

b. Persons with missionary experience.
c. Influential church leaders from the EFC-NA regions/yearly meetings
d. Influential leaders from Evangelical Friends groups in other parts of the world, especially those that are located closest to the areas being considered.

2. Criteria for identifying where to launch new fields (Micaiah Hughes, a future missionary who was at the first Luke 10 Think Tank, helped us come up with the CAN GO acrostic.):
    a. ***C for champions*** – Persons who have a calling by the Holy Spirit and a compelling concern (We must go!)
    b. ***A is for affirmation*** – Affirmation from the body of Christ (local, national, and international)
    c. ***N is for need*** – Need for the Gospel in a certain area and evidence that God is at work there
    d. ***G is for gifting*** - Giftedness and character for doing pioneer work
    e. ***O is for opportunity*** – Opportunity for work in that area is clearly there (openness, invitation, etc.)

b. Luke 10 Trips
    i. A Luke 10 Trip is an exploratory trip devoted to discernment, kind of like a traveling clearness committee.
    ii. These trips usually last seven to ten days.
    iii. They often include between five and ten people. They are that size because they include potential future missionaries, church leaders from EFC-NA, persons with missions experience, and national leaders from countries close to the destinations.
    iv. When choosing the destination the following is usually taken into account: Compelling need for the Gospel, strategic opportunity, individual calling, and input from those who lead EFC groups outside of North America.

c. Recommendations to the EFM Board
    i. Experience with this initiative so far shows that Luke 10 Trips lead to recommendations to the EFM Board for new fields and new missionaries (and also helps discern what opportunities not to pursue at this point in time).
    ii. Members of the teams that went have been part of formulating the recommendations to the Board and some have even been present at the board meetings where the recommendations are considered.
    iii. In its decisions the Board also tries to take into account any input provided by EFC groups outside of North America who participated in the trips or who were consulted in other ways.

4. Going Forward

a. The Executive Director of EFM, Dan Cammack, and the Associate Director, Matt Macy, recommend that the Luke 10 Initiative be utilized in carrying out the strategic goal of sending 10 new missionary units from EFC-NA and launching 5 new fields by 2025. They seek affirmation from the "Group of Five" who are working on the strategic plan and also from the Executive Committee of the EFM Board.
b. The initiative is open for improvement, of course. Input is welcome!

EFM Vision and Mission Statement

Vision

EVANGELICAL FRIENDS OF NORTH AMERICA FULLY MOBILIZED TO SEND MISSIONARIES WHO PLANT GROUPS OF CHURCHES AROUND THE WORLD THAT ARE FAITHFUL, SUSTAINABLE, MULTIPLYING, AND MOBILIZED TO SEND MISSIONARIES THEMSELVES.

Seeking First God's Kingdom

We are committed to seeking first God's kingdom in whatever place and culture the Lord of the harvest sends us. We believe that will result in new disciples of Jesus Christ. New disciples will form groups of churches that are seeking God's kingdom first at home and abroad.

Compare this to soccer. Soccer is played all over the world and requires a field with four boundary lines. It also requires teams. Each team has the privilege to play within the boundaries of the field and according to the rules of the game. A great deal of creativity takes place during a soccer match as each team member plays according to his/her skills, talents, and position, and always in unity with the other players on the team.

EFM can be described as a team of missionaries located all around the world. We play with the skills, gifts and experience God has given us and within the cultures where we live and work. As we seek first God's kingdom, we release missionaries to play within the four boundary lines of our mission (and we talk about a "soccer field" as an analogy). These boundaries help us make disciples and plant groups of churches that will go on to reproduce themselves. They also promote unity and creativity.

What are the four boundaries? Mission, Guiding Principles, Daily Focus, and Friends Culture.





Mission

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.



Guiding Principles

We carry out our mission by moving into the neighborhoods where God sends us, learning the languages and cultures, proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed, discipling those who respond to the Gospel in holistic ways, and helping them to form churches. We also help equip these disciples for ministry and assist them in creating self-sustaining ministries of their own. We know that we've come full circle when these disciples start sending missionaries to repeat this whole process.



Friends Culture

The way we carry out our mission is also shaped by our heritages as Evangelical Friends. We believe deeply that Jesus Christ is always with us and that we can live in constant communion with Him. We believe it is essential to do what He tells us to do. We believe that His Spirit has gifted us all for ministry and that He would have us all be servant leaders.



Daily Focus

In order to carry out our mission, what is it that we must do day in and day out? We must pray. We must humbly study and meditate on Scripture. We must immerse ourselves in the Trinity through the Holy Spirit. When we do these things we are able to tell others the Good News of Jesus Christ with our lives and words. We are faithful to the Lord in the way we use our time, money, bodies, possessions, and relationships. We also display His fruit: Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness gentleness, and self-control.



Probably the most exciting thing about soccer is scoring goals, right? How does EFM know when it's scoring goals? When it is planting groups of churches that are full participants in the Great Commission.

Dan Cammack,
Executive Director

EFM Board Members

Mathew Bradbury
Wellandport, Canada
EFC-ER Representative

Pat Byers
Muncie, IN
Indiana YM General Superintendent

Tom Crawford
Salem, OH
EFC-ER General Superintendent

Molly De La Cerda
Friendswood, TX
At-large from EFC-MAYM

Adrian Halverstadt
Haviland, KS
RMYM Leadership Facilitator
EFC-NA Coordinating Council Director

Marva Hoopes
Canton, OH
At-large from EFC-ER

Kevin Hoppock
Valley Center, KS
At-large from EFC-MAYM

Sung Kim
Walnut, CA
FSW Representative

Jim Le Shana
Newberg, OR
NWYM General Superintendent

Ron Maestas (Treasurer)
Yorba Linda, CA
At-large from FSW

Ron Mulkey
Greenleaf, ID
NWYM Representative

Christy Neifert
Commerce City, CO
RMYM Representative

Ron Prentice (Vice Chair)
Yorba Linda, CA
Represents FSW General Superintendent

Rusty Savage (Board Chair)
Damascus, OH

Robert Sheldon
Noatak, AK
AYM General Superintendent

John Stalker
Kotzebue, AK
AYM Representative

Thayne Thompson
Wichita, KS
EFC-MAYM Representative

David Williams
Derby, KS
EFC-MAYM General Superintendent
EFC-International Interim Director

What EFM Does and Doesn't Do

EFM's mission statement uses the analogy of a football (soccer) field to help acquaint people with EFM's ministry principles. These principles are put into practice from the moment our missionaries move into an area where very few people have heard the gospel of Jesus Christ. The principles continue until a group of churches has developed and is sending out missionaries of their own. But in getting to know EFM even better, it is natural to ask questions like these:

- What types of projects does EFM generally help with?
- What types of projects and practices does EFM generally avoid?
- What practices does EFM avoid altogether?

