

EVANGELICAL FRIENDS MISSION
LUKE 10 THINK TANK

Wednesday, November 8, 2023
Cascade Station, Portland, Oregon

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction 3

Schedule 4

Think Tank 2023 Purpose 6

A Clarification on Luke 10 and the 5-year Goal from the Strategy Committee 7

2023 Fall Luke 10 Initiative Update 8

White Board Ideas from All Regional Think Tanks 10

Region/ Yearly Meeting Proposals for Fields 12

Luke 10 Exploration Trip Reports 21
- Gulf Countries | Trip 1 21
- Thailand | Trip 1 22
- Northern India | Trip 1 28
- Northeast Brazil | Trip 1 36
- Mexico | Trip 2 39
- Ecuador | Trip 2 43
- South Sudan | Trip 2 52
- Tanzania | Trip 2 59
- Greece | Trip 2 67
- Northeast Brazil | Trip 2 71
- Gulf Countries | Trip 2 80
- Eastern Europe | Trip 1 85

Article: Team Giftedness in Pioneer Work by Ron Stansell 89

Article: Discernment Regarding Decisions About New Mission Field Endeavors by Lon Fendall 92

Strategic Plan 94

EFM Vision and Mission Statement 97

What EFM Does and Doesn't Do 101

EFM Board Members 103

Here is the website link for additional resources or scan the QR code here!
https://friendsmission.com/2023-luke-10-think-tank/

SCAN ME

INTRODUCTION

Dear Friends,

This week is a defining moment for EFM. At this week's Think Tank, we will "identify which new fields to propose to the EFM Board for commitment." In the analogy of marriage, I think of making these commitments as like getting engaged, and actually deploying missionaries to launch the new field as like getting married.

Where will EFM go? Here am I send me! Here is my family, send them! Here we are as a church, send us!

In preparation for this big day please:

- prayerfully read Luke 10.
- Review the following, provided to you electronically and in print on Wednesday.
    - the agenda in the schedule
    - the purpose of this special Think Tank
    - the proposals for fields!
- See the following, which will not be printed for you (***please be ready to view electronically at Think Tank or print on your own***)
    - The trip report summaries
    - The trip CAN GO reports
    - Other materials provided

Note that each proposal will be presented by a representative of the region/yearly meeting, who will also preside over the small discernment groups, with the Luke 10 Team leader participating in the same group. All other Think Tank participants will be randomly dispersed throughout the small discernment groups.

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.

EFM National Luke 10 Think Tank Schedule

November 8, 2023

*"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 with Stan Leach

Singing Worship and Prayer with Todd Coogan

Reading of Luke 10 with Dan Cammack

Think Tank Purpose with Matt Macy

10:30am Proposals from each region/yearly meeting based on Luke 10 Team CAN GO Report

- What is the proposal for EFM concerning this field? (yes, not yet, or pause)
- What are a couple of the most compelling reasons for this proposal?

2 minutes each:

1. Mexico
2. Shuar of Ecuador (and Peru)
3. South Sudan
4. Tanzania
5. Muslim Refugees in Greece
6. NE Brazil
7. Nepali-speaking people in Doha and/or Dubai
8. Eastern Europe under exploration
9. Kavet People of Laos (and Cambodia) under exploration

Lahu in Asia exploration on pause for U.S. missionaries
Northern India exploration on pause for U.S. missionaries

11:00am Small Group Assignments

-BREAK-

11:15am SMALL DISCERNMENT GROUPS
Find CAN GO reports and field proposals at:
https://friendsmission.com/2023-luke-10-think-tank/

(11:15, 10 min) Group members silently read through the trip report/CAN GO
(11:25, 20 min) Group review together the regional proposal and discuss:

1. **How do we see God working and encouraging us to move forward?**
   *See Think Tank '23 Purpose doc for notes on "what do we need to see."
2. **How do we see this potential field fitting into EFM's mission and vision?**

3. What concerns do we presently have regarding EFM making a commitment to this field?

(11:45, 5 min) 4. **Do we affirm the regional proposal for this field?** ("yes" or "not yet")
   - **What are a couple of top reasons?**

(11:50, 20 min) 5. Identify next steps…
   - What challenges may need to be answered before we deploy missionaries? What are the next steps that come to the top of our minds in these few minutes that need to be accomplished before deploying our missionaries to launch this field?
   - **What are the top priority 3-5 next steps?**

12:15-1:45pm Break for Lunch

1:45pm Think Tank back in session

SMALL GROUP REPORTS: *(15 min each)*

1. Briefing from each discernment group: *(5 min)*
   - Do we affirm regional proposal? ("yes" or "not yet")
     - What are a couple of top reasons?
   - How do we see God working and encouraging us to move forward?
   - How do we see this potential field fitting into EFM's mission and vision?
   - What are the top priority 3-5 next steps?
2. Full group feedback and discussion *(10 min)*
3. The pulse of the group…peace about where the proposal stands (yes or not yet)?

(1:50) Mexico
(2:05) Shuar of Ecuador (and Peru)
(2:20) South Sudan
(2:35) Tanzania

(2:50) -15 min break-

(3:05) Muslim refugees in Greece
(3:20) NE Brazil
(3:35) Nepali-speaking people in Doha and/or Dubai

- GROUP PICTURE -

4:00pm Observations and next steps (with Stan Leach)

5:00pm Dismissal for bus ride to dinner

6:00pm Dinner at Clackamas Park Friends Church, Catered by Chipotle
Final decisions about proposals for the board
Prayer

7:30pm Departure from dinner

THINK TANK 2023 PURPOSE

Purpose
Identify which new fields to propose to the EFM Board for commitment.

WHAT DO WE NEED TO SEE in the CAN GO Criteria to discern proposals to the board?

1. Conviction growing for four criteria: Champion, Affirmation, Need, and Opportunity.
   Are there signs of increasing enthusiasm, unity, prayer, and support to launch this field?
2. Gifting (missionaries with gifting…) may or may not be clear at this point.
   What if we made a commitment and put out a call for workers from our U.S. churches?
3. Are there compelling reasons for EFM to launch this field?
   Is it worth the cost? Is it worth the cost of sending our sons and daughters?

- EFM's CAN GO Criteria is our guide for discernment and focus.
  - The CAN GO question concerns which people or field (not the strategy or village).
  - The commitment is where we expect to deploy missionaries from our U.S. churches.
  - We are not determining whether this field can be launched by the end of 2025.
  - We are not trying to force a certain number of fields. Discern faithfulness!
  - Proposals for new field commitments do not end today (for 2025 launch and beyond).
- What are we not making decisions on right now?
  - We are not making proposals on who, how, or when we will deploy EFM missionaries.
  - We are not making proposals concerning what partner yearly meetings in other countries will do.
  - We are excited about potential agreements with partner yearly meetings but we aren't making proposals about partnerships.
  - But we should be aware of and talking about the vision and next steps for all these topics in the decision of commitment for EFM sending U.S. missionaries to a field.

EFM's CAN GO Criteria

C – Champion/s	We must go
A – Affirmation	Church: local, national, international
N – Need	Compelling need for the gospel, unreached or underreached
G – Gifting	Missionaries with gifting and character to accomplish the task
O – Opportunity	Openness among these people, even a sense of invitation

EFM Mission Statement

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.

EFM Vision Statement

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.

The Five-Year Goal

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

A Clarification on Luke 10 and the 5-year Goal From the Strategy Committee

May 2023

The Strategy committee would like to clarify for the EFM Board, EFC-NA Regions, and Luke 10 Think Tank participants the relationship between the Luke 10 Initiative and the 5 Year Goal.

The Luke 10 Initiative was created by EFM to act as the mechanism in which new fields would be identified by EFM and the EFC-NA regions, which it serves.

The Five-Year Goal was created by EFM to help EFC-NA achieve the specific goal of sending 10 new households to 5 new fields by 2025. The Five-Year Goal is utilizing the Luke 10 initiative to help identify these new fields as well as identifying potential new missionaries to these fields.

The Luke 10 Initiative was created prior to and independent of the 5 Year Goal and will continue to serve as EFM's process to identify potential new fields.

As a result, there will be fields and future missionaries through the Luke 10 Initiative that are identified by the National Think Tank that will be in line with the 5 Year Goal. In addition, we want to affirm that there may also be works and fields that do not achieve the 5 Year Goal but that EFM and the EFC-NA regions it serves could and should continue to pursue.

We recognize that God is moving in and through EFM and EFC's worldwide and we do not want to quench the Holy Spirit by narrowing our focus to just the 5 Year Goal. Also, we recognize that God may be utilizing the Luke 10 Initiative in order to open alternative opportunities to accomplish his Kingdom purpose outside the 5 Year Goal.

2023 Fall 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)
Spring 2021 National Think Tank identified 11 fields to explore.
Each region commits to adopting at least one of the new fields (Sept)
NW, ER, Indiana, MA, and RM each held regional Think Tanks in 2021.
SW held their regional think tank summer 2023.

2022: All potential fields visited at least once (Nov)
Luke 10 Exploration Teams were deployed to 10 locations by 10 teams between April 2022 and March 2023 for the first exploration.
2 fields, Northern India, and Lahu in Asia, were paused for U.S. missionaries

2023: At least 15 potential missionary units getting field experience (May)
To date since 2021, EFM has sent 11+ units for field experience
All potential fields visited for at least the second time (Nov)
To date, 7 fields have been visited for the second time, 1 is scheduled for June 2024, 2 fields have been paused, and FSW is planning for a new destination.
At least five new fields approved by the EFM Board (Nov)

2024: At least 12 potential missionary units in the application process (May)
EFM currently has 2 households in application process and more ready to start application process.
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.

Potential Fields in Process of Exploration

1. **Mexico** – Mid America taking lead
    - FIRST TRIP: April 19-29, 2022 to Jalisco State, Nayarit State, Colima State, and the Huichole people group, 16 people on trip; 5 from U.S. and 11 from Mexico
    - SECOND TRIP: April 24-May 1, 2023 to Jalisco and Nayarit; 10 people total, 5 people from U.S. and 5 from Mexico
2. **The Shuar people of Ecuador (and Peru)** – Northwest taking lead
    - FIRST TRIP: May 30-June 16, 2022, 8 people on trip; 6 from U.S., one from Mexico, one from Bolivia
    - SECOND TRIPS:
        - June 5-August 2, 2023: 2 from the U.S. and 2 from Mexico.
        - June 5-15, 2023: 2 from the U.S.
        - July 4-August 2, 2023; 2 from U.S.
3. **South Sudan** – Mid America taking lead
    - FIRST TRIP: October 10-21, 2022, 7 on team, 3 from U.S., 4 Rwandans
    - SECOND TRIP: September 8-17, 2023, 7 on team, 4 from U.S., 3 Rwandans
4. **Tanzania** – Mid America taking lead
    - FIRST TRIP: September 11-21, 2022; 7 on team, 4 from U.S., 3 Burundians
    - SECOND TRIP: September 17-26; 8 on team, 4 from U.S, 4 Burundians
5. **Muslim refugees in Greece** – Northwest taking lead
    - FIRST TRIP: May 30- June 10, 2022, 6 on team
    - SECOND TRIP: September 20-30, 2023, 8 on team
6. **Northeast Brazil** – Rocky Mountain taking lead
    - FIRST TRIP: March 11-21, 2023, 5 from the U.S. and 1 from Brazil
    - SECOND TRIP: October 13-24, 2023, 8 on team
7. **Nepali speaking people in Dubai and Doha** – Eastern Region taking lead
    - FIRST TRIP: October 17-24, 2022: 6 on team, 5 from U.S. and 1 from Nepal
    - SECOND TRIP: October 19-31, 2023; 6 on team, 4 from U.S. and 2 from Nepal
8. **Eastern Europe** – Northwest taking lead
    - FIRST TRIP: June 15-22, 2022 visited Serbia and Croatia with 5 on the team
    - SECOND TRIP planned: June 7-22, 2024
9. **The Kavet people of Laos (and Cambodia)** – Southwest taking lead
    - FIRST TRIP: in planning stage

The Lahu people in Asia– Eastern Region taking lead

- FIRST TRIP: December 8-15, 2022, 5 from U.S. plus EFC-Thailand leaders
- ON PAUSE for U.S. missionaries. Thai nationals active. See CAN GO Report.

Northern India – Indiana Yearly Meeting taking lead

- FIRST TRIP: February 20-March 4, 2023
- ON PAUSE for U.S. missionaries. Indian nationals active. See CAN GO report.

WHITE BOARD IDEAS FROM ALL REGIONAL THINK TANKS

The following are Luke 10 IDEAS lists from the white board at each regional/yearly meeting Think Tank.

The highlighted notes are what emerged to highest priorities in the discernment discussions.

SOUTHWEST Luke 10 Think Tank IDEAS BOARD, July 16, 2023

Laos (Kavet)
Cambodia (Kavet)
Mexico
Doha
SE Asia (arrow from Cambodia to SE Asia...Cambodia may be a Friends missions hub for the region)
India
Russia
Greece…Muslim Refugees in several countries…Noting here that FCC Brea contact in Lebanon should be explored
Uganda etc.
Indonesia
Spain

NORTHWEST Luke 10 Think Tank IDEAS BOARD, March 27, 2021

Shuar People in Ecuador!
Morocco, Palestine, and Ecuador and Russia
West Nepal
Greece and Josiah's Calling Refugee population. Island of Lesbos.
Columbia.
Hungary! Czech Republic. Vietnam.
Russia and Ukraine.
Eastern Europe. Eastern Europe keeps coming up
India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan,
Congo
Somewhere in SE Asia
Where are other future missionaries feeling called?

MID AMERICA Luke 10 Think Tank IDEAS BOARD, April 10, 2021

Laos
Japan
Egypt
Moracco
Vietnam
Ethiopia
Somalia
South Sudan/Ethiopia
Tanzania
Uyghur people group in China

Mexico (Vision 32)
Fiji
India
Listen to future missionaries

EASTERN REGION Luke 10 Think Tank IDEAS BOARD, April 27, 2021

THEME OF DEVELOPING HUBS (work on 5-year plan with the 10, 15, 20 in mind)
Indonesia
? Eastern Europe/Romania
Cuba (via Jamaicans)
Jordan
Tanzania, Tunisia – Central Africa – interest in Tanzania from IYM, EFC-ER, Burundi, and EFC-MAYM
Morocco
Philippines
Malawi
Burma – Nepali people there
Gulf Countries in Middle East – Dubai and Qatar, Nepali people there
Malaysia
Thailand, Vietnam, Laos – Lahu people in the greater region
Vietnam
China
Ecuador/Shuar People and Central America/El Salvador, interest within EFC-ER and NWYM

INDIANA Yearly Meeting
India
Unreached peoples

ROCKY MOUNTAIN Luke 10 Think Tank IDEAS BOARD, May 8, 2021

India
Mexico (border) *follow up*
Morocco
Belize (English-speaking jews)(Guatemala Friends producing many pastors available to go out)
South Sudan
Native America
NE Brazil

REGION/YEARLY MEETING PROPOSALS FOR FIELDS

Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting

October 31, 2023

To: Evangelical Friends Mission
RE: Luke 10 Northeast Brazil Proposal

After careful review of the CAN GO report from the 2023 Brazil team and recognition of the spiritual and physical needs in the area, along with a oneness of spirit regarding this opportunity as evidenced by the team from local tribespeople, the leadership of Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting approves the following:

Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting {RMYM) is willing to partner with EFM, other Friends churches, and resources beyond Friends if appropriate to see missions ministry and spiritual development move forward in Northeast Brazil as a Friends mission point.

For the ongoing health of RMYM, our next step would be to improve the "champion" area of the CAN GO criteria. The representatives appreciate the time and money spent by Friends in the Denver Friends Church to get us to this point and commit to come alongside and join their efforts. RMYM has already been financially involved in the Luke 10 exploration teams to Brazil and is confident that involvement will grow.

In addition, RMYM is committed to helping future missionaries to Northeast Brazil discern God's direction so that we will not only "champion" but will also "go."

For the cause of Christ,



Mary Heathman Presiding Clerk

Evangelical Friends Church- Mid America Yearly Meeting

November 2, 2023

To: Evangelical Friends Mission
RE: Luke 10 Proposals

Proposal for Mexico from EFC-MAYM Missions Mobilizers to EFM

We propose that EFM make a commitment to send U.S. missionaries in cooperation with Mexico Yearly Meeting VM32 ("Vision Mexico 2032...their vision to plant churches in all 32 states of Mexico by 2032)

Please summarize what is emerging for your ability to start envisioning how and where a new work could be launched.

