



# Evangelical Friends Mission

## March 2022 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.

### A. and S. M. | Serving in India

Dear Prayer Partners,

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you for your great support to our ministry all these years which enabled us to establish the kingdom of God where it is hard. In 1995, both of us left our jobs to start this ministry among temple prostitutes. In this community prostitution is a traditional religion carried on for generations. God called us to rescue children and women.

We opened a children's home for rescued children and gave them an education and got several of them married during 26 years of our service. Many of them are good Christian wives, and some in full-time ministry. Our home is always open for them to visit us for fun, fellowship, and mentorship. As S. takes the role of a mother and spiritual mentor they look up to her for guidance and support.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought many restrictions for church and evangelistic ministry. Temporarily we shut down churches in all villages. But through phone and internet we held church services and prayer to encourage believers. During the lock-down we had ten young girls staying with us and our pantry was empty. As an organization, we approached the district commissioner for permission to buy in bulk food, grains, and vegetables and provided to those shut in. Also, another wonderful thing to praise God is that we arranged for five of our girls to marry during this time.



Caring Hands is presently helping more children through foster care in their own locations. S. and I visited them last month and had fruitful ministry among them. We help and support HIV+ people who live in utter poverty and hopelessness. They receive monthly rations, counseling, and medical guidance. Our staff minister to them and many have turned to Jesus. A HIV+ family accepted Christ and faced persecution from villagers and relatives. We relocated them and now they are happy and growing spiritually. We have provided a water buffalo to sell the milk for extra financial help. Where there were no churches 27 years ago in this community, today, we have established seven churches. The pastors visit houses for prayer and help when they are in any kind of need or difficult situation.



Persecution has increased in our state. Many churches were ransacked, services disturbed, and pastors arrested. Our personal ministry is taking a change. S. and I are counselling and guiding staff to work independently. We cannot go to certain areas as the police authorities have warned us. They say we evangelize and disturb traditional practices.

Camps for children, youth, ladies, and families are conducted regularly. Ladies' retreats are a great success. The ladies under spiritual bondage and burden come, and S. and her team minister to them. They go back free, uplifted and rejoicing.



Our daughter is studying in Barclay, Kansas. She wants to be a counsellor. We are anxious for her to finish her study and find a Godly life partner. S. & I will be in U.S. from April to September this year. Kindly pray for all our needs and our time there. We three as a family would like to be together for this summer. We appreciate your calls, visits, and invitations. Thank you for your support, love, and provision.

Yours in his grace,  
A. And S. M.

## From the EFM Office

### *Praise God...*

- For the fellowship and meetings that the EFM staff was able to have in Southern California in February. On Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup>, we worshiped at Friends Community Church Brea and had lunch with their missions committee. It was great to be together!
- For the days that Dan Cammack and Rich Miller got to spend with our missionaries in Ireland during the latter part of February. Rich is the pastor of Sherwood Friends Church in Oregon. Again, it was great to be together!

### *Please Pray...*

- For Dan Cammack as he spends about two and a half weeks in Thailand (March 1-18). Thayne Thompson from Evangelical Friends Church-Mid America Yearly Meeting will be with him for the first week. They are hoping to meet with Rupak and Pramila Tamang and a few of the leaders of Evangelical Friends Church Bhutan. Please pray that they will be able to make it to Thailand. The rest of the Thailand visit will be spent in Chiang Rai getting acquainted with The Way Foundation ministry. Ben Kibbe, David Thomas, and Scott Purser will be with Dan during that week.
- For Matt Macy, David Thomas, and Edwin and Maria Giron as they visit Barclay College during the first weekend of March and conduct the annual Personal Evangelism Seminar. This is a seminar that is required of all students before they graduate from the college. It is a great opportunity to talk with young people about whole-life discipleship, apologetics, evangelism, and the worldwide Great Commission.

## 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 work of all the regional teams that are planning Luke 10 exploratory trips to at least 10 areas of the world in 2022. More and more of the details for these trips are falling into place and we look forward to sharing them with you in the near future.
- For the people who are still being added to our list of potential future missionaries. There are at least 100 on that list now!

### *Please Pray...*

- For the Lord of the harvest to send more workers into the harvest fields.
- For wisdom as we continue to learn what it looks like to travel internationally at this point in the COVID-19 pandemic. May we and our regional partners be sensitive to the Lord's leading as we all continue to plan Luke 10 Trips for 2022.