The following is an attempt to answer those questions.

What EFM Does

Types of projects EFM generally helps with:

As groups of churches emerge through EFM's efforts in different parts of the world, and as EFM forms relationships with Evangelical Friends yearly meetings outside of North America, EFM is very open to partnering with these churches on projects that have to do with church planting, whole-life discipleship, leadership training, and sending missionaries to unreached people groups. EFM's goal in these partnerships is to encourage and strengthen the churches as they pursue the vision God is giving them. In order to do this, we believe the following guidelines are necessary:

1. Foster healthy relationships by working against paternalistic tendencies in all cultures. As Westerners we will be careful not to operate from, or be placed in, the "God spot." We will do our best to avoid being the "foreign experts."
2. Strive for local ownership with every project on which we work together.
3. Aim for locally reproducible, multiplicative forms of ministry in discipleship, church planting, leadership training, and missionary sending. We will think in terms of ministry that can lead to and sustain a movement.
4. Pursue regional solutions to regional problems and local solutions to local problems.
5. Aim to develop leaders, not projects. Developed leaders will be empowered to cultivate their own resources for projects they choose to do.
6. Foster and help develop asset-based ministry rather than need-based ministry. Introducing foreign money and projects too early will usually lead to dependency on those funds.

What EFM Doesn't Do

Types of projects and practices EFM generally avoids:

EFM generally doesn't do the following*:
*There may be some exceptions to the projects and practices listed below, but only with approval from the director and, in some cases, the EFM Board.

- We do not own real estate in EFM's name or in the names of our missionaries.
- We do not help fund the purchase of properties for local churches or the construction of local church buildings.

- We do not pay salaries for pastors, evangelists, and yearly meeting leaders.
- We do not allow our missionaries to pastor local churches or hold yearly meeting positions (like president or treasurer).
- We do not build or operate hospitals, clinics, orphanages, or schools.
- We do not adopt churches or groups of churches that already exist, whether they were planted by Evangelical Friends or not. We may, however, find ways to partner together on certain projects (see the previous section titled "Types of projects EFM generally helps with").

Under certain circumstances EFM is open to:

- Assisting in the purchase of/or the construction of a training center that benefits the yearly meeting and that can also be used as the yearly meeting's headquarters.
- Assisting yearly meetings in Asia, Africa, and Latin America in sending out missionaries. This assistance usually takes the form of training and limited funding.
- Assisting in projects that help people become disciples of Jesus Christ in all areas of life, which empowers them to use the resources God has made available in their own context (this is what we mean by whole-life discipleship).

Practices EFM Always Avoids

Under no circumstances does EFM do the following:

- We do not denounce other religions as we carry out evangelism. Everyone is made in the image of God, so we treat everyone with respect. The focus of our teaching and preaching is "Jesus Christ and him crucified."
- We do not give help to needy people in exchange for them becoming Christians or joining our churches.
- We do not encourage people to rebel against their governing authorities. There may be certain laws or customs that followers of Jesus Christ cannot follow in good conscience, but Scripture instructs us to pray for those in authority and to submit to them in everything we can.
- We do not encourage rebellion against yearly meeting leaders and pastors even when there may be cause to do so. We stand ready to pray and to help in the process of peace-making as much as we can.
- We do not impose a set of practices on yearly meetings that they must follow if they want to belong to the Evangelical Friends Church. EFM will do its best to instruct yearly meeting leaders and pastors about the history and doctrine of Friends, but specific practices will vary to some degree from region to region because of culture and circumstances. Believers in these different contexts are encouraged to work together, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, to determine what their practices will be (i.e., how they will organize themselves; how they will choose their leaders; how they will make corporate decisions; and whether or not they will use physical elements in baptism and communion).

Approved in November 2015 by the EFM Board.

EFM 2021 Easter Offering Letter

Spring 2021

Dear Friends,

In May of last year, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the EFM Board took a couple of big steps. First, they approved a vision statement for EFM. This statement fits well with the mission statement that we already have: *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*.

Here's the new vision statement:

Evangelical Friends of North America fully mobilized
to send missionaries who plant groups of churches around the world
that are faithful, sustainable, multiplying, and mobilized to send missionaries themselves.

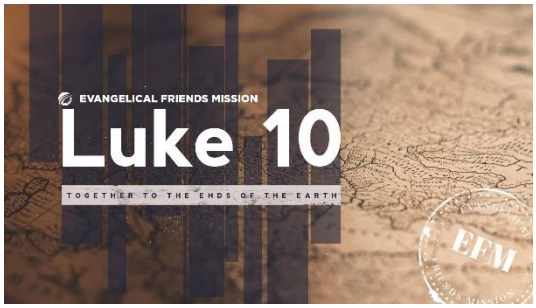
The second step the Board took last May was to adopt a strategic goal to carry out this vision and mission. Here it is:

To send **10 NEW MISSIONARY HOUSEHOLDS**
from North America to launch **5 NEW FIELDS BY 2025**

We agreed that in launching these new fields we will pursue partnerships with Evangelical Friends groups on other continents who share our vision and wish to work with us.

Please watch our video at www.friendsmission.com/five-year-goal that presents what we are calling the Five-Year Goal.

In the lessons that accompany this cover letter you will see how we are carrying out the vision, mission, and Five-Year Goal. You will be introduced to action steps like…



- **Luke 10 Think Tanks**
- **Luke 10 Trips**
- **Luke 10:2 Gatherings**

You've probably already noticed that Luke chapter 10 figures prominently in all of these steps. In the lessons you'll find out why.

