



# Evangelical Friends Mission January 2024 Prayer Letter

www.friendsmission.com  
efm@friendsmission.com  
303.421.8100

Our purpose and passion is to fuel a worldwide movement of people who seek first the kingdom of God, planting churches that live and die to carry out the Great Commission in the spirit of the Great Commandment.

## Kathi Perry | Serving in Ireland

The last year was a tough one for me! It began with an aortic valve replacement on January 3rd. (My heart is completely healthy now!) In May I completed an M.A. in Practical Theology at Barclay College. My landlord gave me notice that he intended to sell the house I'd lived in for eight years, and on September 1st I moved into an apartment. In October I had my right knee replaced, and six weeks later (the day after I was cleared to drive) I got COVID-19 for the first time! My body is tired!



There is an old tradition in Ireland, on New Year's Eve, you open the back door to let the old year out, and at midnight, open the front door to let the New Year in. I like the symbolism of this. We have the chance to start again (honestly, we can start again any day, every day). I'm ready to put 2023 behind me and start again. Paul says, "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he (or she) is a new creation: the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17,18).

I have been overwhelmed by the care of the people around me, and so grateful. The "Little Friends" families and people from the Nazarene Church have driven me to appointments, brought meals and groceries, collected prescriptions, and taken me for walks. A friend from the North came and spent a weekend with me, which was very helpful. And every child who came by left a message on my bathroom mirror.



And I am thankful for each of you. Your prayers and support have carried me through 2023. And looking forward to 2024!

Kathi Perry



## From the EFM Office

### *Praise God...*

- Several of our missionaries are finishing their deputations and have had highly effective visits – deepened relationships have provided inspiration and joy to both the missionaries and those they visited. All are encouraged by God’s work.
- The ongoing gifts given through the EFM Christmas Catalog provide much-needed encouragement and opportunity for a better life to people across the globe. These gifts were also a blessing to those who gave!

### *Please Pray...*

- For deputation opportunities for David and Tricia Howell, returning from Ireland. Pray that opportunities to share their ministry will provide encouragement for them and inspiration for those with whom they share. Also, pray for rest and continued clarity for the next steps in ministry.
- For Samson and Pricilla Retnaraj as they initiate a time of off-field service with a sabbatical. Pray that extra time for rest and reflection will prepare them for their return to the field.
- That God will continue to meet all the needs of those who serve with and through EFM.

## EFM Five-Year Goal:

**To send 10 new missionary households from North America to launch 5 new fields by December 31, 2025.**

### *Praise God...*

- Four potential missionaries are in the process of fundraising to begin a Disciple-Making Apprenticeship in Southern California beginning in January. This experience is an initial training program led by the North County Project and is designed to provide these apprentices with fundamental skills missionaries need for evangelism, discipleship, and equipping.
- Initial steps are being taken to collaborate with sister Friends National Churches across Latin America as we all seek to become more effective at sending missionaries.

### *Please Pray...*

- For the Lord of the Harvest to send out workers into the six new fields EFM has adopted. We are praying for at least twelve new households.
- For continued wisdom as EFM staff and US regional Friends leaders identify pre-launch logistics for each of the six new fields.
- For ongoing unity in our churches and regions as we pursue the challenging goal the Lord has called us to embrace.

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:** Join us on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 10-11 AM PST for our Luke 10:2 Gathering via Zoom in support of EFM’s Five-Year Goal. If you would like to participate in this gathering, you can sign up for it at <https://friendsmission.com/five-year-goal-pray/> some prayer points and the link for the gathering a few days before the event.

## From A. and M. A. Serving in Bangladesh

### *Praise God...*

- That our deputation ministry was very successful. We were able to meet most of our partners in person and had a good fellowship with them to share our ministry. We are happy to have more new partners.
- We are grateful to the Lord for allowing us to celebrate Christmas together with my elder son Steve after three years.
- Thank the Lord that one more church has been planted by our lay leader recently while we are in the US.

### *Please Pray...*

- For the revival in the US as we saw dryness in many churches in this country. Especially pray that the Lord brings young people to revive the church and community.
- That the Lord provides many more pioneers to saturate all 64 districts in our country Bangladesh.
- For our safety and good health as we will be visiting ministry fields right after returning to our country, Bangladesh. Pray for our team to be stronger in faith, unity, and action.

## From David Thomas EFM Whole Life Discipleship

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

- For our D4D team in Thailand using root cause analysis to work through various barriers to the development of their two church teams in two villages. Pray they grow in their understanding of what they are facing in their villages as they seek the root causes.