Some conversation/review on compelling reasons to go to Mexico:

- Mexico Yearly Meeting (MYM) began their VM32 in 2020 and have been active in exploring mission sites and sending workers.
    - The vision is so beautiful and big, but the size of the vision requires more workers than MYM can provide.
    - MYM is requesting EFM's partnership and workers for multi-national teams. MYM Superintendent has made a clear invitation to Kansas representatives to send workers to help.
- EFM is already engaged in MYM partnership with VM32 through BAM (Business as Mission) and SBD (Small Business Development) work.
    - We have churches in Kansas who are already engaged in supporting work in Sinaloa, Mexico and have much interest in vision for reaching more states in Mexico.
    - Spring Invasion and Saltshaker (youth missions) history in Mid America has created relationships and interest in more work in Mexico. A recent swell of Mexican future missionaries has emerged, and they are in relationship with EFM & Mid America young adults.

Some thoughts on how and where:

- We are exploring the center of Mexico and believe that Jalisco and Nayarit (including unreached people the Huicholes) are a top couple of potential states to send missionaries asap.
- We see missionaries moving into towns no larger than 50,000 people, and then after getting groups of disciples and churches developed, we would go from there to equip and send workers to bigger towns and cities in the area.
- They are encouraging Mexican missionaries to enter the mission with a small business as their method of reaching people in the community, so we think it is worth considering how U.S. missionaries might participate and/or do the same.
- We know of potential church planters and missionaries from Mexico and the U.S. for this mission.

Please identify and write bullet points for key next steps that need accomplished in order to launch this new field.

- Make clear help wanted sign to recruit U.S. missionaries and get them into a pathway of becoming a missionary including vision/exposure trips to Mexico, language learning, and other prep.
    - This could/should include Hispanic EFC churches.

- MYM is asking for partnership, so we need more clarity on what they are asking for in a partnership.
    - So how does this work, when MYM and EFM are in the same place. Policies? Who is in charge? Who sets the vision? Who is the supervisor? Who sets the missionary support packages, salaries, and ministry budgets?
    - We need representatives to spend time in conversation with MYM to understand in more detail how their framework looks, how a partnership might work, what MYM and EFM are and are not willing to do on various key topics...some likely hypothetical scenarios identified...some learning on best practices for this kind of partnership.
    - Make sure we are not getting in the way, inhibiting their multiplication (ownership, hero, etc.)
    - MYM has a missions-sending framework that is developing well, so we need to learn what that is looking like and share about EFM's framework. We need to understand these matters of framework and partnership before we send missionaries.
        - For example, MYM requires their national workers to go through 16 courses in their Friends Institute of Theology before going to the field, so it would be good for our team and MYM to understand what EFM's training requirements look like.

Proposal for South Sudan from EFC-MAYM Missions Mobilizers to EFM
WE RECOMMEND THAT EFM ADOPT SOUTH SUDAN AS A NEW FIELD TO ENTER BY 2025. ALONGSIDE OUR RWANDAN PARTNERS AS A MULTINATIONAL TEAM.

Please summarize what is emerging for your ability to start envisioning how and where a new work could be launched.

- Follow the EFC-Rwanda team. U.S. missionaries going with Rwandan missionaries as they continue to establish how or where the work will launch.
    - EFC-Rwanda has a solid commitment and is taking many proactive steps in developing their missions sending framework and activities through the leadership of their newly established missions board.
    - But we would also note that the opportunity is so great in South Sudan, the sense of urgency in this time of peace and transition is so clear that even "IF" Rwandans weren't committed to go, we would want to go...we see this as a field ripe for the harvest.
    - Rwanda plans to send missionary to South Sudan in June 2025, and their fierce commitment inspires us.
        - It seems that there are dynamics between EFM and EFC-Rwanda of "if you go, I will go" and at the same time "I am going whether you go or not". We are inspiring each other, we are giving each other courage, we are digging into resolve, but/and we believe we are "better together."
        - We both assume and expect the other to send their own missionaries for a multi-national team.
- There are discussions about whether the first missionary should start by living in Juba for language and culture learning or another place we have seen on Luke 10 Trips.
    - There seems to be wisdom in establishing strategic relationships in Juba due to all the protocol and formal permissions required for traveling and working anywhere in the country.

- As any U.S. missionaries go to South Sudan, we are suggesting that they work alongside and under the direction and strategy that EFC-Rwanda develops in partnership with EFM.
    - Value of EFM sending U.S. missionaries includes ministry of presence and demonstration of living out EFM values.
- We suggest that EFM continue to study multi-national teams and partnerships and find the way to be a blessing to EFC-Rwanda in missions-sending without undermining or controlling their lead in this mission launch.
    - We note that Brad and Chelsea Carpenter's strategic availability in Central Africa (plus David and Debbie Thomas, Molly De La Cerda and others who have experience in central Africa) will be a resource for this venture in multi-culture team inner-relationships, missionary cross-culture service, and central Africa cultures.
- Maintain connection between EFC-Rwanda missions sending board with EFM and EFC-Mid-America champions.
    - What is the role of the Mid America Missions Mobilizers team in having "skin in the game," establishing these fields and sending U.S. missionaries with EFM, plus creating ownership and support for these new missions among EFC-MAYM and EFM churches and individuals?

Noting excitement about the vision for a new work starting in new African countries again for this generation with memories of Mid America starting the work in Burundi and Rwanda in past generations.

Please identify and write bullet points for key next steps that need accomplished in order to launch this new field. This may include conversations about partnerships with other yearly meetings in other countries and/or sending multi-national teams.

- EFC-Rwanda is working at understanding further what their missions sending framework is
    - This includes a talk about sending potential candidates for training.
    - This includes talk about sending two or three students/households (from Rwanda and also from USA) to East Africa School of Missions in Dar es Salaam for April 2024-March 2025 and/or following years.
    - Plus, other training or preparation EFM/EFC-Rwanda will develop for the team's needs.
    - Rwandans talk about needing to learn about missions sending from us because they have never sent missionaries, but we remind them that we are all in this to learn together because we have never sent multi-national teams in this kind of partnership.
- EFC-Rwanda is working with Pastor William in South Sudan to establish an EFC registration in South Sudan.
- EFM and Mid America must urgently announce the need for U.S. missionaries to go to South Sudan to help EFC-Rwanda launch this field. We envision Mid America sending our own people, our own sons and daughter, brothers and sisters, parents, and friends to South Sudan.
    - It is noted that EFM has not heard a future missionary express specific interest in South Sudan. But EFM is saying that most of the future missionaries feel called but don't know where to.
- The help wanted sign and job description (skill set, gifting, and character) for U.S. missionaries needs clearly defined (we are thinking about words such as competent, prepared, humble, helpers, encouragers, committed to long term team…maybe business, farming, etc.)

- EFM's multi-national team and partnership philosophy needs established with clarity with EFC-Rwanda. There are key parts of this that must be established before EFC-Rwanda or EFM sends missionaries.
    - For example, EFC-Rwanda has asked that EFM help share the financial load for their missions-sending costs as they launch with an expected reduction in EFM support as time goes by.
- EFM/EFC-MAYM missions champions are planning a trip to Central Africa in February 2024 for our next retreat with Burundi and Rwanda missions leaders to continue conversation about framework and multi-national partnerships.

Proposal for Tanzania from EFC-MAYM Missions Mobilizers to EFM
WE BELIEVE EFM SHOULD COMMIT TO SENDING U.S. MISSIONARIES TO TANZANIA IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BURUNDI FRIENDS CHURCH AND THEIR MISSIONARIES.

Summarize what is emerging to start visioning how and where a new work could be launched.

Based on the two Luke 10 Trips, we can envision a church being planted in Ngerengere which would be a hub for ministry in villages in the greater region, including where there is no gospel presence. We can envision incarnational living, discipling for development, business as mission, and an emerging EFC church planting movement as EFM and EFC-Burundi partner to complement each other's strengths.

There are many similar dynamics with Burundi relationship as with partnership conversations with Rwanda. The Luke 10 team sees many notes for the South Sudan field notes could be carbon copied to notes for the Tanzania field. There is a strong sense that we will go, and that we will go together.

Identify and write bullet points for key next steps that need accomplished in order to launch this new field.
Two concerns that must be addressed.

- Based on what our exploration teams and contacts are seeing, we don't see these as stopping our proposal to commit to helping establish this mission.

1. EFM and EFC-Burundi leaders need more time together talking about partnership, answering questions from one another, and developing/clarifying missions sending framework.
2. It concerns us that FUM is expressing concerns. We care about them and our relationship.
    - Noting that EFM is following the discernment/lead of EFC-Burundi in this.
    - EFC-Burundi has been communicating with FUM-Africa Director about intentions and plans before exploration and received strong blessings.
    - FUM should work directly with EFC-Burundi to resolve any concerns that arise.
    - EFC-Burundi is in communication with FUM and FUM-Tanzania leaders and open to collaboration or partnership.
    - EFC-Burundi states that they do not need FUM's permission to start EFC churches in Tanzania.

Some of EFC-Burundi's next steps:

- Missions sending unity between two yearly meetings.
- Develop an EFC-Burundi missions sending board.
- strategy for mobilizing leaders and members of local churches to understand and own compelling need to send missionaries to Burundi.
- Start identifying criteria for selecting missionaries.

    - Identify potential candidates.
- Establish clear training plan for missionaries and for sending missions board.
    - How might training shape the missions-sending framework?
    - How might training impact expectations for Burundians and Americans, both senders and goers, in theology of risk and suffering?
- Work at EFC registration in Tanzania

Some of EFM's next steps:

- Develop a prayer focus behind this, as we consider the challenges and concerns for Burundi unity and progress on missions sending framework.
    - Continue conversation with Burundi Friends on framework.
    - Coaching and Listening
    - EFM/EFC-MAYM missions champions are planning a trip to Central Africa in February 2024 for our next retreat with Burundi and Rwanda missions leaders to continue conversation about framework and multi-national partnerships.
- EFM future missionary team visit Tanzania and live at the training school short term with Burundi future missionaries summer 2024.
    - Prepare two or three U.S. future missionaries to enter training school for April 2025-March 2026 school year (with two or three Burundian future missionaries!?)
- Continue conversation about U.S. missionary role.
- Continue studying multi-national teams and missions-sending partnerships.

A Missionary-Sending Framework

- As identified at the April 2023 Central Africa Missions Sending Learning Conference in Burundi.
- A healthy mature group of churches who can work together.
- A unified vision for missions-sending throughout the churches
- An organized group who supervises missions-sending
- A method for identifying where to start the mission.
- Criteria for selection of missionary team with calling and gifting
- Adequate training [for missionaries and sending churches]
- Missionary Support [organized and effective]
    - Prayer support
    - Financial support
- Missionary care
    - Missionary coach
    - Regular Contact and relationship with home sending church and yearly meeting/s.

Northwest Yearly Meeting

October 30, 2023

To: Evangelical Friends Mission

Luke 10 Ecuador Proposal

We, the Board of Global Outreach of Northwest Yearly Meeting do hereby affirm that it is our belief that there are needs, invitations, and people from the previous two Luke 10 teams, interested in possibly serving on the field in Ecuador to the Shur people. We recommend to the National Think Tank that Ecuador be accepted as a new field.

Following are observations of NWYM Luke 10 subcommittee and NWYM Board of Global Outreach:

What signs do you see that individuals, churches or your region/yearly meeting are adopting or spiritually owning the idea of launching this new field?

- Ecuador has been highest priority field from first NWYM think tank with wide support.
- NWYM were active supporters of the Badgley's and the first EFM's work with the Shuar people's group.
- Long standing, organized prayer support in NW.
- Strong support from the Luke 10 Shuar planning team.
- Meridian Friends, Clackamas Park Friends, West Chehalem Friends, and Newberg Friends have provided strong support of Shuar Luke 10 trips and to future missionaries looking at the Shuar field (fully funding individuals on Luke 10 trips).
- Grace Anderson wants to go back even before the field is open/approved.
- Jerry and Kerri Clarkson to return to Ecuador and continue working with the Shuar people.
- Members of the Shuar Luke 10 planning team, Shuar Luke 10 trip teams and Shuar prayer team are strong champions and have invested a lot of time and energy into the Shuar Luke 10 initiative.

There is a need, is NWYM/EFM the right fit to fill that need?

- Grace feels called specifically to Ecuador. She sees a few places that would be good places to start a mission/place a team. Jose (from Mexico Yearly Meeting) plans to return this late fall.
- There is a present need/opportunity for evangelism and discipleship of Shuar people who will then plant and lead Shuar churches.

Where are you seeing increases in prayer, donations, communication, enthusiasm and sending potential?

- Across the NWYM there is a hunger to "own" a field again, like Bolivia and Peru in the past.
- As we start to announce new fields and candidates, people will begin to rally around them.
- The Luke 10 teams to Ecuador have developed strong in person relationships with various Shuar contacts and maintained via social media.
- Communication will drive a lot of potential.

Next steps:

- Decide if we're moving forward.
- BOGO promoting new field, helping push communication to churches.
- Would likely be starting churches and working with existing groups/churches like AMEE, who also gives us our legal status in the country.
- Communicate with Mexico re: their discernment. [Very likely that Mexico Yearly Meeting/s would be partners or leads in this field, though they are still in their own discernment process]
- Grace is planning to participate in a discipleship internship through EFM in CA next year.

Luke 10 Easten Europe Proposal
We, the Board of Global Outreach of Northwest Yearly Meeting, do hereby affirm that it is our belief that there are needs and opportunities meriting further exploration in the region being explored by the Eastern Europe Luke 10 teams. We wish to keep this potential field in view, though a decision is pending the second exploratory trip.

This trip is scheduled for June 7-22, 2024 and is anticipated to focus on Croatia and the countries surrounding it (the region of former Yugoslavia). Confirmed team members are Stan Leach, Vivian Titus, Fred, and Jonelle Liddell. Vivian and the Liddells are participating as future missionaries interested in this field. Jim LeShana and Jon and Darlene Fodge are also possible teammates. We would welcome other future missionaries or key church leaders/mobilizers as additional members.

Luke 10 Greece Proposal
We, the Board of Global Outreach of Northwest Yearly Meeting, do hereby affirm 2023 Greece Luke 10 recommendation that EFM should embrace church planting and disciple-making among Islamic refugees in Greece.

Following are observations of the Greece Luke 10 team:
What signs do you see that individuals, churches or your region/yearly meeting are adopting or spiritually owning the idea of launching this new field

- We continue to see interest from Barclay College/MAYM and NWYM, but perhaps even stronger interest/support from FSW.
- As for individuals who might serve as missionaries, Josiah Muhr and Leisa Boles (NWYM engaged couple) are not a "no," but need more time/experience. Same with Thomas Moore.
- Kenn and Lisa Dirrim (potential team leaders) remain open to this partnership but cannot join EFM until leaving another mission organization
- There has been a prayer support team beginning with the first trip's planning and implementation.

There is need, is NWYM/EFM the right fit to fill that need?

- The door for the gospel among Islamic refugees in Greece has not closed. The team heard stories and we saw first-hand the relationship connections between Christians and refugees that remain possible at the camps.
- Trauma ministries will be part of future strategies, as will humanitarian aid. But
- But there is an ongoing hunger for the gospel and open doors of spiritual opportunity for disciple-making which remains a key goal of EFM.
- We received encouragement from several missionaries in the area to consider some of the unreached or underserved parts of the country. Partner ministries and strategic alliances are likely to happen.

One of the Luke 10 team members summed up the groups thoughts at their final debrief meeting: ""The Lord is opening an opportunity to do it. We don't have all the answers. We just need to show up here [and we will see God work through us]."

Evangelical Friends Church- Eastern Region

November 6, 2023

To: Evangelical Friends Mission
RE: Luke 10 Proposals

Luke 10 Gulf States Proposal

The EFC-ER Multiplication Team met on Monday, November 6, 2023, to hear a report from the Luke 10 Gulf States team. After careful consideration and prayerful discernment, our team joyfully endorses the report of our Luke 10 team and recommends to the board of EFM that a new field be opened in Dubai, UAE, which will focus on multinational ministry development among migrant workers throughout the Gulf Region. EFC-ER is committed to partnering with EFM in this new endeavor with our prayers, finances, and people.

In addition, the EFC-ER Multiplication Team recommends these next steps:

- Upon approval from the EFM Board, the EFC-ER Multiplication Team will take responsibility for casting a vision for this new field throughout our region.
- The EFC-ER Multiplication Team will initiate cross-cultural discernment opportunities within our region through the MissioNow program for missionary recruitment to begin in 2024.
- The Luke 10 Gulf States Team will engage in further conversation with FOCUS (Fellowship of Christian UAE Students) and send a delegation to the Cross Conference in Louisville, KY in January 2024.
- The Luke 10 Gulf States Team will work with our UAE contacts to expand our network of relationships among migrant workers outside of the Nepali community.
- A third trip to the region should take place in the next 12 months.
- A conference for Asian Friends to begin conversations about development of a missions sending framework within EFC-Nepal and other Asian yearly meetings should take place in the next 12 months.