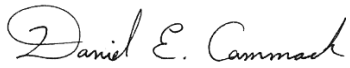
The clock for the Five-Year Goal has just started ticking and I can tell you that the goal is stretching us already! It is stretching our faith in the Lord. It's also causing us to strengthen partnerships in this part of his body called Friends. We are sure as we can be that the Lord wants us to pursue this goal. But will we, his body, fully embrace it? I pray we will. And I believe we will.

I encourage you to use the lessons in small groups and Sunday school classes during the weeks leading up to Easter. Then, on Easter Sunday, your church may choose to take an offering for EFM, or it may encourage individuals and groups to send their offerings directly to EFM. Whatever is given through this offering will be used for EFM's work around the world.

As you will see in the lessons, we have a lot of work ahead of us. We are going to need all the prayers and financial support we can get as well as your time and maybe even your physical presence. In other words, we need YOU!

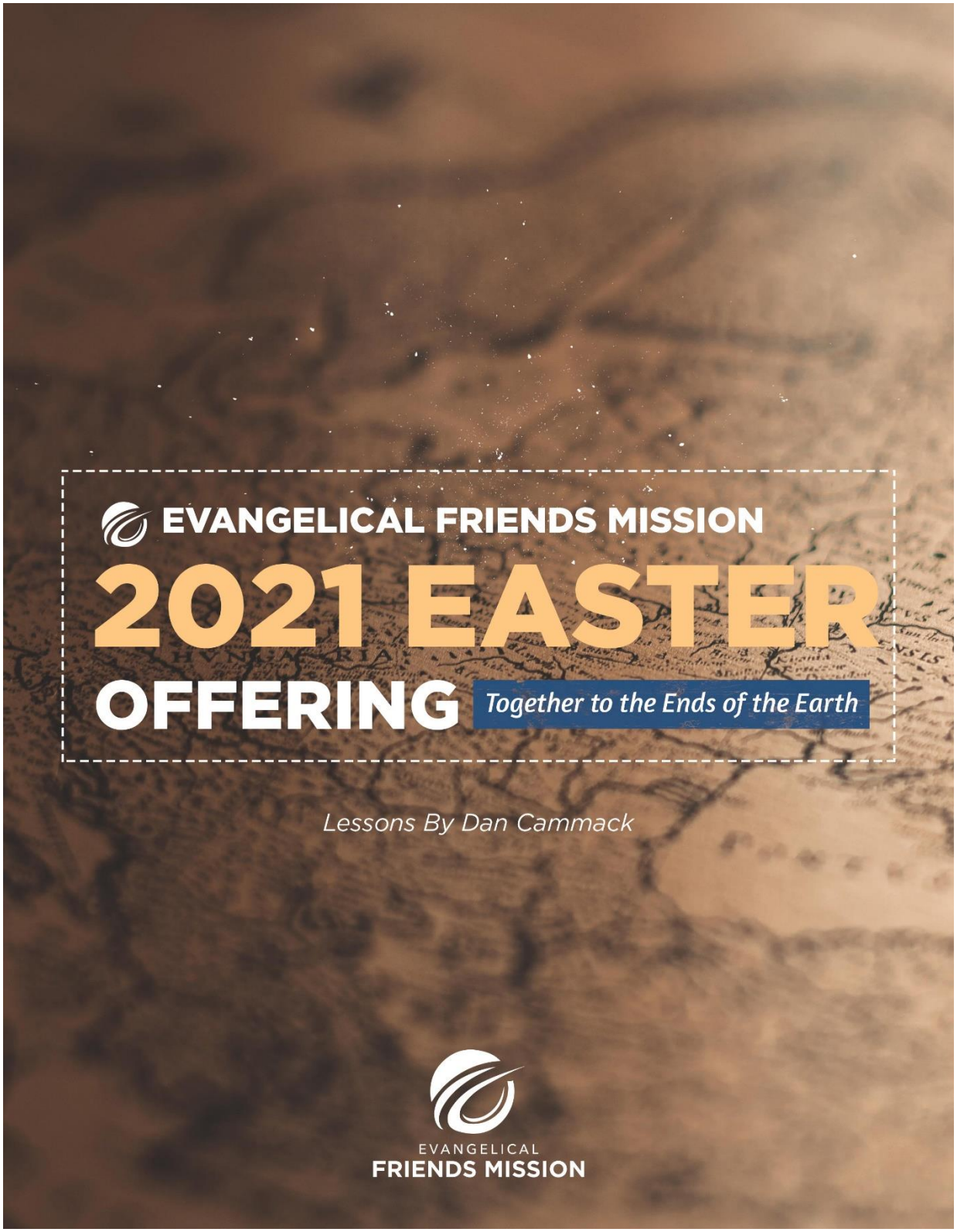
LET'S GO TOGETHER TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH!

