



Evangelical Friends Mission

December 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.

M. and K. L. | Serving in Asia

This time of year is always so full! For each of us, the fullness looks different, and it looks different from year to year. Regardless of the events, people, or things that fill this season, it is such a wonderful time of the year to truly find joy in what Jesus did for us, is doing for us, and will do for us! For our family, we will be returning to the United States for deputation right after the Worldwide Gathering in Thailand. It's hard to believe that we have been in Asia long enough for this to be our second deputation. And, while we are looking forward to all the joys of being around family and friends this season, we are also grieving being away from our home in Asia. Despite the chaos of a typical Christmas season in Asia, we love getting to share the true meaning of Christmas with our friends.



Before leaving we had the opportunity to meet with many of our friends either in their houses or ours, and we gave Christmas packages so they would even then have the reminder of Christmas and whom we celebrate. We know that despite us not being there physically, we can rejoice that God has not left our village or valley. He is still working in the hearts of those that we love and those we have yet to meet. God has been faithful to us through our many toils these last (almost) eight years, and he won't stop working because we aren't there right now. We need to trust God's timing for his workings to come. Just like Mary and Joseph had to trust God in every detail of the circumstances leading up to the birth of the Son of God, we must trust God in all the details of our lives, even when things end up looking differently than we expected.

We had to leave Asia early before the Worldwide Gathering because some of our visas expired. So, we have had the opportunity of spending time together as a family in Thailand. And while we would have rather been in Asia, being with friends, and working on establishing our business legally, or in America working on setting up a new home and visiting family, we are trusting God and his details. While in Thailand, M. became quite sick with a bacterial infection called scrub typhus, and we are very thankful that we were able to get answers and medication quickly so that he could have a fast recovery. We have also recently suffered the loss of M.'s grandmother and grieved the loss of her life while being an ocean away. It has reminded us of the importance of a legacy of a life well-lived for Christ. So, in all the fullness of this season, we, too, are striving to faithfully serve and obediently follow Christ in a way that points all those that we encounter to Christ! May your Christmas season be filled with God's goodness and love during this beautiful season!

Love,
M., K., N., A., H., L., A., and B.

Praise God...

- For a recent season of good health and for quick healing of M.'s bacterial infection.
- For the opportunity to be in Thailand with other families during the Worldwide Gathering, being held December 2-7.
- God's strength and help to finish strong as we've left our home in Asia. We felt loved and sent off as part of their family as we left the village.

Please Pray...

- For all the transitions for our family as we return to America - the culture, time zone, way of life, etc.
- For our deputation time coming up over the next several months – for continued good health and safety, especially with the thousands of miles on the road, for all the people and congregations we will share with, and for the continued schooling of our children.
- By mid-December, all of our business visas will have expired, and so we will be applying for new ones shortly after our return. Please pray for favor and that we would be granted long-term visas.

From the EFM Office

Praise God...

- For the EFM Board meetings that took place in Wichita, Kansas, during the first week of November. There was a strong sense of unity as well as excitement about what God is doing through the Five-Year Goal (see below) and the activities of the Luke 10 Initiative that are helping us to accomplish it.
- For the International Friends Church Multiplication Conference that took place during the second week of November. Evangelically-minded Friends from across North America and around the world gathered online to view inspirational messages and helpful workshops related to church planting. We also prayed together and met in small groups to discuss what we are learning about how to make disciples and start new churches.

Please Pray...

- For the Worldwide Missionary Gathering that will take place December 2-7 in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Almost 70 people will be gathering there, including most of our missionaries, which represents a lot of traveling! Pray for safe travels, good health, encouraging fellowship, time to rest, and the kind of worship that knits us more closely to God and one another.
- For the evangelistic activities that are taking place in many of the countries where EFM missionaries are working. The Christmas season provides good opportunities to talk about the Savior who was born in Bethlehem and why he came into the world.

