



# Evangelical Friends Mission

## August 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.

### Molly Morton | Serving in Ireland

Each day at lunch I try to open my Lectio 365 app and listen to the Scripture and thoughts offered there. I call it Lectio Lunch. Today the Scripture was Matthew 15:32-36, a shorter description of Jesus feeding the five thousand. At one point in the story, Jesus asked his disciples, "How many loaves do you have?" It struck me that Jesus was not only asking a practical question but also a relational one. He is asking, what do you have, what are your gifts, what are your skills, what do you bring to the table? Jesus asks because he wants to know what he's working with, but I think he also asks because he wants the disciples and the thousands that have been following to act outside of their known capacities, to go outside their comfort zone.



In the last few weeks, God has been making evident to me that one of the loaves I have is presence. I work on a church staff with two married men who each have three children under the age of ten. I am not married, I do not have children, but I do have time and space to be present. As I've learned over the last few years, presence can be all I bring to the table. I don't have to bring skills, gifts, and talents, even though I do have those, many times what a situation needs is presence. As an introvert and a chronic helper, just being with someone can seem like not enough to me. But I've realized that I get to be present. I have the time, the space, and the margin to be present in a way that my colleagues can't be due to their own family obligations.

One of my favorite ways to do this is to host people in my home. I was blessed with my home in the center of Greystones, in a bustling neighborhood and within walking distance of the church. I have been making it a point to have more people in my home for dinner, coffee, etc. Yesterday morning, I hosted my Thursday morning Bible study ladies and their kids (see the photo above). We drank good coffee, ate good pastries, chatted, laughed, planned trips, prayed for each other, and were generally present for each other. It lasted for four hours! It was a dream for me. When I first viewed this home, this is what I envisioned. As some of you know, I have been praying specifically for friendships with other women, close and deep friendships. The women in this group are beginning to give me the answer to that prayer.



*The Morton sisters enjoying afternoon tea.*

Thank you for praying with me and for my ministry here in Ireland.

Molly



*According to Bev it is 29 days until we leave for Florida.*

#### **Praise God...**

- We had a fantastic group of Michiganders at the end of June with us in Greystones. They learned so much about our ministry context and helped us with some big projects.
- My sister, Amy came for a visit for two weeks in July. It was an amazing time for just the two of us!
- We have successfully submitted our application for planning permission for the rebuilding of our church property. Please continue praying for favor with the government bodies who approve these applications.

#### **Please Pray...**

- We will be hosting a small group from Gateway Friends Church this month. I am so excited to have my church family in Ireland. Pray for the final planning stages before they arrive. Pray for details and logistics to be easily sorted out.
- I've been given an opportunity to travel to Florida with some of our church members from Peace Haven, a home for adults with disabilities, at the end of August. Please pray for this precious time with these friends. Also please pray for my stamina at theme parks for several weeks. 😊
- For homesickness and loneliness following my sister, Amy's visit. I love having family visit, but it also means that I have to watch them leave too.

## From the EFM Office

### *Praise God...*

- For the annual conferences and business meetings that took place in July among Friends in Alaska, Eastern Region, the Pacific Northwest, Indiana, Iowa, and Mid-America. We look forward to seeing how the Lord uses these events to mobilize his people for ministry at home and abroad.
- For the addition of Christy Neifert to the EFM staff. Christy has already begun to learn her role as the Director of Operations.

### *Please Pray...*

- For Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting as they gather at Quaker Ridge Camp in Colorado August 4-6 for their annual summer gathering.
- For the EFM Staff Retreat that will take place in Wichita, Kansas, August 21-27.
- For Dan Cammack, the Field Director, as he travels to Asia on August 28 for several weeks of visiting missionaries and the leaders with whom they work.

## **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 Think Tank that was held in Southern California in July. There was a sense of excitement about how the Lord wants to expand Friends Southwest's involvement in world missions.
- For the energy that the Luke 10 process is bringing not only to the EFM staff and Board but also to the regions/yearly meetings of North America and to many Friends yearly meetings around the world. There is a lot of planning going on for more Luke 10 Exploration Trips in the coming months. Stay tuned for more details!