Your fellow servant in Christ,

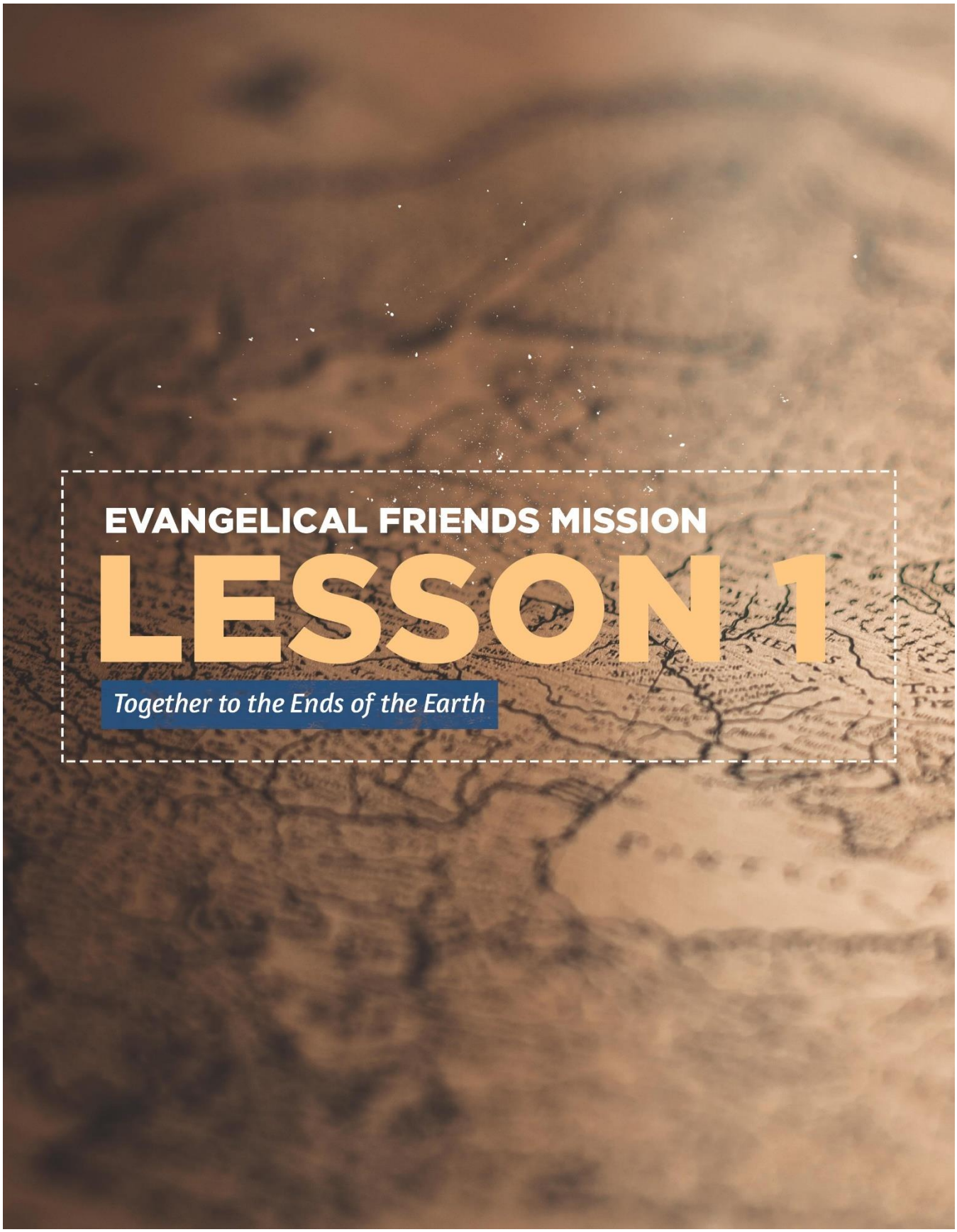


Dan Cammack
Executive Director of EFM

EFM 2021 Easter Offering Lessons




Together to the Ends of the Earth


EVANGELICAL FRIENDS MISSION
LESSON 1
Together to the Ends of the Earth

LESSON 1

THE NEED FOR THE GOSPEL IS HUGE!

Prepared by Dan Cammack



When I checked my email on Monday morning, February 1, I found a message from one of our missionaries in Asia. The next to last paragraph said, *"Our village has entered their quiet time while their idol is meditating. It should be over sometime the last couple days of February. It's always just an extra dark time in the village. We just keep trusting and praying for God to open their eyes to the Truth!"*

The missionary who wrote those words has been living in this village for about five years. He and his family are, at this point, the only Christians in the village. They have formed some great relationships with the villagers. They've worked side-by-side with many of them out in the fields and in the orchards. Quite a few of the villagers have been in their home, especially the children. The Good News of Jesus Christ is being lived out in various ways and sometimes shared verbally. It is widely understood that the missionaries do not worship their idol. Even so, the villagers continue to welcome the missionary family to live in their midst.

What is the name of this missionary family? Their initials are M. and K. L. Where is this village where they are living? I'm not going to tell you. Why? Because this family lives in an area of the world that is opposed to people becoming disciples of Jesus Christ. Many of the countries in this region do not grant visas to missionaries whose main work is to make disciples and plant churches. If the governing authorities find out that is what they are doing they will kick them out of the country. So in this kind of situation missions organizations like ours have to take steps to protect the identity of our missionaries when presenting their ministries to a wide audience. The steps include using their initials, not being too specific about where they live and work, and not recording or writing their names in ways that could be tracked down on the internet. This is a case where we believe Christ's command to go and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19) is more important than the laws that try to prevent this from happening. We must obey Jesus even as we do our best to be good citizens in the countries where we serve.



Jesus said we are to make disciples of **ALL** nations. He was most likely referring to ethnic groups when he used the word "nation." According to the Joshua Project, an organization that tries to keep track of the progress being made in reaching all the nations with the Gospel, there are 17,433 people groups (nations) in the world today. Of those just over 10,000 have enough followers of Jesus Christ in them that they can reach their own people without much help from the outside. That leaves about 7,400 groups that have hardly any Christians in them. That may not seem like too much until you learn that those 7,400 groups have more than a third of the earth's population in them. They contain approximately 3.23 billion people! And many of these people live in countries where there are laws in place to try to prevent them from becoming followers of Jesus.

