



# Evangelical Friends Mission

## September 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.

### Samson and Priscilla Retnaraj | Serving in Nepal

Arun and Babli are our CHE trainers who have a unique Children's Ministry in Aurahi of Dhanusa district. After their marriage (which was against their parents' wishes) both invited the ire of their non-believing families and were attending the local church. Babli started to bring the young female children together to recite songs and tell Bible stories to them. The children learned these songs of worship and liked coming together every day to their house. Soon the mothers also accompanied the children, and it became a bigger group. Incidentally Arun and Babli discovered that most of these children were Musahars (a Dalit group). The group grew bigger, and we got involved as we trained Arun and Babli to systematically teach using Children's CHE lessons which aligned with Bible studies and encouraged Bible studies in the families as well.



Almost all Musahars in Nepal live in the rural areas. Musahar are primarily bonded agricultural laborers, but often go without work for as much as eight months in a year. Children work alongside their parents in the fields or as rag-pickers, earning as little as ₹25-30 (\$0.35-0.40) a day. The Musahar literacy rate is three percent overall and falls to an abysmal one percent among women. By some estimates, as many as 85% of some villages of Musahars suffer from malnutrition. With scant access to health centers, preventable diseases such as malaria, TB, gastroenteritis, and kala-azar are prevalent.



A few years down the line, many children from this group and others in the community enrolled in the local government school for a formal school education. Now we have about seven or eight who have graduated from high school and are attending the local 'church' in Arun and Babli's house with their mothers also in attendance. The male members of the family did object initially but soon the changes seen in these girls made everyone happy and wanting to get involved. Last year six of these girls took the bold step of making a public testimony of baptism and were formally led into the family of Christ by Arun as the local church leader. After graduating from high school, one girl even enrolled in a Bible school nearby for a 12-month Bible training. During this time, accompanied by Babli, she went about evangelizing with 'supervisors' in nearby communities which were majorly Musahar communities. God is bringing about transformation in these communities using these little angels of change.



Please pray for this fellowship as it grows in the future and that the grace of God abounds in this community and enables many of them to come out of human bondages and serve with joy and pride in their hearts as they now serve their newfound master – Jesus.

Thank you all for your love and prayers for our ministry!

Samson and Priscilla Retnaraj



## From the EFM Office

### *Praise God...*

- For the opportunity to connect with Friends in Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting during their summer gathering at Quaker Ridge Camp in Colorado.
- For his traveling mercies as we have been making trips nationally and internationally this year. It has felt good to get out and see people again!

### *Please Pray...*

- For Dan Cammack as he travels to Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh September 14-October 12. Dan will be visiting Friends in each of these countries and seeking ways to strengthen our partnership in the Gospel.
- That all of us will allow the Holy Spirit to cultivate in us a culture of praying, giving, and going. May his kingdom come, and his will be done on earth as it is done in heaven.

## 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 Future Missionary Training Trip that took place in Central Africa during the month of August. We are beginning to hear positive reports from this trip.
- For the generosity of his people as they have given of their time and finances to participate in the various activities of the Luke 10 Initiative that helps us reach the Five-Year Goal. To find out more about these activities go [here](#).

### *Please Pray...*

- For the Lord of the harvest to send more workers into the harvest fields.
- For those who have participated in our Future Missionary activities and Luke 10 Exploration Trips this year as they continue to process what they saw and heard and also continue to seek the Lord's will for their lives.
- For the Luke 10 Exploration Trip that is taking place in Tanzania September 12-22. Thayne Thompson, Brad Carpenter, Matt Macy, and future missionary Thomas Moore will be joining four Burundian Friends Church leaders for this first Luke 10 Tanzania trip focused on exploring the Zaramo and Kutu people groups.
- We anticipate five more trips in this first round of Luke 10 Exploration Trips. The destinations are NE Brazil, Dubai, SE Asia, Northern India, 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 Voicu and Ana Marian

### Retired EFM Missionaries from Romania

#### *Praise God...*

- For Ana's successful eye surgeries in the state hospital, which also gave her opportunities to share Christ with other patients in her ward.
- Voicu demonstrated in a national Arts and Crafts Fair, which gave him opportunities to share his testimony with other participants and several tourists.
- For more encouraging visits with former students, evidence of God's continuing work. Also, two older shop students helped us with ground maintenance when Voicu was in bed with back problems.

