



# Evangelical Friends Mission November 2023 Prayer Letter

www.friendsmission.com  
efm@friendsmission.com  
303.421.8100

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.

## Maria Giron | Serving as the Missions Mobilizer for Hispanic Friends

What better opportunity to thank God than this! We are very thankful for this year, which has been a very exciting one for my husband Edwin and me, full of great opportunities to mobilize others towards accepting the challenge of going to the nations, to the unreached people, and continuing together fulfilling the Great Commission.

The following are some of the highlight events that we as mobilizers were able to experience God moving and we feel privileged that the Holy Spirit used us to impact the lives of others, especially the youth.

We will begin by praising God for the First Future Missionary Retreat in Aguascalientes, Mexico which was held in August with an attendance of 25 young people, between the ages of 16 and 30, from the different Friends Churches of Mexico and from Kansas, United States. They had the opportunity to meet and have fellowship for four days in a retreat house to be focused on exploring a possible call to be future missionaries or church planters. During these days, potential future missionaries had the opportunity to listen to speakers with experience in missions such as our EFM Field Director, Dan Cammack, and former missionaries Duane and Lois Davis, among other excellent speakers that God used to impact the hearts of those who were present. We witnessed young people passionate about serving Jesus, with their eyes full of tears saying, "Lord send me wherever you want, I am willing to go."



The last week of September, Edwin and I were invited to be speakers at 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 capability, and he manifests himself and we were glad to be able to meet with young people and inject a little of our passion for missions.

AMANA, Annual Conference of Hispanic Friends, was another important event in which we had the opportunity to participate, share, and testify to others about how God is moving through this mobilization ministry to raise up more workers determined to go to their harvest fields, especially young people! It was such an uplifting time where more than 200 people, including pastors and leaders from different Spanish-speaking Friends Churches from the United States, Mexico, and even Central America, gathered to have fellowship, encourage one another, and be edified and recharged with the Word of God through the excellent speakers. Edwin and I had the privilege of having two specific times in which God allowed us to challenge the audience and to continue injecting our passion for mobilizing others to missions.



At the end of each of these great opportunities we have discovered each time that the Lord is preparing, and calling brave men and women who are saying "Here am I, send me." Praise the Lord Jesus because there is a feeling and hope that soon many more will be sent to his harvest fields.

In Him,  
Maria Giron



## From the EFM Office

### *Praise God...*

- For the prayers of God's people as we have been getting ready for some very important events occurring in November. Please see the prayer sections that follow.
- That Dan Cammack, EFM's Field Director, arrived safely at his home in Oregon after two months of travel in Asia and Brazil.
- That financial support for EFM's ministries has been strong throughout this year.

### *Please Pray...*

- For the A. and M. A. family and B. and D. A. as they do deputation in the Pacific Northwest.
- For the EFM Board meetings that will be held in Portland, Oregon, November 9 and 10. On the evening of the 9th, there will be a banquet where the new fields will be announced that will be launched by the end of 2025 (see more below).

## **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 completion of the second Luke 10 Exploration Trips to NE Brazil and the Middle East.
- For the opportunity to gather in Portland Oregon November 8-10 to hear more about what God has been doing through the Luke 10 Exploration Trips and then for the EFM Board to discern which new fields will be launched in 2025.
- For future missionaries who are already taking steps to prepare themselves for service.

### *Please Pray...*

- For the Lord of the harvest to send more workers into the harvest fields.
- For the National Luke 10 Think Tank that will be held in Portland, Oregon, on Wednesday, November 8. Representatives from across the U.S. will gather to prayerfully consider which of the areas of the world visited through the Luke 10 Initiative are most ready for new fields to be launched. The criterion used for this discernment is Champions, Affirmation, Need, Gifting, and Opportunity. To learn more about what these mean please visit: <https://friendsmission.com/five-year-goal-go/>.
- For future missionaries who are in the application process with EFM. Pray also for the EFM staff and board as they walk with the applicants through the process.

