EVANGELICAL FRIENDS MISSION
LUKE 10 THINK TANK

Wednesday, November 2, 2022
Drury Plaza Hotel Broadview, Wichita, KS

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INTRODUCTION

Dear Friends, who are participating in the history-making **EFM National Luke 10 Think Tank 2022,**

Thank you for giving your precious time to this very important task of discernment together!

Some ways that we would consider this time together as a success would be:

- Each exploration team feel empowered to be faithful to God's leading in taking next steps in pursuing (or pause pursuing) and/or affirming EFM's CAN GO Criteria for the country/people they are exploring.
- EFM's Think Tank gain clarity on status of each location being explored:
    - Which sites might be feasible to launch by 2025?
    - Which sites will a team/s make follow up Luke 10 Trip/s in 2023?
    - Which sites might a recommendation come to the EFM board in November 2023 for approval as a new field that EFM would be recruiting/sending missionaries?

Please continue to pray that the Lord of the harvest will lead us. Please read and reflect on Luke 10, especially versus 1-24. Come ready to share ideas that may be forming in your own prayerful thoughts and in conversations with others about where Friends might launch new mission fields. Come ready to listen to the Lord and others. Come with open hands and open hearts, as a church ready to say, if the Lord Jesus wants to include us in his mission, “Here we are, send us!”

This packet contains material and reports to help us prepare. Please take time to read through it before we start.

EFM National Luke 10 Think Tank Schedule

November 2, 2022

*The Lord **now sent** them ahead*
*He instructed, "Pray that **the Lord of the Harvest would send** more workers*
NOW GO and** remember that **I am sending you.

9:00am Think Tank convenes
- Welcome
- EFM's Mission and Vision

9:15am Reading of Luke 10
- Sharing of observations based on trip experiences
- Prayer

10:00am Singing and Worship

10:30am A look at
- Five-Year Goal
- Benchmarks
- CAN GO Criteria

10:50am BREAK

11:10am Luke 10 Trip Report. 28 minutes for each report, **in summary**:
- 9-10 minutes: What did your team see for CAN GO Criteria?
  - Any insights for how/who a field might be launched?
- 3-4 minutes: What does your team recommend for next steps?
- 12-15 minutes: Input/feedback from Think Tank.

1. Mexico
2. Ecuador/Shuar

12:10pm Lunch Break

1:30pm Luke 10 Trip Reports continue

3. Greece
4. Eastern Europe
5. Tanzania

-BREAK 10 Minutes-

6. South Sudan
7. Dubai/Doha

3:45pm Closing discussions

- Which locations reveal highest potential?
- Which locations reveal highest potential for deploying EFC-NA missionaries in 2025?
- Which locations have a solid commitment for follow up Luke 10 Trip/s before Nov 2023?

4:30pm Singing

4:45pm Dismissal

6:00pm Dinner at Old Spaghetti Factory (allow 20ish minutes for drive?)
Old Spaghetti Factory
1421 Waterfront Parkway
Wichita, KS 67206

BENCHMARKS

The Five-Year Goal

To send 10 new missionary households from North America to launch 5 new fields by 2025

In launching these new fields, we will pursue partnerships with Evangelical Friends groups on other continents who share our vision and wish to work with us.

Major Benchmarks for All Five Years

2021: At least 10 potential fields chosen for exploration (May)
Each region commits to adopting at least one of the new fields (Sept)

2022: All potential fields visited at least once (Nov)

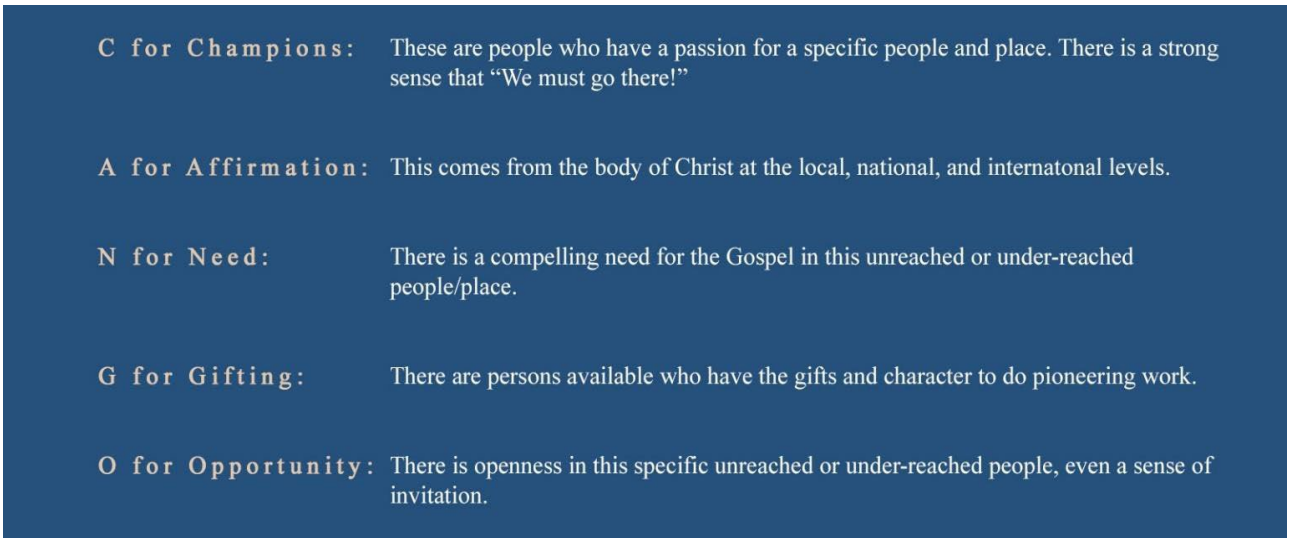
2023: At least 15 potential missionary units getting field experience (May)
All potential fields visited for at least the second time (Nov)
At least five new fields approved by the EFM Board (Nov)

2024: At least 12 potential missionary units in the application process (May)
At least 10 missionary units approved by the EFM Board (Nov)

2025: At least 10 new missionary units placed on at least 5 new fields (Dec)

EFM'S CAN GO CRITERIA

During the first Luke 10 Think Tanks that were held the following criteria for where to launch new fields was set based on a study of missions history, especially how decisions were made about where to pioneer new fields:



LUKE 10 TRIP CAN GO REPORT QUESTIONS

C for Champions:

- *Who is God already using/calling to be a champion for this place? Churches? Individuals? Partners in other continents? Before the trip? During the trip? After the trip?*
- *Who is praying for this people or place? Will they pray for the team as they endeavor to dream and receive the vision?*
- *Who is God calling to give their lives to reaching this people group? What are their names?*

A for Affirmation:

- *Are there partners or ministries in place that we can learn from prior to us going there? In the greater region?*
- *How did the discernment impressions of senders and goers change before, during and after the trip? What discoveries or stories stand out in this process?*
- *Are there people with resolve willing to partner with and send missionaries to this people or place? Who are they?*

N for Need:

- *What can you share about this people or place?*
- *Is there a ministry need that we can focus on?*
- *How would you summarize the most convincing evidence of need for the gospel and reason/s to start a mission there?*

G for Gifting:

- *Who is expressing interest or willingness to consider going as a missionary to this place?*
- *What sort of gifts or skills might be required for this work?*
- *How many people will it take to begin this pioneering work? What will it take to get started?*
- *See Ron Stansell's article entitled "Team Giftedness in Pioneer Work."*

O for Opportunity:

- *Is the soil ready for sowing seeds of the Good News? (Matthew 13:23: The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!")*
- *Who welcomed you or provided hospitality among believers and non-believers? Did you find a woman/man of peace? Did you receive an invitation to bring the Good News to an area that is not being reached?*
- *Share any opportunities that God may be presenting to us. How might we start? How will we engage with the people? Business? Development? Discipleship and Evangelism? Partnerships?*

2022 Luke 10 Initiative Update

The Five-Year Goal
To send 10 new missionary households from North America to launch 5 new fields by 2025

In launching these new fields, we will pursue partnerships with Evangelical Friends groups on other continents who share our vision and wish to work with us.

Major Benchmarks for All Five Years

- 2021: At least 10 potential fields chosen for exploration (May). Each region commits to adopting at least one of the new fields (Sept)
- 2022: All potential fields visited at least once (Nov)
- 2023: At least 15 potential missionary units getting field experience (May) All potential fields visited for at least the second time (Nov). At least five new fields approved by the EFM Board (Nov)
- 2024: At least 12 potential missionary units in the application process (May) At least 10 missionary units approved by the EFM Board (Nov)
- 2025: At least 10 new missionary units placed on at least 5 new fields (Dec)

How will EFM determine where the five new fields will be started?
Primarily through the **Luke 10 Initiative**. EFM depends on the regions/yearly meetings, churches, and individuals that EFM serves as their missions' agency to engage in this discernment process. The Luke 10 Initiative requires **four types of participants** who gather for **Luke 10 Think Tanks** and discern, based on **EFM's CAN GO criteria**, what locations and people groups to visit via exploratory teams called **Luke 10 Trips**. Out of these trips will come recommendations to the EFM Board about where to launch new fields.

Learn more at: https://friendsmission.com/five-year-goal/.

The Great Commission is too big for anyone to accomplish alone and too important not to do together.

EFM's LUKE 10:2 Prayer Gathering
These were his instructions to them: "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So, pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to cast more workers into his fields.

You are invited to sign up to receive the zoom link for EFM's LUKE 10:2 GATHERING on the second Thursday of each month at 12pm central at **https://friendsmission.com/five-year-goal-pray/.**
TEN Potential Fields in Process of Exploration

1. Mexico – Mid America taking lead
    - Primary contact/team leaders: Maria Giron and Trent Jacks
    - April 19-29, 2022, Luke 10 Trip to Jalisco State, Nayarit State, Colima State, and the Huichole people group
    - Five from the U.S; Edwin and Maria Giron, Trent Jacks, Matt Macy, Nathan Macy and 11 from Mexico including Ernesto and Elizabeth Ramariz (MYM Gen Sup), Pastor Sergio and Luisa Ayala of Nueva Rosita, Couhuila and Pastor Israel and Dida of Aguascalientes.
2. The Shuar People of Ecuador and Peru – Northwest taking lead

- Primary contact: Ron Mulkey
- Team leader: Ken Comfort
- May 30-June 16, 2022, Luke 10 Trip to Ecuador.
- Ken Comfort, Jerry and Kerri Clarkson, Maria and Edwin Giron, Rebecca Reimer, and Jael Ayala from Mexico (with Beatriz Apaza from Bolivia)
- January 2022 team led by Dan Cammack went to Peru and Bolivia for mission sending vision conversations.

3. Greece – Northwest taking lead
    - Primary contact and team leader: Jim Le Shana
    - May 30- June 10, 2022, into Athens for base and visits to other places including Lesbos and Thessaloniki.
    - Jim Le Shana, Josiah Muhr, Ron Maestas, Kenn Dirrim, Libby Penrose and Jan Cammack
4. Eastern Europe – Northwest taking lead
    - Primary contact and team leader: Jonelle Liddell
    - June 15-22, 2022, Luke 10 Trip flew into Budapest and based out of Tolna, visited sites in region via day trips
    - Fred and Jonelle Liddell (plus baby Alex), Vivian Titus, Stan Leach.
5. Tanzania – Mid America taking lead
    - Primary Contact: Thayne Thompson and Matt Macy
    - September 11-21, 2022, Luke 10 Trip flew into Dar Salaam and visited 8 sites to learn about receptivity of Kutu Tribe and Zaramo Trip unreached people groups
    - Team Leader Domitien (Burundi Missions Coordinator) and Assistant Team Leader Brad Carpenter plus from Burundi; Fidele and Salomon and from the U.S.: Thayne Thompson, Thomas Moore, and Matt Macy.
    - January planning/vision trip to Rwanda and Burundi: Matt Macy, Brad Carpenter, Kevin and Melissa Hoppock
6. South Sudan – Mid America taking lead
    - Primary contact: Brad Carpenter and Jean Paul Nsekanabo, Rwanda
    - October 10-21, 2022 based out of Juba and exploring the following people groups: Dinka-Bor, Nuer, Murle, Olubogo, Mundari and Cholo.
    - From EFC-Rwanda: Jean Paul Nsekanabo, Nicodeme Basebya, Gerard Munyanganizi, Theodore Uwiragiye. From EFM: Brad Carpenter and Matt Macy
7. Dubai Nepali speaking people – Eastern Region taking lead
    - Primary Contact: Rusty Savage and Norbu Tamang
    - October 17-24, 2022 visited Nepali speaking immigrant workers in Dubai and Doha
    - Rusty Savage, Mathew Bradbury, Norbu Tamang, Zach Bohler, Thomas Moore and from EFC-Nepal; Amen Thapa.
8. The Lahu People of Thailand, Laos, Vietnam – Eastern Region taking lead
    - Primary Contact: Rusty Savage and Ben Kibbe
    - December 8-15 Luke 10 Trip planned
    - Rusty Savage, Scott Calhoun, Ben Kibbe, Stan Leach, and EFC-Thailand leaders
9. Northern India – Indiana Yearly Meeting
    - Primary Contact: Eric Dale and Keith Huffman
    - February 20-March 4, 2023 trip being planned

10. Northeast Brazil – Rocky Mountain taking lead
    - Primary contact: Patrick Neifert
    - Trip being planned for March 2023

Future Missionaries

2022 Future Missionary Participation

- Seven future missionaries visited Rwanda in January and August for **Training Trips**.
- One, Thomas Moore, is on one-year **field experience**/internship in Rwanda.
- Ten who declare themselves as future missionaries from the U.S. went on **Luke 10 Exploration Trips.**
- Eighteen future missionaries and thirteen mentors attended the May **Future Missionary Retreat.**
- The **Future Missionary Cohort** met nearly every month by video conference call on the 2nd Monday night of the month, facilitated by Michale Johnson.

2023 Future Missionary Activities in the works:

- Indiana Yearly Meeting, EFM, and Kaleo Academy will be hosting future missionaries at the **Urbana Conference**, December 28, 2022-January 2, Indianapolis
- A **Future Missionary Retreat** is being planned for May 29-31, 2023 at Quaker Ridge
- Sites are being explored for **Future Missionary Training Trip** opportunities as well as **field experience** options.
- We are in the process of **surveying** future missionaries to make connections for 2023 and 2024 placements in training trips, Luke 10 Exploration Trips, field experiences and missionary application.
- We are working on a future missionary **growth plan template** to assist future missionaries and mentors in the journey of discernment and next steps
- **Friends Summit 2023**, December 28, 2023-January 1, Houston, will provide opportunities for EFM to connect with potential future missionaries.

