



Evangelical Friends Mission

September 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.

A. and M. A. | Serving in Bangladesh

Dallas Willard's book "The Divine Conspiracy" is profound for his work on divine truth. I am motivated that my number one priority should be to spend time with the Lord. I asked myself, who am I? What kind of life am I living? Is God happy with the way I am living or leading? Do I hear the voice of God in my daily life? Do I obey God? God is inviting me to live in connection with him (John 15:4,5). At times, I felt like I was doing God's will and executing his plan, but it turned out that wasn't right. It was my wish, my dream, my plan. I like what Dallas says, "Until our thoughts of God have found every visible thing and event glorious with his presence, the word of Jesus has not yet fully seized us." God is always inviting us to do his will. The very image of God demands his characteristics in our lives. God's ultimate purpose is for us to have a loving and internal relationship with him. I realized that it is much more important to spend more quality time with the Lord and keep opening my spiritual ears so that I can hear his voice, asking for his plan for my life and ministry, rather than doing much work for the Lord.



We are doing various types of ministries focusing on sharing Jesus with non-Christians. We take every opportunity to share the love and forgiveness of Jesus with others. Our Friends Computer Center is one of the means of sharing good news with college and university students. Most of them are Muslim. We share Jesus with students. We have printed a basic computer manual book which also leads a student to know about Jesus.

Romans 10:15 says, "As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'" The "Beautiful Feet Movement" was started in 2010 based on this verse and it is continuing today. We just finished this movement seminar (August 18-21). We had 67 women, 13 leaders, and 16 children come along with their mothers to attend this seminar from various Friends churches of the country. The main theme for this year was, "Speak, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:10). We did several workshops on how to listen to God's voice and pray to God. Women had some unique experiences about hearing the voice of God through this movement seminar. We emphasized spending more quality time and building a personal relationship with the Lord and obeying his command. Our dream is to see every mother will be a "Mother of Prayer".

Blessings,
A. and M.



Praise God...

- We had a very fruitful women's movement seminar. We prayed for no rain during this seminar since it is monsoon season. These three days there was no rain. The rain started just after the seminar.
- That one of our disciples' families just united after two and half years of separation. Determined to continue praying until the prayers are answered, we have all prayed for this family, and God has answered our prayers. Blessed is the name of the Lord.

Please Pray...

- For our fruitful deputation time in the U.S. starting in October. Pray that the Lord helps us to reach both our prayer and financial partner goals. We are below 100% of our goal.
- For our upcoming "Widow Seminar" in September. Our dream is to train and motivate widows to live a joyful and dedicated life in the Lord.
- For both of our sons so that they are equipped well to bring glory to the Lord.



From the EFM Office

Praise God...

- For the EFM Staff Retreat that took place in Wichita, Kansas, towards the end of August. It was a good time of worship, fellowship, and business. We also enjoyed the variety of food that that part of the state has to offer.
- That Rusty Savage of Evangelical Friends Church-Eastern Region is once again the chairperson of the EFM Board. Christy Neifert was the chairperson until she joined the EFM staff in July as the Director of Operations.

Please Pray...

- For the EFM staff as they implement decisions that were made during their retreat in Kansas.
- For Dan Cammack, the Field Director, as he spends the month of September in Asia visiting our missionaries and Friends leaders.
- For B. and D. A. as they begin their time of deputation and prepare for retirement from missionary service with EFM.

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 safe return of those who participated in the Luke 10 Exploration Trip to the Shuar of Ecuador. Four of the team were in Ecuador for two months. A total of eight participated in this time of exploration.
- For the Future Missionary Retreat that took place in Aguascalientes, Mexico, in August. Almost all the Friends churches in Mexico were represented at this retreat. Twenty-five men and women were there to explore whether God might be calling them to become missionaries in cross-cultural settings. Another fifteen were there to provide mentoring and teaching. Maria Giron, EFM's Missions Mobilizer for Hispanic Friends, and her husband, Edwin, were the main organizers of the event. The Friends Church in Aguascalientes supported the retreat in various ways. It was a great blessing for everyone who participated!

Please Pray...

- For the Lord of the harvest to send more workers into the harvest fields.
- For the three Luke 10 Exploration Trips that will be taking place in September. The first one is to South Sudan (4-17), the second one to Tanzania (17-25), and the third one to Greece (20-30). All of these are second trips to these areas and will help in the preparation of recommendations for the National Luke 10 Think Tank that will take place on November 8 of this year in Portland, Oregon. For more information about exploration trips and the think tank please go to <https://friendsmission.com/luke-10-trips/>.
- For those who have been participating in the various activities designed for future missionaries as they discern God's call on their lives.

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 Former Missionaries from Hong Kong

Praise God...

- For the good healing from the aneurysm surgery last June 2022. Dave had a post- CT scan this past June and the doctor said everything looked good. Another CT scan will be done in two years.

Please Pray...

- For Cindy and I as we have opportunities to minister here in Hong Kong on our six week visit. We'll return home on September 13.