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:** November's Luke 10:2 Prayer Gathering has been canceled! Join us in December on the 2nd Thursday from 10-11 AM PST. If you would like to participate in this gathering, you can sign up for it at <https://friendsmission.com/five-year-goal-pray/>.

## From D.K. and Choity Sarkar

### **Serving in India**

#### *Praise God...*

- That we could complete the Business Training program in Kolkata.
- For the visit of Dan Cammack, the EFM Field Director and Maurice Roberts and Jerry from Anthem Friends Church.
- That Dan could talk individually with all EFM Kolkata staff.

#### *Please Pray...*

- For our annual camp which will be held from October 21-23.
- For the public testimonies of baptism before that annual camp and also pray for the candidates who confessed Jesus as their Lord and Savior.
- For Choity's health.

## From Maria Giron

### **Serving as the Missions Mobilizer for Hispanic Friends**

#### *Please Pray...*

- 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 encouraged and healthy to continue with the tasks that God has entrusted to us.
- That God would continue to use us to mobilize, train, and send many more to his fields ready for harvest.
- For the funding needed to reach 100% of financial support for this mobilizer ministry.

## From Samson and Priscilla Retnaraj

### **Serving in Nepal**

#### *Praise God...*

- For the good progress in the Mahida Church where Ashok, a professional tailor, is conducting the preaching, teaching, and evangelism work regularly. He is assisted by Sister Binda, whose husband Kumar also comes regularly to church, after having given up his old ways. One of their own members Mina Rai has pledged to provide the land necessary to build their own church building in the coming year. We have requested the Regional Evangelical Friends leaders of Chitwan to bless him with a pastor's license so that the work continues unhindered, and the people of the community are blessed. This is the first church in our ministry which was started by Suleman and Asha of Cha'pur almost 15 years ago and has grown considerably not only in numbers but being fully self-sufficient financially.
- A house fellowship of five to six believers in Asanwa Chowk (Judibela) also near Cha'pur has grown in recent months. This house fellowship is led by Kaldhar Rai who is about 60 years old. He lost his son Kedar four years ago due to COVID-19. He was a very skilled CHE worker working with Suleman and Asha. Kedar's widow Radhika was provided help for starting a tailoring shop after being trained by Asha in tailoring and crafts so that she and her three-year-old daughter could sustain themselves. She has now gone to live with her own parents in a nearby town. Recently another woman from the neighborhood, Rita Tamang, started attending this fellowship. She lived in a single-room mud house with just a plastic sheet for a roof, and during each visit to church would bring one of her neighbors and subsequently their husbands to the fellowship. In the last four months, a total of five to six people have been added to this fellowship and are waiting to make a public testimony of baptism. So, this fellowship is growing in strength and is very encouraging for us.

#### *Please Pray...*

- A CHE ToT was held in Gol Bazar for Ps. Roshan Lama and his church in October, and fifteen believers were trained by CHE to evangelize and disciple others in their church to aid in the transformation process. Suleman and Gokarna as well as some others from Cha'pur will be taught in this time. Pray for those that attended this training.
- A Society of Chitwan CHE committee has been formed having nine leaders from six churches in Chitwan. Please pray that the process of registering their Society with the Nepal government will proceed smoothly and unhindered by the current issues facing Christians in Nepal. Gokarna our CHE Trainer for Chitwan is the secretary of this organization and is to be ordained a full pastor in the forthcoming regional gathering of Evangelical Friends of Chitwan.
- For the children of our CHE trainers and their education in schools and colleges. The parents are struggling to meet the requirements for their education, and so far God has provided so mercifully. Lord help us to be faithful in all our commitments and responsibilities!

**From David Thomas**  
**EFM Whole Life Discipleship**  
**Praise God... (Thailand)**

- For a strong coaching workshop in Chiang Rai among Lahu Christian leaders. Many were touched by the skills of active listening and asking questions like Jesus. For an excellent hour, each to experience coaching and to be coached by their peers.
- The Discipling for Development team is strong and highly motivated, organized, and following their excellent plan. There is also high participation in the village as they interact with our D4D facilitators/leaders Yosapa and Mana.

