



# Evangelical Friends Mission October 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.

## Philippine Evangelical Friends International Ministries - PEFIM

Our PEFIM BOE together with myself and Sonia arrived here last Friday to visit and lead an overnight Youth Camp in Danao II. It was attended by 42 youth from our churches here in Calbayog and a guest church.

We had Spirit-filled worship in the evening and powerful preaching of his word. Sister Marie led some games in the mornings and the following day I once again preached a message from the life of our Lord Jesus Christ from a passage in Luke chapter four.

At the end of the event, we distributed dental kits and school supplies for children and students ranging from elementary to college. One hundred children and youth received these blessings!



On Sunday our team was privileged to participate in three different worship services from our churches here in Samar.

Sister Betty joined Marcatubig Evangelical Friends Church with Pastor Joseph, Pastor Memma. Sister Marie joined with San Joaquin Evangelical Friends Church with Pastor Esmer and Pastor Cris. Sister Sonia and Brother Jeff joined with Higher Ground Evangelical Friends Church in Danao II with Elder Dioscoro.

We praise and thank God for the favorable weather and plentiful food during our stay in these different churches. We were exceedingly blessed with our fellowship with our brethren as we study God's word together and sing songs to him. God is doing great things in these churches that we visited.

The passion of our brethren in serving the Lord is truly inspiring. They faced many challenges during the two years of strict lockdown but their faith in our Lord Jesus persevered.

They still face many challenges even today owing to the economic downturn as a result of the pandemic. Together we learned to depend on the Lord alone and to trust him even more in the face of difficulties and challenges.



Thank you very much for your continued prayers and partnership with us. We appreciate very much your prayers and partnership with us in the work of the Lord here in Samar! Our good Lord bless you as well as much as he has blessed us in this mission trip!

Our good Lord bless you, your family and ministry!

In Christ's love and service,

Rev. Crisanto Dela Cruz



## From the EFM Office

### *Praise God...*

- Dan Cammack had a successful gall bladder surgery while on a ministry assignment in Kathmandu, Nepal. God provided extraordinary care for him.
- We have an extraordinary missionary team, working hard and sacrificially around the world. We are grateful for each one.

### *Please Pray...*

- For the EFM Fall Offering. This opportunity focuses on raising support for underfunded missionaries. Pray that God's people would become more deeply aware of God's love and respond with joyful generosity.
- For the EFM directors as they gather in Wichita, Kansas for meetings October 5-6.
- For Dan Cammack's continued recovery. He should return to the U.S. around October 4.

## 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 Luke 10 Exploration Trip to Tanzania. This trip was coordinated with Burundi Friends. God was at work! Great stories!
- For the unity and focus the Luke 10 Initiative has brought to Friends churches all across the nation. It is remarkable.

### *Please Pray...*

- For the Lord of the harvest to send more workers into the harvest fields. We are specifically praying for at least 15 missionaries who would be able to make extended ministry assignments next year as a part of the discernment process.
- For the next Luke 10 Exploration Trip, October 10 – 21 to South Sudan. The trip is being made in conjunction with Rwandan Friends. Pray for clarity and unity.
- Start praying now for the Luke 10 National Think Tank, scheduled for November 2. We hope to discern the appropriate next steps for determining the five new fields for EFM's Five Year Goal.

**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 Tony and Agi Frei Serving in Hungary

### *Praise God...*

- In the end of August, Maria (from Ukraine, Nagyszőlős) visited us with her granddaughter for some days. They were in our churches in Budapest and Tolna. We had a blessed time.
- In the beginning of September, we had an invitation from the leader of the community house in Budapest. We held a family day with our mission team. Some people could help in the handicraft and some of us in the cooking. We gave lots of invitation cards to unbelieving families, shared testimonies, and offered lots of people our lunch. Our chef team was third in the cooking race. This day was very blessed because we were in unity.
- In October, our co-workers and leaders will participate in a two-day long conference in Budapest. We hope that it will be constructive for us.

### *Please Pray...*

- In the end of October, the German brothers and sisters will visit us for some days. We would like to serve God together, doing mission work on streets in Ozora, Serbia, Kölked, Budapest, and Tolna.
- For unbeliever family members and relatives. In our church, everybody has a loved one who is an unbeliever. We must pray for them and to illuminate them in this dark world.
- My nephew's girlfriend, Dora. Thank you for the earlier prayers. She is better now with her stomach, but the problem still exists (maybe hormonal). Please, pray for her, that she gets appropriate help and treatment.