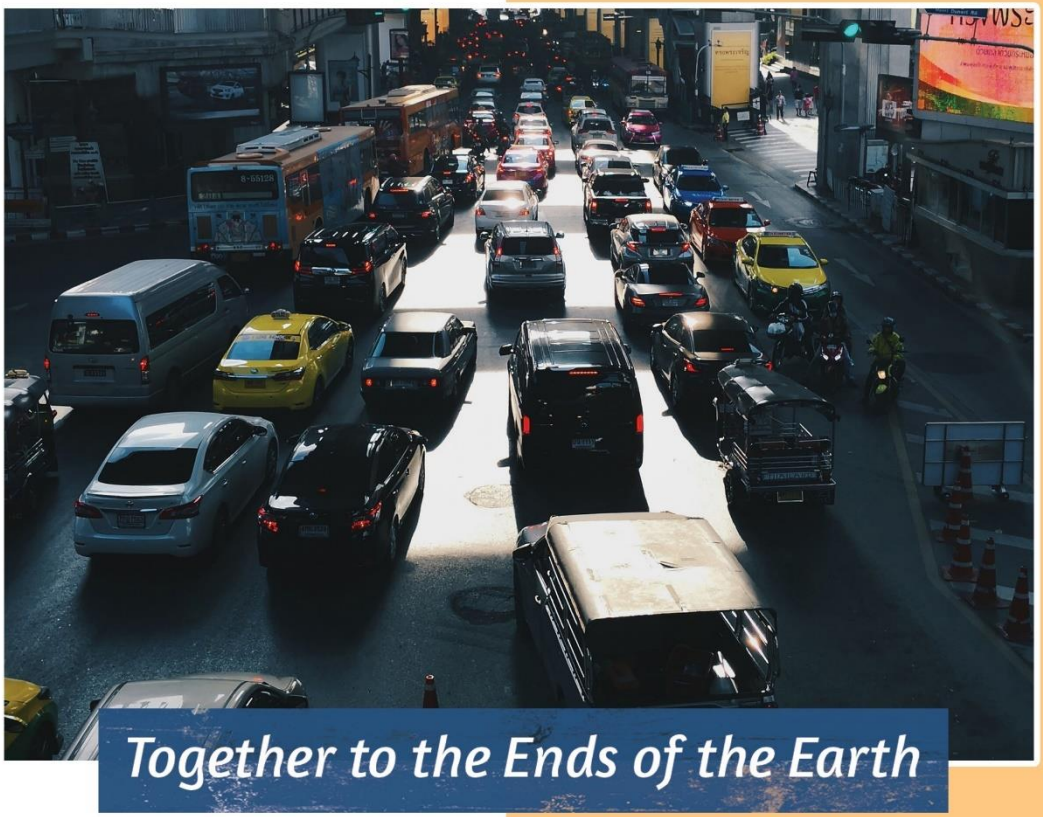
EFM already has missionaries working with some of these unreached groups. The family I mentioned above is one of them. But many, many more missionaries are needed! There are still billions of people who don't know Jesus. Because of this we at EFM feel compelled to send at least 10 more missionary households from North America to launch at least 5 more fields among the unreached before December 31, 2025. We call this our **"Five-Year Goal."** Please watch the video at ***https://youtu.be/q27QLIPvvsw*** or ***www.friendsmission.com/five-year-goal*** to learn more.

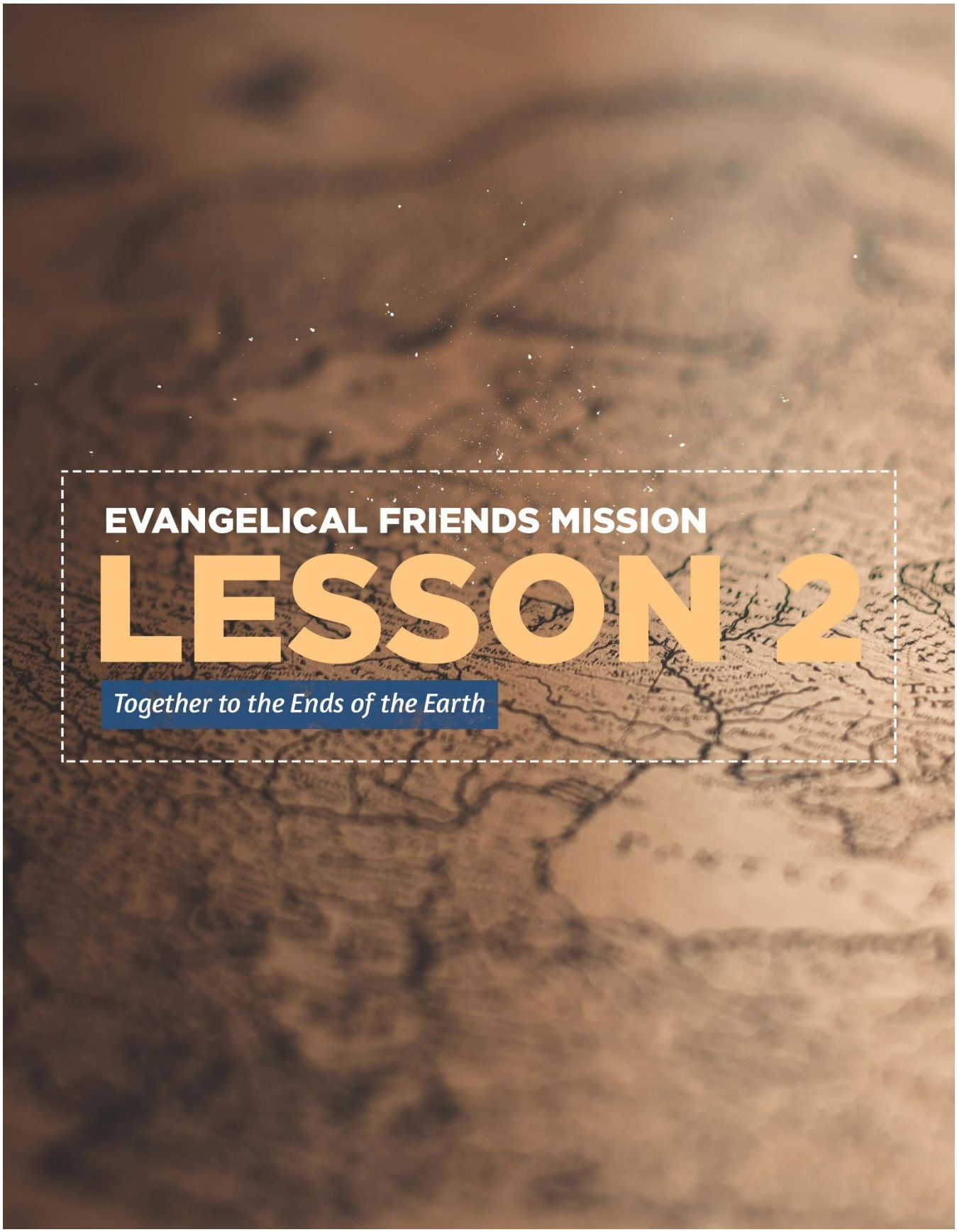
We are praying that one day soon the villagers mentioned above will turn from their idol and put their faith in Jesus, the one who brings light rather than darkness. Imagine how happy the missionary and his family will be when that day comes! Both heaven and earth will rejoice as the angels throw a party for the lost who have been found (Luke 15:10).

Questions for reflection and action:

- How does it make you feel to know that there are so many people who have never heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ? I encourage you to take those feelings, whatever they are, and share them with Jesus himself. Ask him to show you how he would have you respond personally to this need.

- Who can you share the Five-Year Goal video with? Has your church seen it yet?