Motion made by Scott Calhoun Second by Ben Kibbe
Motion passed unanimously.

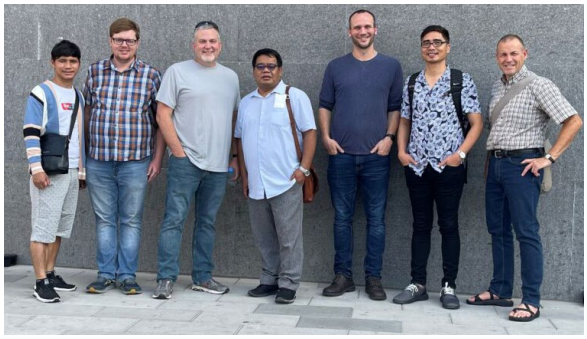
LUKE 10 EXPLORATION TRIP REPORTS

GULF COUNTRIES TRIP 1 SUMMARY

The following is a report that Rusty Savage (EFC-ERC) prepared.

Who Was on this Trip?
The team was made up of: Amen Thapa (EFC-Nepal), Thomas Moore (EFM Short-Term Missionary), Bhakta Tamang (EFC-ER), Mathew Bradbury (EFC-ER)
Zach Bohler (EFC-ER), and Rusty Savage (EFC-ER).

Where Did We Travel and What is the Need in the Area?
We visited the city of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates and the city of Doha in Qatar.



Dubai and Doha are home to millions of migrant workers from all over the world. Within these two large cities, immigrants make-up over 90% of the workforce, often laboring in difficult circumstances for very long hours. Most of the workers are separated from their families who remain behind in their home nations.

Among the many ethnic groups who have immigrated to Dubai and Doha in search of economic opportunities is a large population of Nepalese people. Far from home, detached from their families, and often living in difficult conditions, many of these Nepali men and women are searching for community belonging and are uniquely open to hearing the message of the Gospel. In this context, there is a great opportunity to minister to the spiritual, emotional, and relational needs of Nepali migrant workers.



Stories and Testimonies

- Amen Thapa and Mathew Bradbury—the first of our group to arrive in Dubai—were welcomed by Amen's friend and "disciple," Roman. He brought Nepalese take out, over which he shared about both his sacrificial partnership in ministry, and the struggles of being away from his wife and children (living in Nepal). Amen shared how Roman has been a strong and faithful brother in first Malaysia and now also in Dubai. Roman is one of over twenty men and women from EFC-Nepal currently living in the UAE.
- Our first night in Dubai, the team met with a home fellowship group of (mostly) Nepali Christians. Made up of young adults, these believers meet each week on the lawn of an apartment complex reading their music and Bibles by flashlight. They welcomed us with tea, food, and warm fellowship. Although they had already put in a very long day of work,

these brothers and sisters stayed late into the night to converse and pray with us long after the meeting had ended. Along with the Nepali members, the group also included believers from Uganda, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka.



- Pastor Kumar welcomed our team to his small apartment where he hosts one of the many home fellowship groups that make up his church. Kumar planted the very first Nepali-speaking church in Dubai. After training other leaders to take his place, he was sent to plant a second church. His fellowship is especially burdened to reach out to Nepali Christians who have neglected or walked away from their faith since arriving in Dubai.
- From the top of the Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building, our team had the opportunity to look out over the massive, ever-expanding skyline of Dubai and pray for the many different peoples who make up this city of 3.5 million people.
- In Doha, the Qatar Nepalese Christian Church (700 members) hosted our team lavishly through a leadership delegation (15+ people) with time, food, and worship. They celebrated 25 years as a church in August and began our time together on Monday by sharing that two people had put their faith in Christ during worship gatherings on Sunday. They have 22 vibrant house churches and a 'servant leadership team' of 55.
- Binod, a church deacon in Qatar, who has been working there for 16 years (on annually renewed visas) is working with an Arabic family as their driver. He is informally considered the 'eldest son' in the household of 26 (two grandparents, their three sons who are married with children, and their three daughters). Binod verbally witnesses to the loving grace of Jesus, is asked for godly counsel by the grandmother, and prays for them while he lives on their compound – he has favor and is bearing fruit. He says the Nepali church is blessed in Qatar as they work within and reach out to the migrant Nepali community.

THAILAND TRIP 1 SUMMARY

The following is a report that Scott Calhoun (EFC-ER) prepared.

Who Was on this Trip?

The team was made up of: Ben Kibbe (EFC-ER), Scott Calhoun (EFC-ER), Rusty Savage (EFC-ER Director of Multiplication), Stan Leach (EFM Executive Director), Dan Cammack (EFM Field Director), David Thomas (EFM Missionary, Whole Life Discipleship), Solomon Sangking (The Way Foundation, Thailand), and Charlee Kunakorn (The Way Foundation, Thailand).

Where Did We Travel and What is the Need in the Area?





Our team met in Chiang Mai, Thailand where we were all able to participate in the EFM Worldwide Missionary Gathering before departing for our Luke 10 Exploration Trip destination three hours to the north in Chiang Rai. The city of Chiang Rai is located near the "Golden Triangle" where the borders of Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar meet. Our focus there was on an ethnic minority group known as the Lahu people, who are spread out in each of these nations.

In 2012, EFC-ER sent Ben and Charity Kibbe to Thailand to join a team started by Ben's parents, David and Marilyn Kibbe, and their Lahu ministry partners. In 2016, The Way Foundation was established as an extension of that ministry, focusing on coaching and training Lahu pastors and church planting.

Since that time, led by national workers, Charlee, YawSaPa, and Solomon, The Way Foundation has been praying for and exploring opportunities to expand church planting efforts across the borders of Myanmar and Laos to unreached Lahu villages in those nations. Our Luke 10 team went to Thailand to meet with representatives of The Way Foundation and consider possible opportunities for partnership and collaboration in opening up a new ministry for the Lahu people in Laos and Myanmar.

Stories and Testimonies



- Our team was welcomed into the home of David and Marilyn Kibbe who have lived and served in Thailand for 30 years. Although David was still recovering from COVID-19, they hosted a gathering for members of The Way Foundation and our Luke 10 Exploration Trip team. We shared a meal and a time of worship together under a beautiful full moon.
- We met a group of church planters from The Way Foundation who are making connections in Lahu villages in northern Thailand with no Christian church at present. The Lahu are divided into several different clans and many of these church planters are ministering to subgroups other than their own.
- Members of our team traveled to three different remote Lahu villages. Ben, Scott, and Rusty spent a night camping in the jungle with several Lahu men from Ja Taw before gathering for worship with the small group of believers there the following morning.
- We heard several testimonies from The Way Foundation leaders, Solomon and Charlee, about contacts they have made with Lahu villages in both Laos and Myanmar. They believe the people in those villages have been very receptive to their efforts. Charlee, Solomon, and their team are deeply committed to expanding ministry outside of Thailand and are anxious to receive coaching and training to help them do it.
- Before leaving, our Luke 10 Team and members of The Way Foundation decided to meet remotely once a month to pray for unreached Lahu people in Laos and Myanmar and continue the conversation about opening new fields in those nations.

THAILAND TRIP 1 CAN-GO REPORT

Trip Dates: December 4-13, 2022
Written by Scott Calhoun

C for Champions:

Before:

- For over ten years, Ben Kibbe helped establish The Way Foundation in Northern Thailand. This ministry has many areas of discipleship ministry and outreach with a big emphasis on Church planting. They have the vision now to go into Laos, Myanmar, and China. Ben officially has transitioned from his role as the director/founder of TWF and now lives back in Ohio (he still mentors them from afar). However, TWF is continuing the ministry.

During:

- During the trip we discovered that not only TWF staff possesses a vision for church planting but also some of the current Church planters within Thailand.
- Solomon who is over TWF church planting efforts has a vision to plant churches in Laos and has family and other networks within Laos Lahu villages and communities that could be potential sites for future house churches.

After:

- Debriefing with the Luke 10 Team we feel that Solomon desires and needs a Church Planting Coach. We would like to develop and find potential candidates to mentor/coach Solomon in this area. This seems to be the next best step in EFM's partnership with TWF and Solomon in the church planting endeavors.

A for Affirmation:

Before:

- As mentioned before TWF is doing this work already. However, how do we/EFM and the North American Regions want to partner is fuzzy. I do not see us sending "The American" to plant new churches. But partnering with the Lahu people in order to coach/support/aid them in their work.

During:

- We sensed that TWF is still going through growing pains in its leadership. With Ben Kibbe handing over leadership TWF is still ironing out roles, gifts, accountability, etc. We do feel that the ministries within Chiang Rai, Thailand are the priority right now simply because it is the need in front of them. Church planting is not fully developed.

After:

- We do believe TWF staff, and the local churches and leadership do have the vision to support future church planting efforts within Laos and Myanmar. However, many of them are very consumed with their current ministries in Chiang Rai. I believe TWF needs more coaching and support and new exploratory trips (LUKE 10 type trips) into Laos or Myanmar to affirm their call, location, timing, and strategy. Myanmar is not accessible at this time due to closed borders.

N for Need:

Before:

- Before this trip, I sensed that Thailand was more open to the Gospel. Laos and Myanmar were much more difficult due to government, geographical, and religious obstacles,

Because of that I believed that a “house church” model would work best in Myanmar and Laos.

During:

- During my trip, I discovered that I was correct. Myanmar is more open to missions, but it is difficult to cross the border due to civil unrest. Laos is easier to get into, but due to governmental restrictions/control, it is difficult to advance the gospel. For instance, it is challenging even to have mission works disguised as community development because the local government must approve all projects. Therefore, many mission opportunities/church planting efforts are stopped due to Laos government interference and control.

After:

- First, I sensed the greatest need to plant churches within Laos. According to the Joshua Project, 76.2% of Laos is considered unreached.
- Secondly, surprisingly the Laos government does allow some Christian Education and Pastoral Training. According to TWF, Laos Christian Education is sorely lacking in producing mature pastors/leaders. TWF has contacts within this school in Vientiane (the capital of Laos), and they have hopes to "re-educate & re-train" graduates from the school and join their church planting team. Since these pastors are from Laos and have been credentialed under the Laos government, they have a greater chance to establish and plant churches.

G for Gifting:

The gifting/roles for this church planting effort has already been established through TWF. There are national workers in Northern Thailand who are Lahu. These Lahu missionaries would do most of the planting in Laos/Myanmar. TWF has hired Solomon Sangking as their Multiplication/Church Planting director. Alongside TWF’s Director (Charlee) and their missions team, they have been using their connections, gifts, talents, and other resources to take the gospel to Laos and Myanmar. It’s not a matter of starting this church planting work. The work has already begun, but we, EFM/EFC-ER, need to decide how to come alongside this church planting movement.

TWF's primary gift is in teaching and discipleship to future pastors and church leadership.

TWF’s weakness is in its church planting. Historically there is a mindset of church planting that is very institutional. This affects the strategy and efforts of Church Planting.

O for Opportunity:

Before:

- Prior to the trip I really did not know what kind of reception we would receive with the Lahu/Thai people. Ben Kibbe said they were friendly (They were).

During:

- Within the TWF the people are truly receptive but also in my opinion are solid believers who are committed to doing ministry within their community of Chiang Rai, Thailand.
- Our team did not travel to Laos, Myanmar, or China during this trip but met with TWF staff to assess the possible partnerships that EFC-ER/EFM could have with TWF.

After:

- I was very encouraged to see and meet the TWF staff and hear about their heart to go into new territory to plant churches. We discovered that there had been work done within rural communities in Laos, and their initial contacts have been positive. Solomon is continuing to cultivate these relationships within the communities they have visited. He hopes this will pave the way for future ministry.
- Also, I believe there needs to be more work in exploring how the Government seminary in Vientiane, Laos, could help these small communities continue their discipleship once ministries are established in the Laos villages.
- Charlee's brother is actively church planting in Myanmar. He is with another denomination; however, there could be a potential partnership in the future. He also has WhatsApp teaching and training in the China/Burma border with roughly 13 villages.

Is this a CAN GO for EFM at this time?

EFM Vision: I believe that TWF does align with EFM's vision. TWF and Pastor Solomon have intentionally reached the Lahu people within the local Chiang Rai, Thai villages. TWF believes strongly in evangelism, discipleship, and leadership development in order to raise up and send Lahu missionaries within Thailand, Laos, Myanmar, and other regions in SE Asia *(Perhaps China and Vietnam).* In addition, the TWF provides continued guidance and leadership to these church planters.

EFM Mission: TWF has a Great Commission mindset and is the anchor for their ministry programs and initiatives.

Which of the five criteria do we see the strongest? Which of the five criteria is yet to become convincing?
Champion is the strongest: In my opinion, Solomon Sangking and Charlee Kunakorn of The Way Foundation are the right people for this time, place, and mission. Their leadership and their connections are strong among the Lahu people. Both have friends, relatives, and networks willing to work with them in Laos and Myanmar for future church-planting endeavors. Also, they have already done preliminary work in Laos and plan to renew those connections soon.

Affirmation needs to be strengthened: TWF staff and church leaders agree on the need, value, and scriptural mandate to make disciples who make disciples. Many are in favor of moving forward to send missionaries into new territories. This is positive; however, many of the current staff with TWF outside of Solomon are not ready themselves. This may be due to their present ministry in Chiang Rai, Thailand. I believe this could cause TWF to give more attention to reaching, training, and equipping Lahu people within Laos/Myanmar to become church planters. TWF has developed a curriculum (PET) that can equip and train future church leaders; however, there needs to be more clarity on how this material can be utilized. More work needs to be done in this area about how, when, and where TWF education/discipleship material can be implemented.

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.

Current Ministry: TWF sees itself as an Evangelical Friends Movement already. Ben Kibbe and his team continue to be supported by EFM/EFC-ER. The church planting efforts are not waiting on EFM to move forward. This is an ongoing church planting work with or without us. However, what is exciting is that they are seeking EFM to join them further in this work. It is a "you can do it" and

"we can help" scenario. Now is the time for TWF and EFM to pray to determine how we can best partner and complement this church planting work.

Church Planting Coach: As we met with TWF, we discovered that Solomon Sangking (over church planting) desires to be mentored and coached in this role. Solomon sees the benefit of the D4D coaching within TWF Chiang Rai ministries. Our Luke 10 team resonated with this idea and can see this benefit for EFM church planting efforts in Southeast Asia and other locations where EFM uses national workers as missionaries and church planters. We are praying that in time we can implement this Church Planting Coaching system that honor strong relational and culturally sensitive coach.

Need: As mentioned before, in the Joshua Project, 76.2% of Laos is considered unreached. Combine that with the Laos government's involvement in their culture —- planting churches is sorely lacking yet highly needed. It is exciting to dream with the TWF team and consider what these mission efforts could look like with all of their connections within Laos.

National Workers Owning Ministry: LUKE 10 Initiative aims to send ten new missionary families and launch five new fields by 2025. The great thing about this location is that national workers (not sent from North America) are already doing wonderful ministry in Chiang Rai, Thailand. TWF offers a solid network, resources, training, and accountability. Also, TWF sees itself as a part/or extension of The Evangelical Friends Movement. This work already has excellent support within Chiang Rai, Thailand, and as they expand the church planting efforts into new locations, TWF will offer guidance and support to future missionaries. It's not just our work from North America. It's their work, and they own it! Is this not what we desire to happen in global missions? We must now consider how we position ourselves to help aid in the process of TWF planting new churches.

D4D Ministry History: TWF has partnered with D4D ministries (David Thomas) and He can affirm the strength of the team and their foundational strategies for long-term church planting. As the team works towards planting churches beyond Thailand, I believe coaching and mentoring will aid them in this process. Secondly, the partnership of the D4D in their new mission fields/church planting will be exponentially more effective for the Kingdom.

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

First, we are grateful for EFM and EFC-ER continuing to support the current work in Chiang Rai, Thailand.

Secondly, the Luke 10 SE Asia Team is continuing our conversations with Solomon Sangking and Charlee Kunakorn via Zoom on an ongoing basis. In these conversations, we hope to refine further what a Church Planting Coach role could look like in Southeast Asia. Also, get updated reports from their work in Laos as well creating a culture of prayer.

Third, we need to identify a Church Planting Coach alongside EFM for Solomon. We also need to develop a Church Planting Coach job description that we believe will guide the coaching, goals, and outcomes.

Fourth, we desire to bring TWF representatives/staff to EFC-ER in order to build relationships and cast a vision for LUKE 10 and missions work in Thailand.

Lastly, I believe there needs to be more investigation or another LUKE 10-type trip(s) in Laos. As they make these trips, I believe Solomon and TWF can present a clearer vision, reason, location, and timing for church planting. In other words, TWF can give its own version of a CAN GO presentation to EFM. I do not think it has to involve a traditional Luke 10 Team going again. Instead, I recommend a small team that involves TWF and possibly the Church Planting Coach. This also could be with Ben Kibbe.