From D.K. and Choity Sarkar Serving in India

Praise God...

- That my throat operation is done and it was good.
- Our Muslim staff Moarjem Ali had a stone in his gallbladder. The doctor said without an operation it would not be cured. But because he is a diabetic, he could not go for an operation. He was suffering. Finally, one local doctor gave him some medicines and it was cured.
- Our AGM is finished, and the staff has a new vision for the new field. Praise the Lord.

Please Pray...

- That I may get complete healing from my throat problem.
- I will travel to Siliguri to arrange a meeting with Bhutan believers for Dan Cammack. Please pray for proper arrangements.
- For Choity, she is getting better.

From Samson and Priscilla Retnaraj Serving in Nepal

Praise God...

- For helping all our CHE Trainers to carry out their activities in the communities where CHE work is going on, especially in Chitwan and Rautahat Districts.
- For Arun who has undergone a miraculous healing after the accident involving his right upper limb. He is currently going through rigorous physiotherapy in Janakpur daily to regain the function of all the crushed bones and muscles, the right elbow, and wrist joint. It is difficult for him to travel by motorbike, so he and Babli walk or use the local tempo to visit the community.
- For the Women's Cycle of Life (WCL) Training held in Sauraha Chitwan where four women CHE trainers attended and were blessed. They are now conducting training in Hetauda for the women in our CHE communities, which began on August 30.

Please Pray...

- Four of our CHE trainers as they conduct a CHE ToT in the Kalapani village in the hills of Chitwan among the Chepang people from three to four different churches.
- For Narayan and his wife Saru (CHE Trainers), who have a small business (meat shop, and books and stationery shop). They are facing a lot of competition and are thus facing difficulties in repaying their loans in time. Their house fellowship in Tapara Bardia has about ten to twelve believers attending regularly. The government of Nepal and an INGO have provided small loans to build houses for all the families living in Tapara, and Narayan and his father were also blessed with this gesture.
- For the third LEAD (Discipleship) Training to be held in Cha'pur for 15 adults from three to four local churches. This training will begin in September and will last 15 days, and is on the guidelines laid down by Global Disciples International, and Solomon Rai is the main Trainer. They will also have a two-day Small Business Development (SBD) training during the 15 days of training.

From Tony and Agi Frei Serving in Hungary

Praise God...

- The youth camp was very blessed in August. They had 17 attend and they got stronger in God.
- Our children's day in Tolna was very blessed too. There haven't been so many children in years. There were 60 children, but God sent enough helpers for us.
- Our youth group leaders, from Tolna, Kinga and Manuel, (my nephew) are expecting a baby boy.

Please Pray...

- For Kinga and her baby, that everything will be okay during the pregnancy.
- For Erica, who had a major heart surgery. She has very big pain yet. Please, pray for her recovery.
- For peace. Our sister, Mary from Ukraine, was in our church on the children's day. She told about the bad news of the Ukraine- Russia war situation. Please, pray with us with one will.

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

Praise God...

- For the seven Muslims that have come to Christ.

Please Pray...

- For these new converts as they are being persecuted by family and society right now.

**From Kathi Perry
Serving in Ireland**

Praise God...

- For continued recovery from open-heart surgery in January.
- For summer in Ireland (even though it has been very wet!). The warmer temps and less impacted schedules allow for friendly gatherings.
- For this little house I have lived in for nearly eight years, and my beautiful garden that allows me to be a farmer some of the time. I am grateful for every day that I am able to live here.

Please Pray...

- For my housing situation. My landlord wants to sell and the rental market is very tight. There is a chance I will be able to stay, with a new landlord (the local county council). Pray for agreement from all parties involved, or a wonderful, affordable alternative.
- I continue to pursue Social Work placements so that I can do Return to Practice hours and use my SW training in Ireland. I need some organization to take me on for 210 hours!
- This is the year of big surgeries. I will have my right knee replaced on October 20. Hopefully, that will be the last replacement part that I will need for a long time!

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

Praise God...

- We had a few times of lovely rest during August.
- Diane's eye (with detached retina) is continuing to improve, and we are so, so grateful to the Lord for that.

Please Pray...

- For the opening workshop this fall to be held on September 5 and 6. Abe will be making a major presentation not only for our Center of Hope leaders but also for many other church leaders. The topic is how to have dynamic worship services that will communicate to the youth and the unchurched. This topic will become even more relevant as refugees return from other countries with a new perception of the world. Pray that attendees will have open hearts along with a deep desire to reach the lost.
- We have about 20 Centers of Hope but of course want to expand the ministry. Abe will start a new cycle of training in January, even as he continues mentoring the present leaders. Pray for people to step forward who have a vision for ministering to the needy and a passionate love for Christ and for people. Centers of Hope are places in a community where people feel welcome, perhaps physical needs met, but definitely emotional needs—and the Hope of Christ shared. Pray for at least 20 more leaders to step forward. And when we say "leaders" we are talking about couples who work together for the Lord.



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