



# Evangelical Friends Mission

## August 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.

### D.K. and Choity Sarkar | West Bengal, India



Dear Praying Friends,

Greetings in his precious name. By his grace and because of your ceaseless prayers, the ministry of EFM Kolkata has grown up. We are grateful to God for all his mercy, and we are also grateful to you all for your prayers and support. God bless each one of you. There are a few areas, in which our ministry has grown.

**Muslim Ministry** – Murshidabad is an unreached district. Seventy-two percent of the population is Muslim. We have been working there for a few years but did not get good results. In 2021, we held a program praying especially for the Muslim community. The title is “How to Reach the Muslim People.” It was a one-year program. We targeted for ten young people to come to the Lord from the Muslim community, who were willing to work voluntarily for one year. Seven young people committed their lives for one year. We trained them and sent them in the district of Murshidabad and Nadia where most of the people are Muslim. By God's grace, we got good results. Sixteen people from the Muslim community came and accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. They made a public testimony of baptism on May 6 Kolkata. There are few more who are waiting to do this. Sixteen house churches were started by these people. Praise the Lord. Please pray for this ministry.

**North Bengal Ministry** – After much prayer, God opened a door in the North Part of West Bengal. We got a good couple from Siliguri which is the gateway of Northeast India. Their names are Asis Tinku Lal and his wife Dorji Lal. They live in Siliguri, and they will work in the entire district of Darjeeling. They have two kids. They have started a church in the city of Siliguri. Please pray for them.



Moarjem Ali, a leader.



Left: Moarjem Ali, Niamuddin Shaik, Morlem Shaik, Nurhaque Shaik, Rahim Box, Subarna Mondal and Kamrul Islam. Seven workers for Muslim Community. Middle and Right: Asis Tinku Lal is preaching in his fellowship named Siliguri Friends Church and then after the meeting food is ready for the believers.

**Sending Missionaries** – In our last Annual General Meeting, we took a decision that EFM Kolkata will send missionaries beyond West Bengal. Our churches will contribute as per their strength. A few churches will contribute 500.00 Rupees per month and most of the churches will contribute 1000.00 per month. From July to December 2022, the money will be gathered and in January 2023, a new missionary will be appointed. There are two places – Tamil Nādu and Nagaland. Please pray for God's guidance so that we may choose the right place and right person.

We are preparing ourselves to visit America. May God bless us to get visa, tickets etc.

Thank you very much for your support and prayers. Let the Holy Spirit bless us, strengthen us, and guide us. God bless you all.

D. K. Sarkar



## From the EFM Office

### *Praise God...*

- For the yearly meeting sessions that took place during the month of July in Alaska, Ohio, Oregon, Indiana, Iowa, and Kansas. All of these were in person, and all of them had at least one person there representing EFM. It is a joy to be with Friends across the nation and to see what God is doing in and through us.
- That he chooses us to be his witnesses locally, regionally, and globally. Thank him for these opportunities wherever you may be.

### *Please Pray...*

- For Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting's Summer Gathering that is taking place at Quaker Ridge Camp in Colorado August 11-14.
- For the EFM staff as they gather in Newberg, Oregon for a staff retreat August 24-28.

## 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 short video that was recently produced featuring the future missionary portion of EFM's Luke 10 Initiative. If you haven't seen it yet, please [click here](#) and rejoice with us over what God is doing in our midst to raise up workers for his harvest fields.
- For the encouraging responses we received during the regional yearly meeting sessions to the reports about the Luke 10 Initiative (future missionary activities, Luke 10 Exploration Trips, etc.). It feels like there is a sense of hope and excitement about the future of missions in the Friends movement.

### *Please Pray...*

- For the Lord of the harvest to send more workers into the harvest fields.
- For the Future Missionary Training Trip that is taking place August 5-20 in Central Africa. The Future Missionaries attending this trip include three from eastern region: Grace Broschke, Ellie Ware, and Eric Johr, and from Mid America Nathan Macy. Thomas Moore, who made connections with Evangelical Friends through his time in Southwest, will also be there as he begins his one year field experience in Rwanda.
- For the Luke 10 Exploration Trip 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 Thomas Moore

### **Serving as a Short-Term Missionary in Rwanda**

#### *Praise God...*

- For all of those supporting me while I'm in Rwanda for the year.
- I'm grateful to the Carpenters for their wonderful hospitality and care as I get settled in here.
- For how welcoming the Rwanda Friends have been as I begin my time in Rwanda.