EFM Five-Year Goal:

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

Praise

- For all the Luke 10 Initiative activities that have taken place this year. They have included seven Luke 10 Exploration Trips and various opportunities for those we call "future missionaries" to discern how God might be wanting to use them to help fulfill the Great Commission. There have also been the monthly Luke 10:2 Prayer Gatherings on Zoom. It has been a very busy year!
- For the National Luke 10 Think Tank that happened in Wichita right before the EFM Board meetings. Just over 40 leaders, future missionaries, and people with missions experience gathered to worship the Lord, hear reports from the seven Luke 10 Exploration Trips that have occurred so far, and help discern what the next steps might be in the areas explored. It was also a time to celebrate what God is doing in and through us as we pursue his command to take the gospel to the nations.

Please Pray...

- For the Lord of the harvest to send more workers into the harvest fields.
- For the eighth Luke 10 Exploration Trip that will take place in Thailand in December following the Worldwide Missionary Gathering mentioned above. This trip is organized and led by Friends leaders in Evangelical Friends Church-Eastern Region. The trip will help identify what opportunities there are to make disciples and plant churches in various parts of Southeast Asia where the Lahu people are located.
- For the remaining two Luke 10 Exploration Trips that are in the planning stages. One will be to Northern India and the other to Northeast Brazil. They will both probably be completed by March of 2023.

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 Molly Morton

Serving in Ireland

Praise God...

- It's been an entire year since I arrived in Ireland!! So grateful for the welcome from my new church family and team.
- We had a wonderful time with a team from the US from my colleague's partner church. We were encouraged and blessed by their generosity and enthusiasm. They gave us new furniture for our new children's ministry rooms. Moving the children out of their old rooms, made way for my own office in the church building. I am so excited to not work from home any longer.
- I am looking forward to some rest and relaxation in Thailand with the entire EFM crew in December!

Please Pray...

- For protection as I dive deeper into the word and my prayer life. I have felt some attacks as I try to create new rhythms.
- As we bring this year to a close, pray for our staff and the church body as we celebrate advent and we guide our body, so many new faces this year, through this sacred time in the church calendar.
- Homesickness and loneliness as I celebrate the holidays away from my family.

From A. and M. A.

Serving in Bangladesh

Praise God...

- That our Beautiful Feet Movement seminar was successfully done. 130 attended the seminar. All expenses were raised locally. We are also thankful for the small gifts we were able to give to our delegates.
- That he has provided us with another two new local partners. It proves that God wants us to expand our ministry as he promised.
- For his protection, care, love, and providence. We all are good in health. Our boys are doing very well.

Please Pray...

- For our Community Christmas parties that we do every year to preach the good news to Muslims and Hindus. Our target is to share the message of Christ's love with five thousand people this year. It can never be done without the power of the Holy Spirit. Pray that the Lord prepares many volunteers to conduct many Christmas parties in different communities.
- For our two regional Children's camps in December. Thank the Lord that he provided a partner to have our children's ministry this year.
- For our lay leader, volunteer, and staff retreat this month. Pray that we can encourage, pray, and appreciate them for better outputs.

From D. K. and Choity Sarkar

Serving in India

Praise God...

- That our mission programs are set and our staff and the churches are ready to start the work. It is a special program of outreach during the time of Christmas.
- That all staff could meet on October 24 in a self-evaluation meeting. It was very good, and we got lots of blessings.
- Our annual camp was done successfully. Altogether around 200 participants from all Evangelical Friends churches attended. It was a spiritual meeting. All were blessed in the meeting.

Please Pray...

- For Choity and me- my voice is choked and needs to be evaluated. Choity also has some kind of pain in her leg.
- For Pastor Tapan Nandi's wife. She had an operation at Vellore Christian Hospital and on November 18 and this month will go there for a checkup.
- For our Christmas outreach program.

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

- We received our new residence documents! An extra note of victory considering all of the hang-ups with daily power outages in Kyiv and everything closing every time there is an air siren warning. Makes for only a few working hours per day for any business or office.
- We have a generator up and operating. Just to keep us going minimally with internet, computers, and a few lights, but gives the possibility of work without interruption!
- Abe has traveled far and wide across the country explaining Centers of Hope and there is a very high interest in it.