Together to the Ends of the Earth


EVANGELICAL FRIENDS MISSION
LESSON 2
Together to the Ends of the Earth

LESSON 2

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Prepared by Dan Cammack



The M. and K. L. family is from the United States. How did they wind up in a village in Asia? Through a process of discernment that EFM developed and calls the **Luke 10 Initiative.** This process is based on Jesus' instructions to the 72 disciples when he sent them out two-by-two to proclaim the kingdom of God, heal the sick, and cast out demons (Luke 10:8 and 17). As far as we know, these early disciples embarked on their trips without knowing who would go where. All it says is that they went "to every town and place where he [Jesus] was about to go" (verse 1). We do know that they were ordered to travel light: No purse, no bag, and no sandals (verse 4). They were to depend on the hospitality of the people they were visiting (verses 5-7).



How does EFM apply these instructions through the Luke 10 Initiative? First of all, we gather people together for what we call a **Luke 10 Think Tank** (visit ***www.friendsmission.com/luke-10-think-tanks*** to learn more). This is a gathering of spiritually-discerning people who help identify where to open new fields among the unreached peoples of the world. The gathering includes **four types of people:** Influential church leaders, persons with missions experience, those who are open to considering missionary service, and Friends from outside of North America (who may or may not be physically present in the gathering). Together we pray, discuss Luke chapter 10, consider where the Lord would have us do exploratory trips, and narrow the options by using what we call the **CAN GO Criteria** (visit ***www.friendsmission.com/can-go*** to learn more). This criteria was developed based on how Friends have gone about discerning where to launch new fields in the past.

During the first round of Luke 10 Think Tanks (see the next lesson) each think tank helps identify potential fields we believe the Lord wants us to explore. Then **Luke 10 Trips** are organized to visit those places (visit ***www.friendsmission.com/luke-10-trips*** to learn more). The same four types of people who were involved in the think tanks are also involved in these trips. In fact, some of those who were at the think tanks will likely go on these trips. Others will be added, especially from countries close to the areas we are exploring.

The second Luke 10 Trip M. and K. L. participated in was made up of a team of 12 people. Eight were from the United States (including M. and K. and two children), four were Evangelical Friends leaders from nearby Asian countries. The trip lasted about 10 days. They were days full of adventure! Here's a couple of paragraphs from their report that give you a taste of what the discernment process was like:

> In the city of J. we also had a plan, but God was determined to direct our steps—how thankful we are that he did! We met with a local pastor, and after some changes to the "plan," we were off to a village to see if this would be where we'd move for our language learning. The people and village were beautiful and so wonderful; we would have happily moved there to live among them. But we never had a deep sense of peace or excitement for this place; it just didn't seem like this was where God wanted us. As we were packing to leave this village, we were feeling a bit

overwhelmed, because if we said "no" to this area, we would be starting over and going to another new area—with zero contacts. We stepped outside on the patio where there was an older couple and a younger couple waiting to talk to this local pastor. We didn't think anything of it until we found out that the older man was the pastor in a village in the K. area where we had planned to go next. They were not even supposed to be there at this time, and neither were we, according to our "plan." (Hopefully you are starting to see how God directed our steps...because we were starting to get a glimpse of it at this point!)

After 10 long, bumpy hours of driving, we reached our "planned" destination, but there was a mix up with our travel agent regarding the hotel, so we had to continue on to another city and another hotel that were not in the "plan" (more divine direction going on, but so hard to see in the moment). One more hour of driving led to 11 hours on the bumpiest road we had ever experienced, and then we finally reached the city of M. After a good, long night's rest we were ready for the day in M., the city we hadn't ever "planned" to go to. We decided to visit the mission hospital in town first, not knowing what to expect. As soon as we walked into the compound, we met a white doctor who happened to be walking in-between buildings. She took time from her busy schedule and led us all around the hospital campus, introducing us to many people. We made many wonderful contacts at the hospital and were beginning to get that deep sense of peace and excitement for this place as the initial area for language learning. But wait, this wasn't even a part of our planned course!

About six months later the M. and K. L. family moved to the city of M. and began their language studies. Not long after that the Lord led them to the village (not far from M.) where they have been living for the past five years. If you were to ask them if they are happy there, they would probably reply, "There is nowhere else in the world we would rather be at this point in our lives!"

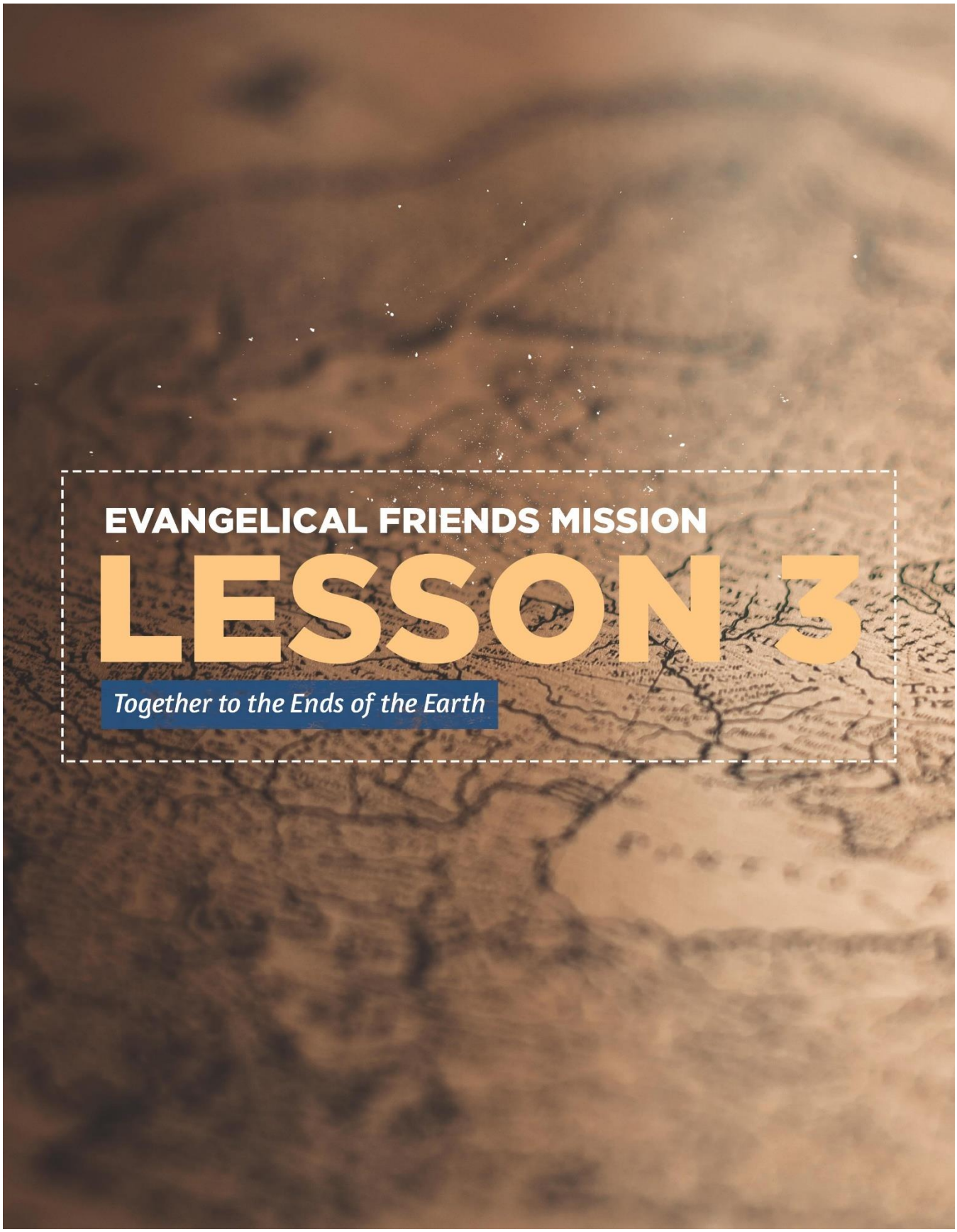
View the video that introduces EFM's Luke 10 Initiative at ***https://youtu.be/gxbnfzo9ues*** or ***www.friendsmission.com/five-year-goal.***

