



# Evangelical Friends Mission

## July 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.

### Maria Giron | Missions Mobilizer for Hispanic Friends

As a way to praise the Lord for a successful Luke 10 Exploration Trip to Ecuador, I would like to share with all of you a glance of our many adventurous experiences during our time in the beautiful amazon jungle of Ecuador.

First of all, I would like to express our gratitude to everyone that joined our team by praying and giving. I want you to know that we clearly saw God at work starting by always experiencing his protection over each member of our team. We felt safe all the time, none of us suffered severe sickness (some only had minor stomach issues). It was amazing to see how at only a couple of days before taking off, all the finances needed to cover the trip's costs were supplied and even above the expected. And at every experience we were able to live, we knew Jesus was present.



Our first experience emerging and touching the Shuar culture was astounding. This happened at the Shuar community Tuwasip near Palora where we were welcome by their tribe's chief and his son. After dinner we kept sat down and listen to the chief share about their people's traditions and cosmovision. While we were listening to his stories, something unexpected happened, God surprised us with the visit of the chief's mother who joined us and sat with us. She started telling us that she was already a Christian and was very happy with our visit!! The most impacting moment was when, out of her own words, she invited us to come and teach their children and grandchildren about the gospel of Jesus. She even mentioned that there is land available to build a church. Those words from the mother had a great impact on our hearts, we knew that it was God confirming why we were there and showing us, at that moment, that indeed the harvest is plentiful and ready.



It is known that there are still tribes of Shuars held in the remoteness of the Amazon jungle that know very little about the gospel or even have not heard of Jesus Christ. We were fortunate to have the opportunity to get to know a little more about them by traveling in little canoes up the Amazon River for over two hours, arriving at a village where we met a small group of Evangelical Christians. There we learned that for the Shuar it is very significant that visitors accept their drinks and food to be accepted in their village, so we were tested to see if we love the people by how we responded to the food they offered us. We were able to taste from freshly collected alive worms, fish, rooster soup, snails, and other jungle delicacies. We are thankful that we were blessed by meeting Carlos, a Christian Shuar, that was our guide and our way to be able to be accepted and enter the Shuar village.



We are also grateful to have been able to meet leaders and missionaries who are dedicating their lives to the hard work of evangelizing the Shuar people, as was the case of a Korean family that has been living and working with the Shuar for almost eight years. We could see exhaustion in them, she even had the freedom to expressed, with tears in her eyes, some of their great challenges facing as family and the rejection that their nine- and ten-year-old boys have suffered from the local kids. Her testimony touched our hearts, and so we were happy to be able to visit them, encourage them, hug them, and pray for them. We also appreciate the contact we had with other leaders and men of peace that God allowed us to be encountered with so that we could carry out the exploration trip in effective ways.

Please join us in praising the Lord that we were able to have the joy of navigating deeper into the culture of the Shuar people. We surely now have grown in love, respect, and compassion for those that has not yet been reached with the love and grace of Jesus Christ.

Serving Him,  
Maria Giron



## **From the EFM Office**

### **Praise God...**

- For Krista Gonzales, our new administrative assistant, who is quickly learning her role on the EFM staff. Krista and her family are based in San Diego, California. Krista is answering calls made to the EFM phone number as well as checking messages that come to the EFM email address. She is also assisting other staff members with some of the things that are on their plates.
- For the encouraging notes that the staff receives from those who support the ministries of EFM through prayer and financial giving.

### **Please Pray...**

- For the annual sessions that are taking place in many of the yearly meetings/regions in the U.S. during the month of July. EFM staff will be present at most of these sessions. Here are the dates and regions: Alaska Yearly Meeting, July 6-10; EFC-Eastern Region, July 15-18; Northwest Yearly Meeting, July 16-20; Iowa Yearly Meeting, July 28-30; Indiana Yearly Meeting, also July 28-30; and EFC-MAYM, July 29-31.
- All of these gatherings require quite a bit of travel for many people, so please pray for safety on the roads and in the air. But, even more than that, pray for the presence of the Lord to be especially powerful in these events and for all those who experience it to return to their places of ministry with renewed vision and next steps to implement.

### **EFM Five-Year Goal:**

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

### **Praise**

- For the three Luke 10 Teams that returned safely from their exploration trips to Ecuador, Greece, and Eastern Europe. We have already been encouraged by the reports we have seen and heard from these teams, and we're looking forward to sharing reports with you via email and the Luke 10:2 Gatherings (see Special Announcement below).
- For the encounters these teams had in the countries they visited, both with believers and nonbelievers.

