



Evangelical Friends Mission

June 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.

EFM 2022 Future Missionary Retreat

On May 23-26 of this year 17 Friends who are exploring a call to missionary service and 13 missionary mentors met up at Quaker Ridge Camp in Colorado for the second annual Future Missionary Retreat. The first retreat was held a year ago at the same location. Six of the potential missionaries and 11 of the missionary mentors who came to this year's retreat were also at the first one.



What regions/yearly meetings did the potential missionaries come from?

- Seven came from Evangelical Friends Church-Eastern Region (EFC-ER)
- Seven came from Evangelical Friends Church-Mid America Yearly Meeting (EFC-MAYM)
- Two came from Friends Southwest (FSW)
- One came from Northwest Yearly Meeting (NWYM)

Most of these participants were young adults. A few of them are still in high school. It is so encouraging to see young people who are eager to serve the Lord and are seeking his direction for their lives!



Who were the missionary mentors?

- Ron and Carolyn Stansell who served in Bolivia under NWYM
- Dave and Cindy Aufrance who served in Hong Kong under OMS and with close ties to EFC-ER
- Gene and Myra Pickard who served in Guatemala under FSW
- Duane and Lois Davis who served in Honduras and El Salvador under FSW
- David Thomas who served in Rwanda under EFM and continues as EFM's Whole-Life Discipleship Mentor
- Edwin and Maria Giron who served in Mexico under EFM (Maria continues as EFM's Missions Mobilizer for Hispanic Friends)
- Dan Cammack who served in Peru under NWYM and is EFM's Field Director
- Matt Macy who serves as EFM's Director of Mobilization

All of the mentors spent time getting to know the potential missionaries and responding to their questions. Most of the mentors also gave workshops on topics like these:

- Discerning God's Will (Davises)
- Key Missions Principles and Practices (Stansells)
- Preparing to Be a Missionary (Pickards)
- Ministering Cross-Culturally (Aufrances)

Brad Carpenter, who serves with his family as EFM missionaries in Rwanda, was able to do a session of the retreat via Zoom. He shared their journey with God towards missions and explained how to do a timeline of that kind of journey. Afterwards the potential missionaries prepared timelines of their own and shared them in small

groups with their mentors. Another EFM missionary, B. A., who serves in Nepal with his wife, D., was at Quaker Ridge and gave a message entitled, "What God Has Taught me through the Years." It ended with a powerful time of prayer for all the potential missionaries.

On the last day of the retreat all the potential missionaries and their mentors got to spend time with the EFM Board which was starting its first day of meetings. It was a great opportunity for board members to meet those who are seeking God's direction for their lives, and for the latter to meet those who may have a role in sending them out as missionaries someday. There was a good time of prayer and fellowship.

Here are some ways that you can be praying for the potential missionaries:

- That God would continue to put the right people in their lives to help guide them in the discerning of his will for their lives.
- That they would continue to grow in their walk with the Lord and with the churches that they are part of.
- That they would have eyes to see and ears to hear what the Lord of the harvest is calling them to do (and where).



From the EFM Office

Praise God...

- For the two days of EFM boarding meetings that took place at Quaker Ridge Camp in Colorado on May 26 and 27. Rusty Savage from EFC-ER concluded four years of service as the Board's chairperson, and Christy Neifert of Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting was chosen to succeed him. Sung Kim, who is a pastor and missions director in FSW, was also chosen as the vice-chair, and Marva Hoopes of EFC-ER to take minutes.
- For the good number of church leaders from across North America who participated in the training event that was held at Quaker Ridge prior to the EFM board meetings and parallel with the Future Missionary Retreat. They focused on the topic of "How to Create a Sending Culture in the Local Church."
- For the sense of unity that we have as evangelically minded Friends in North America as we dedicate ourselves anew to carrying out the Great Commission of Jesus Christ at home and abroad.
- For the new part-time administrative assistant who is joining the EFM staff and starts work on June 1.