Activity around 2023 Major Benchmarks and Five-Year Goal

Major Benchmark 1: At least 15 potential missionary units getting field experience (May)

- Sites are being explored for **field experience** options in 2023 and 2024, existing fields and potential new fields.
- We are in the process of **surveying** future missionaries to make connections for 2023 and 2024 field experiences.
- The end goal of sending at least 10 households by December 2025 is the primary focus
    - We may have some candidates with previous missions and/or cross-cultural experience who apply with EFM to pioneer new work who won't require additional field experience
    - We may have missionary candidates who apply with EFM who could be deployed short term or long term as part of the exploration process for new fields.

Major Benchmark 2: All potential fields visited for at least the second time (Nov)

- The November 2, 2022 Think Tank will help reveal what exploration teams are discovering for EFM's CAN GO Criteria, and where fields should be visited a second time
    - Further affirm what has already been discovered
    - Explore for further information to establish CAN GO Criteria and/or logistics for deploying missionaries

Major Benchmark 3: At least five new fields approved by the EFM Board (Nov)

- The hope is that CAN GO Criteria is sufficiently established for the EFM Board to identify at least five new fields at November 2023 board meetings to pursue missionary recruitment and deployment by Dec 2025.

The Five-Year Goal

To send 10 new missionary households from North America to launch 5 new fields by 2025
In launching these new fields, we will pursue partnerships with Evangelical Friends groups on other continents who share our vision and wish to work with us.

- We continue in conversation with Global Disciples for partnership in **Small Business Development (SBD)** training to inspire a sustainable model for sending. Mexico Yearly Meeting leadership went through SBD October 17-22, 2022.
- The December 2022 **Worldwide Missionary Gathering** in Thailand includes a session on the Luke 10 Initiative and provides connection with every continent of EFC.
- We are working with Mexico Yearly Meeting to plan an August 2023 **Mexico Future Missionary Retreat** in Mexico. Maria Giron is taking point with leaders in Mexico.
- We are working under the invitation of leaders in Central Africa in planning a **Missions-Sending Learning Gathering**, likely for April 2023. This may include SBD training intro with Global Disciples.

LUKE 10 EXPLORATION TRIP REPORTS

MEXICO TRIP SUMMARY

Who Was on this Trip?

We are grateful for a great team, which we are sure was formed by God. Each member brought a lot of value to the team with each of their gifts and personalities. We were especially grateful for the six young potential future missionaries (ages between 15 to 26 years old), we enjoy seeing their commitment to serve God and the clear calling each of them have. It is obvious to see in their lives. There is such great hope in our hearts on these six young future missionaries.

From Mexico

- Ernesto Ramirez- Superintendent Mexico YM
- Elizabeth Ramirez – ITA Director
- Sergio & Luisa Ayala – Pastors from Coahuila
- Israel De La Torre (Accompanied by his wife and his two children)- Pastor from Aguascalientes
- Jeremias Ayala – 15 year old Potential Future Missionary from Coahuila
- Anna Wong (and her, well behaved, 2-year-old daughter) – Potential Future Missionary from Coahuila Friends
- Angelica De La Torre- Potential Future Missionary from Coahuila Friends
- Ximena Maldonado- Potential Future Missionary from Coahuila Friends
- Camila Carrillo – Potential Future Missionary from Coahuila Friends

From U.S.

- Trent from EFC- MAYM
- Edwin and Maria Giron- EFM Missions Mobilizer
- Matt Macy- EFM Director of Mobilization
- Nathan Macy – Future Missionary

Where Did We Travel?

While in Mexico, the team explored three states- Jalisco, Nayarit, and Colima. We explored 16 towns in nine days! Why did we decide to visit these selected places? Well, in the center of Mexico exists a zone identified as the circle of silence, this zone includes eight states: Jalisco, Zacatecas, Aguascalientes, Nayarit, Michoacan, Guanajuato, Queretaro, San Luis Potosi. In the Circle of Silence there are 115 towns

with less than 1% of Evangelical Christians. This is the place with the fewest Christians in Latin America!

In each town our team divided into three groups to go around the town, walk and talk to local people at the plaza, pray for families, go into businesses to talk to owners or employees. None of the team members missed opportunities to follow the impulses from the Holy Spirit to contact the right people, we even had opportunity to gather children in a plaza and play while other leaders of our team talk to their parents.

In most towns people were kind and inviting. They were willing to hear about gospel. In most places our team felt welcomed and, in some places, even invited to come into town and plant Christian churches. Every place we went we could feel the great need people have to know Jesus.

Jalisco Report

POPULATION	TOWNS AND MUNICIPALITIES	EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN %
8.35 MILLION	125	3.40%

Towns Explored

- Zapotlanejo
- Tepatitlan
- Ameca
- Tequila
- Tesistan*- Most of our team felt like this place is worth continued the exploration. Small but growing as a suburb of Guadalajara. Many young couples and young families.
- Tonala

Testimonies

- Tepatitlan- one of our groups had an encounter with a man named Juan Jose. When he found out that we were Christians, he was so interested that he even invited the group to his house to pray for his family. At his house he gathered his family members and they shared that his grandmother and granddaughter had seen spirits in the house, and they were afraid of those spirits. Our team presented the gospel to them and began to pray, it was then that a spirit manifested in one of the women present and she fainted. Pastor Luisa continued praying for this woman, until she got up reacting and saying that she was feeling liberated.
- Tesistan- Matt and his group had a conversation with a shop owner who welcomes the gospel because people want to better their lives. The shop owner invited Matt to start a church here. The entire team had similar experience.
- Maria- I was praying for people in this area and had an encounter with an old man selling funeral plans. I had a chance to ask him about life after death. 90% have no idea

where they are going. He was glad to have met us and felt interested now to start reading his Catholic Bible.

- Edwin – I spent a long time in conversation with a school teacher. His wife is also a teacher. They are very interested in the possibility of having a church. We exchanged information.

Nayarit Report

POPULATION	TOWNS AND MUNICIPALITIES	EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN %
1.25 MILLION	20	5.75%

Towns Explored

- Ixtlan del Rio
- Jala
- Zitacua
- Compostela
- San Blass
- Santa Maria del Oro

Testimonies

- People in different towns in Nayarit seem more open to the gospel and to the idea of having Christian churches planted in their towns.
- Zitacua- This is a Huichole community. They have their own temple where their traditional Huichole celebrations and animal sacrifices take place and spirits manifest. There is a great need of church planters and missionaries to this people. It is a very dark place and there is much spiritual warfare. The Huicholes are considered an unreached ethnic group. Our team had the opportunity to play volleyball and talk to some of the Huichole women and children.

Colima Report

POPULATION	TOWNS AND MUNICIPALITIES	EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN %
731,391	10	6.28%

Towns Explored

- Valle de Alvarez
- Comala * No Christian Churches here
- Tecoman
- Barra de Navidad

Testimonies

- Waitress in Valle de Álvarez: The morning after our team arrived in Colima, our team was having our daily devotional, when the waitress bringing coffee for everyone felt the touch of the Holy Spirit and began to cry when she saw us reading our Bibles. Her name is Rachel. Maria had a conversation with Rachel, and she confessed to her that she was a Christian a long time ago and that she separated from the Lord by falling into the practice of quartz and crystals. She was feeling a strong need to return to Jesus. Our team ended up praying for her. Days after our teams returned to our homes, Maria received a voice message from Rachel giving her the news that she had accepted Jesus

into her heart and made a commitment to follow him again. Having the waitress approach the group was a confirmation of the work that is needed in this place.

MEXICO CAN-GO REPORT

Trip Location: Mexico- Jalisco, Nayarit, Colima (16 Towns)
Trip Dates: April 11-29, 2022
Written by: Maria Giron

C for Champions:

- Mexico YM as places to be reached out for the fulfillment of the VM32 church planting project.
- Mexico North YM is being part joining MYM (central) VM32 by praying and sending
- Iglesia Evangelica Amigos Las Vegas has had a special interest in Jalisco. In fact, they already send people annually to do evangelism events at a small town in Jalisco where there is no evangelical church present.
- Each church in the Mexico Yearly Meeting is taking ownership to pray for these three explored states and asking God for people from their churches to be willing to be obedient to the call from God to go out to other cities and plant new churches.
- Angelica de La Cruz, from Coahuila has expressed interest and strong feeling that God is calling her to go to any of these towns, her preference is in Jalisco.

A for Affirmation:

- Both Mexico YMs (North and Central)
- Antony and Kimberly Doi (Nayarit)-Huichole Ministry
- Pastor (not from Friends) Martin and wife- Huichole Ministry
- Iglesia Amigos Las Vegas
- In each of the towns visited, the team had meetings with key people who made us realize that it was God leading us to realize the need in each place, making potential fields to plant churches.

N for Need:

*In the center of Mexico exist a zone identified as the **circle of silence**, this zone includes 8 States: Jalisco, Zacatecas, Aguascalientes, Nayarit, Michoacan, Guanajuato, Queretaro, San Luis Potosi. In the Circle of Silence there are 115 towns with less than 1% of Evangelical Christians. This is the place with the fewest Christians in Latin America!

JALISCO

- 8.35 million-Population
- 125 Towns/Municipalities
- Only 3.40% Evangelical Christians

- Towns explored in Jalisco
    - Zapotlanejo
    - Tepatitlan
    - Ameca
    - Tequila
    - Tesistan*- Most part of our team felt like this place seems like a potential place worth of continue the exploration. Small but growing as a suburb of Guadalajara. Many young couples and young families.
    - Tonala

NAYARIT

- 1.25 million-Population
- 20 Towns/Municipalities
- Only 5.75% Evangelical Christians
- Towns explored in Nayarit
    - Ixtlan del Rio
    - Jala
    - Zitacua
    - Compostela
    - San Blass
    - Santa Maria del Oro
- **Testimonies**
    - People in different towns in Nayarit seem more open to the Gospel and to the idea of having Christian Churches planted in their towns.
    - **Zitacua**- is a Huichole community. They have their own temple where their traditional Huichole celebration and animal sacrifices and take place and spirits manifest. There is a great need of church planters and missionaries to this people. Vary dark place and much spiritual warfare. Huicholes is consider an unreached ethnic group. Our team had the opportunity to play volleyball and talk to some of the Huichole women and children.

COLIMA

- 731, 391 Population
- 6.28% Evangelical Christians
- 10 Towns/Municipalities
- Towns Explored in Colima
    - Valle de Alvarez
    - Comala * Christian Churches-None
    - Tecoman
    - Barra de Navidad
- **Testimonies**
    - Waitress in Valle de Álvarez: The morning after our team arrived in Colima, our team was having our daily devotional, when the waitress bringing coffee for everyone felt the touch of the Holy Spirit and began to cry when she saw us reading our Bible. Her name is Rachel. Maria had a conversation with Rachel,

and she confessed to her that she was a Christian a long time ago and that she separated from the Lord by falling into the practice of quartz and crystals. She was feeling a strong need to return to Jesus. Our team ended up praying for her. Days after our teams returned to our homes, Maria received a voice message from Rachel giving her the news that she had accepted Jesus into her heart and made a commitment to follow Him again. Having the waitress approach the group was a confirmation of the work that is needed in this place.

G for Gifting:

- Angelica De La Cruz- Jalisco
- AFTER- Abraham & Elisa Primo from Coahuila: They would like to explore these places and are willing to go open new churches wherever they feel God is calling them to go. They have not yet defined the place, but the call for them as planters is very strong
- The five greatest gifts are required in a new church planting team (Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers) in these 3 states with a low rate of evangelical Christians
- A team of 2-3 elements would be ideal for this pioneering work.
- Initially, people with a sociable, flexible personality, compassionate character and patience are needed.
- Initially, funds are needed to cover the support of the church planting families/elements. Since the beginning of these ministries would have to be very focused on building relationships with the locals.

O for Opportunity:

- God, in his incredible way of doing things, has opened doors of opportunity and contact with key people in most of the places explored.
- Evangelical leaders, who are not from Friends, have shown interest in having fellowship and associating with us so that more evangelical works can be raised in these places. There is a strong sense of welcome from other ministries.
- There are many opportunities and ways to develop ministry in many of these explored places. There are good possibilities through opening businesses, community service, working with children, marriage restoration ministry, among others.

Is this a CAN GO for EFM at this time?

- In the first place, EFM would be associating with the vision of the Friends of Mexico (this includes the two existing Yearly Meetings, one in the North and one in the Center), project VM32, of having a Friends church in each of the 32 states of the Mexican Republic for the year 2032.
- Mexico Yearly Meeting (Centro) has a broad vision of not only planting new churches in Mexico but also recruiting, equipping, and sending missionaries to other parts of the

world. By EFM partnering with Friends in Mexico would be motivating, encouraging, and fueling the churches of Mexico to fulfill this worldwide vision.

Which of the five criteria do we see the strongest? Which of the five criteria is yet to become convincing?

Opportunity is one of the five criteria we see the strongest.
Gifting- We would like to see more potential candidates to be ready to be sent to these fields that are ready for harvest.

Describe key points or stories in the process and affirmation/confirmation of God's call to Evangelical Friends to go to this particular people or place.

- People in different towns in Nayarit seem more open to the Gospel and to the idea of having Christian Churches planted in their towns.
- **Zitacua**- is a Huichole community. They have their own temple where their traditional Huichole celebration and animal sacrifices and take place and spirits manifest. There is a great need of church planters and missionaries to this people. Vary dark place and much spiritual warfare. Huicholes is consider an unreached ethnic group. Our team had the opportunity to play volleyball and talk to some of the Huichole women and children.
- **Jalisco**- we count with several contacts that would facilitate the development of new churches

What steps have you taken since returning from the trip or need to take in further discernment or exploration of this field?

God has opened very good opportunities for us where we have been able to share with others about the exploration trip and talk about the needs that exist in each of the three explored states. We have already seen a response from people expressing an interest in exploring or supporting the launch of a new field in one of these places.

Luke 10 Team Recommendation to EFM

Out of the 16 explored towns, the team agreed that there are four towns with a strong potential to become new fields. This is due to the openness and receptivity that is felt in the local people, in the feeling of welcome by Christian leaders who are already working there, and because of the opportunities to open businesses, carry out community service, and be a blessing to the community. with help for young people and teenagers.

Jalisco- Tesistan and Zapotlanejo
Colima- Villa de Alvarez
Nayarit- Zitacua

Having explored 16 towns, and seeing the great need in each one, but reducing to 4 towns, it is necessary to carry out a future exploration to define the place where the new field would be starting. Starting the recruitment of people interested in going to one of these towns in Mexico to immerse themselves in the culture and win people for Christ would be an urgent matter.