#### *Please Pray...*

- For healing for Ana's eyes (post-surgery) and for Voicu's lower back issues.
- For physical energy to carry out tasks and for godly wisdom in teaching and mentoring.
- Dr. Marilena's ministry among the very poor in Calarasi. There has been a crisis in the organization; she needs clear direction on how to proceed. Pray for God's provision for the future.

## From Samson and Priscilla Retnaraj

### Serving in Nepal

#### *Praise God...*

- For the CHE convention held in Kupantole, Chitwan for all the CHE projects and churches in the district. Members of all the CHE committees, the CHE volunteers, pastors, and elders of four churches, as well as all the CHE Trainers attended and gave everyone a report of activities and shared in a time of praise and fellowship. This was a regional level gathering and we are planning a national level convention in February/March 2023.
- For the goat ministry in Chitwan wherein goat rearing was taken up by four to five church families. Each of them, led by Ra Maya and Juna, have now given back their first fruits back to their churches and more goats have been given to other families. It is bringing great joy among the families as they share.
- Jamuna (our adult non-formal education teacher from Salyan), who has planted six churches in the difficult hilly terrain of Salyan district, got married in July to Krishna BK, a local pastor. Together they will minister to the spiritual needs of the people of Salyan district by taking turns in traveling to all the churches. They also planted a new church in the community where they live after their marriage.

#### *Please Pray...*

- For Arun and Babli as they prepare three new girls (Madhu, Radhika, and Amrita) from the Mushar (Dalit) community to take on the leadership of the Children's CHE ministry in their community Baidehi.
- For Parewakot Friends church community in the hills of Chitwan and all the families there. The local CHE ministry is working among them.
- Mudebas church in Chitwan which is up in the hills of Chitwan and reached by walking and crossing a small river, is our youngest CHE community and we are going ahead with CHE training and discipleship. The leader of the church is Dinesh Chepang and elder is Raj Kumar and both of them have had attended a short bible course in Hetauda.
- For Priscilla's mother (Indra) living in Lucknow India. She recently had a fall and has injured her spine and has been advised to do complete bed rest and physiotherapy. Recovery is very slow and extremely painful and is made harder by the fact that she lives alone in a second-floor house. Priscilla has taken leave to be with her mother along with her elder sister, Indra is very strong in her Christian faith and belief having come to Christ about 30 years ago from a very orthodox Hindu family.
- My granddaughter, Zosia Chamczyk, has finished school in Scotland and has come to be in the rural parts of North India for a few months volunteering and helping with a children's home and the local Christian School. She goes back to a course in Edinburgh University after a year. Please pray for her as she adjusts to the difficult situation, she faces with no regular power supply or internet services. She is looking to be a missionary after her university course.

## From David Thomas

### EFM Whole Life Discipleship

#### *Praise God... (Thailand)*

- For Discipling for Development (D4D) team leader Yosapa, along with Manat, Jabo, MaoPa and sometimes Achi Po and others on their team, and for their work in mobilizing three villages, JaSaPa, and JaTaw with its neighboring village of PaMu. More and more families are coming to understand what a holistic transformation in their villages could look like.

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

- For Achi Po as he works at translating some D4D lessons into Thai. Pray blessing on his translation skills as well for making communication between Scott, David and Yosapa possible. Pray for blessing, grace, and good communication during our online Zoom coaching meetings!



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

- That the month of August was a month where we were able to take good and intentional rest times. Long quiet times with God are delightful to recharge ourselves even more with him and release the burdens that accumulate in our lives.
- For the birth of a new nephew. God allowed me to travel 1,225 miles to North Dakota to meet him in person and hold him in my arms; I love holding newborn babies! Now I have the blessing of being the aunt of three beautiful nephews and four beautiful nieces, and this September another nephew will be born in Las Vegas! I love my nephews and nieces they are a big gifts and blessings from God.

