



# Evangelical Friends Mission

## October 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.

### Samson and Priscilla Retnaraj | Serving in Nepal

In May this year 2023, we celebrated 18 years of fulfillment through the Community Health Evangelism (CHE) ministry in Nepal. It started out as a “crazy idea” for both of us in May 2005, when we held our first CHE Vision Seminar for Nepal Evangelical Friends Church pastors and lay leaders. We were both health professionals, but desired to move into Nepal as missionaries with EFM obeying God’s will in our lives. The first part was to become a believer in the CHE methodology ourselves and it took the greater part of five to six years before we saw results and were convinced that it was God’s will for us and a certain way forward for the church community wholistically to cause transformation in lives.



Today the work of Friends CHE Program includes ministry in six terrain districts of Nepal and among the underprivileged and poor communities in Nepal. We lead a team of four to five staff (and their spouses) who conduct CHE Training and help in propagating the vision using simple lessons in the Nepali language. People are being taught to be followers of Jesus through this simple training and whole communities are being lifted out of cycles of poverty and disease. As a result, just in the last few years, more than 50 people made professions of faith in Christ, three or four new churches were planted, and hundreds of people experienced greater health and dignity. The vision of our ministry is to see Christ transform the lives of all the indigenous peoples of Nepal living in rural villages.



Shyam Rai was an alcoholic and worked as a daily wages laborer. He is married and has seven children. The little money he earned was used up mostly in liquor purchases and so Suleman (our CHE Trainer) and his father gave him a small job of cleaning the Cha’pur church building and keeping it ready for church services and meetings whenever necessary. He thus came regularly to hear about Jesus and was eager to know more, so we gave him a CHE Training (ToT) which satisfied his desire to know more about Christ and serve him. Subsequently, he also got involved in a 15-day Discipleship Training (LEAD) and now leads a completely transformed life helping not only his family but also the local community, and encouraging many who don’t know Jesus to believe and be baptized.



SHALOM!  
Samson and Priscilla Retnaraj

#### *Please Pray...*

- For the safety and well-being of our CHE trainers as they travel around to different places in Nepal conducting various activities mostly with CHE Training as per their annual plan.
- The women in our church communities as we reach out to empower them using the Women’s Cycle of Life Training along with CHE training in the women’s prayer groups in Rautahat and Chitwan.
- For the many whose lives have been touched and influenced by CHE trainings in helping to transform their lives and be useful disciples and members of their church community.

## From the EFM Office

### *Praise God...*

- For our 60 Days of Prayer that is cultivating a spirit of gratitude and unity as we reflect together on EFM's past, present, and future. You can still participate by downloading the devotions at <https://friendsmission.com/60th-anniversary/>.

### *Please Pray...*

- For the EFM Fall Offering. This opportunity focuses on raising support for underfunded missionaries. Pray that God's people would become more deeply aware of God's love and respond with joyful generosity.
- For Dan Cammack, the Field Director, as he continues his travels to the Philippines to visit PEFIM and then joins up with the Luke 10 Exploration Trip in Brazil.
- For A. and M. A. as they begin their time of deputation this month through the beginning of 2024.

## 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 Tanzania that took place September 17-25. The team was made up of nine Friends representatives from Burundi and the U.S.
- For the safe return of the eight participants of the Luke 10 Exploration Trip to Greece that took place September 20-30. We are grateful for God's relentless love for Muslim refugees in Greece.
- For the unity and focus the Luke 10 Initiative has brought to Friends churches all across the nation. It is remarkable!

### *Please Pray...*

- For the two Luke 10 Exploration Trips taking place in October. The first is Brazil (October 6-17) and the second is Dubai and Doha (October 19-31). For more information about exploration trips and the think tank please go to <https://friendsmission.com/luke-10-trips/>.
- Start praying for Luke 10 National Think Tank, scheduled for November 8 in Portland, Oregon. We hope to discern and determine the five new fields for EFM's Five Year Goal.
- 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 Kathi Perry Serving in Ireland

### *Praise God...*

- I found an apartment quickly - and the estate agent chose me because she remembered that ten years ago I would take leftover baked goods into her office for one of my "mums" who had gone back to work!
- I will be co-leading a Bible Study for young mums on Fridays this year. I'm excited about that.
- I've started cardiac rehab, which feels like a big step toward being "done" with open-heart surgery!

### *Please Pray...*

- Moving house quickly has consumed my time. I will miss my neighbors of eight years. Pray that those relationships will last.
- For the Bible study that I will be joining as a leader. This group was started through the Nazarene church, and I am looking forward to being part of it.
- I continue to look for opportunities to gain "return to practice" hours for social work. Pray for a position to open up for me, as I pursue the transition to "bi-vocational" ministry.