### **Please Pray...**

- For the Lord of the harvest to send more workers into the harvest fields.
- For the nonbelievers who met the four Luke 10 Teams that have gone out so far. May seed sown in Mexico, Ecuador, Greece, and Eastern Europe begin to show signs of new life in Jesus Christ.
- For the other Luke 10 Teams that are preparing for their exploration trips. We anticipate six more teams going out before the end of this year. The destinations are NE Brazil, Dubai, SE Asia, Northern India, Tanzania, and South Sudan.

**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 D.K. and Choity Sarkar**

### **Serving in India**

### **Praise God...**

- That our Annual General Meeting was very good. All the staff from different places could come and attend the meeting.
- That we could take some revolutionary decisions to make our mission as a missionary sending mission. Each church commits a certain amount each month for a missionary outside of our state.
- My wife Bhaswati (Choity) was very sick on her knee. But now she is much better.

### **Please Pray...**

- That a Bible school will start this month in Uttarakhand.
- For the churches so that they might keep the missionary sending attitude in the future.
- For me as I have to travel a few fields within India.

## **From Maria Giron**

### **Serving as the Missions Mobilizer for Hispanic Friends**

### **Praise God...**

- For a great Luke 10 Exploration trip to Ecuador full of experiences and divine encounters.
- For his care and protection throughout the time we were interned in the Amazon jungle.
- I am grateful for each person who was part of our team. Each one contributed, with their experience, personality, and spiritual gifts, to make the trip meaningful.

### **Please Pray...**

- Please join EFM to pray for our future in connection with the Shuar people.
- For our mobilizing ministry as we share with Yearly Meetings, churches, and individuals about the need at these explored places and for workers who are willing to say "Here I am, Lord, send me" to Mexico or Ecuador. May the Spirit of God touch many hearts and may we recruit and send many more.

## **From Tony and Agi Frei**

### **Serving in Hungary**

### **Praise God...**

- At Pentecost, we could organize a special day, because we held a general church meeting, when everybody was together in the renovated church house of Tolna. After that, in the afternoon, we had a public testimony of baptism. As I wrote you earlier, a new member of the church of Tolna, - called Zoli - received Jesus and he was part of a public testimony of baptism with six brothers/sisters (from Ozora, Budapest, Tolna, Kölked and Serbia). Józsi bácsi's (who is a local pastor of Kölked) daughter, Eve, also took a public testimony of baptism. She lives in London.
- In the middle of June, a team from EFM visited us for some days. EFM's director, Stan Leach was with the group. We had a blessed time together. We were in Tolna on the first day for a praying occasion. On the other days we served God in the mission, and we visited new places to show God's love to the people (Vukovar, Osijek – Croatia, Sombor – Serbia) and Budapest. We had great experiences with God. For example, we got to know a young lady – called Diana – with her husband and little son in Osijek. Diana can speak Croatian, English and Hungarian perfectly, and she is an English teacher. We met twice and we could be friends with them. Maybe Osijek city will be our new mission place. Praise the Lord, the American brothers and sisters arrived home successfully.
- On the last Sunday morning (when we wanted to go to Vukovar), our co-workers' son, Peter (a young serving man) and Zoli had a car accident in Tolna. But praise to the Lord, he was with them and there wasn't a tragedy. Zoli went home from the hospital yesterday. Glory to God, he could make a testimony for some people in the hospital.

### **Please Pray...**

- For the proceedings of Peter's accident and for the full recovery of Zoli. He had CT and it showed that Zoli has a little hemorrhage in his head because of the car accident. He has a pain in his neck, but he is getting better now, and he is relaxing at home.
- For our journey because I would like to go to Ukraine in July with a brother from our church of Tolna. Our co-worker, Sylvia is from Ukraine, but now she lives in Tolna. We could get in touch with her relatives from abroad, so we will take donations to Nagyszőlős (which is a city in Ukraine with lots of Hungarian people). We also take donations and help for those who suffer from the war. Please, pray for our blessed journey that we can help these poor people.
- For the youth of Hungary. Unfortunately, there are so many depressed teenagers in our country. They are lonely, they are hungry for love and some of them try to commit suicide. My younger daughter, Betti works as an English teacher in a vocational high school, and she asked to pray for them because she sees how big the problem is around them.

**From Kathi Perry  
Serving in Ireland**  
**Praise God...**

- The baby group started up in April and continues to be a great time each week with new and returning mums.
- I am thankful for the opportunity to step out of some responsibilities and continue my sabbatical time that was interrupted by a pandemic!