*Please Pray...*

- September 23-25, God willing, I will be sharing at the EFC-MAYM Friends Women Retreat in Oklahoma City. Please pray for my participation so that I can share efficiently about my role as Missions Mobilizer and that my words would challenge and motivate many women.
- My husband and I are participating in the planning of AMANA, which is the annual meeting of the Hispanic Friends of North America. After two years, this will be the first face-to-face meeting in Chicago, IL on October 6-9. About 150 participants from Friends churches in the United States, Mexico and Canada are expected to come. Please pray that this event will be very edifying and a blessing for all.
- Also in October, EFM along with Global Disciples will hold a training to develop small businesses as ministry. This training will help pastors and new church planters to generate financial resources to support their families and at the same time use the business to reach out to others. Please pray for this event that will take place in Aguascalientes, Mexico on October 17-22.

**From A. and M. A.**  
**Serving in Bangladesh**  
*Praise God...*

- That our Lay Leadership Training program was very successful. There were 37 lay leaders from different Friends churches who attended this training. They promised to raise more leaders in their church.
- That six more people received Christ as their personal Savior and Lord in July. We are thankful for our pioneering work in two places. Some non-believers show interest in knowing more about Jesus. Though it is very risky, God is protecting his children.
- That we as a family are fine. We are thankful to the Lord for his mercy upon us and our boys. Our elder son Steve has already processed all his necessary tasks in order to get admission to Pratt Community College. We are very much thankful to Matt Macy who helped Steve a lot in this process.

*Please Pray...*

- For Mafuza. She is under a great threat. Pray that the Lord gives her wisdom to answer the Islamic leaders. All steps are now observed by an Islamic group. Pray for safety, boldness, and wisdom for her and her team members.
- For our upcoming Beautiful Feet Movement seminar from October 7-10. Pray that many women leaders can attend the seminar and for speakers and volunteers. Pray that God would bring a great revival through this Beautiful Feet Movement seminar.
- For the country of Bangladesh. The price of the daily commodities has raised very much. People are struggling to survive. Pray that believers would not be lazy and can start a new small business to support their family and ministry.

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

- We praise the Lord that even in the monsoon rains God is moving by his spirit and bringing Hindus to himself.

*Please Pray...*

- Monsoon season is the hardest time for us to go to villages to preach and disciple because the roads are muddy. Please pray for God's strength.

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

- At the end of July, we were in Nagyszőlős, (Vinogradiv) Ukraine. This is Sylvia's home country, and it has been 47 years since she has been there. Glory to God, she could meet her relatives again. Everybody was so hospitable to us and Sylvie's aunt, Maria, helped us in everything. We could visit many poor families, with our donations. Nagyszőlős is very close to the Hungarian border, so there is peace, but a lot of poverty. We sent packages to the war zones. Our team met with two churches (Evangelical Hungarian Gipsy Church and a Greek Catholic church in Ukraine) and we could give donations through them. We gave a testimony in the evangelical church. We had a blessed time in Ukraine through the doors God opened!
- In the beginning of August, we could organize our Children Days in Tolna and Ozora. In Tolna, there were 50 children (lots of them were from unbeliever families), and we had a blessed time together. Some of them went to the church on Sunday too. In Ozora, it was also a great time in the community house, we could give our donations to the poor gipsy families. In Serbia, we couldn't organize our Children Days, because it was a village festival in Backi Monostor. We will make up for it in September or October.
- In the end of August, our youth group organized a camp. There were 19 young people together for a few days. The topic was the guidance of the Holy Spirit. They had a blessed time. We are thankful for our youths, and we are praying for them.

*Please Pray...*

- In the beginning of September, there will be a family occasion again, in Budapest, next to our church. The organizers invited us to do handcrafts and cooking. It is a good way to connect with unbeliever families and invite them to our community.
- For Hungary. Everything is very expensive and uncertain here. Lots of Hungarian people can't or have great difficulty making a living and they are depressed. Please pray for peace in Russia and Ukraine too.
- For my nephew's girlfriend, Dora. She has pain in her stomach for some months and the doctors don't know what the problem is. Please pray for her, she visits our EFC Budapest, but she has not received Jesus yet. Maybe, this health problem will bring her closer to God.