



Evangelical Friends Mission

January 2023 Prayer Letter

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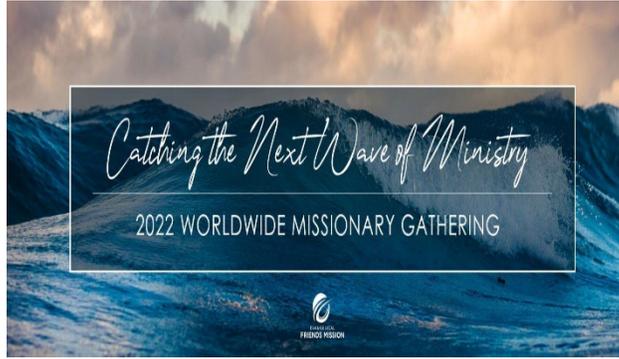
Our purpose and passion is to fuel a worldwide movement of people who seek first the kingdom of God, planting churches that live and die to carry out the Great Commission in the spirit of the Great Commandment.

World Wide Gathering 2022 | Chiang Mai, Thailand

During the first couple of days of December 2022 there were 67 Friends who showed up in Chiang Mai, Thailand, for the second EFM Worldwide Missionary Gathering. The first one was held nine years ago. Thirty-three of the 67 who came were missionaries (11 households). The rest were some of EFM's staff and board members along with those that came to support the event (child care, worship, etc.). Members of the Evangelical Friends Church International Council were also there. They participated in the main program and had their own meetings in the afternoons. The gathering ended on December 6.

The following three points describe the purpose of the Worldwide Missionary Gathering:

- Missionary Care – every Christian worker needs to step away from their intense ministry context and set apart time and place for refreshment, rest, and spiritual reflection.
- Missionary Community – the EFM missionary team is spread over the globe. During the retreat, they find opportunities to meet, encourage, counsel, and pray for one another. They also have the opportunity to do the same with the EFM staff and board members who support them.
- Missionary Equipping – we consider how each missionary can become an equipper of equippers, helping them to focus not only on the next wave of leaders but upon the third wave of leaders. When the third wave of leaders become equippers of equippers, then we know we are fueling a movement.



These purposes were carried out through a program that featured the following:

- Worship in the morning through singing and then Bible teaching from Alan Amavisca of Friends Southwest.
- Presentations by and interaction with the EFM directors about the Luke 10 Initiative, EFM's philosophy of missions, deputation and communication with supporters, and missionary care and coaching.
- Missionaries meeting together after lunch in small groups in order to get to know one another better and also to pray for one another.
- Rest and time to play.
- Evening worship and talks by Stan Leach about what it means to become equippers of equippers.

One highlight of each of these gatherings has been the street market on Sunday night in downtown Chiang Mai. We join the mass of humanity moving up and down narrow streets, sampling all kinds of Thai cuisine and also considering what gifts to purchase from the multitude of stalls. It is a lot of fun!

After the gathering, Alan Amavisca wrote a reflection based on a promise found in a very painful sermon the prophet Isaiah preached in Isaiah 24:14-16. He titled it, *"The Song of the Righteous One."* He wrote: "Missionaries gathered from the east and west, the south and north. And they sang. I love participating in missionary conferences precisely because missionaries sing unabashedly—and joyfully (i.e., LOUDLY). They know the father and they love to worship him. In addition, the image of God-worshippers from all peoples, tongues, tribes, and nations is not just a future hope for cross-cultural ministers—they live it. Every time missionaries gather; they bring elements of their ministry contexts with them, and it flavors their praise. I love it! We had a time of worship before my last message and ended it by singing 'How Great Thou Art.' I noticed an extra level of volume in their singing for that song. When I went up to speak, I asked how many of them had a translation of How Great Thou Art in their own languages. All of them. I suggested we sing the chorus in each of our own languages. They shook the rafters in Hindi and Maithalee and Khmer and Hungarian, in Aymara, Spanish and Kinyarwanda. Stunning!"

Thank you for upholding this event in your prayers. We definitely felt the Lord's presence among us as well as the support of God's people around the world. Now we are back in our various places of ministry, eager to see how "The Song of the Righteous One" plays out in 2023!

Happy New Year to you and yours!
Dan Cammack
EFM Field Director

From the EFM Office

Praise God...