## From Gabriel and Suzana Massey Serving in India

### *Praise God...*

- He has been good to us, and we could have the quarterly examination at the Christian English college which this year has 2,700 students. We had teacher's day on Sept 5 and had a very good program honoring our teachers and giving each of them a good gift. We have 70 teachers and four supporting staff and we gave each one a good gift.
- We had the Annual General Meeting of Shalem Society which runs the Christian English College on September 23.
- We thank the Lord for his help in the functioning of the Christian hospital. Many patients are coming and getting care at the hospital.

### *Please Pray...*

- We are going to celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary on October 2. We are thankful to God for his help during these past years. Pray for our elder son A. M. and his family and their ministry. Pray for Arpna, our daughter who works as the assistant manager at the English School at Chhatapur M.P. Lastly, pray for our younger son Amit and family who live in Dallas Texas, and runs the Massey Tennis Academy.
- For Pastor Deepak Nalvansi who is pastoring the Friends church at Chhatapur. His son Abhinav is suffering from chicken pox.
- That our area may have sufficient rains during the monsoon period.

## From Maria Giron

### Serving as the Missions Mobilizer for Hispanic Friends

### *Praise God...*

- For the opportunities God is giving me and Edwin to continue collaborating in his kingdom through this mobilization ministry. It is exciting to see how God is raising up young people who are passionate and determined to go wherever God sends them.
- In the last week of September, Edwin and I were invited to be speakers at the Barclay College's missions conference in Haviland, Kansas. Although there are times when we do not feel capable of doing certain things, like sharing at a college student level, God knows our capacity and he manifests himself so that his gospel may be known to all corners of the earth.
- In every trip that Edwin and I have had to make, God's protection over us is evident, keeping us from danger and illness. We are thankful for how his spirit is guiding us to continue motivating others.

### *Please Pray...*

- For the Annual Hispanic Friends Conference— AMANA, which will take place the second week in October in Pomona, California. Pray that once again, this event will be a blessing and edification to all who may be present, uniting us more just as Jesus wants his church to be united. This conference is always a great opportunity to have a fraternity time that recharges hearts with encouragement.
- For the trips that Edwin and I will be making the rest of the year. Some of these trips will be to Mexico to continue collaborating with the Friends Yearly Meetings in Mexico in the development of their VM32 church planting project. Please pray for our safety and wisdom and to keep us encouraged and healthy to continue with the tasks that God has entrusted to us.
- That God would continue to use us to recruit, train, and send many more to his fields ready for harvest.

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

### *Praise God...*

- That the threats from Hindu radicals have not moved our believers.

### *Please Pray...*

- For the many threats that are spilling over from India.

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

***Praise God...***

- The opening training workshop in September went very well. About 150 people attended. And more importantly, the Holy Spirit was evident in his work in hearts.
- We took one more week of vacation in September in the city of Kyiv. We have been living here for 33 years and for the first few years, we lived in Kyiv (now in western Ukraine). It brought back many memories and, in spite of the war, is a beautiful city. We spent a lot of time listening to inspirational messages. And we feel very restored in body, soul, and spirit.
- God has provided a young Ukrainian man to help with the bookkeeping. Our bookkeeper Maria has been with us for 23 years and she is getting older, and the work is getting greater instead of less. Benjamin (21) is getting his master's in accounting and is willing to pick up some of the load. Praise the Lord! His parents trained with us and worked as missionaries in Russia for a number of years, and he was born in Russia!

***Please Pray...***

- For the ongoing training of the present leaders. They are all at different stages in development, both personally and where each Center of Hope is at. Pray that they will bond in the monthly meetings with like-minded people to share with. Community is so important in ministry. Pray for Vera as she begins to train them regularly in the principles of discipleship.
- For Ukraine and an end to the war. Russia is increasing attacks across the country again targeting energy resources. When we were in Kyiv Abe heard early morning explosions as missiles were shot down. Our neighbors saw a missile overhead while we were gone! And then there are the men on the front who face death daily. Many are frightened and discouraged. Only the Lord can win this battle. Ukrainians are a spiritual people. The majority by far are God-fearing. Pray for the spiritual battle that is going on in the spiritual realms, that God would show himself strong.

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

***Praise God...***

- Two weeks ago, two members of our youth group, Henrietta and Christopher got married.
- Six German brothers and sisters served the Lord with us, in the last week. We were in the mission places, and we preached the gospel and gave testimonies to the people on the streets.
- Some people on the mission indicated that they would like to make a public testimony of baptism. We will organize this occasion in November.

***Please Pray...***

- For the EFC-I Europe Conference, which will be held at the beginning of October. Adrian Halverstadt and his wife will visit us, and we will serve God together in Hungary. We will have some other guests from the EFC-I mission. Please, pray for blessings.
- For those people who heard the gospel from the German and Hungarian mission team in the streets. We believe that the Word of God doesn't return empty.
- For those people, who indicated that they would like to make a public testimony of baptism in November, that the spirit of the Lord would confirm them.