Luke 10 Team Recommendation to EFM
We are in favor of moving forward in our partnership with TWF's discipleship movement in Loas. This discipleship approach allows them to establish works that will lead TWF and EFM to establish future Loas churches.

Other Suggestions: We would desire for TWF to send their own "LUKE 10" type trips to Laos. As they make these trips, we believe Solomon and TWF can present a clearer vision, reason, location, and timing for church planting.

Also, we recommend EFM needs to identify a Church Planting Coach for Solomon.

Northern India Trip 1 Summary

The following is a report that Eric Dale from Indiana Yearly Meeting prepared.

Who Was on this Trip?
The team was made up of: Keith Huffman (IYM), Robin Huffman (IYM), Roy Jones (IYM), Eric Dale (IYM), Arun Massey (EFM National Leader in India), and D.K. and Choity Sarkar (EFM National Leaders in India).

Where Did We Travel and What is the Need in the Area?
Despite centuries of missionary endeavors, the need for the gospel in India remains astounding. According to the Joshua Project, over 90% of India's people (approximately 1.3 billion people) belong to an unreached people group. This represents over 1/3 of the world's approximately 3.3 billion unreached people. In addition, there remain roughly 1,900 people groups in India identified as frontier people groups, with virtually no followers of Jesus, and still requiring pioneering cross-cultural workers.



Our team focused on northern India, which has relatively fewer Christians than southern India. Our team gathered together in Delhi, India, in an old area of the city known as Mehrauli. We had originally planned to travel from Delhi to Uttarakhand, but heightened persecution and monitoring led us to change our plans. In the end, we spent several days in Delhi filled with a rich variety of meetings. Our connections included over a dozen ex-pat workers from various areas of northern India, Indian pastors of Friends churches from Uttarakhand and Delhi, a legal team from the central office of India's Alliance Defending Freedom, and Indian workers for an organization doing discipleship and small business training amongst a variety of groups across India. After a short time in Agra, we concluded our trip by traveling to Trivandrum and joining the conference of Evangelical Friends Church – India, where we were able to connect with Friends leaders and pastors from across India.



Key Trip Moments



We were amazed by the breadth and the sheer number of connections that God helped make for our team. It was clear to our team that God helped orchestrate not only which connections we made, but even the order of those meetings. That process began even before departure, at the Urbana Missions conference, through connecting to a Western worker operating a language school in Delhi. This language school proved to be a missionary hub, enabling us to connect to an amazing number of people in a short period of time. Our meeting with ADF also had the mark of a divine connection – bringing Arun unknowingly into the office of the organization which had provided him with extensive assistance during previous periods of persecution and initiating a new collaborative relationship with the Sarkars.



We also had the joy of worshipping together with a new Friends church in Delhi. Perhaps most significantly, we spent hours upon hours with leaders of the persecuted church. These individuals had experienced being disowned by their families, shunned from their villages, arrested, and even beaten. Daily they choose to work under the threat of various forms of persecution for the name of Jesus. Yet, rather than discouragement, we witnessed confidence that God was at work, excitement at the growth of the church, reports of miracles, and a sense that the church was coming together in a new way in response to the increased challenges. Many times, we were asked to pray, but never once were we asked to pray persecution would end. Rather, we were asked to pray for continued strength and faithfulness. Let us join together in this type of prayer for India, and workers across the world facing similar challenges. May we be emboldened and encouraged by their stories!

Northern India Trip 1 CAN-GO Report

Trip Dates: February 20 – March 3, 2023
Written by Eric Dale

C for Champions:

Before:

- Roy and Irene Jones, Keith and Robin Huffman, Eric Fleck
- Morningstar Friends Church
- Wabash Friends Church
- EFCI – Asia, workers within India
- We were not aware of any individuals/families within Evangelical Friends sensing a specific call to India.
- Luke 10 Prayer meeting participants – David Thomas, Dave and Cindy Aufrance, Bhim and Priscilla Rai

During:

- IYM churches (Hemlock, Bear Creek, Farmland, Georgetown, Amboy) Hardin's Creek
- Luke 10 prayer group
- Our team lacked any individual sensing a specific call to Northern India, or anyone previously identified as a "future missionary".
- We met several expat workers living out a call to India. They were at various stages in work there – from 1st year exploring/discerning their specific role/call, to medical professionals, to workers there on business visas for the past 4-12 years. They might be considered champions for work in India in general but without EFM connections.
- EFC – India leaders, Global Disciples workers

After:

- Same as above – no new champions have been identified post-trip as of this report

A for Affirmation:

Before:

- Several within IYM felt a conviction that more workers must be sent to India, but we also heard some reservations regarding Western workers due to issues of strategy, safety/sensitivity, and competition for resources. There was an affirmation of the importance of work in India, but hesitation regarding the West sending westerners. This contributed to the later launch of this Luke 10 trip.
- Arun Massey affirmed moving forward with the Luke 10 process on a Zoom meeting with Eric Dale, Keith Huffman, Roy Jones, and Matt Macy. This meeting was instrumental in IYM moving forward with the Luke 10 trip. DK and Choity Sarkar fully joined in the Luke 10 process soon after as team members.
- We also had a Zoom meeting with the Linvilles, listening to their story, perspective, advice, and suggestions.

During:

- We invested our time heavily in learning from current workers. We had 4 days of meetings in Dehli with a broad collection of both ex-pat workers and national workers. We connected with a language school in Dehli catering largely to ex-pat workers. Through that connection, we gained access to a large number of Western workers. We had a dinner meeting with over a dozen workers. That was followed by more extended individual meetings with 2 individuals and 1 family. In that group, workers were present almost exclusively on business visas. We had an opportunity to hear their stories, learn about ministry strategies, hear of struggles, and listen to advice. It was noteworthy to the team that despite the considerable commitment, sacrifice, and holistic ministry of these individuals, stories of conversion to following Christ were lacking.

- The individual meetings included a worker with Navigators operating the language school, a family known to the Linvilles in their 1st year on the field and seeking to discern their role and place in India, and an optometrist working with EHA Hospital in Uttarkhand.
- We also met with all EFC-India leaders, pastors Om Prakash and Raj Chand from Uttarkhand, Pastor Stephen Rai, a legal team from ADF (Alliance Defending Freedom) – India, and coordinators working for Global Disciples amongst several groups across India. We also attended a Friends Church in Delhi, meeting briefly with members following the service.
- Amongst nationals, affirmation of sending from the West was lacking. Rather, clear cautions were received. The legal team of ADF even issued explicit guidance/advice not to send from the West. A similar perspective, though less strongly stated, came from the cross-denominational workers we met.
- Invitations and encouragement to come were received during some meetings with Western workers, including a specific invite from an optometrist in Uttarkhand to Eric Dale to come and assist with work there.
- Clear, strong affirmation was received from multiple groups for a focus on same-culture or near-cultural workers (as opposed to Western workers) for reasons of strategy, persecution, and potential adverse effects of Western presence.
- At the same time, the team saw clearly the hearts of some Western workers, and there was recognition of God's call in their lives and their love for the people of India.
- Synthesizing this, during the trip, the team perceived a lack of affirmation for Westerners sending Westerners. Yet at the same time, there was recognition that God may still call some Westerners counter to this general strategy.

After:
The lack of affirmation along with the clear counsel against the presence of Western workers significantly impacted our team. Optimism, or even expectation amongst some that Westerns sending Westerners would eventually arise from this trip was replaced by unity in in the perception that we should not identify the West sending Westerners as the current primary strategy, focus, or priority within the context of Northern India. It was the perception of the team, however, that we should remain open to the possibility God may call an individual counter to this strategy. If such a person arises within the EFM community, or if Friends in India begins a new work, and sees Westerners as potentially valuable members of a ministry team, these possibilities should be explored further. Also, Eric remains in contact with the optometrist in Uttarkhand and will explore the possibility of a follow-up visit with him.

N for Need:

Before:
The need within India is clearly compelling. Despite centuries of missionary endeavors, the need for the gospel in India remains astounding. According to the Joshua Project, over 90% of India's people (approximately 1.3 billion people) belong to an unreached people group. This represents over 1/3 of the world's approximately 3.3 billion unreached peoples. In addition, there remain roughly 1900 people groups in India identified as frontier people groups, with virtually no followers of Jesus, and still requiring pioneering cross-cultural workers. Furthermore, India continues to experience rapid population growth and has surpassed China as the most populous nation in the world. Generally speaking, higher percentages of Christians live in the more southern states of India, while the northern states have the lowest percentage of Christians.

During:
In addition to the above general need, during the trip, we heard from multiple Indian leaders about the need to reach specifically young, educated, professional class in the urban setting. Many ministries focus on more impoverished populations, while relatively fewer target this group.
After:
The needs described above are tremendous. Specifically, our attention was drawn to the urban, young, educated middle class. In contrast, prior to the trip, a people-group focus characterized the thinking of the team.

G for Gifting:

Before:
Bhim and Priscilla Rai have shown some interest but later felt led not to pursue it. We were not aware of any individuals within IYM or the current EFM future missionary pool sensing a specific call to India.
During:

- For a Western worker to remain long-term, we came to understand they would need to obtain a business or medical visa or marry an Indian national (probably not a proper sending strategy!)
- A Western worker would likely need to be either a medical professional or someone with the interest and ability to operate a business. Western workers would likely be more readily accepted/experience less suspicion in an urban setting, as opposed to rural villages. Many young people we encountered were quite excited to take photos with our team (particularly Robin!). ESL to young, educated professionals may be one future possibility.
- The legal team from ADF cautioned us that the presence of Western workers may feed into the current narrative of Christianity as a "foreign" religion, and could be potentially counterproductive for this reason, as well as creating suspicion and unwanted attention from authorities. For example, we were forced to alter our plans and avoid meetings in Uttarkhand and visit an EHA hospital due to fears our presence would bring attention and persecution from authorities in those places. Arrests and termination of services at EHA facilities were happening during our trip, and police were interrogating patients regarding any attempts to "convert" them while they received care.
- Our time in India ended at the EFC- India, All-India Gathering. It seemed noteworthy that we were surrounded by pastors and leaders who themselves were quite gifted in reaching the people around them, and also worked with others similarly gifted.

After:

- Fruitful ministry would likely require a cross-cultural team including national (same- or near-cultural workers). A Westerner operating a business beneficial to the community, which also provided context for ministry and/or employment for national workers, would be one potential model. While it remains possible to see disciple-making with a Western family only, it is more challenging than at times in the past due to the current restrictive environment and visa restrictions. Western workers are at risk for expulsion from the country for any action categorized as evangelism or "conversion." It is possible, of course, for the Western worker to disciple a new convert into a partner role. But a partnership approach from the outset involving national workers, similar to that in which Choity is involved in Kolkata in the red light district, would likely lead to more rapid and effective work. It seems significant, however, that association with a Western

worker may lead to suspicion or unwanted attention in some contexts, and may actually become a hindrance to ministry efforts.
- A non-Caucasian worker, particularly a worker of Indian descent, may be better able to avoid some of the potential religious and political challenges associated with Caucasian workers.
- The conclusion of the team was that, at the current time, long-term Western workers bring challenges that may make them more of a hindrance, rather than an aid to ministry efforts. This is a generalization with exceptions. Generally speaking, however, Westerners do not, at this time, seem to be the best candidates for pioneer work in Northern India. The role of mobilizing/equipping national workers seems a more viable role at present, and could possibly be accomplished through short-term and/or remote work.

O for Opportunity:

Before:
- Some in our team experienced frustration in response to caution not to evangelize or openly pray with people in public. Arun, DK, and Choity shared multiple stories of persecution. They advised the team to alter their itinerary due to heightened persecution and observation by authorities in some regions where the team had planned to visit. The team agreed this change in plans was wise in order to avoid jeopardizing both the safety of workers in those places and their ability to persist in their work.
- We experienced multiple warm connections and invitations from both national and ex-pat workers for meetings/visits.

During:
- During the trip, Eric received a specific invitation from the optometrist from Uttarkhand to visit and assist in the work. Eric is continuing to explore this possibility. We were also welcomed to send students to the language school in Dehli.
- Our attention during the trip was also drawn to the ministry opportunities with immigrant families, both within India and outside of India. We heard from multiple groups how the resistance of different groups to the gospel decreased when they moved from their home villages to another area. With that move, the threat of persecution from their family and home villages diminished, and they generally became more open to hearing and responding to the gospel. Urban settings, as opposed to more rural village settings, may also offer greater opportunity/decreased societal pressure against sharing and receiving the gospel.
- In addition, during plane travel, the team easily connected with the openness of immigrant families encountered during travel. We were quickly able to engage and exchange contact information with a Sikh from Indianapolis visiting his family in Punjab for a wedding. Robin also spent considerable time in spiritual conversation with a Muslim woman from Bangladesh, exploring the Bible with her. This experience seemed to stand in contrast with the remainder of our trip when caution and restraint dominated our interactions.
- Eric also had an experience (see stories below) that may be an affirmation of a refocus upon immigrant populations.
- As mentioned above, our time in India ended at the EFC- India, All-India Gathering. It seemed noteworthy that we were surrounded by pastors and leaders who themselves were quite gifted in reaching the people around them. To our team, the most significant

opportunity currently would seem to be mobilization and equipping of these Indian Friends leaders and pastors.

After:

- Is there a new work on the hearts of Friends in India? Let us consider this. How can we catalyze that work? What potential role (short-term or remote) might be helpful?
- Should we, at the present time, refocus upon immigrant communities outside of India? Should we refocus Luke 10 on immigrant communities in the US, Canada, the UK, or other English-speaking nations specifically?
- Morningstar Friends is hiring Arun Massey to help plant an Indian church in the Cleveland area. This could become a strategic church plant in regard to sending/supporting closer cultural workers back into Northern India.

Is this a CAN GO for EFM at this time?
Church-planting work in Northern India would fully align with EFM's mission and vision. In this context, where the threat of persecution is significant, there is constant testing of the heart to seek first the kingdom. We now have faithful Friends churches in India, but to more fully align with EFM's vision, it seems there is yet work to be done in the areas of sustainability and missions-sending. Strengthening and mobilization of Indian leaders and churches may be a strategic step toward these goals.

Which of the five criteria do we see the strongest? Which of the five criteria is yet to become convincing?
Need is the strongest. Affirmation, along with opportunity and gifting (when considering Western workers) are weak at this time.

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.
Opposition, and the threat of persecution, is constantly looming over Indian believer. But the Kingdom of God continues to advance. We spent hours upon hours with leaders of the persecuted church. These individuals had experienced being disowned by their families, shunned from their villages, arrests, and even beatings. Daily they choose to work under the threat of various forms of persecution for the name of Jesus. Yet, rather than discouragement, we witnessed confidence that God was at work, excitement at the growth of the church, reports of miracles, and a sense that the church was coming together in a new way in response to the increased challenges. Many times we were asked to pray, but never once were we asked to pray persecution would end. Rather, we were asked to pray for continued strength and faithfulness. There is much to celebrate in the faithfulness of Indian Friends.

Our meeting with the legal team of ADF (Alliance Defending Freedom) – India was an inflection point in the trip. Our meeting with ADF had the mark of a divine connection – bringing Arun unknowingly into the office of the organization which had provided him with extensive assistance during previous periods of persecution, and initiating a new collaborative relationship with the Sarkars. Arun asked in the midst of the meeting, "How did you get us a meeting here?!" The Sarkars were unaware of ADF and were eager to know of their potential assistance to pastors facing legal problems related to anti-conversion laws, made plans to provide ADF training for their pastors, and were quite grateful for the connection. The head of the ADF legal team observed, "Isn't it interesting that it took these friends coming all the way from the US to connect us here in India?"

The ADF legal team was able to provide us with an informed perspective on the state of the church in various places in India, the political climate, contextual challenges, and some expectations regarding the future. They spoke rather strongly regarding Western workers in India at this time, sharing explicit recommendations that we do not send workers at this time. They also shared the expectation that foreign funds into India would be further restricted, and achieving sustainability for existing ministries was critical. We left the meeting unified in a perception that sending to Northern India was not being affirmed, and feeling redirected towards empowering/mobilizing existing Friends.

Our attention was turned to the opportunity with the Indian diaspora. The increased receptivity immigrant communities often have towards the gospel was pointed out to us during the trip. As mentioned above, our team members, most notably Robin, experienced this in a personal way during travel. On the final day of our time in India, Eric experienced an event that also seemed to be God directing us to pay attention to the diaspora populations. Keith and Eric were eating dinner together in the hotel restaurant in Trivandrum. As they walked out of the restaurant, Eric's eyes were drawn to the hotel magazine rack, which held a single, solitary magazine. On the cover was a picture of an Afghan refugee personally known to Eric, who had hosted Eric and his family in her home, and had also come to Eric's home to share a meal and an afternoon. The magazine was over 1 year old. What are the odds of this hotel in Trivandrum having a single-year-old magazine on the shelf that just happens to have an immigrant on the cover that Eric knows? It seemed that God was saying, quite literally at that moment, "Look at the unreached immigrants all around us."