#### *Please Pray...*

- That I would come in a spirit of humility and that of a learner as I start my time here.
- That I would make many God-ordained connections with others working here during my time at the Kumbaya conference.
- For God's leading and working through all those involved in the Future Missionary trip in Rwanda this month.

## From D.K. and Choity Sarkar

### **Serving in India**

#### *Praise God...*

- We could visit two new churches: Debagram Friends Church and Siliguri Friends Church. Both churches are doing well. The leaders are very good and are leading their churches well.
- I went to Bangladesh and met with our Bangladesh Friends Church leader A.A. and his family. I also met my relatives in Barishal district for a memorial service. My travel was good and safe.
- I could visit Chhoghori Friends Church, which is in Murshidabad District and the members are from a Muslim background. There was a goal for this church to meet for one year. The church is doing a good job and has almost fulfilled their goal.

#### *Please Pray...*

- We are gathering money for a missionary outside West Bengal. Our plan is to send them in January 2023. Please pray that we may get a God fearing and committed believer of Christ as our missionary.
- Our Debogram brother, Mr. Niamuddin Shaik, gave land for the church building in Nadia district. Kolkata Friends Church gave him some money to build the building. Please pray that he might complete the building and it be glorifying to God.
- I have submitted my passport for visa for U.S. Please pray so that there will be no problem to get the visa.

## From A. and M.A.

### **Serving in Bangladesh**

#### *Praise God...*

- That one more church has been planted on June 26 in the eastern part of Bangladesh. Now we have a total of 34 active Friends churches in Bangladesh. This church has been planted by Mafuza and her team from M-Background. Praise the Lord.
- We praise the Lord that none of our church people has faced severe food problems during this flood. We were able to distribute food to 32 flood-affected families through a local partner. Pray that the flood water goes down quickly, and people will not face any more difficulties because of the flood.
- That we are able to plant 100 hybrid papaya trees in our church land at Kanaidia. Pray that it will produce much papaya and we can support our local ministry.

#### *Please Pray...*

- To protect the believer's family from satanic attacks. Many believer's families are now separated or divorced. We have never seen so much broken family before. Pray that the Lord will help them to be reunited.
- That every Friends church may form small prayer groups to pray. Ask God to prepare prayer warriors in every corner of the country.
- For our Lay Leadership Training, Sunday school teachers' Training, and Radio Home Group Facilitator Training in the first week of August. Pray that many youth leaders may be equipped for the movement.

## From Kathi Perry

### **Serving in Ireland**

#### *Praise God...*

- I spent a week in Northern Ireland speaking at a camp for young people aged 14 and up. It was wonderful to be back at camp and sharing about our identity in Christ, catching up with friends, and laughing together.
- I appreciated a week in Wales for a silent retreat (as part of the completion of sabbatical that was interrupted by COVID-19). It was challenging and also relaxing and peaceful.

#### *Please Pray...*

- Over the summer I am working to complete the research for my Capstone Project for an M.A. in Practical Theology at Barclay College. Pray that this will go smoothly, and I will gather the data I need.
- For the young people who were at camp in July. Pray that they would remember that they are beloved, precious, enough, and reflect the imagination and creativity of Christ.

**From Molly Morton**  
**Serving in Ireland**  
*Praise God...*

- My brother, Mark and his family visited me for a whole week, and I already miss them. We got to visit Blarney Castle and the Cliffs of Moher, we went swimming in the Irish sea, and they met my co-workers at the Naz. It was a lovely week and I'm grateful they got to come see my ministry context so soon after arriving.
- We will be able to conduct the annual Kids Craft and Cookery Camp this year for the first time in three years. It's a welcome sign that we are "getting back to normal." We are excited to hosts kids from the surrounding community for this anticipated camp.
- We have been welcoming several new families to the Naz each Sunday and they keep coming back!! Our little congregation is expanding with all different kinds of families from all over Ireland and the world.