Questions for reflection and action:

- How can Jesus' instructions in Luke chapter 10 be applied to the area where you live? What could your part in reaching your own neighborhood look like?

- Would you like to participate in a Luke 10 Think Tank? How about a Luke 10 Trip? If you are interested in either one please let us know by filling out our **Luke 10 Initiative Form** that can be found at ***www.friendsmission.com/five-year-goal-go.***


Together to the Ends of the Earth


EVANGELICAL FRIENDS MISSION
LESSON 3
Together to the Ends of the Earth

LESSON 3

WHERE DO WE GO NEXT? AND WHO IS GOING TO GO THERE?

Prepared by Dan Cammack



There are still billions of people who don't know Jesus. Jesus still sends his disciples to these people to proclaim the kingdom of God, heal the sick, and cast out demons. We have not yet visited "every town and place" where Jesus is "about to go" (Luke 10:1). So where do we go next?

We have been working with the regions/yearly meetings in North America who are members of EFM to organize Luke 10 Think Tanks. There are **regional think tanks** taking place in the spring of this year. Visit ***www.friendsmission.com/luke-10-think-tanks*** to see the dates of those gatherings. We are anticipating that each of them will identify two or three potential fields to explore. Then, on Wednesday, May 26, representatives from the regional think tanks will gather for the **national Luke 10 Think Tank** to discern together with the EFM Board at least 10 potential new fields to explore during the rest of 2021, 2022, and most of 2023. The representatives will return to their regions and help coordinate the Luke 10 Trips they are in charge of. The potential new fields will be visited at least twice, and the regional think tanks will continue to meet in order to discern which of these should be recommended to the EFM Board for the starting of new work. The Board will approve at least five of these fields in November of 2023.

As you may recall, EFM's Five-Year Goal calls for the launching of five new fields by December 31, 2025. By November of 2023, Lord willing, we should know where those fields are going to be.

The other essential piece of the Five-Year Goal, of course, is the **ten new missionary households** from North America who will help launch these new fields. How will we come up with ten new missionary households?



The first answer to that question is **prayer**. We notice that in Jesus' instructions to the 72 disciples he starts with, *"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field"* (Luke 10:2). So, in order to help carry out this first instruction we have organized monthly prayer gatherings via Zoom. The first one took place in January of this year and more than 20 Friends from across the nation participated. We are calling this prayer effort the **Luke 10:2 Gathering**, and it takes place the second Thursday of every month at 10 AM Pacific Standard Time. Go to ***www.friendsmission.com/prayer-gathering*** to see the dates of the upcoming gatherings and how to become a part of them.

Whether or not you can join the Zoom gatherings we encourage you to join this prayer effort with the help of **EFM's monthly prayer letter**. There is a section in that letter that gives updates and prayer requests related to the Five-Year Goal. Visit ***www.friendsmission.com/pray*** to sign up if you currently don't receive the letter.

We fully believe that the Lord is going to use the Luke 10 Think Tanks and Luke 10 Trips to help raise up and send out at least ten new missionary households. Discerning the place for EFM to send M. and K. L is the fruit of this kind of process. There are others who have been raised up and sent that way as well.



In the previous lesson you probably noticed that those who are open to considering missionary service are included in both the think tanks and trips. We often call these folks our **"future missionaries."** If you are reading these words and you realize that you may be one of those potential future missionaries with whom we should be communicating, please visit ***www.friendsmission.com/five-year-goal-go*** to fill out the **Luke 10 Initiative Form** and Start a conversation with us. They are a crucial piece of the whole Luke 10 discernment process. In fact, it can't really be successful without them. So please pray that these persons will come to the attention of EFM and