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

- Develop prayer and discernment groups within IYM to explore a possible refocus of Luke 10 upon a specific immigrant group/place.
- Engagement of appropriate IYM committees to begin to explore how God may be leading IYM to reach the Indian population, in Indiana or otherwise.
- Engage in dialogue with Indian church leaders and EFM leadership regarding possibilities for cross-cultural partnerships with a goal of strengthening and mobilizing Indian Friends leaders and churches.
- Within IYM, foster and encourage creative ways of participating in what God is doing in India.

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

It is the recommendation of this team that the Luke 10 process in Northern India be paused. This recommendation stems primarily from the lack of affirmation regarding western sending of Western workers and the barriers faced by Western workers, as outlined above. We would recommend the Luke 10 process be resumed in Northern India in any of the following circumstances:

1. A qualified individual within the EFM community believes they are experiencing a specific call to India. Such a person would likely need to be either interested and able to operate a business or able to obtain a medical service visa. Alternatively, an immigrant from India to the US who sought to return would be a good candidate.
2. EFC-India develops a plan to launch a new work (perhaps in conjunction with EFM), and it is deemed that the presence of a Western worker as part of a cross-cultural team would strengthen the ministry plan.
3. Factors currently leading to the lack of affirmation of Western workers (such as visa restrictions, increased risk for unwanted attention/persecution, etc.) changed in a significant way.

4. In the launch of any new work, special consideration should be given to the demographic of young professionals in an urban setting.

Despite this recommendation, the need remains astounding, as previously described. This is true both within India and amongst the Indian diaspora. Therefore, it is the recommendation of this team that a plan for partnership with Indian Friends might be developed, with the goals of increasing sustainability and cross-cultural missions sent out of Indian Friends churches. The proposed collaboration with Global Disciples may be an important part of this partnership plan. It is the opinion of this team that partnership with existing Indian Friends churches is currently the best strategy for achieving EFM's mission and vision in the context of Northern India.

Secondly, it is the recommendation of this team that the Luke 10 process for Northern India be refocused upon the Indian diaspora in the US, UK, Canada, or other English-speaking nations.

Northeast Brazil Trip 1 Summary

The following is a report that Cassi Coleman from Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting prepared.

Who Was on this Trip?
The team was made up of: Patrick Neifert (RMYM), Phil Burgi (RMYM), Cassi Coleman (RMYM), Frank Penna (World Renewal), and Dan Cammack (EFM Field Director).

Where Did We Travel?
We landed in Recife, a large city on the coast, and traveled to Carpina, where the headquarters of World Renewal Brazil (Alcance, Brazil) are located. We were able to travel to twelve churches and ministries in the surrounding areas over the first four days, and we saw how God has been moving and working over the last 30 years with World Renewal! Tele Moraes oversees the work there and the World Renewal Team has a goal to plant 200 churches by 2050. There are many young people, couples, women, and children involved in these ministries!



Our group expanded to include John Snow (World Renewal), Wilson Barbosa (Brazilian missionary from Recife and translator), Roberto Goncalves (teacher at the International School and our photographer), and Ricardo Martin our dependable driver (who accepted Christ on our trip!)



We traveled away from the coast towards the interior about 500 km to Mirandiba (Sertão area). The number of evangelical Christians decreases the farther away from the coast you are. In Mirandiba and Sousa the number of evangelical Christians is less than one percent.

In the final days of our trip, the team traveled to Sousa and met Flavio and Mercia Travassos in Boa Esperanca. They are Brazilian missionaries from the Carpina area and have been serving there since 2020. The ministry here is predominantly with women and children. They also have a Living Stones project here. The men of this area leave to go work for months at a time and do not stay long when they return.



What Did We See and What is the Need in the Area?

- The Living Stones project is an example of how education for children can evangelize and disciple both the children and their parents. The children attend while they are not in school for part of the day and learn reading, writing, math, and Biblical principles through character development.
- The World Renewal ABA (Alcance Brazil Acampamento) camp near Carpina is a great location for summer camp and sports ministries for children and young adults. There is also a recycling business located at the camp that helps allow these ministries to be somewhat self-sustainable.



- The International School in Carpina houses the World Renewal headquarters. The 150+ students learn character development and Biblical principles as they go to school here! There is an immediate need at the International School for teachers and staff.
- The ministries established here could serve as a training ground for church planting for future missionaries! Evangelism, discipleship, and church planting are the main focuses of the ministries in this area!



- Pastor Joel and his wife Angelica are missionaries from São Paulo, Brazil to two different people groups. Mirandiba has approximately 15,000 people and 80% are Quilombola. Quilombos are descendants of former slaves who rejected slavery. There is a great need among these people to establish their own schools, hospitals/clinics, churches, and businesses, as they are generally discriminated against. There is also a need for very basic things such as food and water in many of these areas.
- The team was able to visit a tribal group called the Atikum. We met with three little girls at their home on a mountainside and the Holy Spirit was very evident in that place! Pastor Joel had previously prayed with their father for healing of an untreatable abdominal condition, and he was healed! AMEN! He came to know Jesus and his family are now also believers! We were able to hear the story from the father!
- Overall, the team was received with open arms, lots of hugs, and receptivity to the Gospel. As a team, we felt our times of prayer, good conversation, and simply being present at their ministry sites were a real blessing and provided much encouragement in each place we visited. The need is great, but the workers are few!

NORTHEAST BRAZIL TRIP 1 CAN-GO REPORT

Trip Dates: March 11-21, 2023
Written by Phil Burgi

C for Champion

Tele Moraes, Frank Penna, Patrick Neifert, Cassi Coleman for the women and children, RMYM could become a champion for this mission field, Rachel Ferguson with World Renewal, Pastor Joel and Angelica in Mirandiba.

A for Affirmation

Living Stones ministries, World Renewal, Pastor Joel, Pastor Flavio, Pastor Bruno, Johnathan (a teacher at the international school) who has targeted Sertão area of Brazil as an unevangelized field, Cleber with VRE (who helps build homes and wells for communities who need them most), Ricardo Martin's our driver's salvation on our trip.

N for Compelling Need

The percentage of evangelical Christians in the Sertão is less than 1%. The Quilombola people number 1,587,000 and are only recorded in Brazil. 55% Christianity and less than 1% evangelical Christianity. They are descendants of slaves and generally are discriminated against and live in extreme poverty in some areas.

The indigenous Indian tribe the Atikum. This group numbers 8,000. 10% Christian and less than 1% evangelical Christian.

G for Gifting

Someone who is resourceful and possibly has basic medical training. Excellent in language learning and speaking, Bible knowledge and teaching, prayer, and intimacy with the Holy Spirit. Someone with a holistic mindset who can identify needs, perseverance, teaching and educational skills, evangelism, and discipleship. Someone who can help people build ownership through human development and creativity.

How many people will it take to begin a pioneer here: 2 or 3 couples. 2 singles. 1 single and 1 family. They do not need to all be from the United States! Brazilians or from other countries as well!

O for Opportunity

YES! There are opportunities to learn Portuguese and the people, teach English or another subject the candidate is knowledgeable in at the International School in Carpina. This could also serve as a time to learn from local leaders about evangelism, outreach, discipleship, church planting and missions work with other missionaries already here. A "missionary training field." There are three Friends churches established in the Carpina area already.
More opportunity is also seen in Mirandiba with the Quilombola people group and the Atikum tribe. There are also opportunities in Sousa (a bigger city.) There is definitely an openness and even invitations to come and join in ministry together!

MEXICO TRIP 2 SUMMARY

The following is a report written by trip leader Maria Giron (EFM Missionary).

Who Was on this Trip & Where Did We Travel?
The members of this team were: Maria and Edwin Giron (EFM), Marco Martinez, (EFC-MAYM), Erik Nilsen (FSW), Ernesto Ramirez (Superintendent of Mexico YM-Central), Elizabeth Ramirez (Director of Mexico Friends Theology Institute), Pedro and Sandra Moscosa (Future Church Planters- Mexico YM Central), Wilmer Vicen (Coahuila Friends YM-North), and Tyson Contreras (Coahuila Friends YM-North).



In the State of Jalisco, we traveled to Ameca, Mixtla, Cocula, the little town of La Estanzuela, and San Martin de Hidalgo. In the state of Nayarit, we traveled to Tepic, Compostela, Zitacua- a Huichole Town, and San Blas.

What was our experience traveling here?
How did the Lord meet us?
In each city or town, it was very evident how God led us to very kind people willing to talk with us and tell us about the needs of the families in that place. On this trip, we noticed more open heartedness in people to listen to the scriptures, in some cases, as if people were hungry to know more about God through the Bible as if they were realizing that religion is no longer enough for them.



We had at least four cases in which, while the team was together having a devotional or simply praying in the middle of the town's plaza, somebody heard us and approached asking for prayers for healing. Sometimes we thought that they were street vendors asking for money or selling objects, but we were wrong, it was as if it were God sending us evidence of the need that exists in the people of those territories.

In a town where we were invited to visit a small group of women who met frequently to study the Bible, after having a time of worship together, we saw how God opened the doors of their homes and many of those women invited us to enter their homes to pray for their sick ones but also they each shared their stories with us, in which we noticed that in each family there was a tragic story that has left marks of pain and suffering in their hearts. God made us raise our eyes to see many people without a shepherd and hopeless. God raised our eyes to see how the fields in those places are ready for the harvest.



One Trip Highlight: The Youth in Zitakuya



One afternoon we arrived at a town called Zitakua in the state of Jalisco where a large community of Huichol people live. We walked a bit through the streets until we reached a multipurpose court, and our attention was drawn to see many young people gathered there to play or see others play volleyball. We stood there and some of our team started chatting with some of the kids who were watching the game, to our surprise a young man asked for a bible because he had never read one. Soon one of our team ran to our car and brought several Bibles to give away. Other young people, seeing that Bibles were being given away, also approached, and that's when two of our young future missionaries began to read Biblical passages and presented the good news of the Gospel to those young men. That was a divine and Kairos moment for those young men and without a doubt with great effect for eternity.



How Can You Pray for Next Steps in this Country?

- Pray with great intention so that God raises up brave people who are willing to say, "Here I am Lord, send me now."
- Pray for the searching, the recruiting, and the sending of those who are ready.
- Pray for the city of Cocula. It is a potential place to start a new church in the state of Jalisco since it is a growing city, with enough resources and it is a central city from where many surrounding towns are supplied, and perhaps many towns where ministries could be developed.
- Pray for Zitakua- The Huichole's Town. We detected a feeling of welcome in this place, especially among the young generation. In the youth, we could perceive a curiosity in them to learn about Jesus through reading the Bible.
- Pray for Mexico Yearly Meeting as they work with and take the next steps for those wanting to plant churches in Jalisco.

MEXICO TRIP 2 CAN-GO REPORT

Trip Dates: April 24 to May 1, 2023
Report Written by Maria Giron

C for Champions:

Before:

- Mexico YM- exploring places to be reached out for the fulfillment of the VM32 church planting project.
- Mexico North YM is 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 in a small town in Jalisco where there is no evangelical church present.

- 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 Nayarit to work among the Huichol people.
- Moscosa Gonzalez Family. Pedro and Sandy and their 6 year old daughter Aliso, are very serious praying and getting ready to go to Jalisco and establish a new church. There is a very strong calling to minister and follow up at the place and the work that LV Friends church has been doing so far in La Estanzuela Town in Jalisco.

During:

- Sergio Armando Contreras- he felt a calling to serve among the Huichole People in Nayarit.

After:

- Erik Nilsen has expressed interest in joining a team to serve in Jalisco.

A for Affirmation:

PARTNERS

- Both Mexico YMs (North and Central).
- Antony and Kimberly Doi (Nayarit)-Huichole Ministry.
- Pastor Martin and wife (not from Friends) - Huichole Ministry.
- Iglesia Amigos Las Vegas- By their annual visits, they have made a big impact at this little town and people, especially women are coming to Christ, and they are asking for a leader to continue ministering and following up with the new converts. There is no evangelical church of any denomination in this town or surrounding. Iglesia Amigos is willing to support financially any couple that would be willing to go to Jalisco.

N for Need:

*In the center of Mexico exists 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
- In La Eztanzuela Town- There is a group of believers gathering that are in great need of discipleship and leadership training. They need a leader able to help raise a formal church.

NAYARIT

- 1.25 million-Population
- 20 Towns/Municipalities
- Only 5.75% Evangelical Christians
- Huichole People concentrated in several towns. Huicholes are still considered an under-evangelized ethnic group. The people 30 years and under, seem to be more open to hear the gospel and read a Bible.

G for Gifting:

- Moscosa Gonzalez Family- They are feeling a strong call to go serve in Jalisco. Pedro and Sandi are currently preparing at the Biblical Institute. They are strong leaders and very active at their church in Mexico City. They seem to have preaching and teaching abilities.
- Erik Nilsen- Has expressed interest in joining a team. He has teaching gifts.
- Angelica De La Cruz- Nayarit
- The five greatest gifts are required in a new church planting team (Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, and Teachers) in these 2 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.

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, and 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 as 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.
Jalisco- we have several contacts that would facilitate the development of new churches.
There exists a group of new believers in Jalisco waiting for God to send leaders and trainers.

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 towns and cities we visited. We have already seen a response from people expressing an interest in supporting the launch of a new field in one of these places.

God allowed the first Future Missionary Retreat in Mexico to take place in August. 25 young people, from every Friends church in Mexico, were impacted and challenged to explore further and deeper a calling to missions or church planting.

Luke 10 Team Recommendation to EFM
Out of the different towns that were explored, the team agreed that one of the places with a strong potential to become a new field in Jalisco is Cocula. 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.

It is highly recommended that a new field be opened by sending a team to serve in the state of Jalisco, especially considering the city of Cocula, as a possible center of development for a new church and to also reach out to the many neighboring towns around where we have been informed that there are no Evangelical Christian churches.

Ecuador Trip 2 Summary

The following is a report written by trip leader Jerry Clarkson (NWYM).



Who Was on this Trip & Where Did We Travel?
Edwin and Maria Giron (EFM), Jael Ayala (Coahuila YM Future Missionary), and Jose Olivas (Mexico YM Missionary Candidate) met in Mexico City and traveled to Quito, Ecuador arriving on June 6. Grace Anderson, (NWYM Future Missionary) and Jerry Clarkson (NWYM) traveled from the U.S. and landed in Quito the same day. The Girons were able to stay with the team until June 15.

Jan and Meghan Cammack (NWYM) joined the team on July 6. The team remained in Ecuador until August 2.



After three days in Quito, our team traveled to Macas, Morona-Santiago Province in southeast Ecuador. Morona-Santiago, Zamora-Chinchipe, and the southern edge of Pastaza Provinces are the home of the Shuar tribes. We used a hostel in Macas as a base camp and traveled to several cantons (counties) of Morona-Santiago, as well as to Zamora-Chinchipe to investigate evangelism and the lack of evangelism among the Shuar. We stayed four to seven each in the towns of Palora, Taisha, San Jose de Morona, Santiago de Tiwintza, Gualquiza, and Zamora. Our team also traveled on day trips to Santiago de Mendez and Limon Indanza, as well as to Huamboya and Pablo Sexto. From these central towns, we visited Shuar in as many surrounding villages as possible. We were not yet able to travel

beyond the ends of the roads, but we heard about many villages accessible only by rivers or trails and talked with some people from those remote locations.

What was our experience traveling here? How did the Lord meet us?



The Shuar are asking for Bibles, Bible training, pastors and pastoral training, and the establishment of churches. Many of the towns and villages have had Catholic influence and most of the larger central towns have two-four evangelical churches or other sects (though some of these do not seem to be well accepted in the village).

By visiting Shuar in many villages and hearing reports from surrounding villages we were able to identify many places without any evangelical presence that have an interest in hearing the gospel. Some places once had mission influence but the people from these places were not discipled sufficiently to have sustainable congregations. The younger generations from these places are unreached or under-reached. Some villages have never had churches but have heard the basis of the gospel at some time in the past. Many of these villages are asking for biblical training. Some areas were once well evangelized but now have no spiritual support contact outside of their own villages or areas. These areas are asking for continued discipleship and training in order to become sustainable congregations and networks of churches. Jesus seemed to direct our paths, open doors, and call us time and again to return to work in Ecuador as soon as possible.



