



Evangelical Friends Mission

March 2024 Prayer Letter

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

The Carpenter Family | Serving in Rwanda

Brad and the D for D (Discipling for Development) team recently attended a celebration where they heard several testimonies of transformation and praised God for what he is doing in and through the people participating in D for D. At this celebration, a woman stood up - we'll call her Alice. Alice is a leader in the local government who works with women, and she is not a member of the Friends Church. But, along with other community members and church members, she was invited and welcomed into the D for D group to learn and grow together. She shared powerfully about the different things she has learned about whole-life transformation in Christ! She was casting vision for continuing to pass on what she's learned to the women that she leads, and to the whole community!



Left: "Alice" giving her testimony. Center: We always love visits from David Thomas Right: The D for D celebration Brad attended.

In some ways, it feels like we're finally moving toward our dream of seeing whole communities, not just church members, being transformed in their relationships with God, self, others, and the environment - of seeing God's Kingdom coming! We look forward to our continued walk alongside these discipleship groups in Rwanda, Burundi, and Congo as they disciple those in their churches and those outside. And we're excited to keep seeing that happen in South Sudan, Tanzania, and wherever else God would lead us.

May God help each of us look outside our home, church, and comfort zone to love, serve, and disciple. May we be inspired by Alice and her testimony!

Brad & Chelsea
Sarai, Gideon, and Ian



Left: Sarai with friends at school. Center: A young friend who just started preschool. We were excited to meet him on the road after his school day. Right: Talking with Pastor Gerard in our yard.

From the EFM Office

Praise God...

- For the productive trips that Dan Cammack and Matt Macy had in February. Dan was in Thailand and Matt was in Burundi and Rwanda.
- For the stateside staff that God has blessed EFM with at this point in our history: Stan Leach (Executive Director), Christy Neifert (Director of Operations), Matt Macy (Director of Mobilization), Kimberly Mer (Director of Advancement), Krista Alvarez (Communications Associate), Krista Gonzales (Administrative Assistant), Debby McElroy (Bookkeeper and HR Support), and Dan Cammack (Field Director).
- For key people in each of the regions who are working together with EFM to coordinate deputations, raise funds, and encourage prayer for our missionaries and fields as well as the new ones to come.

Please Pray...

- For Samson and Priscilla Retnaraj as they begin their deputation.
- For David and Tricia Howell as they are in the third month of their deputation.
- For the EFM stateside staff listed above as they continue to grow in their roles and also as a team.

EFM Five-Year Goal:

To send 12 new missionary households from North America to launch at least 6 new fields by December 31, 2025.

Praise God...

- For all those who are giving leadership in their regions/yearly meetings to help launch new fields and send new missionary households through EFM as part of EFM's Five-Year Goal. It is pretty incredible to see so many people across the nation involved in these efforts!
- That the Spirit continues to stir interest in the Great Commission of Jesus Christ among Evangelical Friends around the world.
- For those who are actively exploring whether God is calling them to be part of the next wave of missionaries that go out through EFM.

Please Pray...

- For the Lord of the harvest to send more workers into the harvest fields.
- For the regions/yearly meetings in the U.S. as they prepare to be an active part of launching the new fields that have been approved through EFM's Luke 10 Initiative. They have been a great blessing in the exploration phase and will continue to be instrumental in sending new missionary households to these new fields.
- That in the next few months there would be greater clarity for many of those who are discerning whether God is calling them to be missionaries.

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 Brad and Chelsea Carpenter Serving in Rwanda

Praise God...

- Last month, we asked for prayer for Brad's knee, and though it will still take a while for it to be 100%, we are happy that it seems to be healing well so far.
- For wonderful individuals, groups, and churches that partner with us in this ministry!

Please Pray...

- For Brad's upcoming trip for D for D training at the beginning of March - and for the family while he is gone.
- There are some moisture problems in our house walls that need to be fixed, and may even be causing some health issues. Please pray that God will provide everything we need to resolve them.

From Samson and Priscilla Retnaraj Serving in Nepal

Praise God...

- Our CHE Trainers spent almost the whole month traveling and meeting people in their communities and visiting and exploring new areas and fellowships willing to start a CHE Training in their community. Three such areas have been identified in Chitwan among the Praja community and one in Rautahat District.
- Gifts like goats, chickens, and blankets were distributed in February from the Christmas catalog funds received and there are smiling faces everywhere. A proposal to start a tailoring project and tuition center for school dropouts also benefited from school supplies. Ram Prakash from Eden CHE committee started a program for kids at a nearby brick kiln where the parents work for daily wages.
- For the new fellowship at Lakhauri and Rakesh as he leads it. He is also being trained as a health assistant by Arun (CHE Trainer) to disciple in Preventive Health and Discipleship matters. Praise God for Mudebas church (Chitwan) which has reached out to nearby areas and started a house fellowship in the new community of Chepangs where one person from five families gathers together for prayer and worship regularly.

Please Pray...