Please Pray...

- Abe will hold the introductory workshop for Centers of Hope December 8-9 for candidates. Provincial superintendents are also invited, as well as people who are already involved with humanitarian distribution but struggling with actually reaching the hearts of displaced people. (It takes a lot of personal contact—not just including a tract in a package.) It is required that wives also come. Pray for wisdom for Abe as he prepares to lead this.
- That God would move and call people to this ministry. It is based on personal evangelism linked with meeting physical needs (as opposed to street meetings or tract distribution, which is normal here, but with few converts). We need couples who are in love with Jesus, overflowing with joy, and with a burden for the lost. (And willing for the hardships.)
- Continue to pray for God to deliver Ukraine. The winter ahead will be hard as many places have little or no electricity, and some places are without gas for heating. Russia is trying to destroy the infrastructure with the goal of getting Ukraine to compromise and give up their claim to Ukrainian land! People in areas controlled by Russia have no religious freedom. Certainly, this is a spiritual battle only the Lord can win

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

- That the new converts are being discipled and becoming strong each day. They are also enduring great persecution from family and society.

Please Pray...

- For our Christmas evangelistic meetings. That God's grace would abound.

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

- Our journey in Ukraine was very blessed. We could give donations and packages to the poor people, families, and children. We visited churches and gave testimony; we also could pray for the war situation. God was with us on this mission journey.
- A new woman, called Hermina, visited our church of Tolna. She is living in Tolna, and she is a widow now. Hermina lost her husband in April. Her heart is very open to God.
- In December, Christmas time, Donatien Ndimurukundo from EFC Africa (Burundi) will visit us, our mission. He is a doctor and is in France now, taking a course. He would like to stay for a week and serve God with us.

Please Pray...

- For Daniel from Budapest. Daniel is a 25-year-old man from our youth group. Last Thursday, he got a facial nerve palsy because of a herpes virus. His left face was paralyzed. He is better now but he has one month of treatment.
- For Aaron who was in our church more than ten years ago. He is the son-in-law of Irene, who is our church member. Aaron has metastasis in his brain. He must come back to the Lord and receive Jesus, before it's too late. We would like to visit him.
- For our Christmas mission. After my journey to Thailand, we would like to visit our mission places in Hungary, Serbia, and Croatia. We would like to give donations and children's packages.

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

- For some good developing relationships with Christian leaders who can lead us to those who will put into practice Discipling for Development in their communities.

Please Pray...(Bolivia)

- For Holy Spirit's clear guidance in leading us to the right people, ready to enter into a long-term discipling/mentoring relationship with us. These need to be people who say, "What you are teaching, and the coaching you offer is exactly what we need to disciple our communities effectively!"

Please Pray...(Thailand)

- We get to be face to face for a week of coaching December 12-16!

Please Pray...(Thailand)

- That we could help the current D4D leaders learn to work well together as a team.
- That we could move them forward in grasping and being ready to use the lessons that will help them mobilize their villages towards a shared vision of community transformation. Pray also for excellent communication including good translation.

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

Serving in Rwanda

Praise God...

- We have a lot of sickness on our D4D team. Please pray for good health for all of us.
- For wisdom as we work to keep the momentum going in D4D groups since COVID-19 and other issues have slowed some of that momentum.
- For wisdom for Chelsea and Brad as we adjust to some new rhythms that include Luke 10 Exploration Trips.
- For Thomas to continue to learn more Kinyarwanda and to be able to connect more with people in their own language

Please Pray...

- We are thankful for the relevant and practical learning Brad is gaining through his online studies.
- For wonderful Luke 10 Exploration trips in Tanzania (Brad and Thomas), South Sudan (Brad), and U.A.E. / Qatar (Thomas).
- We are grateful that Thomas has the opportunity to begin spending more time with our Rwandan Friends pastors to hear their stories and learn from them.