Two Trip Highlights

Tomás' Story

Jerry, Grace, and Jose traveled to Taisha and then to Panki at the edge of the road-accessible jungle. During an outdoor community meeting, Jerry and Jose had the opportunity to visit at length with Tomás and Patricio. Tomás' house had burned two nights before. Tomas said to Jerry, "I went to my fields this morning and was praying while doing my chores. 'God, why did my house burn down?' I had no answer. Now that you have come, I know that if my house had not burned you would not have stayed, we would have been in the fields and not been here to talk with you. We are Catholic. We have no priest, we have no church building, we have no Bibles. Can you come to teach us to pray and teach us about God? Come back as soon as possible…". We heard similar stories in many towns and villages. We are called to be with the Shuar to show them Jesus.



Teaching Leaders



In south-east Canton Palora we were invited by contacts from last year to teach pastors and leaders from existing churches. We lived with the Shuar in Nantar village for a week. Jerry taught a series for five nights on spiritualism and animism. Jose and Jael alternately taught each night in response to topics and questions suggested by the people. Pastors and leaders (of other denominations) came from six surrounding villages up to an hour's walk away. These leaders report that they no longer have contact with supporting organizations. These leaders asked for continued deeper training like what we provided for the week. This could be a secondary purpose of the mission in Ecuador. The town's people also shared Shaur culture and language with us including hunting techniques and village history.

How Can You Pray for Next Steps in this Country?

Our hope is to see the eventual establishment of discipleship centers in Taisha, San Jose de Morona, and possibly Palora in order to reach into Taisha and Mucuma areas, Tiwintza, San Jose, and south Taisha areas, and Palora, Huamboya, and north Upano valley areas. EFM has the possibility of partnering with AMEE to obtain visas and navigate other logistics. Jose Olivas has made plans made plans with Mexico Yearly Meeting to return to Ecuador in November and will be working for one year in the Upano Central Valley while learning more about the Shuar culture.

Several others on the team envision a possibility of missionary service in Ecuador with EFM if EFM approves a commitment to launching a new field. Please pray for Grace Anderson, Jael Ayala, and Jerry and Kerry Clarkson as they consider what it might mean to be faithful to the Lord of the Harvest as missionaries, with Ecuador heavy in their minds and hearts. Please pray for NWYM Board of Global Outreach as they discern with EFM and the Luke 10 Team's vision and ideas for next steps in Ecuador. There is a growing vision for the possibility of EFM starting a new mission field in Ecuador!

ECUADOR TRIP 2 CAN-GO REPORT

Trip Dates: June 5- August 2, 2023
Report Written by Jerry Clarkson

C for Champions:

Who is God already using/calling to be a champion for this place? Churches? Individuals? Partners in other continents?

- Edwin and Maria Giron
- Jerry and Kerri Clarkson
- Ken Comfort
- Northwest Yearly Meeting Board of Global Outreach
- Newberg Shuar Prayer Group
- Beatriz Apaza (Before and After)
- José Olivas (During and After)
- Grace Anderson (During and After)
- Jael Alaya (During and After)

Who is praying for these people or place? Will they pray for the team as they endeavor to dream and receive the vision?

- Beatriz Apaza
- Newberg Shuar Prayer Group
- Northwest Yearly Meeting Board of Global Outreach
- Meridian Friends Church
- La Iglesia Amigos de Ciudad Juárez
- Las Vegas Multicultural Ministry
- Newberg Friends Church
- La Iglesia Amigos de Nueva Rosita
- La Iglesia Amigos de Agujita
- Phyllis Brown, Mentor of Jael
- Lizeth Rincon (During and After)
- Luke 10 Facebook Group (140 people) (During and After)

Who is God calling to give their lives to reaching this people group?

- José Olivas
- Grace Anderson
- Jerry and Kerri Clarkson
- Jael Alaya (During and After)

A for Affirmation:

Are there partners or ministries in place that we can learn from prior to us going there? In the greater region?

- Patricio and Andrea Leon- Ecuador
- Dario and Alexandria Salazar-Ecuador
- Charles Milton- Ecuador
- Russell and Sarah Badgely (Before)
- Dan Cammack (Before)
- Ken Comfort (Before and During)
- David Wampati; Ramón & Tania Waam- Shuar - Palora, Ecuador (During)
- Andres Jimbicti- Shuar - Palora, Ecuador (During)

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?

Before

- Jose says that before the trip he thought that the Shuar were less modernized. He thought that we would find people that are complete nomads.
- Jose thought that we would be going further into the jungle than we did.

During

- Jose says that he found the Shuar that we were able to visit to have electricity, internet, cell phones, and modern tools necessary for their production needs.
- We do not have a Shuar speaking guide to take us to other jungle communities.

- Jan says that she expected more poverty than we saw. The people looked like they had the food and clothing they needed. This was evidenced by the fact that the children were healthy enough to be playing in the villages. Village dogs were healthy and well-fed.
- It also stood out to Jan how much we heard about abuse among the Shuar; physical, sexual, emotional, etc. These things lead to many health and family life problems in the future.
- Jan says that the power of the Catholic church to push out Evangelical churches in some places really stood out to her. Tiwinza especially is staunchly catholic.
- Grace had little idea what to expect when coming to Ecuador, and so many of the things that we learned were new to her and/or changed her perspective.
- Jerry, Grace, and Jose traveled to Taisha and then to Panki at the edge of the road accessible jungle. During an outdoor community meeting, Jerry and Jose had the opportunity to visit at length with Tomás and Patricio. Tomás' house had burned two nights before. Tomas said to Jerry, “I went to my fields this morning and was praying while doing my chores. 'God, why did my house burn down?' I had no answer. Now that you have come, I know that if my house had not burned you would not have stayed, we would have been in the fields and not been here to talk with you. We are Catholic. We have no priest, we have no church building, we have no bibles. Are you evangelicals? Can you bring us Bibles? We can pay for Bibles but do not have anywhere to buy them. Can you come to teach us to pray and teach us about God? Come back as soon as possible. Bring us Bibles. Help us build a church. We need someone to teach us.” We heard similar stories in many towns and villages. We are called to be with the Shuar to show them Jesus.

Are there people with resolve willing to partner with and send missionaries to this people or place? Who are they?

- NWYM
- Meridian Friends Church
- Newberg Friends Church
- La Iglesia Amigos de Nueva Rosita
- La Iglesia Amigos de Ciudad Juárez
- La Iglesia los Amigo de Agujita
- Las Vegas Multicultural Ministry
- Mexico YM
- North Mexico YM

N for Need:

What can you share about these people or place?

Before

- The Catholic Church has had more influence on the Shuar people than the Evangelical Church.
- Relatively few of the Shuar have heard the Gospel or internalized it.
- Our first impressions were that the Shuar did not have any Evangelical Churches at all.
- From last year's visit: There is a noticeable lack of children’s programming, there is a noticeable lack of pastors among the existing churches, many villages do not have churches, and there is a lack of training among the existing pastors.

During

- There are, however, more churches among the Shuar than previously thought. There is evidence of previous long-term evangelical missionaries among the Shaur. But when they left the work was not sustained.
- The Bible has been translated into Shuar, but most of the Shuar people only know how to read Spanish. Children are taught to read Spanish in school. Shuar syllables and pronunciation are very different from Spanish. Children never have an opportunity in school to learn to read Shuar syllables and pronunciation. Therefore, many Shuar must sound out each syllable and several words before coming to a basic understanding of a phrase. A Shuar reader will then reread or restate the phrase or sentence before reading the next sentence. Flow of paragraph ideas is often lost in the process.
- There is a noticeable lack of Evangelical churches in many villages and a lack of discipleship. There are whole regions without an Evangelical church or evidence of evangelical influence in the past.
- There is a lack of work among young people, children, and women. So, the young people grow up without an evangelical purpose.
- There is a decline in existing churches. Young people have not been discipled to continue in the church, they receive more influence from the internet than their parents.
- Churches were never trained to train new pastors.
- We have received invitations to return to villages with existing churches, but also to return to villages that have no church, to teach and bring the Bible.
- Even in the existing churches, there are places where the person teaching depends on existing resources and does not have a Bible themselves. They do not always have the money to purchase a Bible.

Is there a ministry need that we can focus on?

Before

- Sourcing or development of discipleship material.
- Long-term presence.
- Children's ministries.
- Evangelism with continued discipleship.
- Discipleship for existing believers.

During

- Evangelism and discipleship.
- Children, young people, and women's ministries.
- Bible accessibility (audio or literacy).
- Whole-life discipleship and development.
- Long-term presence.

How would you summarize the most convincing evidence of need for the gospel and reason/s to start a mission there?

- There are many villages and even regions that do not exhibit any understanding of the Gospel. The people of these villages show animistic beliefs and practices, as well as family issues, including abuse and neglect, leading to medical and social problems. Among the Shuar men there is a high rate of alcohol and hallucinogen use. For most Shuar they appear to be living day to day with a lack of life purpose, doing the same things that their parents did.

G for Gifting:

Who is expressing interest or willingness to consider going as a missionary to this place?

- José Olivas
- Grace Anderson
- Jael Ayala
- Jerry and Kerri Clarkson

What sort of gifts or skills might be required for this work?

- Evangelism
- Discipleship
- People Skills
- Understanding of/willingness to understand culture.
- Willingness to learn language and culture.
- Teaching Skills
- Patience
- Flexibility

How many people will it take to begin this pioneering work? What will it take to get started?

- Mexico Yearly meeting plans to send José Olivas in November.
- We need to begin in two areas, Taishia and Tiwinza.
- We need an individual guy or family group in Taishia to compliment José's work.
- We need two family units for Tiwinza.

O for Opportunity:

Is the soil ready for sowing seeds of the Good News?

- We have found areas ready for seeds to be sown, watered, and discipled.
- We have also found places that need soil preparation before sowing can be done.
- We have also found seeds sown on rocky ground, without deep roots.
- We have seen places where the ground is firm against Evangelical Christianity.

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?

- Patricio and Andrea Leon (Macas, Ecuador)
- Dario and Alexandria Salazar (Sucúa, Ecuador)
- Charles Milton (Ecuador)
- David Wampati; Ramón & Tania Waam (Shuar - Palora, Ecuador)
- Andres Jimbicti (Shuar - Palora, Ecuador)
- Thomas and Pasqual (Shuar - Panki, Taisha, Ecuador)
- Restaurant owner in Taisha.
- Taxi driver from San José de Morona to Tiwinza.
- Taxi driver in Tiwinza.
- Woodworker, Lago Ayauch, Tiwinza Shuar
- Restaurant owner in Porta Morona.
- Rodrigo and Yolanda Lopez, Genry (Macas, Ecuador)

- Iglesia Efrata (Sucúa, Ecuador)
- Pastors Neftali and Nely (Sucúa, Ecuador)
- Lucia (Macas, Ecuador)
- Enrique Cabrera (Zamora, Ecuador)
- Saraguro Family (Zamora, Ecuador)

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?

- Mexico Yearly Meeting will be sending José to Macas in November. He will be working in partnership with Patricio Leon as he learns Shuar culture, with the intention of eventually moving to Taisha.
- Grace has an opportunity to live in Macas and work with Lucia in outreach to the children in Shuar communities.
- Establish a covenant agreement with AMEE and residency for our staff. Asociación de Misiones Evangelicas Ecuadorianas – AMEE provides legal and promotional support for Ecuadorian missionaries working with new Christian and new church planting among tribal people and under-reached mestizo / colono villages. AMEE also provides legal support and associate opportunities for international missions and missionaries as associate members. (Mestizo / colono are the Ecuadorian Spanish words used to designate Ecuadorians of European or mixed descent that have established colonies in former indigenous areas as allowed by law.
- Work with established missionaries in the regions we plan to enter.
- Begin to establish relationships and converse with people to begin learning Shaur and Shuar culture.
- Establish intention and presence in selected Shuar communities.
- Intentional initial evangelism.
- Intentional initial discipleship -new believer discipleship, spiritual formation, doctrinal formation, discipleship of new workers, discipleship of leaders, multiplication of workers and leaders, discipleship of pastors, multiplication of pastors, discipleship of evangelists and missionaries that could go to villages and possibly other countries.
- Establish new congregations.
- Establish training centers.
- Possible mobile family evangelism/vehicle with Bible and training materials. (This may take a certain amount of leg work to print Shuar Bibles and sell them to the Shuar.)

Is this a CAN GO for EFM at this time? Which of the five criteria do we see the strongest? Which of the five criteria is yet to become convincing?

Choosing which criteria are the strongest and weakest in this field is very difficult because they are all so strong. Looking over our list of champions, we realize that so many people are already invested in Ecuador, both willing to go and willing to support those who go. We have received so many affirmations from Ecuador, the United States, and other countries; of people supporting those who are going or inviting others to go to Ecuador. The needs are great; with many lives needing to hear the Gospel of Christ, and many areas ready for evangelism, discipleship, and development. The opportunities are many; with many places where we could start work and many people of peace to work alongside. We have a gifted team, ready to give their lives to the work and yet still have a need for some new team members to come alongside us.

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.
(José) Since before this trip, God was calling me to take the gospel to the Shuar, when I came on this exploration trip, God confirmed what he had started a long time ago, my experience was the following: when I was in the communities that are not very far inland I was able to realize the great need for the Gospel in those places, my conclusion was that if there is enough need in those places that are close, what will it be in those places that are deep in the jungle with difficult geographic access, the need for the gospel and churches planted in those places would increase.

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

- A covenant agreement with AMEE2 will need to be completed in the near future.
- Look for more people to be missionaries on the field.
- Promote the Ecuador field across EFC-NA churches, Mexico Yearly Meeting, Bolivia Yearly Meeting, and Peru Yearly Meeting.
- Immerse ourselves in Shuar culture and Shuar language through internet sources, through communications, and through direct Shuar contact.

Luke 10 Team Recommendation to EFM

- Mexico Yearly Meeting will be sending José Olivas to Macas in November. He will be working in partnership with Patricio Leon as he learns Shuar culture, with the intention of eventually moving to Taisha.
- Establish a covenant agreement with AMEE2 and residency for our staff. Edwin Giron has example covenants from AMEE.
- Grace has an opportunity to live in Macas and work with Lucia in outreach to the children in Shuar communities possibly as early as January. Grace will be working on Spanish fluency for about one year in Ecuador.
- Jael will complete university studies in two years and may be ready to work in Ecuador in one to two years, depending on some studies having online access.
- Jerry Clarkson will be able to lead future candidate teams to Morona-Santiago Ecuador during June and July for the next two years.
- Jerry and Kerri Clarkson will be able to start long term work in Ecuador in three years after Jerry retires from teaching.

South Sudan Trip 2 Summary

The following is a report written by team member Brendan Steinacher (EFC-MAYM).

Who Was on this Trip & Where Did We Travel?

The team included Aaron Mupenda (EFC-Rwanda), Jean-Paul Nsekanabo (EFC-Rwanda), Nicodeme Basebya (EFC-Rwanda) Matt Macy (EFM Director of Mobilization), Brad Carpenter (EFM Missionary), Todd Brown (EFC-MAYM), and Brendan Steinacher (EFC-MAYM). The seven-member team met in Juba, South Sudan from October 10-17. They used the Dandy Hotel in Juba as a base camp, traveling to towns and villages in the surrounding areas. Over four days the teams visited Juba City, Juba Two, Mangala Payam, and Torit City to investigate evangelism and the lack of evangelism among the various people groups**.**



What was our experience traveling here? How did the Lord meet us?

The intent was to discover regions and areas where the people are underserved or unreached. In the places we visited, we found many tribes that have exposure to some faiths but very few who have a true relationship with Christ. Many told us that they were a Christian country where Catholic, Protestant Christian, Muslim, and others (in that order) have churches/teach. What we found were people who associate with a brand of faith because of family or community identity more than personal faith. We also found connections to many unreached peoples and villages in vast remote sections of the country.



By visiting these locations and hearing reports about surrounding villages we were able to identify places that need evangelical presence and are interested in hearing the gospel. Some places once had mission influence but the people from these places were not discipled sufficiently to have sustainable congregations. Other areas would be considered refugee towns due to displacement from war, flooding, and migration across the country. Many of these villages are asking for biblical training. Some areas were once well evangelized but now have no spiritual support contact outside of their own villages or areas. Christ's guiding hand and the introduction to people at the right time and the right place seemed to direct our paths and speak to his opening of doors as we traveled through South Sudan.



Two Trip Highlights
New Beginnings:



There is a deep encouragement in the resolve our Rwandan friends have towards opening this work in South Sudan. In 1999 EFC Rwanda had the vision that the light of Christ would be taken across Africa making disciples by Africans. Our friends are committed to sending missionaries – "We do it!"- by 2025. That conviction is clearer today than it was on the first Luke 10 Exploration Trip to Juba. Part of that deep conviction is that Rwandans see the tribal tensions in South Sudan and have lived and transformed tribal reconciliation in Rwanda. Bringing the love of Christ into South Sudan using Discipleship for Development whole-life discipleship methodologies is a fire that has started. EFC-Rwanda demonstrates organizational maturity as they have a missions board overseeing missions-mobilizing activities at national, regional, and local church organizational structures, and are strategically identifying next steps including missionary selection, training, and support. A highlight for our team was to continue blowing on the embers of the inevitable fire!