## From Pastor Crisanto De La Cruz- PEFIM Serving in the Philippines

### *Praise God...*

- For the huge success of PEFIM's Sports Festival with the theme: Sportify: Rebuilding Connections 2022. It was participated in by five PEFIM Metro Manila churches and outreaches together with one guest church, for a total of 185 youth and young adult participants. We thank the Lord for the excellent weather, provisions for food and venue rentals, and protection of all participants. Indeed, relationships were strengthened and rebuilt, and the Lord is glorified through the preaching of his word.
- For the successful mission trip of the PEFIM Board of Elders in Calbayog, Samar. We held a special youth gathering in Higher Ground Evangelical Friends Church in Danao II attended by 40 youth from different PEFIM churches in Calbayog. We also distributed dental kits and school supplies, to about 100 children and youth from these different churches. Our Board of Elders were exceedingly blessed to have attended simultaneously the worship services of three of our four PEFIM churches in Calbayog.
- For the provisions for my family so that we were able to enroll all four of our kids in school just in time. Our eldest is now in college. It is by God's Grace that our family needs are met.

### *Please Pray...*

- For PEFIM churches as we continue to navigate the many challenges of reestablishing our ministries post pandemic. Pray for wisdom for our pastors and leaders as we continue to serve the Lord faithfully in the face of these many challenges, especially the economic hardships that's battering our country.
- For the Lord's continued provision for the needs of Friends Evangelical Accelerated School of Theology (FEAST) as we continue to train and disciple our leaders in the church and the body of Christ here in the Philippines. Eight of my Expository Preaching class students are completing their final requirements which will be an actual sermon delivery in the church. Pray that the Lord will be glorified in their lives and their message as they embark on the ministry of proclaiming the gospel of Christ's salvation, and the beauty and richness of the holy scriptures.
- For the Lord's continued provisions for my family. As a minister of the Lord and parent to four kids, there is real tension between providing for the needs of the ministry entrusted to me and providing for the needs of my family, especially in this time of economic hardship here in the Philippines. May the Lord protect us, shower us with his favor and blessings so that I may give my full attention and energy to doing what the Lord commissioned me to do, which is strengthening the churches and guiding our leaders to more fruitful and meaningful ministry endeavors.

## From Brad and Chelsea Carpenter and Thomas Moore (EFM Short- Term Missionary)

### Serving in Rwanda

### *Praise God...*

- Thomas Moore (EFM Short-Term Missionary) was able to find a great house to live in for his year in Rwanda, with other Jesus-following men.
- We praise God for the D4D team's trip to Burundi, for the transformations in the Burundi pastors' lives, as well as in the lives of those they are discipling.
- We are thankful for the Carpenter family being healed from a time of sickness as the kids started school

### *Please Pray...*

- For the Luke 10 Exploration trip to South Sudan in mid-October, which will include Rwandan pastors, Brad, Thomas, and Matt Macy.
- For the next phase of discernment from the Luke 10 Exploration Trip to Tanzania that happened in September.
- For logistics and discernment for the Luke 10 Exploration Trip to Dubai that Thomas plans to go on this Fall.
- For the Carpenter family as they navigate this exciting, busy, and challenging time of Brad traveling a lot.



**From Samson and Priscilla Retnaraj**  
**Serving in Nepal**

*Praise God...*

- For adequate rainfall this year and the absence of floods and major landslides on truck routes during the monsoon season which has helped our trainers to get around for their scheduled work in training and for routine community visits.
- Priscilla's mother is improving slowly and is able to sit up and take a few steps inside her house

*Please Pray...*

- For the LEAD II (CHE Discipleship) training that was held in Cha'pur in late September.
- For Prateek as he has started his fourth year at George Fox University in the Honors course. He is going through some difficulties in adjusting to the expectations and his ability to perform accordingly.
- For the children of all our trainers many of them are having school exams this month. Some are working and able to help support their families.

**From David Thomas**  
**EFM Whole Life Discipleship**

*Praise God... (Thailand)*

- For good and regular Zoom meetings between Scott, David, Yosapa, Achi Po, and Manat. Thank God for Achi Po translating key D4D lessons as well as translating our meetings together. Thank God also for David and Marilyn Kibbe who meet with Yosapa and Achi Po weekly keeping them up to speed with our D4D coaching.