ECUADOR TRIP REPORT

Who Was on this Trip?

The team was comprised of:

- Ken Comfort, NWYM
- Maria and Edwin Giron, EFM Missionary and FSW
- Jerry and Keri Clarkson, NWYM
- Rebecca Reimer, EFC-MAYM, Future Missionary
- Jael Ayala Corpus, Mexico Yearly Meeting, Future Missionary
- Beatriz Apaza, Bolivia

Where Did We Travel?

We traveled to the Morona-Santiago Province of Ecuador. We were able to visit fourteen Shuar communities, in six general areas, to interact with Shuar people as much as possible. They were: Palora (Tawasap, and Nantar), Macas (Sevilla – in Canton Morona), San Joaquin and Santa Isabel (in Gamboa), Sucua (San Jose Alto – Suni's church), Tayusaen, Mendez, Puerto Morona, Achunts, and Tiwintza.

What is the Need in the Area?

The Shuar are one of a few jungle tribes living in east Ecuador in the Amazon basin up to and beyond the border of Peru. This tribe is one of the least reached people in Ecuador. The population may be up to 250,000 people in Ecuador and 150,000 in Peru.

Although some evangelical churches are established among the Shuar, at every meeting in every Shuar village, the people expressed the need for pastoral training, leadership training, and discipleship. Many communities are still very remote with little or no contact with the gospel. We were told that along the western side of the province from the Upano river to the Andes, about 10% of the people are Christian adherent. Beyond the river to the next mountain range about 5% of the people are Christian. Through the next valley and range 3% – 5% are Christian. From there to the Morona River 3% – 1% are Christian. Beyond the Morona to Peru less than 1% are Christian. Many have never had the opportunity to hear the gospel because they live in remote villages that still practice tribal ways.

Key Trip Moments

- We sang with the kids before worship time Thursday night in Achunts.
- We felt the work of God everywhere we went—believers were everywhere.
- We blessed Charles Milton, Sr. Rodrigo and wife Yolanda, and Teresa at our hostel in Puerto Morona.
- God accommodated when we weren't ready.
- The Achunts believers memorized verses and sang songs with us in Spanish, English, Aymara, and Shuar.
- We had many personal conversations in many places, special moments to know new people and how God has worked in their lives.
- We prayed that God would stop the rainstorm and he did, the morning of leaving with the boat.
- We learned, if you pass the tests, the doors will open – become Shuar to the Shuar.
- We encouraged village churches and leaders, especially Achunts.
    - Pablo (the musician) was great, asked lots of questions and asked for prayer.
    - Many sisters in the faith in Achunts also asked for prayer.
- We received many requests for pastoral and discipleship training, including in Tawasap, Nantar, Sucua, and Achunts.

Testimonies

There is much to share and tell about our time in jungle of Ecuador. Here are two testimonies: In Achuntz, (the village we traveled to by canoe), we found a village that has a strong evangelical faith. The former Shuar pastor had died a year before and his house was locked up, no one had entered it since. After a lengthy conversation with the town leaders about our beliefs, there was an excited conversation among the people in Shuar language. Jerry, Christina, and I had been told we would join the rest of our team to sleep that night at the school. But soon the daughter of the former pastor came and said, "My father told us you would come to our village. He wanted us to have his house ready to host you!" So, they unlocked the door, swept the house out for us, and showed us the books that he was translating. It was a very emotional time for everyone.

Another story is from Friday, June 10. After dinner Jael and Rebecca were singing until church started at 7:00. Lots of people joined us. Since it was dark at 6:00pm, we lit the church with two flashlights. Each of us were given a few minutes to share a short testimony and a scripture passage, and after we sang a few more songs in Shuar and Spanish. As the service was ending, Pablo (our canoe pilot and worship leader) asked if we could all hold hands as a sign that we were all part of God's family. I asked Edwin Giron to pray the final prayer, but before he could, three ladies, one by one, broke into the center of the circle and asked for prayer that they would walk faithful to God and that the village would forgive them. They wanted to be part of the family of God too. It was a special time blessed by an incredible moving of the Spirit.

ECUADOR CAN- GO REPORT

Trip Location: Ecuador, Morona-Santiago Province
Trip Dates: May 31 May – June 17, 2022
Written by: Ken Comfort

C for Champions:

Before:

- José Olivas, Juarez Friends Church
- Grace Anderson, Newberg
- Abby Schmelzenbach, Meridian / Newberg
- Gisseli Pati, Junta Mensual Nueva Esperanza, La Paz, Bolivia(not yet confirmed)
- Zulma Flores, Junta Mensual (JM) Vida y Paz, El Alto, Bolivia (not yet confirmed)
- Tania Colque de JM Tabernáculo, El Alto, Bolivia (not yet confirmed)
- Josue Chavez JM Peniel, Bolivia (not yet confirmed)

During:

- Jerry And Kerri Clarkson, Meridian Friends, Meridian / Nampa, Idaho (Summers and retirement)

A for Affirmation:

Before and During:

- AMEE (Asociación Misionera Evangélica Ecuadoriana, an umbrella organization for missions to the Shuar in Ecuador, Association of Evangelical Missions in Ecuador)
- Patrico y Andrea Leon, Macas
- Dario Salazar, Sucua
- Vincente Vinueza Pozo, Cayambe, former missionary/pastor in Tiwintza
- Carlos Tivi, Macuma
- Cristina Mendez, (From Macas and Mendez)
- Denis, Macas
- Andy Comfort (Quito Quest)
- Charles Milton (22 years Export Certifier of Shuar grown produce, with many connections to government and Indigenous Federations in Ecuador and the Amazon basin)
- INELA Bolivia
- INELA Peru
- Junta Anual de México
- NWYM
- EFM Mid America

Observations of Advantages and Challenges within affirming this as a field as we traveled:

Advantages	Challenges
A culture of relationships and talking with strangers. The people are curious and willing.	Paternalism
AME partnership	Many communities are resistant to change.
Many Shuar communities have not been evangelized, taught, or discipled.	The community leader (Sindico) must approve work and activity in the community.
There are some established communities with pastors and discipleship.	Spiritual warfare due to animistic Shuar beliefs and practices.
Most communities are seeking economic, social, and educational development.	Machismo but also a female driven culture. Some dangers for women.
If the Sindico (community leader) is Christian or open to Christianity, the people will readily follow.	Lowland hot humid climate.
Many communities are asking for more training.	Travel distance between rural communities.
Many young adults and children	Dangers of travel
Positive reception in villages including ○ Tawasap with Tigre (Stalin) Tzamarenda and sons ○ Nantar ○ Achunts	Lack of district or regional fellowship of churches (development needed, an opportunity)
Transportation is available in cities and between cities and roadside villages.	Transport is difficult in some areas.
	There are a lot of closed towns further in (need seeds sown for the first time contact)

Other Key Moments

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- We prayed that God would stop the rainstorm and He did, the morning of leaving with the boat.
- We learned: Pass the tests and the doors will open – Become Shuar to the Shuar.

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N for Need:

The Shuar are one of a few jungle tribes living in east Ecuador in the Amazon basin up to and beyond the border of Peru. This tribe is one of the least reached people in Ecuador and the world. The population may be up to 250,000 people in Ecuador and 150,000 in Peru.

Although some evangelical churches are established among the Shuar, at every meeting in every Shuar village, the people expressed the need for pastoral training, leadership training, and discipleship. Many communities are still very remote with little or no contact with the gospel. Dario Salazar told us that along the western side of the province from the Upano river to the Andes, about 10% of the people are evangelical Christians. Beyond the river to the next mountain range about 5% of the people are Christian. Through the next valley and range 3% - 5% are Christian. From there to the Morona River 3% - 1% are Christian. Beyond the Morona to Peru less than 1% are evangelized. Many have never had the opportunity to hear the Gospel because they live in remote villages that still practice tribal ways.

The primary ministry needs are pastoral and leadership training with emphasis in discipleship and spiritual formation. From this base the gospel could spread beyond the established evangelical churches to more and more communities in the east of Shuar territory. Working with established Shuar pastors for evangelism between villages seems to be the best method of sharing the Gospel and starting churches. This may not necessarily be a work of Friends only but a work in conjunction with other AMEE affiliates, especially in the beginning stages.

We were offered the possibility of establishing a training center in Sucua in partnership with AMEE. The ground and facility are already there. From this center additional training centers are needed in Tiwintza or Puerto Morona, Palora, and Taisha (covering the four corners of the province). From Palora, Tiwintza, and Taisha are the best possibilities of advancement of evangelism.

G for Gifting:

Who is expressing interest? (See Champions list for locations/yearly meetings.)
Before and During:

- Grace Anderson
- Abby Schmelzenbach
- Clarksons
- Gisseli Pati
- Zulma Flores

- José Olivas
- Tania Colque
- Josue Chavez

During:

- Clarksons
- The People of Nantar (Near Palora)

What gifts or skills might be required?

- It would be best to begin this work with those who already speak Spanish.
    - Shuar could be the primary language emphasis.
    - This is not perquisite: discipleship training
- Adventurous people, adaptable to outdoor conditions, willing to eat strange food, able to deal with humidity and heat, (Bathroom facilities are non-existent)
- Individuals who enjoy talking to new people and who are willing learners
- Good at working with kids and youth (much of the Shuar population is young)
- Gifts of hospitality and accepting hospitality
- Ability to support other team members and to work with other team members.
- Ability to homeschool or work as a parent with Ecuadorian schools

How many people will it take to begin this work?

- At least two households
    - Encouragement is important
    - Can work in different places but should meet together frequently
    - Need to have a very focused purpose, goals, and methods
- Each team member must know their strengths and weaknesses to complement each other
- Tons of prayer support at home - According to EFM, at least 500 committed prayer partners per team member, registered

O for Opportunity:

Is the soil ready for sowing the Good News?

- Yes! In many places it has already been sown—the people want and need training and discipleship.
- The possibility of Summer Visits (up to two months)
- Edwin: D for D (the version used in Mexico)

Who welcomed you or provided hospitality? Did you find a person of peace? Did you receive an invitation to bring the Good News to an area not yet reached?

- Quito
    - Andy Comfort

    - Charles Milton
- Tawasap
    - the Síndico (tribal leader) Tigre Tzamarenda
    - His parents specifically invited us to start a church there to tell the children about Jesus.
- Nantar
    - The community leader Martin
    - Pastor Ramón
    - The previous pastor Daniel
    - Several from the congregation
- Macas
    - Patricio (Pato) and Andrea Leon
    - Rodrigo and Yolanda (hostel owners)
    - Sandro Juanga (in San Joaquin - church with all the children)
    - Various church groups
- Sucúa
    - Dario Salazar
    - Suni and her husband and their congregation
- Achunts
    - Carlos
    - Pablo
    - Daniel
    - Vinicio
    - We are also quite certain that many seekers were present in the meetings who have not yet accepted Jesus.
- Puerto Morona/San José
    - Various people we met on the street

Share any opportunities that God may be presenting to you.

- Jerry is thinking of:
    - A wiki type database for learning Shuar
    - Developing Discipleship and training material in Shuar using the Shuar Bible, the database, and native speakers as much as possible.

Partnerships

- AMEE

Is this a CAN GO for EFM at this time?

Among the Shuar people are many definite possibilities of extending the Gospel and working with local leaders in planting new churches. Many local community leaders, pastors, and church leaders would reach communities beyond the reach of EFM missionaries. Working with and gaining the trust of the Sindico is vital. Even though the culture is managed by males, it is actually the women who make the decisions and approve what happens. This

may be a cooperative work establishing churches with generally evangelical doctrine rather than an exclusive Friends work (at least at the beginning).

Which of the five criteria is the weakest?
Champions (confirmed champions)

Which of the five is the strongest?
Need

Describe some of the specific affirmations or stories when God's call to this field was affirmed before and during this trip.
This vision began more than 10 years ago in NWYM and continued with placing the Badgley family in Macas. Even though the Badgleys were unable to remain in Ecuador, the vision continues strong with many people from NWYM. Local Ecuadorian Evangelical leaders with strong callings to minister to the Shuar Nation are also inviting us to minister alongside. This trip has come to confirm the needs, opportunities, and affirmation of local Shuar and non-Shuar people. Several individuals gave their hearts to Jesus through the ministry of this team.

<u>Luke 10 Team Recommendation to EFM</u>
Whereas many Shuar people in readily accessible areas have accepted Jesus as their Savior and are meeting in established churches, the field is yet very ripe for harvest reaching just across the river from Sucúa or from Achunts and into more remote villages. Each area and village that we entered has great need for discipleship and spiritual development. Although those from outside of the local culture should not go to the remote villages without direct invitation, discipleship of Shuar people should facilitate the evangelism of other villages and the invitation for work deeper into the jungles with continued evangelism and discipleship.

Our next steps must be:

- Confirming those called by God to work among the Shuar.
- Establishing a system of discipleship in Spanish and translated to Shuar is an evident next step.
- Implementing discipleship, evangelism and encouraging evangelism
- Discipling or encouraging discipleship among new believers, new communities, and new churches should be the result of this effort.

Addendum: Team Recommendations for First Time Missionaries

- Always be observant – Blend with the culture (drink a little chicha, eat the grubs, inhale a little cleansing liquid, accept any hospitality graciously).
- Shuar prefer open honesty. Keep your hands on top of the table. Keep your word. Don't make promises that can't be kept.

- Always travel in pairs until you are traveling with close local companions. Always travel as a pair (couple, two men, or two confident women) when visiting new villages even if with local companions. Luke 10
- Shuar exhibit a dual layer power structure. While men may compose the village council, the women meet casually, constantly, and control the home and the men.
- Personal transportation may not be necessary at first while adapting to local transportation. Personal transportation may be convenient but also requires a fenced driveway, garage, and local storage or garage rental in villages.
- Repel mosquito wipes are handy and convenient bug defense. Flea collars, worn around one's ankles, fend of foot and leg bites from many fleas of the many town dogs and the beds in low cost lodging.
- Vitamin B Complex tablets taken daily also repel bugs that bite
- Always take a gift to anyone that you visit. This may be a food to share personally or with a community, children's materials for a church, discipleship materials, or anything of use to the person or community to visit. Avoid taking gifts that would not be of natural use in the community (candies not usual to the community, etc.)
- Transportation: Check with local village leaders as well as with AMEE missionaries. Local villages that have electricity by wire also have a trail to town and to the next town along the powerline (visible on Google Earth / Maps). Once well introduced in a village and the surrounding and approaching villages, a motorcycle might be a good means of local transport allowing for visiting several villages. Weigh this against forming relationships with locals by using local and canoe transport.