*Please Pray...*

- It was very hard to watch my family get on a plane last week. Please pray for my homesickness as I feel it increasing again. I am so grateful for their visit, but it was so hard to watch them go.
- I am on the preaching schedule for August 21, and I've already begun preparation. Please pray for stamina and focus as I prepare and confidence in the Holy Spirit when I preach.
- As we prepare for our kids camp, that we would have enough volunteers, that kids would experience Christ's love through our church community and that we wouldn't get distracted by logistics and minute details.

**From Maria Giron**  
**Serving as the Missions Mobilizer for Hispanic Friends**  
*Praise God...*

- I am grateful for the opportunity that God gave us to share with our brothers and sisters at Alaska Yearly Meeting. We enjoyed praising the Lord together, listening to testimonies and meditating together on the Word of God. Thank you to AYM for the opportunities my husband was given to preach the word and my sharing about EFM.
- For the opportunity to have been part of the EFC-ER YM sessions. God allowed Edwin to be one of the speakers.
- We thank God for his care and protection on every trip we have made this summer. We have grown in different areas, and it has been a time of much learning.

*Please Pray...*

- Please continue to pray for the Mexico Yearly Meeting church planting project VM32. For the couples who are preparing to go out and pray for more courageous people of God who could say "Here I am Lord, send me".
- For wisdom as we continue to coach four couples of new planters.
- For a time to rest that we now need to recharge and to be able to continue with the different tasks that God has placed in our hands.

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

- For safe travel and many good meetings, including EFC-ER Yearly Meeting.
- The coming of our daughter Priscilla, who lives in Ukraine, and our granddaughter Ellie for a family gathering next week.
- For special moments to be with children and grandchildren and to treasure them.

*Please Pray...*

- August is full of many meetings. Pray that we will find favor as we seek to raise funds for Centers of Hope in Ukraine.
- That we will find a solution for our Ukrainian residency documents which got caught in the war—that they will be honored, and we will not have to go through a whole new process to live in Ukraine again.
- For ongoing health and safety on the road. God has been so, so gracious to us.

**From Samson and Priscilla Retnaraj**  
**Serving in Nepal**  
*Praise God...*

- We are so glad to inform that our CHE work in Rautahat District has now been approved by the Social Welfare Council of Nepal for CHE and other similar trainings including the Small Business Development in communities. After many months of running around the legal glitches in the land and providing a lot of information and spending long hours with their legal cell, we finally made it! Suleman Rai did most of the running around and collecting information and submitting a memorandum to the council for approval. The official name of the organization is "Rautahat Community Care and Learning Centre". Under the umbrella of this organization most of our CHE work in rural Nepal will be allowed to function and we will be required to submit annual reports to the government needed for the renewal of the license each year. The chairman of this committee is Ramesh Adhikary who is also employed as a school teacher in Rautahat.
- Our CHE Ministry is planning a get together in December of people and leaders of the many communities and churches who have been involved with our CHE work in Nepal. A committee of local leaders has been formed to oversee this get-together, and we plan to continue it annually in the coming years. We are also hoping that some EFM officials can join and that the fellowship will bring Glory to God.
- Our son Prateek is home from college in Newberg for a month as also my older children and the grandkids. We met together in Delhi during the month of July and traveled around enjoying each other's presence and company. Prateek goes back to Newberg and college for his final year in George Fox University.

*Please Pray...*

- For Ramesh Adhikary as he pastors a church in the rural area called Eden Community Church.
- That we will be led by the Spirit at our December gathering, as we plan out the participants and activities to take place at this time.

**From Brad and Chelsea Carpenter**  
**Serving in Rwanda**  
*Praise God...*

- We're thankful for EFM Short-Term Missionary, Thomas Moore, coming to be with us.
- For a gradual lifting of COVID-19 restrictions and how that allows us to be able to meet with people and do trainings in person.
- For some wonderful time with Chelsea's family who was able to come and visit.