**Please Pray...**

- For direction as the baby group will break for the summer, and I will be making decisions about how to continue ministry in the fall.
- One possibility for ministry is the registration of my social work credentials in Ireland. Pray for the application that I will submit and for an approved "Return to Practice" plan that will open up opportunities here.
- I will be speaking at a camp (for teens and young adults) in Northern Ireland July 8-15. Please pray for preparations and open hearts (mine as well). Thank you!

**From Voicu and Ana Marian  
Retired EFM Missionaries from Romania**

**Praise God...**

- For daily opportunities to shine the light of Christ in the community by loving and serving the young and old. Several children and youth sought us for summer English lessons, and Voicu continues to mentor men while working on their projects in his wood shop.
- For visible effects in the lives of ladies who participate in Bible studies, which spreads wide into their families. We are also blessed to hear about former students, now with their own families, in whose hearts the Word remained and is bearing fruit for God's glory.

**Please Pray...**

- That we'd live with joy and be God's light and salt among these people, and not be overcome by the spirit of fear and negativism that is so prevalent around. That we'd invest our time and energy wisely.
- For God to send out workers in this field, the harvest is ripe and plentiful indeed, but there is also much need for sowing.
- We built the house in Orlat and dedicated it to Christ's purposes until his return. However, as we've got older the upkeep of the property has become increasingly difficult for the two of us, so please pray for the Lord's will with it. We are considering selling unless God is showing us a different plan.

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

**Praise God...**

- We finished traveling from Ohio to Seattle, up to Vancouver, across Canada back to Ohio—over 8,000 miles and God protected all of the way. Our little 22-year-old car made it with only a new tire needed. Thank You, Lord.
- People met us warmly everywhere as we shared about the refugee and internally displaced in Ukraine. We had about 100 meetings of different kinds from individuals to small groups to church congregations in two months' time.
- God has provided a house for us to live in for the rest of our time in the States. We are so grateful for the generosity of people and the graciousness of the Lord.

**Please Pray...**

- We will be based in Ohio until August 31 and will continue to "share our care" with people. Pray as people and churches and foundations consider supporting the 100 "Centers of Hope" which we desire to see opened across Ukraine.
- The war is taking many lives of our Ukrainian men. As we write this up to 200 men a day are dying. That is not taking into account the number of Russian men. Pray that God would see fit to end this useless slaughter and devastation.
- That the Lord would give us insights in what needs to happen this fall when we return to Ukraine. We will go to England to see supporters there in September so we will get to Ukraine in later September. Nothing will happen ministry wise until people have harvested whatever they have managed to plant.

**From David Thomas  
EFM Whole Life Discipleship**  
**Praise God... (Thailand)**

- For a great coaching week together with our Thailand Lahu D4D team in June! David Thomas and Scott Purser are coaching them through the beginning of the Mobilization Phase in their three chosen communities. David gave them an example of the Mobilization process by leading them through an intensive two-day simulation (gathering their strengths and barriers to growth, analyzing these, prioritizing the list and coming up with their unique curriculum of the key topics they need to be discipled in). He used The Way Foundation families as the "community", and they are already planning how to disciple their team in these topics. Day two they experienced the Problem-Solving Process applied to the topic of financial stewardship.

**Please Pray... (Thailand)**

- For The Way Foundation families as they apply their discipling plan, that God's kingdom come powerfully among them as they seek to "*not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of (their) minds, then (they) will know God's good, pleasing, and perfect will!*" (Matthew 6:10, Romans 12:2). John 10:10 says, "*The thief comes to kill, steal, and destroy, but (Jesus came) that they might have life abundantly!*" Pray for God's favor, grace, blessing, and abundant life purposes to rest on them as they partner with God to bring his transformation to their own lives.
- For the D4D team as they learn this process and apply it in their three villages. Pray for wisdom, insight, clear understanding of the purpose of the lessons, and pray God's abundant favor over them!

**From Dave and Cindy Aufrance  
Retired Missionaries from Hong Kong**

**Praise God...**

- We are profoundly grateful for Dave's successful surgery on June 22.
- We are in awe at God's protection over our daughter and family throughout a challenging May. Becki is recovering well from her ten foot fall off a ladder resulting in a concussion and four cracked vertebrae.
- We thank Father for continuing to guide us in how to best serve him in this season of our lives. Grateful for the opportunity to mentor future missionaries and others God brings to us.

**Please Pray...**

- Continue praying for Dave's full recovery from surgery. The surgeon anticipates a week in hospital and six to eight weeks until he is able to resume a more active lifestyle.
- Keep our brothers and sisters in HK in your prayers. Ongoing political, economic, and religious changes are increasingly challenging for HK people. Pray his people will be salt and light in dark times.
- We are seeking God's guidance as we pray about more opportunities to serve the international community in our city. We have put some things on hold until after Dave's recovery.