**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 Rupak and Pramila Tamang Serving in Bhutan

### *Praise God...*

- We could move to a good house in Thimphu.
- For the child dedication of pastor Sujit and Sharmila, it was their first girl child.
- For one more new fellowship that started in Thimphu.

### *Please Pray...*

- For the lockdown to open for Bhutan.
- For five of us our bike trip to see rev Dan's team.
- For our boy's college that starts soon- next week.

## From A. and S. M.

### Serving in India

### *Praise God...*

- We visited three towns in which we have ministry going on among women and children. We have church ministry in all these towns. Praising God for opportunities to minister.
- For safety in travel, safety from COVID-19 related diseases, and for safety from anti-Christian people.
- For the opportunity of meeting our married girls and their families. These girls grew up in our Joyful Home under Christian influence.

### *Please Pray...*

- For Annapurna, a young Devadasi (dedicated to religious prostitution) met with an accident. She underwent surgery for fractured pelvic bone. Pray for her recovery, and rehabilitation.
- For Laxmi, also a religious prostitute, and her mother who have given their hearts to Jesus. Pray for their spiritual understanding and growth.
- For Shobha's health- for healing of a sore mouth and renewal of physical strength.

## From Samson and Priscilla Retnaraj

### Serving in Nepal

### *Praise God...*

- Priscilla and I were able to visit our CHE staff at their place of work i.e., Aurahi (Janakpur), Cha'pur (Rautahat), and Jhurjhure (Chitwan) and were blessed to see good things happening in all these places. Most encouraging was to see the work among the Musahar people in Aurahi, Baidehi and Kaptol where we found Dalit families coming together in house fellowships. Please pray for Babli and Arun as they coordinate all these groups and fellowships
- Funds were provided to help start a medical clinic in Aurahi to be run by Arun and Babli to help support the CHE work in the area and to augment the Snake Bite Clinic work.
- The tuition work and CLC in Jhurjhure (Chitwan) were provided with books and stationaries to help sustain the future CHE work. They are also running a small Bible academy to provide for young people and adults in their church and Serena and Gokarna are teaching regularly to a group of 25 adults.

### *Please Pray...*

- For the Discipleship Training being conducted in Cha'pur by Global Disciples and CHE being coordinated by Suleman. Next month on 17th March a small business development training is also being organized in the same place. Please pray for Suleman and Asha and Mrs. Choudhary and Binod from GD as they train a group of 15 persons. Please pray for Ritu and Deborah who are running a house fellowship regularly in the Durmush Foundation campus among Musahar families.
- For the recipients of animal grants (goats, pigs, and chickens) as they have bought and raise these animals and give back the first fruits to their churches.
- For the church building construction at Tapara tole (Bardiya) that they will be able raise the needed funds to complete the building and fittings. Narayan and Gowrie are leading this fellowship and need your prayer support for their ministry and business.

## From B. and D. A.

### Serving in Nepal

### *Praise God...*

- Four new church plants have started in new villages where there are no Christians.

### *Please Pray...*

- For our pastors and leaders as they take the Gospel to difficult places.

**From Abe and Diane Bible  
Serving in Ukraine**  
*Praise God...*

- Diane's wrist is healing, though slowly and rather painfully. However, the x-rays at six weeks were good. Praise to our great physician!
- Abe has the opportunity to meet with four different groups of men every month to train them in evangelism and a large number now in these groups are young men in their teens and early 20's—a major focus for this year. Praise the Lord for their response!
- We did get the funds released for our house, but nothing further has happened towards the purchase. Meanwhile we live in peace every day!

*Please Pray...*

- As we write this, Russia is preparing to attack in the east. How to pray? It is so evil and so unprovoked. Pray that God will have mercy on Ukraine. Pray that the churches would stand strong in faith and hope. And that they would reach out (not sit in their church buildings) and extend the hope of Jesus Christ to all those who are lost and struggling.
- That Abe will continue to have strength for the weekly travels he will be doing through the month of May. Pray for wisdom especially in connecting with this new generation of young people—who must reach THEIR generation with the good news of Christ.
- Pray as we continue to develop resources for a website. We are reviewing all materials and updating and evaluating. This is a heritage that we want to leave for Ukraine as there are limited materials available in Ukrainian language, and some that are out there, are very poor translations. So, we find it worthwhile to invest in a project that should have long-term benefits for pastors and churches here.