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

- For the Lahu team to continue leading strong in the two villages of JaSoPa and JaTaw. They are facilitating lessons seeking to discover the root causes of struggles that the community is facing. Pray they grow in discerning what they are up against. Pray for the Holy Spirit's insight into their community! Pray for hope and a growing vision for transformation to come in their village.
- For The Way Foundation, our partners among the Lahu in Northern Thailand as they continue to seek ways to effectively plant churches in mountain villages. Pray for God's favor on The Way Foundation's relationships with many church leaders among the Lahu people. Pray for a blessing on their efforts to bless others through their excellent leadership education/discipling programs (like PET Pastor Evangelist Training).

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

- For the honor of working alongside leaders from Food for the Hungry (FH) and several churches who desire to invest in marginalized people through whole life discipleship.
- For all the workshop manuals that were translated so well by our Bolivian colleagues.
- That our INELA Friends Church leaders and a couple of their participating churches can again be involved in the D4D process. Through a comedy of errors last August, they were excluded from the Foundations workshop, but now through Compassion's withdrawal from participating in our D4D mentoring the space is opened back up for Friends participation.

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

- For God's strength, health, and travel mercies as our large team flies in from three countries and from around Bolivia. Please lift us up in prayer each day!
- First week - We train 30 FH leaders in La Paz on how to empower the leaders they mentor through coaching. Pray they will understand and apply this skill with good results in their leadership contexts.
- Second week - We train 60 leaders in Sucre in how to teach through adult learning and how to apply Bible Telling in the oral settings they minister in. Pray they also come to understand and begin applying in their ministry/work/family settings.
- May the Holy Spirit unite them to obey God's Word together in deeper ways and help each other grow in their personal development plans.
- As we all depart, we are asking the Lord to give us all his plan for how to follow up with the various teams through Zoom between our in-person visits. Ask the Lord to make this clear and to give these teams great commitment to carry out their plans in unity and with God's help.

**From L.T**  
**Serving in Israel/Palestine**  
**Praise God...**

- Jerusalem remains calm and I don't feel afraid.
- My students and their families are safe (although all have friends and relatives in Gaza for whom that isn't so).
- There is a wonderful faith community at the nearby Nazarene church of which I have become a part. They are faithful people of prayer.

**Please Pray...**

- For the peace of Jerusalem, Israel, Palestine, Gaza, and the entire Middle East.
- That I can speak hope and love into the lives of my students during this traumatic time.
- That my students, their families, and I stay safe.

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

**Praise God...**

- The EFC-I Europe conference was very blessed two weeks ago. We are thankful for Adrian and his wife, Lisa, because we were able to be built by their faith. We visited the mission places before the conference, served together with them and Adrian always encouraged us with his preaching. The conference was three days long and we absolutely saw God's work on it.
- Glory to God, Dr. Donatien from EFC Burundi could visit our conference. He is an orthopedic doctor in the emergency room, in France. He is working and studying in France now. After two unsuccessful attempts, he was able to come over to Hungary for the third time. He stayed one week after the conference, and I visited families and mission places with him. It was a blessed time together, Donatien gave his testimony everywhere.
- This last month was very blessed. We served together in unity, with the German brothers and sisters and with Adrian, Lisa, and Donatien. In every difficulty, we felt God's presence.

**Please Pray...**

- For decisions that were made at the conference with Adrian and with the EFC-I leaders, which include looking for successors in our ministry in the coming years. Please, pray with me for God's guidance and the people who undertake these services.
- We have a vision with Adrian, that Donatien could plant a new church in France in the future. He has an open heart for it, but first, he needs to finish his studies next August. After that, he wants to move his wife and the two little sons from Africa to France, so they can serve together there. Please, pray for their plans.
- For our next mission journey. We will go to Ukraine on November 8 for four days. We will take food packages for poor families, Christmas packages for the children, and also clothing donations. We will give the gospel and we will pray for them, for the peace between Ukraine and Russia.