- For the EFM Worldwide Missionary Gathering that took place in Chiang Mai, Thailand, December 2-7. Please see the article on the first page of this edition of the prayer letter.
- For God's provision for EFM's financial needs. We are in the process of closing the books for 2022 and it looks already like we are finishing the year in the black once again!

Please Pray...

- For Dan Cammack and Ken Comfort as they travel to Bolivia, South America, for the annual business sessions of Bolivia Yearly Meeting (January 12-15). They were at these sessions last year speaking on the themes of missions and discipleship and were invited back to keep speaking on those same themes. This yearly meeting is exploring how to become engaged in world missions.
- For the M. and K. L. family as they begin deputation. They are the first of several missionary households that will be doing a deputation in 2023.

EFM Five-Year Goal:

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

Praise God...

- For the Luke 10 Exploration Trip that took place in Chiang Rai, Thailand, following the EFM Worldwide Missionary Gathering. The team was led by leaders from Evangelical Friends Church-Eastern Region along with Ben Kibbe, Stan, Leach, Dan Cammack, and David Thomas. It became evident early in the trip that the Lord had put together just the right combination of people for all the helpful conversations that took place with leaders of The Way Foundation who are based in Chiang Rai. There is much potential for missionary outreach among the Lahu peoples of SE Asia.
- That as the first round of exploration trips is coming to a close (two more to go in the first quarter of 2023) the second round of trips is beginning to take shape. It is encouraging to see the enthusiasm for this type of process of discernment for the opening of new fields.

Please Pray...

- For the Lord of the harvest to send more workers into the harvest fields.
- For the remaining two Luke 10 Exploration Trips that are part of the first round of trips to explore where the Lord wants EFM to open new fields. One will be to Northern India and the other to Northeast Brazil. They will both be completed by March of 2023.
- One of the benchmarks EFM has for 2023 is to have at least 15 future missionaries getting field experience that will help them discern whether to apply to EFM for missionary service.

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 Dave and Cindy Aufrance Retired Missionaries from Hong Kong

Praise God...

- For a full recovery from my (Dave's) major surgery in June for an abdominal aneurysm repair.
- For starting to finally feel more settled in this foreign country of the US!

Please Pray...

- For us, as we try to build more of a culture of prayer in the church we are attending.
- For open doors to get more involved in ministry to international students, perhaps through International Friendship or other like-minded organizations.

From D.K. and Choity Sarkar Serving in India

Praise God...

- For his blessing on my wife and me through the gathering in Chiang Mai. We are blessed. Thank you to EFM for arranging such a big gathering.
- For all my staff who worked sincerely throughout the year. We had a Christmas party on December 15 on a big boat. We shared the blessings of the Lord and thanked him.
- For my health. He is so gracious to me.

Please Pray...

- For our Christmas outreach programs that were held in different places in West Bengal.
- For the people who attended our churches for the first time. Pray that the message touched their hearts.
- For the Uttarakhand ministry. Lots of harassment is there by police and political parties. May God keep our evangelists safe.

From Gabriel and Suzana Massey Serving in India

Praise God...

- We thank God for the good program we had on Founder's Day in November 2022. Many people came and witnessed the very good program.
- We had a good Half Yearly Examination for the whole school.
- Our church had Christmas Programs that started on Sunday, December 1.

Please Pray...

- That we can open the school after Christmas Holidays on January 2.
- For our manager, Dr. Gabriel Massey, as he is on Sabbatical leave visiting his younger son Amit and family in the US Pray for his safe travel and return on January 9.
- For the Nurses' Training school at the Christian Hospital in Chhatrapur. They plan to have graduation in January 2023.

From Tony and Agi Frei Serving in Hungary

Praise God...

- My journey in Thailand was so blessed. I could build my relationship with God and also with the leaders of EFM. I am so thankful that I was there. I will show a computer presentation with pictures in the churches.
- Daniel who had a facial nerve palsy is fine again. The doctors wondered how he could get better so fast. We know that it is God's work in his life. Daniel gives his testimony to everybody.
- Our Christmas mission was so blessed. We gave donations and sweet packages for children to a lot of poor families. Everybody was happy and thankful for it. We know that it is an important service to God.

Please Pray...