GREECE TRIP REPORT

Who Was on this Trip?

The team was comprised of (from Left to Right in photo below):

- Jim LeShana – Newberg, OR, Superintendent NWYM
- Libby Penrose – Hutchinson Friends, Kansas, College student, Future Missionary
- Jan Cammack – Newberg Friends, OR, Retired University Professor, Future Missionary
- Kenn Dirrim – Current missionary (for past 15 years) along with wife Lisa, working with refugees in Athens through the Greek charity, Helping Hands, From Rose Drive Friends, CA
- Ron Maestas –Friends Church Yorba Linda, CA, Accountant, EFM Board Member
- Josiah Muhr – Sherwood Friends, OR, Graduate of Barclay College, Future Missionary

Where Did We Travel?

We were tasked with exploring the potential for EFM to plant churches among refugees that have fled unstable situations in the Middle East. Greece is the first point of entry into Europe for those escaping countries such as Afghanistan, Iran, and Syria. Once in Turkey it is a short boat ride to reach the close Greek Islands and potential asylum in Europe. Although Germany, France, and the UK are the primary goal destinations, COVID-19 travel limitations and European political issues have contributed to many refugees finding themselves "stuck" in Greece.

We concentrated on two areas in Greece that have a high concentration of refugees. We spent the first week in Athens (Athina) and then traveled north to the Thessaloniki area where refugees are currently being relocated.

We met with a variety of people from various backgrounds and experiences. Many of our contacts are former Muslim refugees who are now Christ followers and active in evangelism. Discretion in names and photos is often required to protect their ministries and family members in their home countries.

Athens Report

- We met with "IL". A former refugee now working with a Persian Christian Church, he gave both encouragement and cautionary advice for the challenges of working with those of Persian culture as well as within the national Greek religious environment.

- Our friend “SH” had an amazing testimony of escape from Iran and God’s working in her life. She heads a thriving refugee medical ministry and evangelistic group that is seeing many Muslims come to Christ. She also gave encouragement and planted ideas of how we might come alongside and partner with her.
- The men of our group were able to spend a day at a “men’s retreat” for refugee ministry leaders. They spoke with several who are active in evangelism and discipleship with refugees, including two refugee converts who have recently planted churches among refugees (one on Lesvos Island and one in north Athens). The leaders underscored the need for and importance of new churches, as well as some of the challenges.

- We spent a couple days volunteering with “Helping Hands”; a Christian Greek charity working to feed, clothe, and share the gospel with refugees. We made good contacts with both Greek nationals and other expatriates (from Germany, Ireland, USA, etc.) who work there.
- Our Airbnb was providentially very close to a park where many refugee families gather, and their children play in the cool of the evening. Language barriers stilted conversation, but it was a great place to sit and experience that aspect of refugee life and to connect with people we’d met at Helping Hands.
- We attended a Greek evangelical church and had encouraging conversation with a Greek national experienced in refugee ministry.

Thessaloniki Report

- We met with a retired Greek evangelical pastor with many years of experience directing refugee aide ministry and working within the Greek Evangelical and Greek Orthodox culture.
- In the small town of Mylotopos, an hour northwest of Thessaloniki, we were served an Afghan dinner by a refugee family also with an amazing testimony of Christ’s work in their lives. With the help of a local Greek Evangelical church, they are now ministering to and planting fellowships for immigrants living in multiple refugee camps in the surrounding area. A retired couple from Finland, who previously worked in Afghanistan, is also part of their ministry team. They would love for us to come and help them.

Trip Takeaways

- There is much need and work to be done with refugees in Greece.

- Muslims, having left their oppressive home countries, have new freedom to question their faith and are coming to Christ.
- Everyone we met expressed a need for more discipleship and help in the training of new believers.
- Culture and language learning (Greek, Farsi, Dari, perhaps Arabic etc.) is essential and years of commitment is required. Planting churches in new cultures is a marathon not a sprint. People willing to commit for the long haul as well as people who already know the culture(s) and language(s) are needed.
- Many refugees leave Greece as soon as they can. Actual numbers and locations are always changing. Those who become Christ followers are starting fellowships in Germany, France, and other parts of Europe even as new believers with little training. In this way refugee work can resemble ministry to college students with whom our influence may be temporary as we disciple them and then send them out.
- Refugees stay and become established in Greece if they can 1) get sustainable employment and 2) belong to a Christian community (church) that can replace the biological family that they lose when they convert to Christ. There is great potential for D4D work (Discipling for Development; whole life discipleship) to establish jobs.

GREECE CAN-GO REPORT

Trip Location: Several Locations in Greece
Trip Dates: May 30-June 10, 2022
Written by: Jim Le Shana

C for Champions:

Before:

- Potential champions – Team Members: Kenn and Lisa Dirrim, Josiah Muhr, Libby Penrose, Ron Maestas, Jim Le Shana, and Jan Cammack.
- Praying – Same as above, plus Ron Stansell, Gene and Myra Pickard, Tiffany Van Dame, Jeanine Le Shana, David and Becky Le Shana, and perhaps others.
- Who is God Calling? Possibly Josiah Muhr, Libby Penrose, Tiffany Van Dame, young man Matt Macy knows, and maybe Kenn and Lisa Dirrim? Perhaps others? Taylor Mabry?

During:

The team met with many individuals who are working with evangelism, discipleship, and relief work among refugees. Although most of these individuals are currently engaged with other mission organizations in the area, we also found a great openness and acceptance to our questions and potential for future partnerships and mutual support. In a sense, all of these would be part of the prayer "team," and more.

After:

- **Champions –** same as above, although perhaps strengthened during this trip. In addition, the NWYM Global Outreach Board has now fully supported and endorsed Greece (and Islamic refugees there) as a potential mission field and is recommending full acceptance by EFM. In addition, this is one of the three that NWYM as a wider body at our annual sessions, from the Superintendent and other reports, has publicly supported.
- **Praying** – same as above, except for more people especially in NWYM.
- **Who is God calling?** We believe that God may be calling Kenn Dirrim to serve as the first apostolic missionary to lead the pioneering church planting efforts among refugees in that country. As recent as October, 2022, Kenn has affirmed an interest in this kind of role. He does not see himself as the church planter. Neither do we. His gifts are in teaching, coaching, leadership development, networking, cultural bridge-building, and administrative oversight (a contribution that Lisa especially brings to the table). What Kenn could help us with is to allow us to build on all of the groundwork that he has already laid in terms of connections, insights, potential, respect, and cultural credibility, and to leverage his ability to raise up and send out workers. He has already been doing that (many of the church planters we met with were ones that he had taught/discipled/coached). Obviously, EFM would need to affirm this call, but we see the potential for it. More than that – as far as we can tell at this moment – all of our recommendations hinge somewhat on this decision.
- **Who would be the church planters?** For the most part, we believe the most effective church planters will likely be those who are refugees themselves. Harvesters from the harvest field. Kenn has a bi-lingual translator who serves closely with him in teaching and Bible Studies. He may be the perfect first official "church planter" for Friends – if Kenn is able to be his mentor/overseer. If Kenn is in that role, others from America, like Jan Cammack, could potentially have a church planting ministry in terms of supporting the efforts, perhaps starting a business that church planters could work out of, or perhaps to support other basic evangelistic efforts.

A for Affirmation:

Before:

- **Partners/ministries Already Present** – Helping Hands, One Collective (International Teams).
- **Discernment Impressions** – There is a sense that this may be a door that the Lord is opening. So many intersections of people, callings, ministry experiences, genuine need, and fresh opportunities to plant churches that didn't exist previously. We have two seasoned Friends missionaries in country who are praying about their next steps, a number of Barclay College teams who have gone there each year (starting with one led by Jim Le Shana when God closed the door to Ukraine), and heavy investment/interest by leaders in three Yearly Meetings.

- **People with Resolve to partner/send** – NWYM is exploring this possibility.

During:

- **Partners/Ministries –** As stated above, we met with several church planters and some leaders of ministries (of course, Kenn and Lisa Dirrim being chief among them, but also Yasir, Matt, Javad, Sahar, Ilir, Kiki, Nikos, and several others). Everyone was friendly, and also shared with us their concern for Islamic refugees. Some were particularly engaged with us, providing counsel for what we might consider in terms of a church planting in the region. Sahar, herself a refugee who has planted a church strategically connected to a medical clinic, recommended that we plant using a similar model of business/missions (but perhaps starting a market for refugees).
- Meeting with several church planters and key leaders, reinforced in our group that the time is now to plant churches. Whereas the door for church planting seemed closed previously, in largest measure because of the transient nature of refugees, due to a variety of circumstances (including Covid and the lack of friendliness of other countries), more refugees seem to be staying in Greece for longer. That is especially true if they can find jobs (which fed into the above strategy potential of starting a business and church simultaneously as a strategy).
- One church planter in the north, outside of Thessaloniki (Mylotopos), stood out in particular. As we met with him at his home, in a group of 13, he specifically asked us (using these words): "Come over and help us!" It was somewhat startling. We were sitting at that point in what was ancient Macedonia. Literally, what he was saying to us echoed Paul's vision, "Come over to Macedonia and help us!" What we learned specifically is that this region not only has refugees living in it, but that the country of Greece plans to relocate more of them there in the future. It would not be to join his ministry *per se*, at least not in the long run, but to share in a partnership in the gospel by doing our part for the Great Commission and church planting there.
- **Discernment impressions** – although at least one church planter seemed to suffer from "Sending Sunburn" (discouragement that it is challenging to disciple believers in a new church, only to have them leave), ***our general sense of the need for church planting, evangelism, and discipleship was strengthened.*** The need is great, even as some challenges continue. Two different missionaries (Matt and Ilir) emphasized similar things - that it would be challenging for an American to move there and make something happen. They said that someone would need to learn the language/culture, it would take time, but that it could be done. One interesting and cool thing to consider: as some refugees move on to other countries – they take the gospel and "church planting" is already happening through them in other countries in Europe. That exponential spread in Europe could happen for the Friends Church, too.
- **People** – by the end of the trip, it started to become evident that this Luke 10 team had an "Ace" in our pockets: Kenn and Lisa Dirrim. They already have been serving as missionaries in country for 15 years, and if they would be willing to become EFM missionaries (and if EFM would have them), it would be a game changer – allowing

this long-term bridge-building effort to eliminate a number of start-up years. What if their years in Greece already, while meaningful in and of itself, was also a part of the ramp up preparation for starting a new church planting mission field? In addition, during the trip, one of our members (Jan) began to sense that she might have a potential ministry as a missionary in country, if the pioneering foundation was already laid (if she could partner with someone like the Dirrims).

- If the Dirrims were to serve as EFM missionaries there, perhaps FSW and NWYM would be their "sending" Yearly Meetings (since that is already were they have some support), Jan could potentially be sent from NWYM (with not as many financial needs as a retired professor), and that would open the possibility for current or future young adults or others (such as Josiah, Libby or others) to partner for shorter term ministries.

After:

- As stated above, we believe that God is opening this door at this time. We see Kenn Dirrim as stepping into an apostolic leadership role, and he seems interested/willing to consider this possibility. Their family has had some personal issues since we were there in June (a close friend with cancer, and an elder/ailing father), which might cause Lisa to not be quite as engaged, but that would not hinder Kenn from serving in this kind of strategic role.
- We see other potential missionary roles/callings/positions/ministries/people, stemming from this beginning.

N for Need:

Before:

- **People/Place** – thousands of Islamic refugees come to the country every year (especially strong before Covid). Christians are the main ones who provide care for them. Up until recently, most missionary efforts focused on relief and evangelism, with little room for church planting (for various reasons). That seems to be changing.
- **Ministry Need** – Could be relief work (but this is done already, so it may just be partnering with what already exists), and evangelism/discipleship (again, this may be partnering with others). What is missing is an overall strategy of church planting that fits contextually. But the door seems to be opening for that (this is what we hope to explore).
- **Most convincing evidence for need/the gospel –** From what we can see today, very few groups have strategically been planting churches among Islamic refugees. This seems to be the next logical extension from the relief/evangelism work that has been going on for several years. This may also present a pathway for evangelism among family members (in Iran/Afghanistan) who have not yet escaped into Greece, or who have gone on to other places in Europe.

During:
All of our initial impressions proved true upon observation. Not only of the need, but of the actual potential for planting churches. Whereas this was not even much of a consideration 10 years ago (for a variety of factors), some groups are actually doing it. And we met with them and were encouraged by them. They are all still "new" church plants, so are definitely on the early growing edge of challenges, but the very fact of the existence of some church plants gives encouragement that others could grow there now, too.

After:
Our continuing sense is that the soil is ripe for church planting in Greece among refugees, and some are reaping a harvest. There would be plenty of challenges, and the door may or may not be open for ever – but the door is open now. Why not evangelical Friends as the ones who help to contribute to what God is doing there?!

G for Gifting:

Before:

- **Interest/willingness** – we have a missionary couple there already (Dirrims), who will be of tremendous assistance, and will no doubt be exploring/praying about their role in whatever happens. In addition, at least two individuals are praying specifically about this (Josiah and Libby), and there may be others.
- **Gifts/Skills** – from what we can tell, there will need to be several types of gifts/leaders. It will not be a solo ministry. Leadership, vision, evangelism, languages, compassion, organization, missiological contextualization, and more.
- **How many –** we are not sure. We will need several no doubt, and possibly of differing ages.

During:
As stated above, both the people and a potential process for the development of a church planting effort by Friends in the region became clearer as we continued in our visits and conversations with residents, missionaries, refugees, and with each other.

After:
As suggested above, we believe that if we simply sent a missionary from the US to serve as a pioneering missionary, it could take many years to develop the foundation for a church plant, let alone a church multiplication movement. Thankfully, we don't need to wait (and believe that it is timely, and that we should not wait any longer).

We recommend that Kenn Dirrim be asked to serve as an apostolic leader, to provide oversight, leadership training, coaching, recruitment, and more for the development of a church planting mission field in Greece. He has already developed the gifts and skills to carry out this role, along with the requisite trust and respect of both missionaries and refugees that would be essential.

Beyond that, we can then see the potential for some additional help – and we would see the possibility of Jan Cammack to serve as a teammate to develop a ministry (perhaps missions through business), and others from the US could be in some supportive roles for shorter term relief work or other complimentary ministries. She is reluctant (understandably) to say "yes" to this opportunity, until knowing if the Dirrims would be in the lead role.

Having said that, we also see the first church planters (and perhaps perpetually) as those who are themselves refugees. We have one person in mind, but there may be others. If we turn Kenn loose in this regard, that is what we anticipate will happen. More leaders raised up, but then sent out to serve as Friends church planters.