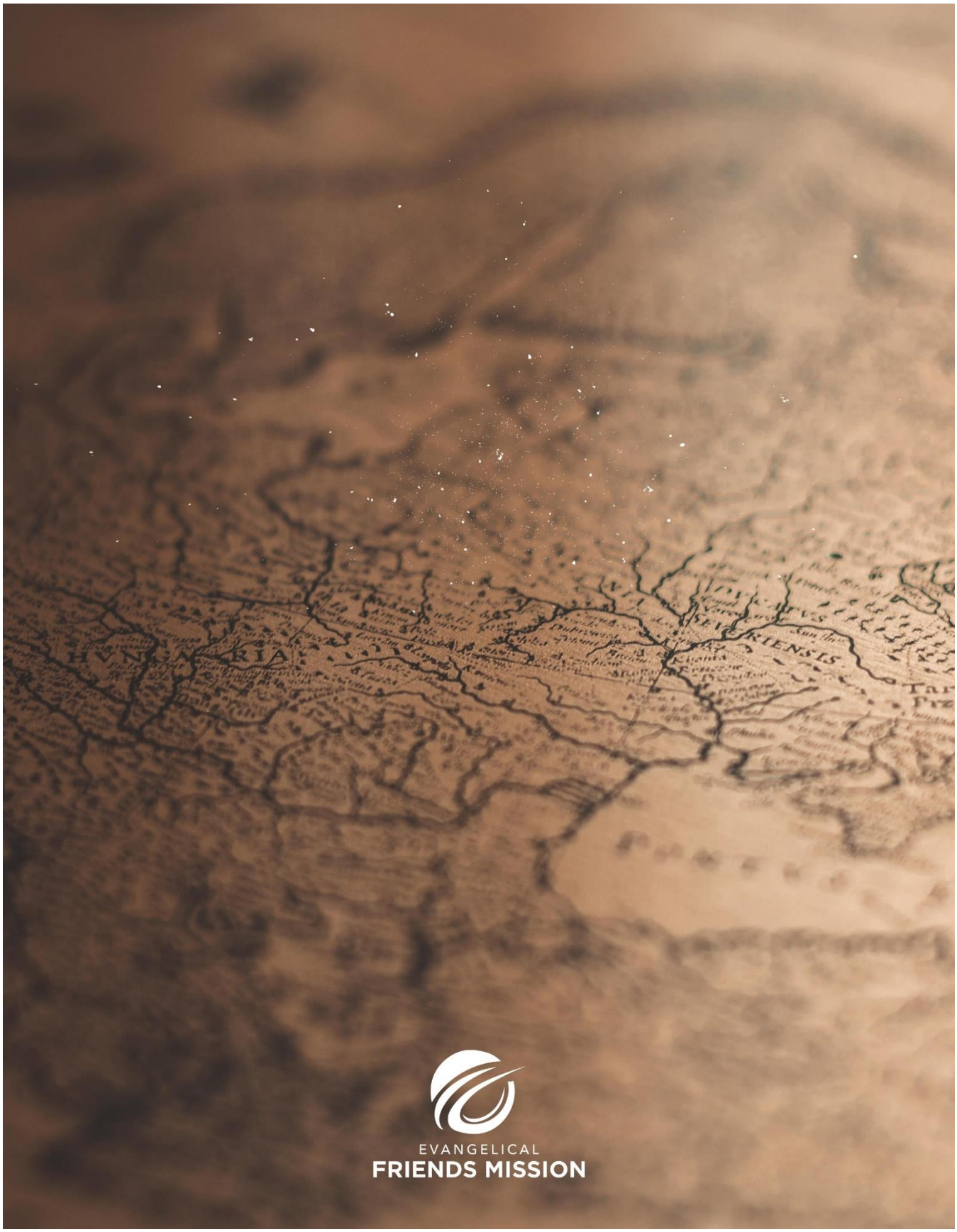
regional/yearly meeting leaders as soon as possible. If you are reading these words and think of someone else who is considering missionary service, please encourage them to take the same step. These are ways in which you can be part of the answer to the Luke 10:2 prayer.

You may be wondering how to know if God is calling you to become a missionary among the unreached peoples of the world. If so, please take a moment to watch this video at ***https://youtu.be/5MNHMeYAJQI***.

Questions for reflection and action:

- Would you be willing to support EFM's Five-Year Goal through prayer by signing up for the Luke 10:2 Gathering? If so, visit ***www.friendsmission.com/prayer-gathering*** to sign up.

- Is the Lord asking you to prayerfully consider becoming a missionary? If so, please let us know by visiting ***www.friendsmission.com/go.***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The Pathway to Becoming a Missionary at EFM

There is no 'one size fits all' for who God Calls to mission service, and there are many different types of people of all ages and stages of life that EFM would seek placements for short term or career missionary service.

You may contact **efm@friendsmission.com** anytime you would like to talk about missions service opportunities. You are encouraged to go to friendsmission.com, look at the "ABOUT" EFM section, and click on "GO," to complete the **online form** for those exploring the idea of being a missionary, so EFM can learn more about you as we interact and consider next steps together. You are also encouraged to learn about EFM's Five Year Goal and EFM's Luke 10 Initiative, and you may wish to complete the **Luke 10 Initiative Form** to join us on this journey! Stay in touch with EFM!

Here are steps that are often followed, in a courting process between EFM and a 'future missionary' before either party makes a decision for long-term career missionary service. After each step, it should be asked: "Does God continue to lead you and Friends towards each other for missions service?"

1. Go on one- or two-week short-term trip/s to visit mission field/s in cross-culture settings, usually in other countries.
2. Study missionary service. Take the Perspectives Course. Learn all you can about missions and cross-cultural acclimation. Hang out with people who have experience serving as missionaries. Ask missionaries and EFM for book recommendations. Consider formal study in missions.
3. Complete a short-term application form with EFM to go on a 2-to-12-month field experience or internship to an EFM mission field. This is a custom-designed field experience based on your interests and EFM's needs/opportunities that you and EFM choose together. EFM recommends, but does not require, a 9-12 month field experience, before applying for career missions service.
4. Meet with a 'clearness committee,' which is a group of friends and church leaders who would listen to your story of calling, help affirm your ministry direction, and make recommendations.
5. If not completed already, visit the place of service you are feeling led to apply for long-term.
6. Apply for long-term career missions service with EFM. After board approval, most missionaries move to the mission field in about 12 months for the first four-year term, after taking the following steps:
   - EFM provides support-raising training.
   - Invite people to partner with you in prayer and commitments for financial support, raising the first half of your missionary support package. Support packages are customized according to the size of your household and the location where you serve, and include full benefits including excellent medical and retirement.
   - Once you reach halfway in support-raising, you start as full time employee with EFM with salary package, get training with Missionary Training International, complete your support-raising to 100%, and complete other preparations for moving.
7. Move to the mission field!