Power of Relationships:
Is it possible that a primary reason for EFM missions to South Sudan is because it is "on mission with Rwandan missions sending"? Also, the relationships built during this trip with prominent South Sudanese contacts were plentiful. From the church, government, United Nations security, business owners…leaders from all walks seemed to fall into place at just the right moment. God provided a way at every turn, even when doors closed, we just had to be patient for the doors to open when he was ready. South Sudan is a country in transition expressing a desire for change. After a long history of war and recent independence, it is a country and a people that want and are ready for a spiritual harvest.

"When you come back in a year, we will proclaim this day, a day of prayer in the National Immigration Offices of South Sudan" – Deputy Inspector General.

How Can You Pray for Next Steps in this Country?
Next Steps:

- EFC-Rwanda works with government contacts to establish church registration.
- EFC-Rwanda selects missionary/s that have a call by November 2023.
- EFC-Rwanda determines a plan for missionary training as well as training for key leaders in sending church.
- EFM makes a decision on EFM's commitment to send U.S. missionaries.
- Possibly send a missionary or team for one to three months to get more information.
- Continue to develop EFC-Rwanda's framework for missions sending.
- Continue to mobilize for prayer and financial support.

Please pray for…

- The raising up of EFM missionaries to accompany our Rwandan friends. A partnership agreement for a multi-national team.
- The upcoming elections in 2024 for South Sudan. For a peaceful transfer of office and a stable geopolitical climate.
- Coaching and training for EFM and EFC-Rwanda missionaries.

SOUTH SUDAN TRIP 2 CAN-GO REPORT

Trip Dates: September 8-17, 2023
Report written by Brendan Steinacher, Brad Carpenter, Todd Brown, and Matt Macy

C for Champion

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 time to sit with them and have deep discussions with them about the difference between being willing and having a sense of call. We trust that they are there, we just need to find them.

Second Trip:

- Second wave mission team: EFC-R & EFM Jean-Paul Nsekanabo, Nicodeme Basebya, Aaron Mupenda, Brad Carpenter, Matt Macy, Todd Brown, Brendan Steinacher
    - It has not been definitively clear if a western missionary is sensing a call directly towards South Sudan.
    - Churches and individuals who have indicated support for the fields in Africa.
    - Individuals: Matt Macy, Brendan Steinacher, Brad Carpenter, Todd Brown, Kevin & Melisa Hoppock, Chris Stanfield.
    - Churches: Paonia Friends, Northridge Friends Church, Chandler, Other Mid-America Churches are all possible champions

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.

Second Trip:

- Encouragement and inspiration with the Rwandan friends confidently stating they are going. They plan to have missionaries on the ground by June 2025. This has been planned prior to the second trip.
- The sense of the "Final stamp" has been felt on this second trip. Making the resolve that much more concrete.
- The vision to launch missions into South Sudan has begun throughout EFC-R. Which spoke to the organizational maturity and driven from the local church level.
- Power of relationships. – is it possible that the reason is "on mission with Rwandan missions sending."
- Networks built- William, Apostle Luke, Government immigration officials. When needed God provided a person or a clear path as we navigated throughout South Sudan. Providing partnership opportunities. (Church relationships, Pastors, Government officials)
- On the day we come back in a year The Deputy General stated they will proclaim this day a "Day of Prayer." In the National Immigration Offices of South Sudan

N for Compelling 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 and 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, 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.

Second Trip:

- A country in transition with confirmation that people desired restoration and transformation. Each community visited indicated a willingness for prayer, learning about Christ, and receptive to the prayer "may peace be upon this house". Juba 2, Torit City, Mangala Payem, Juba.

- Clear that there are generational needs due to instability and 20 years of war. Even the people within the churches demonstrated that deep discipleship would be needed.
- An urgency for discipleship- for the "sake of our children's children" and transformed future! Multiple wives, kidnapping of women and children, prostitution, cattle raiding, lack of agriculture.
- Watch what happens geopolitically, pray for the upcoming national elections in 2024, a desire for stability…
- Safety and security awareness.

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

Second Trip:

- Rwandans have expressed their experience as a gift in the beginning of transformation for South Sudan. Problem solving the needs after genocide directly correlate to the needs, they see in the communities we visited.
- Gifting requirements critical to working alongside the Rwandan missionaries and communities in South Sudan - humble, support roles, teachable, abilities to compliment rather than directly lead.
- USA missionaries involved in practical support- business development, farming, cattle, health… coming alongside Rwandan Pastors.
- Confident that Western Missionaries could/would serve under the Rwandan leadership. Maturity and wisdom in a partnership with Rwandans exists.

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 helps them look at relationships with God, self, others, and creation from the very beginning.

Second Trip: Critical for the readers understanding: Possibly more unique to South Sudan than other potential locations.

- Key connections: "Man-of-Peace" experienced in our interactions- critical connections at multiple levels already exist from the onset in entering South Sudan as a new field. Churches, Government officials, immigration police, and community Chiefs.
- Desire for stability, openness to the gospel, favorable towards Christian discipleship/church, "A want-to-want-to" experienced with problem-solving and community transformation, sense of urgency, open arms of invitation, felt invited in every community we visited,
- Confirmation of our assumptions came from a Norwegian national staying in remote villages. She lives with families as she travels around the country documenting national antiquities for the government. As she stated- she felt safe, was well protected, well fed and provided for and believes any village would welcome our teams in the same way. Her contacts have been provided by the South Sudan government.

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.

Greater resolve from this second trip.

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.

Second Trip:
Opportunity and affirmation. We have a greater commitment from Rwandan churches to send missionaries. Rwanda is moving forward with the mobilization of the mission's board and full engagement from the local churches.

The "Key Connections" cannot be overlooked .

We still do not have a sense of calling directly for a Western missionary(s) to South Sudan. EFC-Rwanda leaders have asked that EFM send U.S. missionaries to join their team.

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 and we 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 seemed 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.

Second Trip:
While a direct location is still TBD the field has been narrowed to three possible locations- Terit City, Juba Two, Juba.

The desire to serve communities inclusive of multiple tribes or specific people groups is still the focus. With the refugee camps and new townships comprised of multiple people groups it lends credence to this approach.

What steps have you taken since returning from the trip or do you 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.
- *Second Trip:*
    - *EFM: messages have been provided to multiple churches, outreach teams, and individuals.*

- *EFC-R: Their missions board has begun the full campaign to mobilize their local churches in support of missions sending to South Sudan.*

Luke 10 Team Recommendation to EFM
2022 FIRST TRIP:
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 UNDERSTANDING AND DISCERNING A CALL TO A SPECIFIC PLACE.

2023 SECOND TRIP:
WE RECOMMEND THAT EFM ADOPT SOUTH SUDAN AS A NEW FIELD TO ENTER BY 2025. ALONGSIDE OUR RWANDAN PARTNERS AS A MULTINATIONAL TEAM.

TANZANIA TRIP 2 SUMMARY

The following is a report written by team member Matt Macy (EFM Director of Mobilization.)

Who Was on this Trip & Where Did We Travel?
This team is made up of representatives from Burundi Friends and the U.S., including: Pastor Domitien Sabongerwa (Burundi Friends Church Missions Liaison), Pastor Fidele Bizimana (General Superintendent of Kwibuka Yearly Meeting - Burundi Friends Church), Pastor Daniel Nkuriye (Kwibuka Yearly Meeting - Burundi Friends Church), Salomon Ntibaharire (Kibimba Yearly Meeting - Burundi Friends Church), Pastor Aaron Mupenda (General Superintendent and Legal Representative of EFC-Rwanda), Brad Carpenter (EFM Missionary), Brendan Steinacher (EFC-MAYM), Matt Macy (EFM Director of Mobilization), Nathan Macy (Future Missionary from EFC-MAYM), and Todd Brown (EFC-MAYM).



The team met in Dar es Salaam on September 17 and started the trip with a day at the East Africa School of Missions on September 18. We are interested in this African one-year training school for Burundian, Rwandan, and American future missionary training to prepare for going to the unreached peoples. Some of our team arrived directly from the second South Sudan Luke 10 Exploration Trip. Two Luke 10 South Sudan team members joined us at the school: Aaron Mupenda (EFC-Rwanda Superintendent and EFC-Africa Director) and Todd Brown (EFC-MAYM).



Then those on the Tanzania exploration team traveled to Ngerengere from September 19-22. The first Luke 10 Exploration Trip to Tanzania last year, visited this city and visited graduates from the training school who are working as

missionaries among unreached peoples in the region, including with the Kutu and Zaramo people. The team felt that the Ngerengere area was promising and decided that the second Luke 10 trip should focus more time here. The team split into three groups to explore the town and even visited villages nearby based on contacts we made. On the 22nd, on the way back to Dar es Salaam, the team followed a tip from a Massai village near Ngerengere to visit an unchurched village called Boyi, which turned out to be a promising lead for potential church planting.



The remainder of the trip was spent in Dar es Salaam in times of prayer and discussion for discernment on next steps.

What was our experience traveling here? How did the Lord meet us?
Visit to Missionary Training School. Our day at the East Africa School of Missions in Dar es Salaam was inspiring and unifying. We observed classroom teaching in Swahili and English and toured the small campus. We were challenged and impressed by missiological discussions led by the school's Director, Samwel Kengela. We had seen the fruit of the school's training when we visited several graduates of the school serving among unreached people in the field last year on the first Trip. This, along with hearing Samwel's experience in planting churches among the unreached, gave us increasing confidence in the school. The school has trained just over 100 African students since 2015, in an April-March calendar year, which includes a three-month group field experience at the end. The school uses seasoned teachers and practitioners from all over the world to make one- or two-week visits to the school to fulfill all of the school's courses.



Samwel helped our team further understand what it would take to prepare our missionary team to go to the unreached. Also, our understanding of each other's mission-sending framework expanded as we continued to discuss the idea of sending missionaries together with Friends in Burundi and Rwanda. We see the need for missionary training among both the goers and the senders. Plus, we love the idea of US missionaries getting training alongside African missionaries in Africa.

Time in Ngerengere. We split into three groups to explore this town. We met many people who were friendly, open to talking about their families and customs, and also many who were interested in showing us their homes.

- We were surprised initially, based on last year's visit, how many people here identified as church-attending Christians. But we also learned that many of these churchgoers did not understand the gospel or how to follow Jesus. We also learned that the Muslim or Christian identity was often more about a family or community cultural identity than about a personal, active practicing faith.
- We learned consistently that in this town, Muslims and Christians live in peace with each other (they report that the village is generally different in this regard, and we saw this last year). We were told several times that a new church would be welcome here, as long as it did not bring division among the religions and groups that were established.

- We talked to several people who didn't recognize any difference between Muslim and Christian. One team talked to a man who visited both Muslim and Catholic churches and saw no difference except that shoes had to come off to enter the Muslim church. We also met people who were Muslim and married to a Christian. But we also met some Christians who knew and could clearly explain the difference.
- We heard of villages further away from town that don't have local access to the gospel or have any church. We met a man and heard of other people who travel quite a distance from villages to attend church occasionally.
- We had several groups of people, especially in villages, invite us to come back and start churches. We felt warm hospitality and welcome, and a hunger for spiritual and physical development.
- We kept hearing from everyone that access to water is a big need in this area, both for human consumption and for cattle.

How Can You Pray for Next Steps in this Country? We are eager to go!

- We are honored and excited about opportunities for partnering with Burundian Friends to learn together how to develop a multi-national missionary team. We would like to see EFM continue to work with EFC-Burundi in developing a missions-sending framework. We are praying for EFC-Burundi as they continue to strengthen and organize their missions-sending vision and capacity.
- The Burundians are eager to begin evangelism and church planting and inspire us all to go. Nathan Macy, a future missionary on this team, is expressing desire to go. We all see opportunities for whole-life discipleship and development.
- Research shows a vast number of villages, towns, and peoples in the greater area who are unreached.
- Ngerengere is a place that needs the gospel, and it makes an excellent hub logistically for getting established and developing an equipping and sending strategy in the area.
- Missionary training and a common language for missions strategy amongst Burundian and American missionary teams, as well as among senders, will be a key part of developing an effective missions-sending framework.

TANZANIA TRIP 2 CAN GO REPORT

Trip Dates: September 17-25, 2023
Report written by: Matt Macy with contributions from Brad Carpenter's 2022 report

C for Champion

Before:

- Burundi Friends Church considers it their vision and irrefutable plan to send missionaries to Tanzania. The two Burundi yearly meetings, Kwibuka and Kibimba, named Domitien Sabongerwa, a pastor and former legal representative, to be their missions liaison.
- Burundi leaders speak of it being late as far as missions sending. They are eager.
- Burundi has started holding an annual "missions crusade" a couple of years ago under the leadership of the Louis Pasteur, there newer legal representative.
- Kwibuka Yearly Meeting has started a work in Rwamugasa, Tanzania in Fall 2022 on their own, not among the unreached peoples that the Luke 10 Trips have been exploring. This work went forward separately without communication with Kibimba Yearly Meeting and without established partnership with EFM.

During:

- Burundi Friends Church leaders are very enthusiastic about sending missionaries to the places we visit as they find any needs or opportunities.
- Kibimba and Kwibuka yearly meetings are working to figure out how their relationship could work better. We are all interested in the two yearly meetings having a unified missions sending vision, which goes from the top leaders all the way down to the local church congregations.

After:

- Nathan Macy is currently inspired and expressing impatience to go. There are at least two other EFC NA future missionaries currently talking about Tanzania and we have had others say that Tanzania is on their heart.
- Americans are inspired into becoming champions as we see Burundian commitment and mobilization. We are interested in taking next steps with Burundians as they work on the framework foundations.
- Mid America Friends love Burundi and are ready to support Burundi's missions sending efforts. We feel and see tangible evidence of the support and readiness from Mid America churches and individuals.

A for Affirmation

Before:

- 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.
- We met several Tanzanian missionaries in 2022 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.
- We had a wonderful Central Africa Missions Sending Learning Conference in April 2023 which added much affirmation and enthusiasm.

During:

- We received nothing but strong positive affirmation from everyone we talked to about starting a new mission in Tanzania.
- We had a meeting with Nicholas from FUM-Tanzania, and he was eager to partner. (We later received great cautions on this from FUM contacts)
- We heard of some possible friction or misunderstandings from FUM leaders about "Friends having a choice between EFC and FUM" after the April conference.

After:

- We received a letter from FUM Kelly Kellum and John Muhanji expressing many misunderstandings and rumors about EFM or EFC-Burundi wanting to switch FUM Tanzania churches or leaders to EFM. Stan and Matt met with Kelly and John to straighten it out on what EFM does and doesn't do. We clarified that EFM is following EFC-Burundi's lead on this, and that it is critical that any concerns be worked out directly between FUM and EFC-Burundi. Matt and Brad met with Burundi leaders to clarify this. Everyone involved has desired transparency and positive relationship with FUM in this journey, but EFC-Burundi does not look to FUM for permission.

- EFM will continue to encourage positive relationships, sensitivity, and any appropriate partnerships. This is a matter of prayer. There have not been any reservations among EFC about moving forward.
- EFC-Burundi considers it a priority to obtain EFC registration in Burundi. The work that Kwibuka YM has started in Tanzania has land which is registered under FUM covering.

N for Compelling 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).
- On the Luke 10 2022 trip, as we drove to remote villages and met Tanzanian missionary graduates from the missions training school, we saw places with tremendous need for the Good News and saw that if these missionaries had not gone, there would not be anyone there making disciples and planting churches.
- In 2022 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.

During:

- In 2022 we recognized Ngerengere as a potential hub for establishing a mission and finding places in the area that we could plant among unreached. In 2022 we basically used a guest house in Ngerengere as a base for a few nights as we traveled to villages, but we didn't explore this town at all. So, we wanted to get to know the area more and spent 3 nights in Ngerengere:
    - We were surprised initially, based on last year's visit, how many people here identified as church-attending Christians. But we also learned that many of these churchgoers did not understand the gospel or how to follow Jesus. We also learned that the Muslim or Christian identity was often more about a family or community cultural identity than about a personal active practicing faith.
    - We learned consistently that in this town, Muslim and Christians live in peace with each other (they report that the village is generally different in this regard, and we saw this last year). We were told several times that a new church would be welcome here, if it did not bring division among the religions and groups that are established.
    - We talked to several people who didn't recognize any difference between Muslim and Christian. One team talked to a man who visited both Muslim and Catholic churches and sees no difference except that shoes had to come off to enter the Muslim church. We also met people who were Muslim and married to a Christian. But we also met Christians who knew and could clearly explain the difference (but if felt like they were the exception).
    - We heard of villages further away from town who don't have local access to the gospel or have any church. We met a man and heard of other people who travel quite a distance from villages to occasionally attend church.