O for Opportunity:

Before:

- It seems as though the soil is ready, based on our conversations and in-country observations. But that is part of what we hope to discover.
- Person of Peace – Already made independent contact with the leader of the Helping Hands ministry (Natasha Hayes), who seems eager to welcome us. We have not spoken yet with any leader/person from among the refugees.
- How Start – that is what we hope to consider/explore.

During:

- Readiness? Yes, this visit confirmed that the soil is ready. People are spiritually ready – with many Muslims already coming to know Christ on a regular basis through various Christian relief/evangelism efforts. More specifically though, it seemed during our trip – especially by meeting with several people who are in the process of planting churches (or who have started them) – that the potential of taking the next step from evangelism to church planting is now becoming possible. This was one of our big questions ahead of time that was answered while there.
- As for people of peace – there were several. Every missionary contact was interested to be part of our supportive network – in large measure because of the trust that had already been built through the Dirrims. That was also true with those engaged in evangelism and planting churches. They trusted us because of trusting Kenn.
- As mentioned above, the most overt invitation to come and help evangelize and plant churches came from the church planter in Mylotopos (outside of Thessaloniki). It doesn't get much clearer than, "Come over (to Macedonia) and help us!"
- During much of the trip, we were not certain how to begin, so we asked lots of questions and listened and shared and prayed. By the last night, the potential plan to get started came into sharp focus for us all.

After:
All of the above, with this added comment that developed at the very end of the trip, and then reaffirmed and expressed in more detail at our concluding meeting (a week after our trip), and in conversations with the Dirrims since that time.
We think the potential plan to get started begins with a person – Kenn Dirrim. We believe that he is God's person to serve as the initial apostolic leader of this church planting mission field. We see that the past 15 years have essentially prepared him for this next step. And we believe it is timely. The door was not really open for church planting even five years ago, he would not have been ready, and EFM (let alone NWYM or other regions) was not ready. Stated another way, our team has concluded that God has not shut this door for church planting, that the door is open now, that we are recommending that EFM take next steps to plant churches in Greece with refugees, the NWYM missions board (Global Outreach) affirms this recommendation, and we believe that taking the step to engage Kenn as an EFM missionary is the first step. In this sense, the "who" (this apostolic role) is the key factor that moves this decision to a 100% compelling conclusion that we must plant churches there now. Not someday, not in a few years, but soon, while the door is open. While the Dirrims are still there and at a point of openness to this transition. The other "next steps" (such as engaging others from America to go, and recruiting prospective church planters, etc.) would follow.

Is this a CAN GO for EFM at this time?
Yes, completely and now. It fits all of the criteria, but also has a timeliness for several reasons stated above: the need is great now, the door is open now (and it was not really feasible to happen even a few years ago), the leadership is available and willing to make it happen now, we have some prospective additional "goers" from America who could be supportive helpers now, and there is interest from not one, not two, but three Yearly Meetings now (FSW and MAYM, with NWYM taking the lead).

We do not know how long the Dirrims will be willing to do this – but they are nearing a transition point, so the timing is perfect for them. We don't want to waste this opportunity. If we wait for someone else to step into this apostolic role, it could take many years before we could launch anything sustainable. Kenn and Lisa, Friends missionaries from Rose Drive in SoCal, have already accomplished what would take others 15 years to do. They already raise up, train, and send out refugee church planters. Why not ask them to do it for Friends? The time seems like now for action.

Finances: Unlike some other start-up church planting efforts – the key missionaries already live there, they already have an income (a pension, and financial support mostly from Friends Churches for Lisa as the missionary of record with One Collective). The individual who would then potentially consider joining them in a support role, perhaps to start a missions as business enterprise, also has little to no financial needs (retired professor). There would likely be some financial investment required from EFM (perhaps largely from current donors, but also through NWYM and maybe FSW), but that would depend upon how everything was structured with

refugees (which we would recommend financial counsel to investigate further), and visiting short term missionaries.

Again, compared to many new mission fields, not only does this harvest field seem ripe now, there seems very little to be lost in terms of investment to launch it now, and much great potential to be gained.

Which of the five criteria do we see the strongest? Which of the five criteria is yet to become convincing?
It is hard to say which is the strongest in terms of CAN GO. Perhaps it is in Champion - meaning – an incredible opportunity to partner with a seasoned missionary to give birth to something in a relatively brief time – while the door is open.

We see the greatest potential for success, if EFM takes action quickly to approve the Dirrims to become the lead missionaries there. Kenn is open to it, but our group did not have the authority to ask him officially. So, we asked, "if you were asked, are you open to this?" The answer has remained "yes."

As for a weakness, it might be that the challenges of the transient nature of refugees will always persist. This may relate to "opportunity." It all depends though, if the Dirrims are in the lead role, and if some steps are taken to help refugees choose to stay in Greece (such as supplying jobs and helping with other aspects of stabilization in the region that are needed on an ongoing basis). Again, although a challenge, it seems like this is the right time to try it and move forward.

Describe key points or stories in the process and affirmation/confirmation of God's call to Evangelical Friends to go to this particular people or place.
There are many stories, and a few holy ground moment ones for each person on the trip.

One was shared above, in Mylotopos, when the church planter gave us the Macedonian call to "come over and help us." It was startling. It came at the end of a long conversation outside after a meal, about the needs and potential for ministry and church planting in that region among refugees. Far from discouraging us from coming, he saw ripe fields that were ready for harvest and that needed more workers.

Another was at the refugee camp, when the men met with several refugee church planters. One (Javad) wore a T-shirt that read in English, "Pray. Give. Go." It seemed prophetic, and his words to us were encouraging. He pastored a new church in Athens of 70-80, and also a small "church" in what he called the "jungle" (near a govt. refugee camp) outside of Athens.

Before we arrived, we were scheduled to stay at an Airbnb in Athens (in an area unknown to any of our team), but we were counseled by missionaries that it was going to be a rough area (and the women should not go out alone at night). When we arrived, we discovered that we were in the heart of the Islamic refugee area! This is a big city, and we believe God led us right

to that place, in the midst of the very people who we were there to visit and pray about reaching! Language barriers prevented us from any meaningful conversations there, but we did meet one mother and child who we had connected with at the Helping Hands relief center. It seemed affirming to us that this was a people for us to pray for and build bridges to reach.

A final confirming story was our last team meeting before leaving for the airport to return to our homes. At dinner that night, we affirmed that this was a place and people group that needed new churches, that the right time was now, and that what made this convincing and conclusive was if one of our teammates, Kenn Dirrim, was approved to step into the leadership role. It was a beautiful moment as we essentially experienced a "clearness committee" and sense of approval from the Lord to "take steps forward." However, we recognized that we did not have the authority to make an ultimate decision (let alone to ask Kenn to do this), but we went as far as we felt we were asked to go. We concluded to recommend that EFM take the next steps to see if this could be one of the upcoming new mission fields that we support.

What steps have you taken since returning from the trip or need to take in further discernment or exploration of this field?
Since returning, the team leader (Jim Le Shana) has confirmed with Kenn Dirrim that he is willing to be approached about serving in the lead role as described above.

If this is approved, there would be a number of additional steps (meetings with the Executive Director and Field Director of EFM to go through the approval process, meetings with constituent groups such as NWYM and FSW to discuss how a region would take the lead in terms of a wider EFM mission field, etc.). The Dirrims themselves would need to then take their steps in transition, with Lisa undoubtedly moving away from One Collective. In addition, Kenn would then be enabled to take the steps that he would take to transition what he has already been doing, to doing it more strategically for Friends. Meanwhile, invitations would go out to people like Jan Cammack, so that they have a real potential ministry to consider (not just in theory).

Luke 10 Team Recommendation to EFM
After meeting with many leaders (including four Persians/Afghans who have just planted churches), staying in an area with a high refugee population in Athens (unbeknownst to us when we booked it), serving at Helping Hands with refugees, reviewing needs in the cities of Athens and Thessaloniki as well as a more rural area where refugees are moving, and after many meetings of prayer and discernment, our team believes that God has opened a door for church planting now. Furthermore, we see a way forward and the means to accomplish it, both in terms of personnel and finances. ***Therefore, we recommend that EFM take the next steps to adopt Greece as one if its mission fields and begin the process to plant churches in that region with refugees.***

More specifically, we recommend that EFM takes the step to invite Kenn Dirrim to serve as the first official EFM missionary in that country, with an apostolic, leadership development, recruiting, training, and coaching ministry for church planters from the refugee community, and

with oversight of other potential teammates. In addition, we recommend that a pathway be explored and developed more fully for those who might become those missionary teammates, either for short or longer term commitments, in complementary ministries. Students from Barclay College, and relief volunteers from Friends Churches in America could become foundational in providing service, ongoing positive communication links to supporters, and a potential fishing pool for future missionaries. Others may be interested to begin longer term ministries in a missions-through-business format or other complimentary roles that would be developed under Kenn's supervision.

Our recommendation is that these steps begin soon. Not someday, not in a few years, but now, while the door is open. We believe that we see an exciting way forward that has great potential. The Global Outreach Board of NWYM affirms this recommendation. Along with them, the Greece Luke 10 team submits this recommendation for consideration by the wider body of EFM.

Eastern Europe Trip Report

Who Was on This Trip?

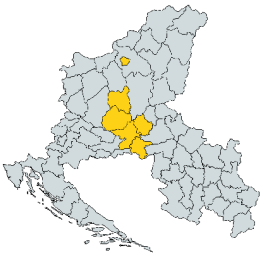
The team was comprised of:

- Jonelle Liddell, NWYM
- Fred Liddell, NWYM
- Stan Leach, EFM Executive Director, FSW
- Vivian Titus, EFC-MAYM, Future Missionary

In addition to this team, little Alex Liddell accompanied his mom and dad on the trip! When we arrived in Hungary, we joined up with EFM missionaries Tony and Agi Frei.

Where Did We Travel?

We based out of Tolna, Hungary where EFM missionary Tony Frei works and pastors. We visited his Roma ministry sites in Kolked, Hungary and Backi Monostor, Serbia. The potential new field sites that we explored were in Sombor, Serbia and Osijek and Vukovar, Croatia. We ended the trip with a partial day in Budapest.



What is the Need in the Area?

We were on the edges of where we want to be but even on the edges, we sensed an openness to conversations about the gospel and to deeper connections. All three cities have very little Protestant/evangelical presence. They are mostly Eastern Orthodox (in Sombor) and Catholic (in Osijek and Vukovar), though it seems that religion is largely cultural. So, there is a great need for the gospel, specifically for the gospel to be shared in a culturally sensitive and aware manner.

Key Trip Moments

God seemed to be giving us a pretty clear welcome in Osijek. Our first four interactions were: a woman giving us her permit for the paid parking lot with an hour left on it, a woman giving us Croatian cash for the rest of our parking cost before we had a chance to exchange money, a woman at the restaurant giving us peaches from her garden for Alex, and the waiter letting us all leave when we were short of Croatian cash (due to an ordering miscommunication) because he trusted that we would come back to pay the balance.

While we were in Osijek, Stan had a good connection with a group of junior high boys that started with his question about liking ice cream and ended with a brief discussion on whether they knew people who prayed. Tony met and connected with a young

family who had a Presbyterian background but were not involved in a church, to our knowledge. And Vivian, Jonelle, and Sabrina (our interpreter) had a long conversation with a Catholic nun who helped us understand the religious landscape a little more and was generally very welcoming.

God also answered many prayers about transportation issues, flight delays and cancellations, interpersonal communication, and individual direction during this trip. Specifically, all three potential future missionaries on the trip came away with far greater clarity about their next steps regarding missions and EFM.

EASTERN EUROPE CAN-GO REPORT

Trip Location: Hungary, Serbia, and Croatia
Trip Dates: June 15-22, 2022
Written By: Jonelle Liddell

Trip Summary
Our first day in country we spent in group prayer and discernment about how to proceed, ending the day with a Bible study/prayer meeting with the Tolna congregation. One thing that became clear to us after our conversations with Tony Frei (EFM missionary to Hungary and EFCI Europe director) on the way from the airport to the guest house, was that there was a lot of work needed on our relationship with Tony. This was important both for Tony's relations with EFM and for his relationship with any future missionaries coming into the region. Stan posed the thought of this as more of a Luke 8 trip, a first, brief, foray into the region that the 12 and later the 72 would later spend more time in. We laid out three goals for our trip: first to improve our relationship with Tony and help him catch a vision for expanding his/EFM's work in the region beyond Hungary, second to scout potential new field sites, third for the future missionaries on the team to answer the questions "can we see ourselves working here" and "can we see ourselves working with EFM."

Our second day we went to Kolked, Hungary and met some of the leaders of one of the Roma congregations that Tony works with. We toured the house that he is converting into a church and had lunch with the leaders at their home. Then we picked up our interpreter in Serbia and drove to Sombor, Serbia. We did a prayer walk in the city center, talked with several people we met there, drove to a strip mall and spoke to several people there, then returned to the Roma leaders' home and ate dinner with them. We spent the night back in Tolna.

Our third day we visited a different Roma leader in Kolked, then drove to Osijek, Croatia. Tony has been praying for this city for over 10 years but has never looked at starting a work there. We had lunch there, then did prayer walks in the city center and spoke to several people. We returned to Tolna that evening for dinner with the Freis at their home.

Sunday morning, we spent at the guest house, because a couple from Tony's congregation was in a serious car accident and he was ministering to the family. We left late morning, met up

with two cars of young adults from the Tolna church, and caravanned to Vukovar, Croatia. We had a picnic lunch with the Tolna friends at the waterfront and then held a worship service in the park. A family from Osijek who we met the day before joined us in Vukovar. We ended the day with a team debrief at the guest house in Tolna.

Monday, we loaded up and drove to Budapest with Tony, he showed us a few sights and then we spent the evening with his daughter's family. They are leaders of the church plant that Tony pastors in Budapest. We talked and sang with them, then had a team debrief at a guest house near the airport. All of us flew out the next morning.

We felt that all three of our team goals were met. Our relationship with Tony was much improved at the end of the trip and he seemed excited about the possibility of new ministries beyond the border of Hungary. We scouted (though briefly) three potential ministry sites and felt strongly that we should look wider and deeper in the region. We felt that we had "man of peace" encounters in Sombor but much more clearly in Osijek. Finally, all three future missionaries on the team ended the trip with the feeling that they could see themselves working in this region and could see themselves working with EFM.

C for Champions:

Vivian's burden for Europe to be reached and interest in going on another trip to region, Fred and Jonelle feel strongly that this region needs to be explored further, all three willing to recruit participants for next trip.

A for Affirmation:

We don't know because we haven't made a full Luke 10 trip yet.

