



Evangelical Friends Mission

April 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.

The Howell Family | Serving in Ireland

This week, I met with an old friend for a coffee and chat and saunter around Wicklow Town. This is a person that I have had the honor of knowing for well over a decade. It had been too long since we had caught up, so it was time for sure. After we went our separate ways, I started processing this relationship.

This was a young man that I first met when he was in his mid-teen years through the youth club that we facilitated. Long after he outgrew that, we continued to meet on a regular basis. He would share his life with me and often ask for my input on certain situations. After silently praying and seeking God's wisdom in the situation, I would speak. I don't take this honor of being invited to speak into another's life lightly. It is with a profound sense of humility and grace that I come. Over the years, the relationship has matured, yet I still find a sense of awe in its rawness. He has mentioned more than once how vital this relationship has been to him in becoming who he is today.



This is one example of a typical day in the life of ministry in Ireland. It might be classified as pastoral care or mentoring. But whatever term you use to describe it, the powerful impact it has reverberates throughout. I love this simple definition I came across, "wise adviser, intimate friend who also is a sage counselor." The part that speaks to me the most was the phrase "intimate friend." The intertwining of lives through time, experiences, and love.

Moses and Joshua. Paul and Timothy. Elijah and Elisha. Mordecai and Esther. Priscilla and Aquila and Apollos. Eli and Samuel. Barnabas and Paul. Jesus and all of the disciples. The list goes on. Throughout the scriptures, we see this playing out on a regular occurrence. The intentional act of breaking bread and sharing time with one another.



As I am writing this, Tricia just came in and shared of a four-hour coffee chat she had this afternoon. We spend time with these dear ones, investing in the hard parts, and celebrating with the good. It's not always easy or even productive. However, it is worth it. For this young man. For the one, Tricia met with. For the artist. For the businessman. For the tradesman. For the parent, grandparent, and child. For the one who feels like no one listens or cares.

Would you continue to pray with us for this awesome country? Pray that these conversations will continue to bear fruit. That through these intimate friendships, the impact of the love of God with grow beyond anything we can even imagine. Please pray with us for new ministry opportunities that are presenting themselves. Pray that we will be faithful to hear and follow the voice of truth as we are led forward. And please pray for us as a family. It had been a difficult season that we had found ourselves in. We treasure your love and prayers as we navigate what lies on the horizon.



Thank you, friends, for loving us and praying for us as we are an extension of your hands and feet in Ireland. Blessings,
The Howell Family



From the EFM Office

Praise God...

- For Sung Kim and Stan Leach's trip to Indonesia and Cambodia. God provided rich opportunities for seeking future ministry, not only in those countries, but other areas of Southeast Asia.
- For the faithful missionaries of EFM. They are extraordinary people through whom God is doing amazing ministry!

Please Pray...

- For an April gathering in Africa focusing on discerning how EFM and African Yearly Meetings might cooperate in sending missionaries to unreached peoples in Central Africa. Nine representatives are planning on attending from Friends Churches in North America.
- For Easter. It is often a season when, around the world, there is increased evangelistic activity. Pray that many would decide to follow Jesus.
- For the Lord's continued provision for the work of EFM. This month, many congregations are taking an offering on behalf of EFM's missionaries.

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 an effective Luke 10 Exploration Trip to northeast Brazil. The team reports that there are open doors there, worth continuing to explore future ministry.
- For continued and growing momentum in Friends Churches across North America. There is great confidence that "God is at work" among us, not only in the Luke 10 Initiative but also in local ministries.

Please Pray...

- For ten new missionary households to step forward, willing to "go!"
- For follow-up trips to potential mission fields. (The hope is to make final decisions regarding fields later in 2023. These follow-up trips are designed to answer final questions before these choices are made.)

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 Scott and Andrea Sward EFM Missionaries in Cambodia

Praise God...

- For the start of a monthly Bible school in our province with 60 students.
- For the birth of a new tribal church.
- For the work of the Holy Spirit in strengthening, healing, and delivering people.

Please Pray...

- For a deeper intimacy with Christ, and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit (both for us and Cambodian Christians).
- For the church planting work currently taking place in seven locations in our province.
- For the unreached people groups in our province--particularly for the Kavet (tribal), Lao, and Cham (Muslim minority group).

From David Thomas EFM Whole Life Discipleship

Praise God... (Thailand)

- For The Way Foundation leadership team in Chiang Rai, Thailand. Thank God for all their progress in seeing God's Word taught, understood, and obeyed through their Pastor Evangelist Training (PET) program. Thank God for their partnering with us in Discipling for Development (D4D) to see that the gospel touches all of life. Thank God especially for our D4D leader, Yosapa, who yearns to see transformation come to their Lahu villages.

Please Pray... (Thailand)

- For their understanding and applying the Appreciative Inquiry lesson. Pray they will gain a positive perspective to see all the ways God has already blessed their communities. Pray Philippians 4:8 over them, "*Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.*" This verse is surrounded by the idea, "*and the God of peace will be with you!*" Also, pray for us as we prepare for a coaching trip in the first week of May.