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

- For the planning and details to come together for a possible next trip at the end of January and the beginning of February

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

- For an excellent trip facilitating an Empowerment, Mentoring, and Coaching workshop for leaders of Food for the Hungry, and for an Adult Learning and Bible Telling workshop for about 60 FH workers including those who might form our pilot D4D teams this next year.

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

- For those who participated to practice some of the useful skills they have learned.
- For Food for the Hungry - Bolivia as a new director is chosen. Pray for someone favorable to continue to work with our D4D coaching. Pray for the Holy Spirit’s guidance in this process.

### *Praise God... (Rwanda)*

- For five church teams in Rwanda who are at the end of the Mobilization Phase where they have almost chosen their curriculum list of topics, which they will focus on discipling their congregations and local communities over the next couple of years.

### *Please Pray... (Rwanda)*

- For an excellent coaching trip with our Rwandan D4D national leaders along with David Thomas who will be with them in early January. Pray for the Holy Spirit’s insight and direction in coaching them as they work on raising the next leaders to lead D4D in Rwanda.

## From Samson and Priscilla Retnaraj Serving in Nepal

### *Praise God...*

- For the work among the school dropouts in Cha'pur, as Prakash and Nathuni give them their time in helping them. This Christmas they also handed out free stationery and woolen hats and shawls from their personal savings.
- For Sher Bahadur and Bhim as they help Pastor Raju in the evangelistic activities in the Gaiindatar community. Both recently completed their LEAD training (Discipleship) and have been encouraged to do this work in their free time.
- For our safe travels as we arrived in the US in December, for our deputation work. We are praying to get more prayer partners, so as to be fully equipped for our next term to support the ongoing CHE work in Nepal.

### *Please Pray...*

- For Arun as his court case comes to an end, hopefully with a decision in his favor, after the terrible accident nine months ago.
- For the children of our CHE Trainers who attend school and college, pray that the Lord would provide wisdom and skills to enable them to complete this academic year.
- For all our partner churches in Chitwan and Rautahat as they make their plans for 2024 which are to be submitted for scrutiny by the government of Nepal and approval of all their activities as planned.

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

***Praise God...***

- Our public testimony of baptism occasion was very fruitful. We have four new siblings (three sisters and one brother) in Christ.
- For the answered prayers for me. I'm much better now, I can move, drive, etc. again. God was my helper. But please pray for my full recovery.
- Our mission journey in Ukraine was also blessed. We experienced lots of miracles, we felt God's work on our services. The Ukrainian people were very kind and thankful again. The other Christmas journeys (in Croatia, Serbia, Kölked, etc.) were also fruitful. We could help a lot of poor families with packages.

***Please Pray...***

- For Kinga, who is my nephew's (Manuel) wife. They are our youth pastors in Tolna. They are expecting their first baby in January. Please, pray for Kinga and her baby's health.
- For my brother-in-law, Attila, who is a pastor in Pécs. A few weeks ago, he got sick, he couldn't move his hands and his speech was slurred. He spent some days in the hospital. The doctors said that he had a circulatory disorder. He is fine now, but he must relax a lot, and take pills. Please, pray for him that this case never happens again.
- We invited unbeliever families and persons for our Christmas occasions (Budapest, Tolna), so please pray that the gospel of Jesus Christ touched their hearts.

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

***Praise God...***

- Our daughter and husband planted a church 20 years ago and through the years those people have become dear to us too, even though we only see them a couple times a year. Thank you, Lord, for the privilege of celebrating Christmas with people we know and love.
- This is the first year that Ukraine is "officially" celebrating Christmas on the 25th of December instead of January 7. Our church celebrated Advent throughout the season, and it so ministered to our souls! And somehow in the midst of war, they were able to acknowledge and pray for it and still point people to peace and hope and joy. It is what our faith is about! It was an extraordinarily meaningful season for us!

***Please Pray...***

- Abe will be holding three Center of Hope accountability and training sessions in January. Diane will be holding a two-day seminar mid-month on dealing with trauma and helping people find emotional healing. Please pray for strength and wisdom for both of us. And for good attendance (which also means good weather!)
- Right now, we are trying to help three couples who are in some stage of divorce or considering it. Two of them are church planters. A great grief to our hearts. Divorce is becoming more and more common in the church, whereas a couple of decades ago it was non-existent. Pray that these people would understand that divorce only moves the problems to a different arena. Pray that the Lord would work in the hearts of those who have become very hardened, and embittered.