N for Need:

We were on the edges of where we want to be but even on the edges we sensed an openness to conversation about the Gospel and for deeper connections so while we can't affirm explicitly that in the areas we're going to go it'll be like this we do have a sense that there may be open doors and that it should be explored. Ukraine also has great need at this point due to the ongoing war with Russia and was initially had the championship of Jim LeShana.

Some stats from the Joshua Project:

- Serbia is 0.72% evangelical.
- Croatia is 0.42% evangelical.
- Bosnia-Herzegovina is 0.16% evangelical
- North Macedonia is 0.17% evangelical.
- Montenegro is 0.26% evangelical.
- Slovakia is 1.46% evangelical.
- Slovenia is 0.21% evangelical.

- Ukraine is 3.62% evangelical.

G for Gifting:

"While we don't know the exact region that we should go to, I am fully confident that Fred, Jonelle and Vivian are gifted and able as God leads to be a part of this pioneering ministry" Stan. Gifts/skills needed may include hospitality, willingness to learn language, some kind of training in dealing with trauma/grief or reconciliation due to the conflict ridden history of the region.

O for Opportunity:

The soil seemed ready for good news where we were, but we are unable to answer about other parts of the region, though this whole area has extensive Orthodox and Catholic history and exposure which may make the soil more or less ready depending on the spot. Man of peace encounters in Sombor, where several people approached us in friendship instead of us initiating the contact, and Osijek, where our first two encounters were people giving us a partially used parking permit and cash for our next permit, our next encounter was someone giving us fruit for the baby from her garden and our third was with a waiter who was willing to let us leave the restaurant to exchange more cash when we didn't have enough to pay the full bill. We also had two especially welcoming local interactions including a young family who exchanged contact information with Tony and joined us for our outreach the next day in Vukovar. The region seemed open to Americans. We question whether this is a new field site for EFM or a branch of Tony's ministry.

Is this a CAN GO for EFM at this time?

Of the CAN GO criteria, affirmation is currently weakest, and gifting is strongest with need as an equal or close second.

Steps since trip met together to discuss other possible sites in region that are either on our hearts or seem to have great need

<u>Luke 10 Team Recommendation to EFM</u>

We recommend sending another team to this region but further afield, at least a day's drive from Tolna. Tony has a heart and desire to do anything within a half day's drive of Tolna, so a new field should fall outside of that range. Possibly flying into Belgrade or Sarajevo. Of note, Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Slovenia all have evangelical populations under 1%. Extend invitation to Tony to join team on future trip, as participant instead of host.

Tanzania Trip Report

Who Was on this Trip?

The team was comprised of:

- Domitien Sabongerwa (Team Leader and EFC-Burundi Missions Coordinator)
- Brad Carpenter (Team Co-Leader and EFM Missionary to Central Africa)
- Fidele Bizimana (Kwibuka Yearly Meeting, Burundi, General Superintendent)
- Thayne Thompson (EFC-MAYM General Superintendent)
- Salomon Ntibaharire (Burundi Friends representative and Swahili translator)
- Thomas Moore (EFM short-term missionary in Central Africa)
- Matt Macy (EFM Director of Mobilization)

Where Did We Travel?

We flew from Bujumbura to Dar es Salaam, then from there visited eight communities among the Kutu and Zaramo people groups. The primary contacts that we made on this trip were through the East Africa School of Missions in Dar es Salaam. This gave us the opportunity to learn about receptivity to the Good News among these people groups and hear stories of successes and challenges for pioneering new churches in their communities. It didn't work out to make connection with FUM-Africa church planters on this trip, but EFC-Africa and Burundi Friends have open communication with FUM-Africa and have had several other visits with FUM-Tanzania, and we look forward to following Burundi Friends' lead in further learning and interaction with FUM.

What is the Need in the Area?

The Kutu people in Tanzania are two-three% Christian with 77% connected to Islam faith. The Zaramo people are also two-three% Christian with 95% connected to Islam. Both are considered unreached peoples. Each of the specific places we visited already has a church planter/missionary from another people group in Tanzania working there. However, each of these church planters affirmed that there are many villages near them that don't have any churches or planters working there. Throughout the trip, we repeatedly heard that both peoples are Muslim in name, but in reality, still very much follow the traditional spiritism religions that their ancestors followed.

Stories and Testimonies

- We joined Domitien in reconnecting with a multiplying family of Tanzanian led churches in Mlandazi, where Domitien had completed a practicum during his missions training from South Africa 22 years ago. We were encouraged to learn that this family of churches has multiplied from about 50 churches when Domitien was with them, to a reported 600 today. They have some work among the Zaramo and affirmed that much more work was needed among these people.
- We visited the East Africa School of Missions in Dar es Salaam. We were impressed with this small school, which opened in 2015. They effectively train African missionaries in a one year intensive, from April start to March graduation. They have had 94 students graduate from the school, and 47 of them are now serving as missionary/church planter/disciple makers among unreached peoples. This year, they have 16 students with a capacity of 28 per year.

- The following are some of the sites we visited where Tanzanian missionary-church planters came from other people groups to reach these unreached peoples, after graduating from the East Africa School of Missions:

    - We visited a young couple in Nyambogo who came to work with the Kutu people. After three years of hard work, they have 12 who have decided to follow Jesus, and they do much of their discipleship work after dark for security reasons. She helps support their ministry and disciple others through a sewing business.
    - In Kidunda we visited Muslim background believer who came to this village as a farmer with his family in order to make disciples among the Kutu. After three months, he began to pray with people who needed physical healing, and saw Jesus heal several who had not found healing with the witch doctors. We met one elderly woman who had been healed by Jesus of a tumor in her chest, and despite her family tearing down her house for becoming a Christian, she had become one of the church's primary evangelists. They now have 30 gathering at his home as part of the church. Some of these families have experienced significant persecution.
    - We visited a village deep in the bush named Dar where a young church was started to reach the Zaramo people. The congregation has mostly grown from other people groups moving into the area for agriculture who are more open to the Gospel, but two Zaramo have accepted Christ and joined the church. We had the opportunity to interview a Zaramo non-believer about his culture and worldview.

    - We visited another Tanzanian who has worked among the Zaramo since 2018 in the town of Masaki, where six churches already existed but there was one Zaramo church member amongst that group of churches. He has seen 40 persons accept Christ through their church and his ministry, and 36 of these are Zaramo. He testified that the Zaramo are willing to listen and are showing openness to the Gospel, but the church in general is not focused on reaching this people group.
- The team had exposure to other cities, such as Kisangire, where insights were gained that could help an EFC mission strategy develop.

Giving Thanks
The team wants to express a big thanks to those who provided generous financial support from both Burundi and the U.S. for the costs of this trip. The team also praises the Lord for the vehicle and driver that the Lord provided for the long trips into difficult places in "the bush," and how despite the challenges the driver and vehicle had mechanically and the condition of the roads, paths, and thorn bushes, we completed the trip with no problems. Above all, the team is grateful to God that we saw exactly what we needed to see and learn on this trip!

TANZANIA CAN-GO REPORT

Trip Location: South Sudan
Trip Dates: October 11 – 20, 2022
Written By: Matt Macy

C for Champions:

Before:
Domitien Sabongerwa, a pastor in the Evangelical Friends Church of Burundi has been the main leader from EFC-Burundi about missionary-sending. He was the Legal Representative of EFC-Burundi when EFC-Africa was challenged to begin sending missionaries.
Burundi has started holding an annual "missions crusade" under the leadership of the Louis Pasteur.

EFC-Burundi has stated a goal to send four missionary households to launch two new fields in two different countries by 2027. They are talking about Tanzania and South Sudan at this point.

During:
Domitien led the trip and is passionate about Burundi missions sending. Fidele Bizimana, Burundi General Superintendent, says he wants Burundi Friends to deploy missionaries to the East Africa Missionary Training School in Dar Salaam even before knowing where they would start the field. We visited the Kutu and the Zaramo people groups.

After:

At the moment it seems that this mission is/will be one that EFM would join with or come alongside/behind the EFC-Burundi leaders in this vision and work of God's mission. It seems that several Burundians would be willing to be sent, no one seems to be saying, "I must go"! Ellie Ware has expressed that she might be called towards a people group in Tanzania and other future missionaries are open to wherever there is a need and a fit. There is also a Burundian who lives in the U.S. that senses a call to Tanzania.

A for Affirmation:

Before:
The key leaders in EFC-Burundi seem committed to sending missionaries to Tanzania. They have shared this vision with some of the churches/leaders and seem to have gotten an encouraging response. Both EFC-Burundi Yearly Meetings have sent groups to visit Mapendo Songolo in the Kigoma area of Tanzania. They have been excited to go and church people have helped to send them.
EFC-Burundi is in contact with FUM-Africa and FUM-Tanzania. Burundians have visited FUM in Tanzania and vice versa and are in conversation. FUM is successfully planting many new churches in Tanzania, and have also reportedly asked Burundi Friends for support after being impressed with Burundi Friends organizational maturity during a visit to Burundi.

During:
We met several Tanzanian missionaries who are serving the Kutu and Zaramo people groups. We also met a man named Samwel who leads a missionary training school. He and those in his network are helping to build a missionary force to go to the unreached people.

After:
All seven of us on this Luke 10 trip sensed that there is a good possibility that God would send some from EFC to be a part of what He is doing. We want to have another trip in February to do some further exploration, probably among a different people group. I do not sense that anyone in particular in the U.S. has declared a specific call to initiate this mission yet. But I do think that EFC-MAYM especially would be excited to partner with EFC-Burundi to start a mission in Tanzania.
Fidele has moved forward with further conversations with FUM-Tanzania about EFC holding initial church registration with Tanzanian government under FUM registration covering.

N for Need:

Before:
What we knew about the Kutu and Zaramo people before we went to Tanzania is the information found on the Joshua Project website.
The Kutu has a population of 137,000 people. 77% of the Kutu are Muslims. 3% are Christian (2% of which are Evangelicals).

The Zaramo has a population of 1,369,000 people. 95% of the Zaramo are Muslims. 3% are Christian (2% of which are Evangelicals).
We had also looked at the Safwa people group but decided that we would visit them another time since they are far from Dar es Salaam.

During:

We visited Tanzanian missionary families working in villages where the majority of the people are Kutu and two other missionaries working in Zaramo areas. We heard about people who have given their lives to Christ through each missionary's work, but in most cases only a few of the new believers are actually from the Kutu or Zaramo tribes. Most of the new disciples are from other tribes and areas and have moved there recently.
All of the missionaries and the missionary school director told us that there is a great need for more workers to be sent into the harvest field of the Kutu and Zaramo peoples. And they invited us to come and work among those people too.
Samwel told us that there are some groups working in the Safwa people group and that he does not think that they are unreached at this point.

After:

There is definitely a need for the gospel in these unreached/underreached people groups of the Kutu and Zaramo.

G for Gifting:

Before:

There are some pastors and some young adults who have said they would be willing to go as missionaries. Ellie Ware and Dieudonne (Burundi pastor working in Atlanta) have both expressed interest. Burundians have proven skills at church planting work.

During:

The places that we visited among the Kutu and the Zaramo are pretty far out in the countryside/bush. It also seemed quite dry there. People moving into those areas will need to be ready for very simple lifestyles and it would be ideal if they have training and capabilities in business and/or farming, animal husbandry, and other practical skills for helping to provide for their families. We saw many cows in the area.
It seems that D for D would be a strategic and important ministry model for moving into those communities. We have also noticed that it will be important for our Burundi Friends to have a good system for their missionaries to be able to supplement the fundraised financial support through business.

After:

Who is needed? (I do not see the "Team Giftedness in Pioneer Work" article).

- Apostle/Leader gifts
- Teaching/Equipping gifts
- D for D mentor

- Business person
- Farming/animal husbandry
- Basic medical knowledge (medical care seems like it must be quite far away)

I am sure that EFC-Burundi and EFM churches have all of those gifts and more, we just don't know who those people are yet.

O for Opportunity:

Before:
We heard about people who were working as missionaries among the Kutu and Zaramo peoples. They are living among them. And there is at least one missionary training school in Dar es Salaam that seems to be providing very good, practical, and mission-focused training in a one-year program.

During:
We saw that there are people who are choosing to follow Jesus through the ministry of each of the missionaries we met. We were encouraged by realizing that the Muslim populations in the area (Burundians are intimidated by the mysteries of Islamic fundamentalist faith) were nominal Muslims and primarily following their people group's African cultist/spiritism practices, which Burundians are more familiar with. It also seemed that the Kutu and Zaramo are more resistant than some people groups. Our main connections on this trip were with missionaries and believers.
The team appreciated seeing the infrastructure of a couple of small cities in the area where we used guest house and restaurants. The Burundians were able to see that if they were called to this region of villages and peoples, they could see how it could logistically be done. They also mentioned contacts we met who were encouraging them to start churches.

After:
The missionary training school is creating a missionary movement that seems powerful. The Burundians were excited about sending their missionaries to be trained in this school I think that joining into what they are doing would be strategic. It seems like there could be some momentum building up in the Tanzanian churches that would make this be a good time to join in the kingdom/harvest work there.

I think that a mix of business, D for D, and discipleship and evangelism would be the most helpful way to enter into and engage with these people groups. Burundians are proven successful at planting multiplying churches in Burundi!

Is this a CAN GO for EFM at this time?
At the moment, it seems that this is first and foremost a situation in which we would be coming alongside/behind our Friends and partners in EFC-Burundi so that they become a missionary-sending church. There is definitely a need for missionaries to go, for disciples to be made

among the Kutu and Zaramo peoples, churches to be planted and multiplied, and then Kutu and Zaramo people sending their own missionaries.

Which of the five criteria do we see the strongest? Which of the five criteria is yet to become convincing?
I think so far, the Need is the strongest criteria that we have recognized. Of the CAN GO criteria, the one that is most lacking is the "Giftedness". We do not yet have anyone who is compellingly saying, "Here am I, send me…I believe God is calling me/us to go…"

Describe key points or stories in the process and affirmation/confirmation of God's call to Evangelical Friends to go to this particular people or place.
Again, I think that the main affirmation/confirmation to me is that the EFC-Burundi leaders sense a call to being a mission there.

What steps have you taken since returning from the trip or need to take in further discernment or exploration of this field?
We verbally committed to plan for another exploration trip in February 2023. We need to do some more research on the people groups in Tanzania and then discern together which group(s) we will visit in February. We also need to discuss and clarify financial expectations between sending partners.

Luke 10 Team Recommendation to EFM
At this point our team believes that there is a great need for workers to be sent into the harvest field of Tanzania. But at the same time, we do not sense a strong call to a specific people or place. So, we recommend that another trip happen in February 2023.