Praise God... (Bolivia)

- Thank God for the growing relationships with Christian leaders who are hungry for the coaching we can offer with Discipling for Development, and who yearn to see whole-life transformation through their ministries in the communities and churches they serve in around Bolivia.

Please Pray... (Bolivia)

- For God to raise up the right Navigator leaders (who speak Spanish) who can help facilitate the two and the five-day Foundation's workshops in late August, and who can be a part of ongoing coaching for the future D4D teams in Bolivia.

Praise God... (Burundi Missions Conference)

- For the missionary sending vision growing among Friends leaders in Burundi, Rwanda, DRC, Tanzania, Uganda, and Kenya. Thank God for the special history and location of this conference to be held at Kibimba in Burundi from April 22-28. Thank God for the leaders coming from these countries as well as mission leaders coming from the US and Central America.

Please Pray... (Burundi Missions Conference)

- For our hearts to be one in seeking God's heart for the unreached people groups around us in Africa! Pray "*that the eyes of their hearts would be enlightened,*" that they would recognize God's call and would take practical steps towards sending their own missionaries! Pray for us from North America that we would be sensitive to God's leading and that we would be an encouragement for what God is doing in them.

From D.K. and Choity Sarkar Serving in India

Praise God...

- We had a very good Luke 10 Exploration Trip to Northern India. We were based in New Delhi and worked with a few people who came from different districts of North India.
- We also had a very good EFC-India conference in Kerala. Participants came from different states of India and also from Nepal and Bhutan.
- For all who went with me to Kerala for the EFC-India conference and came home safely to Kolkata. It is a forty-eight hour train journey to Kolkata.

Please Pray...

- For our deputation in the US which began last month.
- For my co-workers who will be in charge of the mission in my absence.
- For Choity- she is suffering from some pain in her body.

From Samson and Priscilla Retnaraj Serving in Nepal

Praise God...

- For the ninth women's prayer seminar held in Cha'pur on a Hindu festival day of colors (Holi) - when most people were busy sprinkling and showering people with colored water and paint. Asha (CHE trainer) shared about the many blessings experienced followed by an extended time of prayer for the CHE ministry in Rautahat District and in the churches. Renuka Rai and Asha preached in two different sessions to the women and all experienced great joy in hearing from the Word of God. After the sessions, the Gaidatar women demonstrated a short skit showing the life of 'Ruth & Naomi' - from the series "the great women of God" which touched everyone's heart.
- Gaidatar, Judibela, and Eden CHE committees (Rautahat District) had their regular monthly CHE meetings on different dates, and Suleman could also participate in their CHE committee meetings and encourage them. All these CHE committees are preparing themselves to host the Rautahat CHE conference which was held on March 28-29 in Cha'pur.
- Ajay Tamang attended the worship leaders training held in Chitwan by the Global Disciples team. He came back to his church refreshed and encouraged by the new skills in worship he learned.

Please Pray...

- For the Rautahat CHE conference that was held on March 28 and 29. All of our CHE trainers, members of CHE committees-leaders and pastors, and other leaders from other districts of Nepal attended to report on their activities and encourage each other and spend time in prayer for their next year's plan.
- For Balkumar, Avinash, Bikram, and Mina who started small businesses with the help of seed grants provided by their CHE committee in Chitwan being overseen by Gokarna (CHE trainer). Each one joyfully reports back to their church the blessings they experience and want to pour back blessings into their church, as their start-up businesses take off.
- For the Dalit (Musahar) communities of Border tole and Station tole of Baidehi (Aurahi) where small groups are meeting regularly and where girls who were groomed by the Children's CHE activities led by Babli and Arun are playing a lead role in getting their families also involved and to come forward and accept Jesus.

From Tony and Agi Frei Serving in Hungary

Praise God...

- Every month, we are organizing a children's occasion in the church of Budapest. Glory to God, two unbelieving families (parents and children) visited us, because they were interested in our faith and church.
- It seems that COVID-19 has subsided in our country. It's good news, because our mission work is easier since there aren't restrictions or as many people who are sick.
- For our youth group that is in unity and peace. Since the start of COVID-19, on every second Tuesday, they keep in touch on Zoom, and they organize Bible lessons. They strengthen each other through faith.

Please Pray...

- For Agi. She had an operation in 2012 for a mysterious pain she was having and had several liters of water drained from her. This pain appeared again in 2021 and has now come back again last month. She was in a lot of pain in her back, waist, and muscles. The doctors don't know the cause of the problem. For now, there is no water, and the ultrasound did not show any results. Please, pray for Agi's health.
- For the new families in Budapest, that God would open doors in their hearts.
- For our church members. Some of them are tired, their faith has weakened because of the problems of everyday life. We are also praying for them. *"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."* Galatians 6:2