- For Narayan and Gowrie as they work on matters related to their business. Pray that the business will grow because of their honesty and integrity and that people will come to them to be served so that they can earn money from their business.
- For the house fellowship in Bansgarhi (Bardia) where Philip assisted by Karn BK is faithfully serving the Lord in a small community of Hindus and some ethnic groups. Philip's move to Bardia from Rautahat three years ago is slowly but steadily resulting in growth in numbers in their house fellowship. They will be regularly screening the "Jesus film" now that winter has passed, for the people to know Jesus.
- Prateek is in his senior year at GFU Newberg and is due to graduate in April. Please pray for him to complete all the requirements in good time and be awarded the Honors degree which he finished last year, as well as his major subject Psychology this year. Pray for us (Samson and Priscilla) as we begin our deputation visits to churches and Friends in the U.S. from March to May, and have a lot of traveling by road to get to all the places as planned.

From Maria Giron

Serving as the Missions Mobilizer for Hispanic Friends

Praise God...

- We are very grateful for the good ministry opportunities we have had these first two months of the year. We have seen God's hand at work in the missions mobilization ministry and in the many doors of opportunities that he opens for us to mobilize others.
- My time visiting the Denver Friends Women group was a great blessing and motivation for my life, it was a trip that was planned in less than a month. Without a doubt, God had it planned for me on his calendar.
- As you are reading this, the Mexico Yearly Meeting's (Central) sessions are taking place in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, Mexico. This reunion of pastors and leaders is expected to be the largest in attendance in the history of the Friends of Mexico. Praise God that the ministries are growing.

Please Pray...

- Continue praying for our mobilizing ministry, as we feel that God is giving us different tasks to mobilize, train, and send many more to his fields. We are willing to obey and go where he sends us and do what he tells us.
- That we would know how to make good use of the opportunities that God presents to us to mobilize his people to get more people involved in the Great Commission by identifying, training, and sending more workers to his harvest.
- Continue praying for the Mexico Vision 32, since there are possible new candidates to go out and start new ministries this year in states of Mexico, where there is still no presence of Evangelical Friends. Pray that these candidates do not lose their desire, their hopes, or their vision while they are in the process of preparing to be sent.

From D.K. and Choity Sarkar

Serving in India

Praise God...

- By God's grace we could start three more churches in North 24 Parganas. These were house fellowships, but God increased the numbers of the believers, and they are now counted as a church.
- We started the tutorial centers. There are five centers, and they are running well. Tutorial centers are a good tool for evangelism.
- We started two Bible schools. One is in Hooghly district and the other one is in Shyamnagar. There are 12 students in Hooghly and 18 students in Shyamnagar. It is a year course. The leaders are working hard to prepare the new generation.

Please Pray...

- For the young children, including my granddaughter, who are writing their final exams for the Board.
- Two of our very elderly women who are the prayer warriors are suffering from various problems due to their old age. Please pray that God's will would be done in their life.
- The next month will be full of church programs. The EFC- India meeting will also be taking place. Please pray for me and other leaders.

From David and Tricia Howell

Serving in Ireland

Praise God...

- For being back in the U.S. on deputation and meeting up with so many friends that we have partnered with for years.
- For spending time with family while visiting the U.S.
- For being able to share face-to-face the stories of what God is doing in Ireland.

Please Pray...

- For strength, endurance, and protection as we travel across the Northwest and Midwest for the next five months.
- For Jonathan and Moriah in this season of their lives.
- For our prayer support and financial support to be fully funded. We have a big task ahead of us, but our God is bigger.

From Pastor Amen Thapa- EFC Nepal

Serving in Nepal

Praise God...

- For new members who have declared their faith through a public testimony of baptism. Praise God also for three mission trips to our EFCN mission field.
- For four of our Friends pastors (Dhak Bdr, Ramesh, Suryalal, and Bijay) who completed the MDiv Course and graduated on Feb 6, 2024.
- For our refreshing courses held for our online students of MDiv and B.Th. course at Dhulikhel Village Resort.

Please Pray...

- For our upcoming mission trip with some aid (blankets/warm clothes and food groceries to earthquake-affected regions in Jajarkot and Rukum of Karnali province.
- For new church planting in our new fields.
- For our Bible College Students and Combine Youth Fellowship (7/8 Churches).

From Gabriel and Suzana Massey

Serving in India

Praise God...

- For the Day of Blessing at the Christian English College we had on February 3, 2024! Fifty-eight students are going to write their Tenth Class Examination, which is conducted from February to April by the ICSE Board. We prayed for each student putting a hand on their head. The students and their parents appreciated it though most of the students are from non-Christian homes
- The Christian Hospital at Chhatarpur is serving people from the nearby districts of M.P and U.P.
- For the Friends churches at Chhatarpur Nowgong and Ghaura who are growing.

Please Pray...

- For the need of a suitable principal for Christian English College at Chhatarpur. Pray that the best person may be appointed to look after the teaching side. Pray for Mrs. Arpana Massey, who is looking after the school as its assistant manager, that she may have the Lord's help.
- For the pastors of Chhatarpur church, Deepak Nalvanshi and Sundeep Gopalan. The Chhatarpur church also provides a Sunday service leader for Gaura Church.
- The government has provided suitable land for our graveyard. The present place is almost full. The church needs to protect the land by putting walls all around at Chhatarpur for its graveyard.