**From Voicu and Ana Marian  
Retired EFM Missionaries in Romania**  
*Praise God...*

- God is worthy of all praise for his wonderful works. Instead of decreasing our ministry he is expanding it to more people and more communities. We are serving a very tiny Baptist congregation in Gura Raului. Not having a pastor, Voicu is a trusted elder/worker, leads prayer, serves communion, and helps in different situations. He continues mentoring former Shop students. Ana just started a third group of ladies' bible study. The big surprise is that a couple moms of former English students, (traditional orthodox) joined. For some of these women it is the first time to read the Bible, for others it is the first time to study methodically. The fellowship is amazing!
- We've been healthy and felt God's protection and peace during the latest wave of COVID-19. We are trusting God entirely with the crisis at the border of Ukraine but appreciate continued prayers for our neighbors and for us all.
- Rising cost of utilities created another crisis, but God has given us a shorter and milder winter.

*Please Pray...*

- For continued protection from the enemy's schemes and attacks through fear. There is a prevalent problem with alcoholism and violence in the culture; please pray that God would bring good out of it, salvation of men and women.
- Our son Johnny continues to work with a team in the southern area of Calarasi. We sense the great spiritual battle; please pray against confusion and discouragement, also clear leading for John's future, strength, and peace one day at a time.
- Ana will travel to the U.S. to spend the month of March with Christina. Please pray for safe travels and abundant joy for mom and daughter. Pray for Voicu's protection and fruit for his labor; he has peace with staying in Romania for this time.

**From Crisanto Dela Cruz -PEFIM  
Serving in the Philippines**  
*Praise God...*

- For the successful PEFIM Annual Leadership Conference. We were able to gather 33 participants comprised of church leaders and Pastors from six Metro Manila PEFIM Churches and a newly established outreach from Antipolo.
- For his provision for the Annual Leadership Conference through EFM. Grateful as well that all our participants are healthy, and no one fell ill even though we are still in a pandemic situation.
- For Friends Evangelical Accelerated School of Theology (FEAST)- that God is continually using this ministry to train pastors and church leaders from PEFIM churches and from another church. I am exceedingly grateful that I have just completed teaching an expository preaching class and leadership mentoring class.

*Please Pray...*

- For God's provision and protection when I visit PEFIM churches in Palawan this coming March 19-23. This will be my very first visit to this Island to fellowship with our Friends there since the start of pandemic two years ago.
- For God's protection and provisions for the team of Canyon Hills Friends Church under the leadership of Pastor Carlos and Pastor Larry when they visit the Philippines in April.
- For Friends Evangelical Accelerated School of Theology (FEAST) as we resume the second semester of our classes in the beginning of March.

**From David Thomas  
EFM Whole Life Discipleship**  
*Praise God...*

- For Christian leaders in Bolivia who are interested in whole-life discipleship and in more effectively discipling the poor. Praise God for three young ladies taking the Atlanta Discipling for Development (D4D) ten-month online course, and for all the "aha" moments, personal transformation, and for the ministry values and skills they are learning. Praise God for the opportunity to build relationships and pursue the possibility of starting a Navigator D4D work in Bolivia. We thank God in advance for his blessing, favor, and wisdom to surround the team working on this!
- For raising up young people called into missions work in Bolivia! Thank him for a young Bolivian couple "R&S C" who have dedicated the next two years to mobilizing the Bolivian Friends church (INELA) towards missions! They are also working parttime for a Bolivian missions mobilizing agency. They sense God calling them into limited access countries in the 10/40 Window. Two other young ladies are also called into limited access countries in the 10/40 window.

*Please Pray...*

- For David and Scott Purser and their Thailand Lahu team as they have their first coaching time together in person (trip March 8-19). Pray for a clear understanding of where the D4D team is at, good coaching for what they are facing, and for re-engaging with the Mobilization Phase in the two communities they are working in. Pray for excellent coaching for Dan Cammack and David and for steps towards local sustainability. Pray God's blessing, favor, and grace to surround The Way Foundation team in Chiang Rai, Thailand!
- Thank God for our Rwandan church leaders owning a missionary sending vision and for positive steps to joining EFM in our Luke 10 exploration of possible mission fields in Ethiopia and South Sudan. Pray for Brad Carpenter to thrive in his Masters in missions studies as he learns key lessons to pass on to his Rwandan leaders.