Please Pray...

- For the EFM staff as they follow up on decisions that were made during the EFM board meetings.
- For all the good things that happened at Quaker Ridge during May 23-27 to translate into blessings for all our regions/yearly meetings, mission fields, international partners, and those who do not yet know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

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 Future Missionary Retreat that took place at Quaker Ridge Camp in Colorado on May 23-26. See the front page of this edition of the prayer letter for a report about that retreat.
- For the encouraging report received from the Luke 10 Exploration Trip that took place April 19-29 in Mexico. Sixteen cities were visited in an under-evangelized part of Mexico. Follow up is happening even now with many of those who expressed interest in becoming part of evangelical churches.

Please Pray...

- For the Lord of the harvest to send more workers into the harvest fields.
- For the potential missionaries who have been participating in the Future Missionary Retreats, Future Missionary Trips, and the Luke 10 Exploration Trips. Pray that they will have ears to hear and eyes to see all the Lord is teaching them through these activities.
- For the three Luke 10 Exploration Trips that are happening this month. Here are the destinations, dates, and team members:
 - Ecuador; May 30-June 16; Ken Comfort (NWYM), Jerry and Kerri Clarkson (NWYM), Edwin and Maria Giron (FSW and Maria as EFM Missions Mobilizer for Hispanic Friends), Rebecca Reimer (EFC-MAYM and potential missionary), Jael Ayala (EFC-Mexico and potential missionary), and Beatriz Apaza (Bolivia Yearly Meeting and potential missionary)
 - Greece; May 30-June 10; Jim LeShana (NWYM), Ken Dirrim (FSW and currently serving as a missionary in Greece), Ron Maestas (FSW), Jan Cammack (NWYM), Josiah Muhr (NWYM and potential missionary), and Libby Penrose (EFC-MAYM and potential missionary)
 - Eastern Europe; June 15-22; Jonelle and Fred Liddell and their son, Alex (NWYM), Stan Leach (FSW and EFM Executive Director), and Vivian Titus (EFC-MAYM and potential missionary)

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/five-year-goal-pray/> some prayer points and the link for the gathering a few days before the event.

From Gabriel and Suzana Massey

Serving in India

Praise God...

- For the safety in these summer months. This year it was unusually hot.
- #### *Please Pray...*
- For the summer holidays- May 14th to June 19th- for the safety of students and staff.
 - For the working of the Mission Hospital in Chhatarpur. For the students and faculty of the nursing school.
 - That the board examinations of Class X and XII will go on smoothly till June 6th.

From Voicu and Ana Marian

Retired EFM Missionaries from Romania

Praise God...

- The lady's retreat was a big blessing for the twenty participants. We sensed the spiritual battle preceding to it, but God moved in a powerful way, and we see the effects in many lives. One lady with teenage daughters, who seemed to have solid grounds to divorce her husband, now decided to forgive him and to fight for her marriage.
- We had a public testimony of baptism in our small church. Ana, (a twelfth-grade student) and Petru, (a grandfather in his fifties) testified their faith and desire to follow Christ. Their decisions have a wide impact in their families and larger community.
- God is constantly confirming his Word. We are now seeing fruit from seeds sowed twenty years ago, not only in that generation but in those that followed. We are amazed by the wide impact of merely teaching kids and loving them in the Name of Jesus.

Please Pray...

- Those who recently took a public testimony of baptism are going through hard testing. Ana's father is known as a hopeless alcoholic, and her mom, who is a believer is depressed from a long-time trauma. Petru has recovered from alcohol and violence, but now the wife considers his "new religion" a shame and threatens with divorce. Please pray against Satan's strongholds in these communities, pride in tradition being taught early in school and then reinforced by the traditional religious establishment.
- We need special wisdom for daily life and service, but also for important decisions regarding the future. Thank you for praying God's protection for our family; lately we've been under heavier physical and spiritual attacks, we feel like we're running out of steam.