- Donatien, the doctor from Africa, was hoping to visit us during the holidays but because of a visa issue, he cannot. Please pray that he can visit us in the spring!
- For the new year. In this world, especially in Hungary, there is such big darkness. Everybody needs God's grace, but people reject it. Please pray for new families and new faces in our mission.
- For a family that is in a hard situation. There is a woman who is living next to Tolna. She is raising her nine children alone. She asked for help from us, and we will give her donations at Christmas. Please pray for her and her children that they could receive Jesus Christ because he is the only helper for them.

From B. and D. A. Serving in Nepal

Praise God...

- For the evangelistic fervor among our pastors for our Christmas meetings. Even though it is illegal to do them in Nepal.

Please Pray...

- For our evangelistic meetings that took place during Christmas- for the new souls that the Lord blessed us with.

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

- For an amazing time in Thailand last month with the EFM at the Worldwide Missionary Gathering. I was very encouraged and affirmed by the attendees, especially the other missionaries I got to connect with and get to know better.
- My colleague Luke and I took a few of our high school-aged students to a Science and God event at a neighboring church. We are encouraged by those that attended and looking forward to more events with this age group.
- Advent season has already been full of fun events and colorful decorations. I am excited for my second Christmas in Ireland.

Please Pray...

- For Luke and I as we move forward with discernment and wisdom to develop a program of care for our youth at the church.
- I am preaching again on January 1, please pray for my nerves, and my focus as I prepare, and for the Holy Spirit to move in spite of myself.
- Christmas is hard without my family. I am blessed by friendship and grace from my church family, but I miss my family and friends in California.

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

- For those who benefitted from last year's Christmas catalog gifts (animals, chickens, and pigs) in Chitwan, Cha'pur and Janakpur Friends churches. These have multiplied over the year and the blessings will be passed on in the same way to others in their churches during Christmas this year by the initial beneficiaries.
- For the tailoring shop for Shivani in Chitwan. She is a single mom, and the business has helped her tremendously in taking care of the family's needs and tithing in church. For Parwati who is a Mental Health counselor with the local government health post in Jhurjhure. She counsels and encourages many women in the Jhurjhure (Chitwan) Churches with her knowledge, skills, and experience.
- For the blessed time we (Priscilla and Samson) had in Chiang Mai, Thailand with other EFM missionaries and EFM Board members as well as many Superintendents of Yearly meetings in the US, who were together for the EFM Worldwide Gathering during the first week of December.

Please Pray...

- For all the CHE Trainers and their families as they gear up to carry out the Great Commission in and through all their CHE activities planned for the year 2023. Pray for the Jesus film to be shown in different communities in Aurahi (Dhanusa) and Surkhet by our people from time to time.
- Two young girls from Aurahi and Mahida (Karuna and Lachhminiya) who are unmarried, are doing their ten-month Bible school courses and will graduate in early 2023. During their Christmas vacation, they helped in evangelistic activities in some nearby communities and many women and young people attended their meetings scheduled during the Christmas week and immediately afterward.
- Priscilla's mother (Indra) in Lucknow, India is unwell again as her blood pressure is very fluctuant. She was taken to the cardiologist who diagnosed her with a blockage in her heart. She fell again one night recently and was unconscious for a few hours and thus needed hospitalization for a couple of days.

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

- We had a wonderful turnout at the introductory workshop for Centers of Hope. Tentatively we have 30 couples/families interested in starting these centers in areas where many displaced people are living. Much above our expectations for a first meeting.
- We have been blessed to be able to buy several battery lights/lanterns so that people don't have to sit in the dark during extended outages. We have set up six families (of leaders) with batteries that will enable their thermostats to operate in their apartments. And we have provided a lot more backup batteries so that people can keep devices charged. Things in Kyiv are quite critical. These items are hard to get.

Please Pray...

- Continue to pray for the couples who will be working on getting their Centers of Hope set up. People are in several stages, some with nothing and some already with a place to live, or a room or building to minister. Pray that they will be out in the communities daily touching people's lives and introducing them to hope.
- As we write this at the end of December it looks like we will have to find new housing in January, for us personally, but we also have our office at home and a warehouse. Pray that God would lead and provide, as he promises.
- The winter looks to be very difficult in Ukraine as Russia continues to hit infrastructure. Some areas are warned that they could be without electricity for days and weeks at a time. And this is in addition to the loss of life and destruction on the eastern front. So, we continue to ask God to bring deliverance and appreciate your joining us in prayer (Micah 7:7).