*Please Pray... (Thailand)*

- For God's blessing, grace and good communication during our weekly Zoom coaching meetings! Pray for Personal Development Plans to be used well among The Way Foundation staff. Pray for a good understanding with lots of practice in asking appreciative questions for our D4D team, and their village church teams.

*Praise God... (Bolivia)*

- For opening up the way to travel to Bolivia and connect with interdenominational leaders interested in our Discipling for Development ministry. Thank God also for Stefanie Chambi and Cintia Huayhua who are currently taking the ten-month D4D online training offered by our Atlanta D4D team!

*Please Pray... (Bolivia)*

- For our trip from October 17-26. We will be visiting Christian leaders in three cities, Cochabamba, La Paz, and Santa Cruz. We will be learning about the state of whole-life discipleship among Christians in Bolivia. We will also present who we are and invite interested leaders to join us in February 2023 for a five-day foundations workshop. Ask the Holy Spirit to direct our steps. Pray for good health, especially in the altitude of La Paz. Pray that God would connect us with leaders who are working with the poor, and who desire a more wholistic and empowering approach. Those traveling will be David Thomas, Gary and Merri Lee Hipp, Judy Camp, and Stefanie and Rodiz Chambi who will join them in Bolivia.

**From D.K. and Choity Sarkar**  
**Serving in India**

*Praise God...*

- That he opened a new church in New Delhi, the capital of India. Pastor Stephan Rai is the pastor of that church.
- For eleven people from Hindu and Muslim backgrounds who accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. They made a public testimony of baptism on August 26 in Kolkata.
- For Peter Sitaram Setty, whom we are considering as our missionary to start in January 2023.

*Please Pray...*

- Our evangelist Pastor Asis Lal is working in Siliguri. There was heavy rain, and the back portion of his church was totally destroyed.
- The church building of Pastor Chandan Mondal needs to be extended. His number of members has increased.
- For the people in Kolkata, Hooghly, and Nazatt who accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. They are waiting to make a public testimony of baptism.

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

*Praise God...*

- For your prayers for Dave's surgery in June. It went as well as it could go according to the doctor. And the recovery as well has been smooth. Praise the Lord for his healing touch.
- We thank the Lord for helping us in the various ways we are still serving our local church here in Ohio, as well as the church and friends in a Hong Kong via Zoom and other Internet meetings.

*Please Pray...*

- For Pastor Irma Gonzales, as she has stepped into the role as pastor of the church we planted in Hong Kong, River Grace International Hong Kong Evangelical Church. The churches in Hong Kong have faced challenges because of the exit of pastors and key church leaders who have immigrated.
- For Pastor Tommy Hui, one of the students that came to the Lord in United Christian College when I was teaching there. He and his family immigrated to the U.K., and he is planting a church for the many Chinese who have also immigrated to Britain.

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

*Praise God...*

- That the Lord God has given us strength, even during intense heat to take the Gospel to the unreached.

*Please Pray...*

- For our upcoming evangelistic meetings during the biggest Hindu festival in the first week of October. Pray for many new souls into the kingdom.

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

*Praise God...*

- For safety, health, and kindnesses on our long journey across North America and then to England to inform people about the crisis of Ukraine. (Five months of being like refugees ourselves.)

*Please Pray...*

- For a safe return and the ability to settle back in Ukraine amidst the turmoil.
- For restoration of the damaged churches. Probably over 800 evangelical churches have been closed and more than 80 "buildings" destroyed. Many Orthodox churches have also been closed and/or destroyed where Russia is occupying.
- That the vision for the Centers of Hope will begin to take a more concrete, functional form. Issues to pray about specifically: resource of people/leaders, funds, suitable rental buildings, commitment of the denominational leaders, and agreement of where to begin establishing centers.

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

*Praise God...*

- For more invitations to weddings of former students, our opportunity to meet their spouses and develop a relationship. God proves faithful to continue his good work, even when our ministry to these young people seemed to have ended.
- For Voicu's fruitful outreach to men and women of different ages through arts and crafts, whether teaching in person or through the blog he's developed.
- For good medical reports and progress in preparation for an upcoming trip to the USA.

*Please Pray...*

- Another women's Bible study got started (praise) and they will need to continue without Ana leading in the upcoming months. Please pray for open hearts to whatever God wants to do in their lives and families.
- For God's provision for Aurelia, Loredana, and Petruta, our spiritual daughters. They're struggling with serious health issues and are affected by the prospect of us leaving Romania in the near future.
- For the Lord's perfect will and clear leading regarding decisions as a family and as missionaries.