*Please Pray...*

- For the upcoming Luke 10 trips to Tanzania (in September) and South Sudan (in October).
- For God to increase the passion of the Burundi, Rwanda, and Congo Friends churches and to raise up the people needed from them to send and to go as missionaries.
- For the team that is coming to visit in early August made up of people who sense God may be calling them to be missionaries and for wisdom and discernment for all involved in those trips.

**From B. and D. A.**  
**Serving in Nepal**  
*Praise God...*

- That many across the border from Bihar, India are being touched by the gospel from our Nepal side.

*Please Pray...*

- It is very hot and humid right now and flooding in lots of places. It is making it hard for preachers to travel.

**From Tony and Agi Frei**  
**Serving in Hungary**  
*Praise God...*

- Zoli - who had a car accident in the last month – is fine now. The hematoma in his head was absorbed. Zoli is healthy and working now.
- Last month, our mission visited a big Christian occasion, a concert in Budapest. This concert name is 'This is the day'. It's a very great movement in Hungary, but this event was canceled due to COVID-19, for the last three years. This year, we participated with 60 people (there are some unbeliever guests too). It was a blessed occasion, when 70 thousand people will worship God together in the biggest stadium of Hungary.
- Our co – worker's son, Andrew is a young man. He has grown up in our church, he can play some musical instruments and he is singing also. We are happy for him, because he finished his studies in the Secondary Grammar School with great results and he was admitted to a college in Budapest. Andrew would like to be an electric engineer.

*Please Pray...*

- In the beginning of July, Ági's father, Árpád, my father-in-law passed away and went to heaven. He followed my mother-in-law and left a void. Please, pray for my wife, for her sisters, and for all of the family, because only God gives us strength.
- We are going to go to Nagyszőlős, Ukraine with our donations. Please, pray for our safety, for a blessed journey, and for new relationships. We would like to stay in Sylvie's relations' house, and we would like to go home on Saturday.
- On the 5<sup>th</sup> of August, we would like to organize a Children's Day for Tolna's children. It's a good chance, because we can invite unbeliever families and they can get to know us and our mission work. After this, we would like to organize children's days in Serbia and Ozora too.

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

- For the D4D team working in the three villages, especially for Yosapa and Manat, working along with MaoPa and his wife Eme in the far village of JaSaPa, as well as Jabo and his wife working in their neighboring villages of JaTaw, and PaMu. Thank God for their commitment, for their personal growth, and for their leadership in these communities!

*Please Pray... (Thailand)*

- For Holy Spirit's blessing on Yosapa and Manat and the other leaders who assist them as they prepare the leaders and interested church members in their three villages to understand and own the idea of learning, of being disciplined through overcoming the barriers they face, instead of choosing dependency on foreign money and projects. Pray they understand that God cares about all of life, and not just their spiritual lives. Pray Blessing on Yosapa and Manat in understanding the D4D process, and in coming to strongly value empowerment and the process of equipping the leaders they are serving.

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

- God intervened in a crisis for Mioara and Nicu, a young couple of former students whom we disciple. Nicu is cousin to a local priest that has opposed our ministry. This couple's interest in spiritual matters is a big praise. Another couple visited us recently, Adrian and Mihaela, parents of triplets. Christ's love connects us to Mihaela, twenty years after hearing the gospel in a camp for junior high kids and we trust that God's word is alive and active in them.
- Adina, whom we have known since grade school, is now a high school student and asked for prayer and counseling which shows that the trust we built over the years is paying off and God protects the seed sown and makes it bear fruit at the right time. This is both an encouragement and a challenge to keep loving people.
- There are many opportunities to serve in the kingdom for a retired couple like us, even in a small country church, and we do it joyfully.

*Please Pray...*

- For wisdom in ministry, especially in these unique opportunities. The Lord's clear leading about the house in Orlat and other decisions with great potential impact for the future.
- For those mentioned above and others whom God has brought in our lives. Protection from evil forces manifested through illness, discouragement, or confusion, which we encounter in many situations.
- For peace in the families and in the church, peace in the world. Pray for the Prince of Peace to come and take over, he alone can establish lasting peace.