### *Please Pray...*

- For the Lord of the harvest to send more workers into the harvest fields.
- For the Future Missionary Retreat that is taking place in Aguascalientes, Mexico, August 7-11. About 25 young people from the Friends churches in Mexico are planning to participate in this retreat and explore God's will for their lives. Dan Cammack, Edwin and Maria Giron, and Duane and Lois Davis are among those who will be there to help serve as teachers and mentors.
- For those who have returned from the Luke 10 Exploration Trip to the Shuar of Ecuador as they process what they learned during the last two months about the conditions and opportunities for ministry.

**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 Serving in Cambodia

### *Praise God...*

- For a restful family holiday in Malaysia.

### *Please Pray...*

- That we'd learn to abide more deeply in Christ, in order to bear fruit that remains.
- For the 62 students enrolled in our Monthly Bible School, that they'd grow in their knowledge of God and love for him.
- For Battambang Friends Church, that the Holy Spirit would help them overcome divisions and lead them into greater unity in Christ.

## From Samson and Priscilla Retnaraj Serving in Nepal

### *Praise God...*

- For the seven young people from Cha'pur who made a public testimony of baptism recently. Pray that their faith in Christ not only persists but continues to grow in spite of all the problems facing them from their hostile families and community.
- For Ashok and the believers in Mahida church where we see God at work in the lives of this simple village church and the community.
- For the 15 Chepang believers led by Safal Praja, in and around Kalaa pani Chitwan, who went through the Vision Seminar and have been blessed in their lives because of the Bible-based CHE Training. A CHE training for the members of the CHE committee has been scheduled for the month of September in their midst.

### *Please Pray...*

- For the Advanced CHE training for our women trainers in Women's Cycle of Life to be held in Sauraha, Chitwan. Four of our women trainers led by Asha will be attending and will subsequently conduct a similar training for women in all the other CHE communities.
- For Ruth's father-in-law (Jagdish), as he is still unconscious and unresponsive, in a hospital since June 5, after a head injury sustained in a high-speed automobile accident near Delhi.
- For our CHE Trainers and the various CHE committee members, pastors, and leaders in our churches and their families and little children who are faithfully serving the Lord in Nepal despite many odds.

## From David Thomas

### **EFM Whole Life Discipleship**

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

- For Yosapa and Mana, our core D4D team working in two villages. Thank God for their consistency and diligence in bringing God's Word and in helping people in these villages become more aware of the resources God has blessed them with.

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

- For villagers' eyes to be opened as they study scriptures, use Appreciative Inquiry questions, and draw resource maps of their homes and villages. Pray for their hope and trust in God to grow, and pray for a deepening desire to steward well all that God has given them.

#### *Praise God... (Bolivia)*

- For two couples joining our team (Chilean and Mexican Navigator missionary couples). Praise God for great partners on the ground helping us organize the venues and other details (Food for the Hungry - Bolivia, and Compassion - Bolivia). Praise God for two people, Ninfa Apaza with Compassion, and Ivan Delgado with FH-Bolivia who have agreed to be trained up as D4D coaches within their respective organizations.

#### *Please Pray... (Bolivia)*

- For God's blessing and favor to be on all of our growing relationships! Pray for the right people (leaders and on-the-ground implementers) to participate in our two workshops in August (21-25 FH-Bolivia, 28- Sept 1 Compassion and other leaders). Pray for many "aha" moments in the workshops. Pray for the establishment of a great relationship with these two Christian organizations who have already had an important impact for the kingdom of God in Bolivia. Pray for all the wisdom and insight we need as we walk alongside them; helping them and many others in churches throughout Bolivia become all that God has created them to be. We feel humble and blessed to walk alongside these leaders.

**From Tony and Agi Frei  
Serving in Hungary**

***Praise God...***

- For Erica, who had major heart surgery, the surgery was well done. Now, she is undergoing treatment, so she needs to rest a lot.
- Our mission place, Fürged looks promising. There are some open-hearted gipsy families. Firstly, we will organize a house group there, in one woman's home.
- A young couple (Henrietta and Christopher) from our youth group is preparing for their wedding in early September. We are happy for them because we see God's blessing in their lives.

***Please Pray...***

- For our youth group. They are organizing a youth camp again in the middle of August. Please, pray for them, and blessings of this camp.
- For my older daughter, Tímea. She has a big pain in both knees and the cause is still unknown.
- For our children's days. We would like to organize children's days in some mission places. It's a great possibility because we can invite some unbeliever families for these occasions.