From Abe and Diane Bible

Serving in Ukraine

Praise God...

- As we write this, we have already traveled 4,000 miles in North America safely and in good health. We are so grateful to the Lord.
- Everywhere we have gone people have received us warmly and their hearts are compassionate to Ukraine and the suffering there.

Please Pray...

- We will be in Canada the whole month of June and then returning to the United States for July and August. A trip that will entail 10,000 miles. Pray that we would meet only God's appointments and touch hearts that he has prepared.
- We look to open 100 distribution/ministry centers this fall and winter across Ukraine through our Ukrainian brothers and sisters to meet not only physical needs but emotional and spiritual needs. Pray that God would already prepare the hearts of 100 couples in Ukraine to take this opportunity for the kingdom of God.
- Continue to pray that God would have mercy upon Ukraine and bring this war to a halt. But we know even if the war does not stop in the near future, Ukrainians are looking to return. And the most critical help they can receive is the Lord of peace—regardless of the tumult around them.

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

Praise God...

- A new young man, Zoli, started to go to our church in November. Zoli received Jesus earlier and he wants to make a public testimony of baptism. He is working in Germany now. We will organize a public testimony of baptism at Pentecost and Zoli will come back home.
- Three weeks ago, we started to renovate the church house of Tolna: puttying, painting, and carpet replacement. We had to get together at work, and we will finish it this week with cleaning. Our God sent his strength to us.
- Last Saturday we were in Budapest with a handcraft team. Susan, the local community house manager invited us to a family picnic again. We made spring handcrafts with the interested children, and we invited them and their parents/grandparents to our church in Budapest. It was a great opportunity.

Please Pray...

- For my father-in-law, Árpád. He is in a horrible condition. Last week, he went home from the hospital. He can't move, he just lays down. He has big ulcers on his legs, and he has a heart problem too. We don't know what God's will in Árpád's life is, we can just pray for him. Please, continue to pray with us!
- One of our co-workers, Kate has a problem in her family. Her husband, Andrew, fell four meters from a high tree, when he worked. He is 70 years old. Thanks to God, he "just" has a vertebral fracture. He can't move and can only lay down. Andrew is unbeliever, so it's difficult to accept his position. We believe that God has a good plan with Andrew.
- We will be organizing a public testimony of baptism soon. Please, pray for new faces with us, because some people from Budapest and from Tolna are still thinking of making this decision.

**From David Thomas
EFM Whole Life Discipleship**

Praise God... (Thailand)

- For Yosapa's work in mentoring people in the villages of JaSawPa, and JaTaw. Thank God for excellent relationships he has and is building with various community leaders. Thank God for his holistic approach, for a teachable spirit, and passion to see these villages transform!

Please Pray... (Thailand)

- For Scott Purser and David Thomas on their Thailand trip, the 10th -18th of June and especially for their coaching days Monday the 13th - Friday 17th. Pray for excellent translation for the new translators, Achi, Julie, and Jason! Pray for a clear understanding for why mobilizing their community is important and how it is done, and for a deep commitment to see this accomplished! Pray they would catch a vision for the power of the problem-solving process as we take them through the process of working through a specific problem they are facing.

Praise God... (Bolivia)

- For three young Bolivian leaders with an interest in missions who are studying in Atlanta's 10-month online D4D course! Praise God for our Atlanta D4D team facilitating this course! Praise God for new ideas, learning and excitement in these three leaders.

Please Pray... (Bolivia)

- For these three ladies to be able to learn all God has for them through this course. Pray for them to balance well their studies and work and ministries. Pray God's wisdom, favor, grace, and blessing over their practically working out and contextualizing the Good News in their places.
- For wisdom and favor and Holy Spirit's clear leading for Gary and Merri Lee Hipp and David Thomas as they navigate the journey towards forming the partnerships needed for establishing a potentially new D4D work in Bolivia.