SOUTH SUDAN TRIP REPORT

Who Was on this Trip?

The team included four pastors from Rwanda:

- Team leader Jean Paul Nsekanabo (Assistant General Superintendent of EFC-Rwanda),
- Gerard Munyanganizi
- Nicodeme Basebya
- Theodore Uwiragiye

And two representing EFM:

- Brad Carpenter
- Matt Macy

Where Did We Travel?

We arrived in Juba, South Sudan on October 11th. We were blessed through a friend of Jean Paul's to connect with a South Sudanese pastor (William) and missionaries from Uganda (Jane, Luke & Veronica, and Faisal) who are living and serving in South Sudan. These leaders helped us find a place to stay, find transportation options and gave us insights we used in choosing which people groups and locations to visit.

What is the Need in the Area?

According to the Joshua Project, there are 80 people groups in South Sudan. There are some unreached people groups and many who are under-reached (according to various Christian leaders we talked with). The groups we visited on our trip are Dinka-Bor, Nuer, Murle, Olubogo, Mundari, and Cholo. We also met many from Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Uganda, and others.

Some areas of the country were inaccessible at this time because of marshlands that are flooded from heavy rains at this time. South Sudan has suffered through very difficult times since 1983, with much war and many consequences of violence. In each place we visited we found friendly people who were ready to share with us about their culture, beliefs, and their lives in general. Our observation is that there are many people who are open to spiritual things and who desire transformation, peace, and new life that comes from Christ.

More Highlights of What we Learned

- We visited two large refugee camps on the outskirts of Juba. These started during wartime of 2013/2014 and lack of security in their home places have kept them in the camps up to this point.
    - One camp had 30,000 people in it, a community built from simple stick frames with tarp coverings, with UN presence. This camp was made up 95% with Nuer People Group. We had a nice visit with a group of students and teachers who were on break from school. We shared from John 3 and heard many questions about various denomination's claims about the Christian message that have

come into their camp. We learned about some cults who are working in the area.

- Another camp had 7,500 people in it made up of Murle People as well as Dinka and Nuer Tribes. The community leaders we spent time with were Murle who discussed the dynamics and culture of their remote home villages where there is no cell phone service or electricity, security is scarce, and they are particularly isolated during wet season when roads are not passable. We learned about their tribal god, Nyadit, and the common reasons that people go to witch doctors.

- South Sudan has strict protocol about visiting any community, which requires letters of permission before visiting. Most of this work was done in advance of our visits to communities, but the work had not been completed before we visited one town towards the end of our travels. So in this town, we spent time sitting with police officials at their office, who then took us to the county commissioners office to spend time with him, who upon learning about the purpose of our visit, sent us to an Episcopal church to meet with the leader of the local council of churches, were we received the warm welcome and blessing we needed in order to move about and visit with people in the community.
- Everywhere we were able to go to on this trip we heard of churches in the area.

  - We heard about many tribes who have Christians who also go to witch doctors or worship their local tribal god, sometimes making animal sacrifices to their local god. Due to wet season, we were not able to travel to distant villages where there are no churches among communities of unreached peoples.
  - We also met some people in towns and villages whose knowledge of scripture, church leadership and discipleship demonstrated that there must be some good churches in their community.
  - We received many welcomes for a new mission and church work, due to under-reached peoples locally and much need for whole-life discipleship and community development.
- Most strangers that we walked up to, and asked questions were quick to offer a chair and open to a conversation to tell us many things about their tribe, cultures, community and religious practices.

- Most places we visited on this trip, including remote village locations, people spoke English for great conversation without a translator. Otherwise, their common trade language is Arabic, and each tribe has their own tribal languages.
- We saw hundreds of villages full of small mud huts with grass roofs. Some of us were drawn with a desire to know these places and people for potential of taking the Good News.
- Each tribe we met had different scar markings/cuts on their foreheads and different patterns of teeth removed to identify with their tribe. The cutting occurs as they approach adulthood in the villages as a rite of passage and they are very open to talk about their tribal identity and customs. There are some who no longer practice these customs, especially in the cities among the youngest generations.
- A group of Mandari men selling cattle and goats under a shade tree told us about custom of making sacrifice of a cow to their god, hanging the skin on a tree, then pouring milk into the river, in order to get the protection of their god for their cows when they take their herd across the river. They also shared about a more complex approach to marriage proposals and dowery in their tribe.
- One item that came up regularly among tribes was their dowery customs and they were unusually open about how many cows or goats were paid to the families of their wives, commonly 100 cows or more there. One group was baffled that we didn't give dowery in the U.S. as if we don't place high value to make a big sacrifice for our wives and their families.
- We heard many stories from various people groups and communities throughout the trip who were afraid of one particular tribe attacking them or stealing from them or killing them. This particular tribe is an unreached people group that we would like to learn more about.
- When we visited people in one town near the Ugandan border, we heard many rated R stories of tribal conflicts and difficulties with lack of security. The Olubogo People talked about having babies taken from their women from one particular tribe and their crops destroyed by another tribe bearing guns that come through during the first couple of months each year. They were in a pretty large town, but with no local school they send their kids to Uganda for school, where they also flee to during certain months of the year for safety.

- It was a joy to hear the Rwandans on several occasions offer much encouragement and hope for reconciliation and tell their own story of tribal conflict in their past which has changed to peace and reconciliation through the Lord Jesus Christ in their home communities and churches. It was an honor to stand with the Rwandans and pray with villagers asking the Lord Jesus to draw them to himself and bring hope and peace to their families.
- South Sudan is a fascinating place of many tribes, customs and lifestyles that left an impression on our team. We pray for peace and hope for them in Christ.

Please Pray for Discernment and Next Steps:
As a team we sensed affirmation that EFC-Rwanda is being called to be on mission in South Sudan. We ask that you continue to pray for us as we keep discerning God's plans. We think the next step will be for another, much longer trip to happen in the dry season. The purpose of this trip would be visit places we were not able to visit and to work toward narrowing down our focus toward a specific place or two that we would then seek to deeply understand.

Thank you for praying with us for this and the other Luke 10 trips. May God continue to lead us into his plans. May his kingdom come, and his will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

South Sudan CAN-GO Report

Trip Location: South Sudan
Trip Dates: October 11 – 20, 2022
Written by: Brad Carpenter, Gerard Munyanganizi , Jean Paul Nsekanabo, Nicodeme Basebya, and Theodore Uwiragiye

C for Champions:

Before:

- The Administrative Council of EFC-Rwanda with the blessing of the Yearly Meeting and church members of EFC-Rwanda.
- Many pastors in EFC-Rwanda have voiced a willingness to go to serve.

During:

- The mission team of EFC-Rwanda, Bernard, Jean Paul, Gerard, Nicodeme, and Brad
- During the trip many of the EFC-Rwanda leaders and church members were faithful to pray and regularly asked for updates.
- Some EFM prayer supporters were also faithfully praying with us.

After:

- Gerard, Jean Paul, Nicodeme, Theodore, Bernard, Brad, and Matt
- In EFC-Rwanda we have people who have told EFC-Rwanda that are ready and willing to go.
    - We must have times to sit with them and have deep discussions with them about the difference between being willing and a sense of call. We trust that they are there, we just need to find them.

A for Affirmation:

Before:

- At the local level and national level in EFC-Rwanda the Church affirms the call that God is leading EFC-Rwanda to begin a mission in South Sudan.
- As EFM we have not yet seen a formal call to begin in South Sudan, but Brad and Chelsea and Matt all see that this is the time to partner with EFC-Rwanda as they go.

During:

- We saw that people were very happy to talk with us and to share about themselves with us.
- There were pastors who stopped their other work to accompany us and even to speak on our behalf to authorities along the way. This felt like an important affirmation from God.
- Everyone we talked to in South Sudan including leaders of other denominations gave us encouragement and told us to come. No one told us that it would be bad or tried to discourage us.

After:

- EFC-Rwanda leaders and the Yearly Meeting affirm their willingness to partner. This will continue to be a process for leaders and church members to hear, own and commit to partner and send.
- There are people who have given toward Luke 10 with Tanzania and South Sudan in mind.

N for Need:

Before:

- EFC-Rwanda saw that South Sudan has some Unreached peoples in their country.

During:

- There is great need for the gospel in South Sudan in both Unreached (Murle) and the under-reached (Dinka-Bor, Nuer, Mundari, Olubogo).
- We were not able to visit everywhere in the country, but everyone we talked to told us that even the Christians are biblically ignorant.
- There is much fighting between tribes, stealing property and animals, abducting children that shows us that there is a great need for Jesus to bring His reconciliation to peoples there.
- We saw much land that appeared fertile but was not farmed.
- Life is expensive but people do not have money.
- There are some old customs and cultural practices that we saw that seem to be preventing them from having what they need for life.

- In the cities where there are many tribes, but it seems that some of the churches only have one tribe (segregated).

After:

- There were others we heard about that are unreached and without any church presence including subgroups of the Mundari, Toposa, Murle (who live on the other side of flooded marsh), and others.

G for Gifting:

Before:

- There is a group of pastors in EFC-Rwanda who publicly announced that they are willing to go as missionaries.

During:

- We saw that the laws and requirements for security of the country are many and are not easy to know. They will need wisdom and people from South Sudan to help them.

After:

- Within EFC-Rwanda we have all of the gifts of the Church.
- We see that missionaries would need:
    - Evangelism gifts
    - Teaching the Bible
    - Learning language and culture
    - Ability to adapt and adjust to different cultures
    - Patient/Perseverance through difficulties, differences, etc.
    - Experience in whole-life discipleship so that they can help people grow in all 4 relationships (with God, with self, with others, and with Creation)
    - Teachable people
    - Slow to criticize, suspending judgment, asking questions for more understanding
    - Skills in farming and animal husbandry
    - Skills in Business

O for Opportunity:

Before:

- We were not aware of many opportunities before we went.

During:

- We met with Luke Mugabe, Jane Mbabazi, William Deng, Faisal Monday, Peter (driver) who were all very helpful to us.
    - William Deng – is Dinka and helped us very much

- General of Police in Terekeka County seemed very warm and welcoming to us.
- William – young man is Mundari tribe. He is a Christian and translated for us as we talked with people there.
- Episcopal Canon in Terekeka Diocese welcomed us and gave his blessing.
- A Rwandan Muslim who lives in Aru Junction was very helpful in understanding the area.
- A Cholo person in Bor Town was very helpful in giving information including many things about Khartoum.
- The Community Leader of the Murle Internal Displaced Camp was open and very willing to share with us.

After:

- The pastors who welcomed us, shared with us, and gave us a chance to share with their congregations.
- The community leaders in each village welcomed us to come and visit their communities.
- The provision and availability of food, etc. The areas we traveled had good roads and buses. There are other places that are flooded during the rainy season.
- Some of the legal requirements are not very difficult if you know the right procedures.
- It seems like one possible way to enter would be through a whole-life discipleship (D for D) approach that is helping them look at relationships with God, self, others, and creation from the very beginning.

Is this a CAN GO for EFM at this time?

At this point, the main way that this potential new field aligns with EFM's vision and mission is that this is the vision and mission of EFC-Rwanda. As we partner with EFC-Rwanda, this then fits into our vision and mission as EFM.

Which of the five criteria do we see the strongest? Which of the five criteria is yet to become convincing?

The Need and Opportunity both seem strong. The least convincing is a lack of people in Rwanda who are clearly called by God and backed by EFC-Rwanda. We also have not heard yet of anyone in EFC-NA Yearly Meetings who has a sense of call to go to South Sudan.

Describe key points or stories in the process and affirmation/confirmation of God's call to Evangelical Friends to go to this particular people or place.

EFC-Rwanda has sensed a pull toward starting a mission in South Sudan since 2013. This was the first time EFC-Africa and EFM began discussing EFC-Africa sending their own missionaries. This trip was helpful for understanding more in general about South Sudan, made important contacts with other Christian leaders. We had good experiences in each location we visited that affirmed EFC-Rwanda's sense of call to South Sudan, but nothing that seems a clear affirmation to go to a specific space. The Rwandan members of the team sense that one part of our work in

South Sudan will be in helping to connect and bring unity between the tribes. So, at this point we would prefer to look for the place that God calls us rather than to a specific people group. Rwandans have a unique perspective and experience to offer that can be helpful to invite various tribes into the unity that Christ brings.

What steps have you taken since returning from the trip or need to take in further discernment or exploration of this field?

- We need to come up with a good strategy for sharing stories from this trip throughout EFC-Rwanda, among leaders, local churches, and individuals so that the Lord can keep increasing excitement and passion for this mission of God through EFC-Rwanda.
- To talk with the ones who have said they are willing to go as missionaries and help them to discern if this is a calling from God or not.
- We also need a good way to communicate with key leaders in the EFC-NA churches so that we can discern who God might call to join this exploration, discernment, and sending/going.

Luke 10 Team Recommendation to EFM

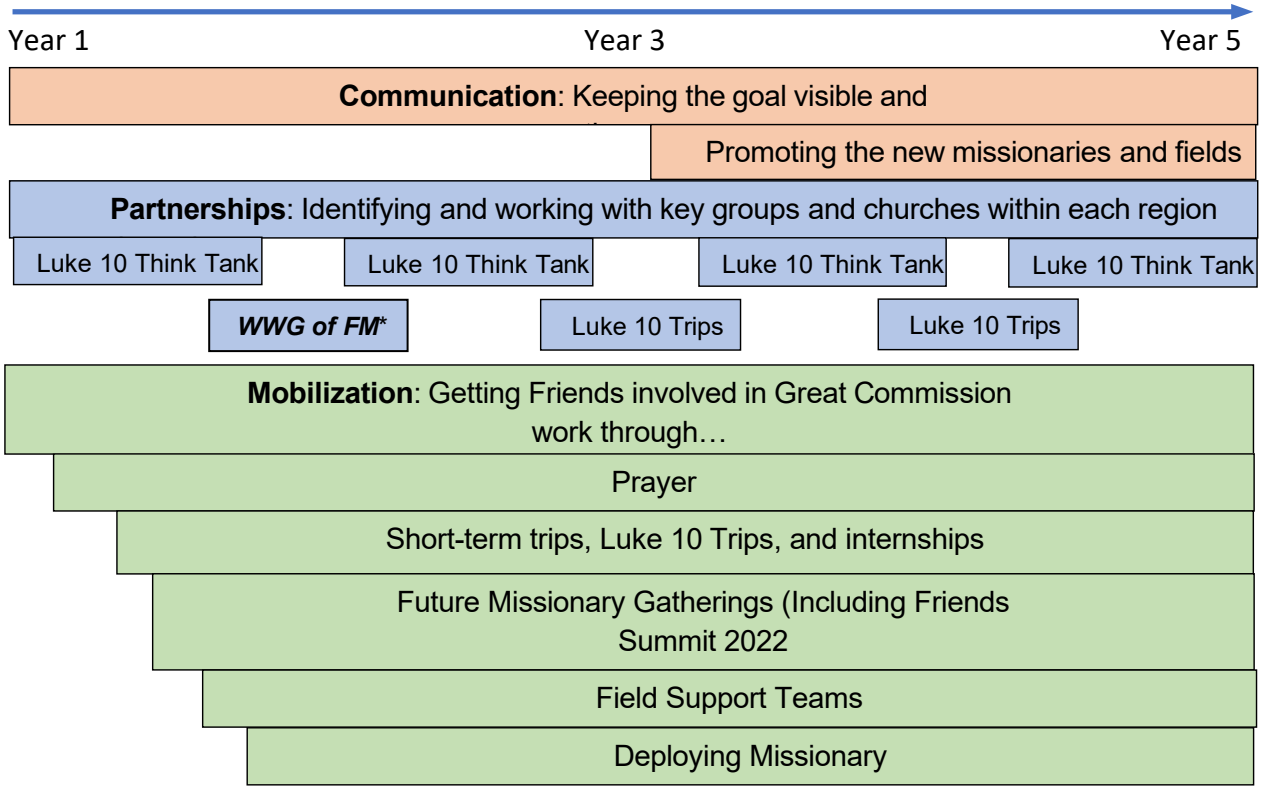
We believe that the next step will be for another trip to South Sudan. We believe that this should be a longer trip that happens during the dry season of South Sudan (from January to June 2023). We want to visit the people groups we were not able to visit this time so that we can learn more about them: Murle, Taposa, and Possibly more. The reason for spending a long time is so that they can eventually narrow down their focus and go deep in understand and discerning a call to a specific place.

THE LUKE 10 TRIP DUBAI RECENTLY RETURNED AND IS IN PROGRESS OF COMPLETING THE LUKE 10 TRIP REPORT AND CAN-GO REPORT.

Strategic Plan

Strategic Goal
To send 10 new missionary households from North America to launch 5 new fields by 2025.
Strategic Plan
We aim to accomplish the above goal through…
Communication:
Announce the goal, present the need for the gospel and how Christ would have us respond, and give updates about progress being made towards the goal.
Partnerships:
Work closely with current partners to identify key groups and churches in North America who can help discern, recruit, send and support. Pursue partnerships with yearly meetings overseas as those opportunities arise.
Mobilization:
Provide opportunities for Friends to pray, give, and go; identify the new fields; recruit the missionaries; and deploy the teams backed by their Field Support Teams.

Projected Timeline



*Worldwide Gathering of Friends Missionaries

An Overview of the Strategic Plan

Communication	
Tasks	Strategies

Communicate with EFM's constituencies through…
• Printed media
• Visual media
  ○ Videos
  ○ Social media
  ○ Website
• Speaking opportunities
  ○ Large group gatherings (Sundays, yearly meeting, and national events, etc.)
  ○ Small group gatherings (workshops, small groups, home visits, etc.)
Last two to three years: Introduce and promote new missionaries being sent out.
	Make full, continual use of all the types of communication to keep the strategic goal visible, report progress, and help get people involved in the various initiatives (prayer, Perspectives, Luke 10, Future Missionary Gatherings, internships, etc.).
	
	Prepare regional leaders to be "ambassadors" who can speak to large/small group gatherings in their areas of influence and use the media produced by the EFM office.

Partnerships	
Tasks	Strategies
Work closely with partners in North America that already exist (full and associate members of EFM). Identify and form partnerships with key churches in the regions. Involve missionaries and national leaders in the process of discerning the location of new fields and possible involvement of the yearly meetings they work with.	Keep in regular contact with partners. Form and/or strengthen partnerships through… • Luke 10 Think Tanks: Engaging yearly meetings, EFCI leaders, local churches, missionaries, and other stakeholders in the process of seeking new fields and missionaries. • Luke 10 Trips: Discerning where to open new fields and who to place there. • A Worldwide Gathering of Friends Missionaries

Mobilization	
Tasks	Strategies
Mobilize Friends for the strategic goal through… • Prayer • Education (children, youth, adults) • Special events • Short-term missions trips and internships • Recruiting missionary candidates and guiding them through the application process • Fundraising • Pre-field training/preparation • Field Support Teams The EFM directors and office staff will be the primary ones to see that this mobilizing happens and will seek help from EFM Board members, regional missions directors, regional missions boards or mobilizer groups, and other volunteers.	Prayer network Children's Missions Focus materials Kaleo Academy Camps and youth/college/young adult conferences Friends Summit 2022 Perspectives Course Short-term trips and internships (3-12 months) Luke 10 Think Tanks Luke 10 Trips Future Missionary Gatherings Time spent with the EFM Board Deputations Field Support Teams

EFM Vision and Mission Statement

Vision

EVANGELICAL FRIENDS OF NORTH AMERICA FULLY MOBILIZED TO SEND MISSIONARIES WHO PLANT GROUPS OF CHURCHES AROUND THE WORLD THAT ARE FAITHFUL, SUSTAINABLE, MULTIPLYING, AND MOBILIZED TO SEND MISSIONARIES THEMSELVES.

Seeking First God's Kingdom

We are committed to seeking first God's kingdom in whatever place and culture the Lord of the harvest sends us. We believe that will result in new disciples of Jesus Christ. New disciples will form groups of churches that are seeking God's kingdom first at home and abroad.

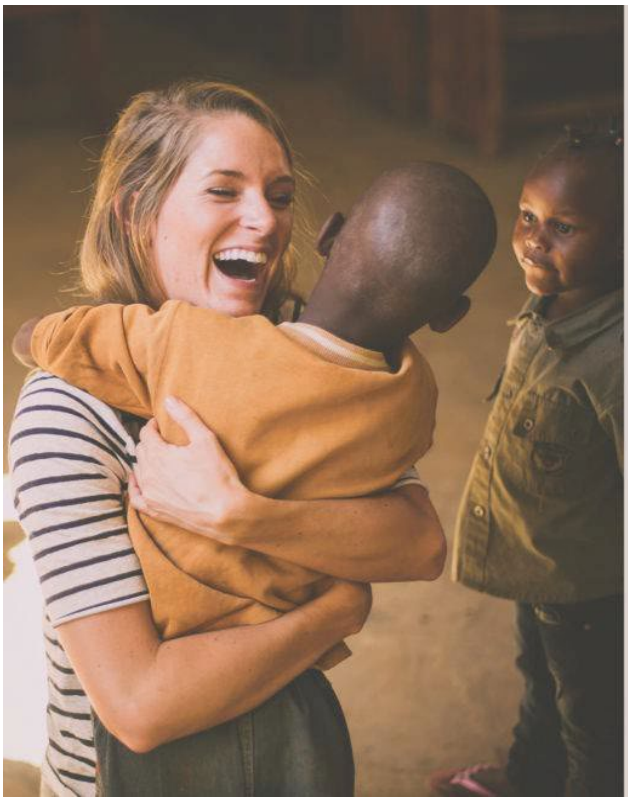
Compare this to soccer. Soccer is played all over the world and requires a field with four boundary lines. It also requires teams. Each team has the privilege to play within the boundaries of the field and according to the rules of the game. A great deal of creativity takes place during a soccer match as each team member plays according to his/her skills, talents, and position, and always in unity with the other players on the team.

EFM can be described as a team of missionaries located all around the world. We play with the skills, gifts and experience God has given us and within the cultures where we live and work. As we seek first God's kingdom,
we release missionaries to play within the four boundary lines of our mission (and we talk about a "soccer field" as an analogy). These boundaries help us make disciples and plant groups of churches that will go on to reproduce themselves. They also promote unity and creativity.

What are the four boundaries? Mission, Guiding Principles, Daily Focus, and Friends Culture.

Mission

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.



Guiding Principles

We carry out our mission by moving into the neighborhoods where God sends us, learning the languages and cultures, proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed, discipling those who respond to the Gospel in holistic ways, and helping them to form churches. We also help equip these disciples for ministry and assist them in creating self-sustaining ministries of their own. We know that we've come full circle when these disciples start sending missionaries to repeat this whole process.

Friends Culture

The way we carry out our mission is also shaped by our heritages as Evangelical Friends. We believe deeply that Jesus Christ is always with us and that we can live in constant communion with Him. We believe it is essential to do what He tells us to do. We believe that His Spirit has gifted us all for ministry and that He would have us all be servant leaders.

Daily Focus

In order to carry out our mission, what is it that we must do day in and day out? We must pray. We must humbly study and meditate on Scripture. We must immerse ourselves in the Trinity through the Holy Spirit. When we do these things we are able to tell others the Good News of Jesus Christ with our lives and words. We are faithful to the Lord in the way we use our time, money, bodies, possessions, and relationships. We also display His fruit: Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness gentleness, and self-control.

Probably the most exciting thing about soccer is scoring goals, right? How does EFM know when it's scoring goals? When it is planting groups of churches that are full participants in the Great Commission.

Stan Leach,
Executive Director

EFM Board Members

Mathew Bradbury Wellandport, Canada EFC-ER Representative	**Ron Maestas** (Treasurer) Yorba Linda, CA At-large from FSW
Pat Byers Muncie, IN Indiana YM General Superintendent	**Heidi Matson** Yorba Linda, CA Represents FSW General Superintendent
Tom Crawford Salem, OH EFC-ER General Superintendent	**Ron Mulkey** Greenleaf, ID NWYM Representative
Molly De La Cerda Friendswood, TX At-large from EFC-MAYM	**Christy Neifert** (Board Chair) Commerce City, CO RMYM Representative
Adrian Halverstadt Haviland, KS RMYM Leadership Facilitator EFC-NA Coordinating Council Director	**Rusty Savage** Damascus, OH
Marva Hoopes (Secretary) Canton, OH At-large from EFC-ER	**Aurora Sampson** Noatak, AK AYM General Superintendent
Kevin Hoppock Valley Center, KS At-large from EFC-MAYM	**John Stalker** Kotzebue, AK AYM Representative
Sung Kim Walnut, CA FSW Representative	**Thayne Thompson** Wichita, KS EFC-MAYM Representative
Jim Le Shana Newberg, OR NWYM General Superintendent	**David Williams** New Franklin, OH EFC-International Interim Director

WHAT EFM DOES AND DOESN'T DO

EFM's mission statement uses the analogy of a football (soccer) field to help acquaint people with EFM's ministry principles. These principles are put into practice from the moment our missionaries move into an area where very few people have heard the gospel of Jesus Christ. The principles continue until a group of churches has developed and is sending out missionaries of their own. But in getting to know EFM even better, it is natural to ask questions like these:

- What types of projects does EFM generally help with?
- What types of projects and practices does EFM generally avoid?
- What practices does EFM avoid altogether?

The following is an attempt to answer those questions.

What EFM Does: Types of projects EFM generally helps with:
As groups of churches emerge through EFM's efforts in different parts of the world, and as EFM forms relationships with Evangelical Friends yearly meetings outside of North America, EFM is very open to partnering with these churches on projects that have to do with church planting, whole-life discipleship, leadership training, and sending missionaries to unreached people groups. EFM's goal in these partnerships is to encourage and strengthen the churches as they pursue the vision God is giving them. In order to do this, we believe the following guidelines are necessary:

1. Foster healthy relationships by working against paternalistic tendencies in all cultures. As Westerners we

will be careful not to operate from, or be placed in, the "God spot." We will do our best to avoid being the "foreign experts."

2. Strive for local ownership with every project on which we work together.
3. Aim for locally reproducible, multiplicative forms of ministry in discipleship, church planting, leadership training, and missionary sending. We will think in terms of ministry that can lead to and sustain a movement.
4. Pursue regional solutions to regional problems and local solutions to local problems.
5. Aim to develop leaders, not projects. Developed leaders will be empowered to cultivate their own resources for projects they choose to do.
6. Foster and help develop asset-based ministry rather than need-based ministry. Introducing foreign money and projects too early will usually lead to dependency on those funds.

What EFM Doesn't Do: Types of projects and practices EFM generally avoids:
EFM generally doesn't do the following*:
*There may be some exceptions to the projects and practices listed below, but only with approval from the director and, in some cases, the EFM Board.

- We do not own real estate in EFM's name or in the names of our missionaries.

- We do not help fund the purchase of properties for local churches or the construction of local church buildings.
- We do not pay salaries for pastors, evangelists, and yearly meeting leaders.
- We do not allow our missionaries to pastor local churches or hold yearly meeting positions (like president or treasurer).
- We do not build or operate hospitals, clinics, orphanages, or schools.
- We do not adopt churches or groups of churches that already exist, whether they were planted by Evangelical Friends or not. We may, however, find ways to partner together on certain projects (see the previous section titled "Types of projects EFM generally helps with").

Under certain circumstances EFM is open to:

- Assisting in the purchase of/or the construction of a training center that benefits the yearly meeting and that can also be used as the yearly meeting's headquarters.
- Assisting yearly meetings in Asia, Africa, and Latin America in sending out missionaries. This assistance usually takes the form of training and limited funding.
- Assisting in projects that help people become disciples of Jesus Christ in all areas of life, which empowers them to use the resources God has made available in their own context (this is what we mean by whole-life discipleship).

Practices EFM Always Avoids: Under no circumstances does EFM do the following:

- We do not denounce other religions as we carry out evangelism. Everyone is made in the image of God, so we treat everyone with respect. The focus of our teaching and preaching is "Jesus Christ and him crucified."
- We do not give help to needy people in exchange for them becoming Christians or joining our churches.
- We do not encourage people to rebel against their governing authorities. There may be certain laws or customs that followers of Jesus Christ cannot follow in good conscience, but Scripture instructs us to pray for those in authority and to submit to them in everything we can.
- We do not encourage rebellion against yearly meeting leaders and pastors even when there may be cause to do so. We stand ready to pray and to help in the process of peace-making as much as we can.
- We do not impose a set of practices on yearly meetings that they must follow if they want to belong to the Evangelical Friends Church. EFM will do its best to instruct yearly meeting leaders and pastors about the history and doctrine of Friends, but specific practices will vary to some degree from region to region because of culture and circumstances. Believers in these different contexts are encouraged to work together, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, to determine what their practices will be (i.e., how they will organize themselves; how they will choose their leaders; how they will make corporate decisions; and whether or not they will use physical elements in baptism and communion).

Approved in November 2015 by the EFM Board.