- We had several groups of people, especially in villages, invite us to come back and start churches. We felt warm hospitality and welcome, and a hunger for spiritual and physical development.

After:

- Future missionary Nathan: "anyone seeing the places we visited or hearing us talk about them is going to see that there is need." (the need is obvious)
- We have a faith and trust in the training process at the East Africa School of Missions that graduates will be prepared and inspired to go to the unreached peoples of Tanzania.

G for Gifting

Before:

- We have had various EFC-NA future missionaries express interest in Tanzania.
- We know that those who love EFC-Burundi are enthusiastically interested in supporting their missions sending efforts.

During:

- We are excited about opportunities for partnering with Burundian Friends to learn together how to develop a multi-national missionary team. We would like to see EFM continue to work with EFC-Burundi in developing missions-sending framework. We are praying for EFC-Burundi as they continue to strengthen and organize their missions-sending vision and capacity. This includes identifying gifting criteria to select missionary candidates.
- The Burundians are eager to begin evangelism and church planting. We all see opportunities for whole-life discipleship and development.
- Research and word on the street shows a vast number of villages, towns and peoples in the greater area who are unreached.
- Missionary training and a common language for missions strategy will be part of developing an effective missions-sending framework.

After:

- Nathan Macy is currently inspired and expressing impatience to go. There are at least two other EFC NA future missionaries currently talking about Tanzania and we have had others say that Tanzania is on their heart.
-
- We know that EFC-Burundi is very interested in sending missionaries, and that there are Burundians who have expressed interest in going as missionaries, but we have not been told specific names of candidates that Burundi would consider as potential missionaries to Tanzania for this mission.
-
- For U.S. missionary gifting, we tend to think especially of helper gifting and ministry expressions while the Burundians take on more of the Pastoral leadership and lead church planting role. For U.S. missionaries we think of words like competent, prepared, humble, helper, encourager, committed to team. Maybe business, farmer, teacher, etc.

O for Opportunity

Before:

- From 2022: 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 encouraged them to start churches.
- 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!
- From 2022: 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.

During:

- As mentioned in other areas of this report, there were many signs of receptivity, readiness for planting, and we received invitations/welcome from people of peace...

After:

- We have received nothing but welcome and invitations from anyone in Tanzania. As mentioned in the "affirmation" section, we have received concern from FUM America and Kenya, with concern about how fragile FUM-Tanzania church organization could be impacted.

Is this a CAN GO for EFM at this time?

From 2022: 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 (and other peoples), churches to be planted and multiplied, and then future EFC-Tanzanian churches sending their own missionaries.

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

STRONGEST: Champions are strong in EFC-Burundi's commitment and eagerness as well as American support for both the vision of EFC-Burundi and support of EFM missionaries going.

Need is clear for the team. Places like Ngerengere that has church buildings and church goers but appear to have few transformed followers of Jesus creates a tension. The team believes the need is strong even in Ngerengere for making whole-life disciples and sending workers to unreached villages. But we ache especially for evangelism/discipleship and church planting in those difficult places and peoples in the region where there is no established gospel presence.

NEEDS WORK: Gifting is fuzzy to us. Burundi is eager to send but we don't know the names and gifting of specific people who are candidates. We do have future missionaries in the U.S. who are expressing an interest in Tanzania.

Affirmation has the concern of relationship and clarity with FUM and FUM Tanzania.
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.

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.
The main affirmation/confirmation is that the EFC-Burundi leaders sense an active call to starting a mission there. And we have nothing but consistent invitation from local people in places of need for the gospel.

What steps have you taken since returning from the trip or do you need to take in further discernment or exploration of this field?
We are in communication with EFC-Burundi leadership for follow up in focusing on Burundi missions sending framework.

The Luke 10 team's resolve continues to deepen, and we are experiencing affirmation and willingness with individuals and churches in Mid America as we talk about what we experienced.
We are meeting with the Mid America mobilizers to see what they might propose to EFM Think Tank.

Luke 10 Team Recommendation to EFM
WE BELIEVE EFM SHOULD COMMIT TO SENDING U.S. MISSIONARIES TO TANZANIA IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BURUNDI FRIENDS CHURCH AND THEIR MISSIONARIES.

Based on the two Luke 10 Trips, we can envision a church being planted in Ngerengere which would be a hub for ministry in villages in the greater region, including where there is no gospel presence. We can envision incarnational living, discipling for development, business as mission, and an emerging EFC church planting movement as EFM and EFC-Burundi partner to complement each other's strengths.

Next Steps:
EFM and EFC-Burundi leaders need more time together talking about partnership, answering questions from one another, and developing/clarifying missions sending framework.

Kwibuka and Kibimba YM's need to further develop their missions-sending relationship and help it take deeper root into the local church.

Some of EFC-Burundi's next steps:

- Missions sending unity between two yearly meetings and strategy for leaders and members of local churches to understand and own compelling need to send missionaries to Burundi.
- Work at EFC registration in Tanzania
- Develop an EFC-Burundi missions sending board.
- Start identifying criteria for selecting missionaries.
    - Identify potential candidates.
- Establish clear training plan for missionaries and for sending missions board.
    - How might training shape the missions-sending framework?
    - How might training impact expectations for Burundians and Americans, both senders and goers, in theology of risk and suffering?

Some of EFM's next steps:

- Continue conversation with Burundi Friends on framework.
    - Listening
    - Coaching

- EFM future missionary team visit Tanzania and the training school with Burundi future missionaries summer 2024.
    - Prepare future missionaries to enter training school for April 2025-March 2026 school year.
- Continue conversation about U.S. missionary role.
- Continue studying multi-national teams and missions-sending partnerships.

Greece Trip 2 Summary

The following was shared by team member Jim Le Shana (NWYM).



Luke 10 Greece Team Photo. This was taken in the home of Kenn and Lisa Dirrim, at our discernment meeting on the final evening. The Lord gave us a great sense of unity about the needs and our opportunity to move forward.



Afghanistan Dinner. We were hosted for a meal by a family from Afghanistan, who helped us learn more about the culture of time and relationships, as well as their own story of hardship, fleeing, and conversion. We heard this more than once: "Americans have watches. Refugees have time."



Bible Study adjacent to a camp. Refugees do not want their faces in photos. This study next to an internment camp, led by a missionary, involved primarily women but some men. We heard heart-wrenching stories of human suffering, including a young man who had such severe allergic reactions that he had nothing to wear when his mom washed his one set of clothes. To be a refugee involves many layers of trauma.



Children. We received reminders that refugees are not simply adult men and women, but also many youths and children. Some women travel pregnant and/or give birth in the camps. Any relationship barriers are easily crossed by children.



Ministry outside camp. Although not technically "prison" camps, any time there is a place with walls, barbed wire, armed guards, and the inability for outsiders to enter or residents to leave (except for just outside the gate), it can certainly feel that way. What we saw first-hand is that the door remains open for relationships, relief ministries, and the potential for gospel conversations. In this photo – men and women are searching through free clothes.

Conversations outside camp. A few individual refugees spoke at least some broken English, and the positive though brief connections reminded us of the potential for more. Four language groups are represented in this photo in addition to English and Greek (Farsi, Dari, Somali, and Arabic).





GREECE TRIP 2 CAN-GO REPORT

Trip Dates: September 20-30, 2023
Report Written by Jim Le Shana

The 2023 Luke 10 Greece Team met in Athens, Greece, September 20-30, 2023. The team members included a few alumni from the trip in 2022: Kenn and Lisa Dirrim, Josiah Muhr, and Jim Le Shana. The four new members included: Stan Leach, Thomas Moore, Jeanine Le Shana, and Leisa Boles. Each day, members took turns leading in a devotional time that often developed naturally into a "team meeting" discussion about what we were learning, observing, experiencing, and discerning. We held a final "discernment meeting" on the last night of our trip at the home of Kenn and Lisa.

In short, this team reaffirms the decision made by the first team in 2022. We recommend that the Global Outreach board of NWYM and the board of Evangelical Friends Mission approve church planting among Islamic refugees in Greece as a new official mission field for Friends.

Without repeating every detail of each of the five categories of the CANGO criteria, below are a few fresh observations made by our 2023 team.

C – Champions

No changes here in that we continue to see interest from Barclay College/MAYM and NWYM, but perhaps even stronger interest/support from FSW (they considered this as one of their top two areas of interest at their own Think Tank). As for individuals who might serve as missionaries, Josiah, and Leisa (engaged couple) are not a "no," but need more time/experience. Same with Thomas. Kenn and Lisa figure prominently in our thinking, but we specifically sensed that the need is so great that even if Kenn and Lisa were not involved (and given the connections and open doors), we need to move forward. Kenn and Lisa remain open to this partnership, but cannot join EFM until leaving another missions organization.

A – Affirmation

Even other mission organizations and leaders we met with seem supportive of the idea. We received encouragement from several missionaries in the area to consider some of the unreached or underserved parts of the country. Partner ministries and strategic alliances are likely to happen, as the bridges and relationships are already established.

N – Need

This was our biggest concern going into this trip, and perhaps the most important answer we obtained.

We have known of the great need but didn't know for sure if the need also presented itself in a way that we could do anything about it (we wondered if the door for effective ministry had shut). In short, we believe strongly that the door remains open, even though it presents itself somewhat differently.

Here's the context: The political climate of the country shifted dramatically since our visit in 2022, with most refugees rounded up and sent away to one of 23 different internment camps around the country. The city of Athens appears devoid of refugees in places where they were prominent and visible just one year ago. We wondered if the opportunity for ministry was closed. Bottom line – we determined that the door for the gospel has not closed. We heard stories of God working every week in refugees' lives, and we saw first-hand the relationship connections between Christians and refugees that remain possible at the camps. Trauma ministries will be part of future strategies, as will humanitarian aid. But there is an ongoing hunger for the gospel and open doors of spiritual opportunity for disciple-making. We participated in one small Bible Study adjacent to a camp, and relief work next to another. In addition to the open doors that continue in less obvious ways, we anticipate that the internment camp policies of the government will change again (especially with more refugees coming every month).

G – Gifting

No changes here. We continue to see strong gifting for the Dirrims in an oversight/leadership/connectional way. Their 17 years on the field, immersed in the complex milieu of both Greek and refugee cultures and ministries, is extremely valuable. We continue to believe that former refugees will be among the best church planters and multiplying disciple-makers, but there are clearly roles for Westerners to serve in helpful ways. Missions through business opportunities, and creative ministries like the ones we experienced, will persist in large measure because the needs are so great.

O – Opportunity

One person summed it up this way in our final meeting: "The Lord is opening an opportunity to do it. We don't have all the answers. We just need to show up here [and we will see God work through us]." The door remains open. The opportunity is now, and appears as though a way forward will remain as long as refugees continue to use Greece as the doorway to Europe (a pathway which shows no signs of ending soon, despite the political climate in the region).

Conclusion: As stated above, after visiting two internment camps, many conversations with other missionaries and church planters with years of experience serving refugees, some direct conversations and one meal with some refugees themselves, serving briefly with Helping Hands (the refugee relief ministry where Kenn and Lisa have served), and time spent listening to the Lord and each other, ***it is again the recommendation of our 2023 Luke 10 Greece that EFM should embrace church planting and disciple-making among Islamic refugees in Greece.***

NORTHEAST BRAZIL TRIP 2 SUMMARY

The following is a report written by team members Cassi Coleman and Phil Burgi (RMYM).



Background and History

Our focus in March and again during the October 2023 exploratory trip was to consider where God might be calling EFM to minister to the unreached people groups of Northeast Brazil (Sertão). Sertão is an abbreviation of desertão, a dry interior region some 100 Km inland from the coastal region of northeastern Brazil. It is largely covered with scrubby upland forests and sometimes equated to the Australian "outback".

We have been fortunate to work with World Renewal Brazil (WR-B) who have worked mainly in the coastal region of northeast Brazil for the past 35 years. At least two churches from EFC-ER have worked with WR-B in supporting the start of three Evangelical Friends Churches near Carpina. They recently started a new work near Sousa in the State of Paraíba, deep in the Sertão region. They are a potential future ministry partner and have assisted us by introducing some of these unreached groups through their contacts in the region.

The three people groups we have focused on during our two visits in 2023 are the Quilombola, Ciganos, and Atikum:

Quilombola – The Quilombola are a collection of peoples in Brazil whose ancestors were slaves that escaped to remote areas such as this, avoided recapture, and were able to create sustaining communities. Because of this history, the Quilombola tend to be reclusive and suspicious of outsiders. They are difficult to reach. They are an ethnic group defined by their relationships with land, kinship, territory, ancestry, traditions, and cultural practices. Most of the Quilombola people are officially Roman Catholic. Along with Roman Catholic traditions, the Quilombola people have ancient African religions. Their hearts are with these religions, which give them an identity as a people. Maintaining African religious practices is their way of defying cultural encroachment. The Quilombola people group has a population of 1.6 million in Brazil, with 55% Christian but only 0.1% Evangelical.

Ciganos - Ciganos are Gypsies, people subject to much discrimination and neglect in Brazil (including Christian Missionaries). Social problems are widespread. Ciganos in Brazil form inward-looking communities living on the edges of larger Brazilian cities and tend to be poor. Cigano communities embrace a culture different than the people in the cities they live next to. Ciganos have a reputation in Brazil of a terrible work ethic and of being thieves, leading to Brazilian companies being reluctant to hire them. The close-knit nature of these Cigano communities tend to take care of each other, leading to the concept of a personal God like Jesus Christ as foreign. Embracing a God personal to one's self and taking personal responsibility for sin is a strange concept to a Cigano. In addition, an attempt to put Jesus' laws above the ethics of the Cigano community can be seen as a betrayal. Evangelism of these communities is very difficult.

In Sousa, more than 2,500 gypsies (Romani people) have been living in poverty and they suffer from a serious lack of both social services and decent jobs and are often victims of discrimination. Thirty years have passed since they first arrived. The Romani people group (Ciganos) has a population of 433,000 in Brazil, with 90% Christian, 7% Evangelical.

Tribal People – Atikum – The Northeast of Brazil houses hundreds of indigenous Brazilian communities. These communities are broken down into approximately 228 officially recognized ethnic subgroups, of which ten are considered "partially isolated," 27 are deemed "isolated," and nine are feared extinct. In most of these communities, Jesus is a foreign concept. Just in the Northeast of Brazil, there are at least 29 ethnic groups completely unreached by the gospel message. The religious traditions among the indigenous peoples in Brazil usually consist of a mix of various fables, syncretism, animism, and various Catholic rituals. However, they are typically very welcoming and receptive to the teachings of the Word. These communities can and must be reached, but the workers are few and the resources for doing so are even fewer.

The Atikum tribal people, are located in a zone just south of Mirandiba with a population of 8,000, with 10% Christian, 0.1% Evangelical.
(Much of the information provided above is from a Christian ministry, Harvest100Fold.com and the Joshua Project.)

Where did we travel and what is the need in that area?
Our team consisted of Patrick Neifert (RMYM), Cassi Coleman (RMYM), Autumn Keith (RMYM), Jesse Quinby (RMYM), Karen Burgi (RMYM), Phil Burgi (RMYM), and Dan Cammack (EFM Field Director). After landing in Recife, a large city on the coast, the team traveled to Carpina, where the headquarters of World Renewal Brazil (Alcançe Brazil) are located. We met with Telêmaco (Telê) Moraes, President of World Renewal Brazil, and Frank Penna (Vice President of International Ministries for World Renewal & pastor at Countryside Church in RMYM). Telê Moraes oversees the work for World Renewal Brazil and has a goal to plant 200 churches by 2050.

On Sunday October 8, we attended church services in the Carpina area which included a picnic and public testimony of baptism service for seven new converts from the Friends Church of Carpina. The outdoor service took place at a ranchette near Lagoa do Itaenga about ten miles south of Carpina. We met David and Ivana Taylor, ministry of Glory Sports Martial Arts with WR-B. In the evening we attended the Community Church of Carpina where we worshiped and praised God as we listened to Tele's wife, Heather's story of her healing from a very rare skin disease.

On Monday morning October 9, our group expanded to include Wilson Barbosa (Brazilian missionary working with World Renewal and translator) and Ricardo Martin our dependable driver (who accepted Christ on our previous trip). We traveled a similar course to the previous trip (March 2023), 500 Km towards the interior (Sertão region), and again visited ministries in and near Mirandiba and Sousa. As reported in the first trip report, the farther away from the coast the more the number of evangelical Christians decreases. In the Mirandiba area the number of evangelical Christians is less than 1% (compared to 28% along the coast).

<u>Mirandiba Area (Oct 9-11)</u>
Pastor Joel (Mirandiba Baptist Church) and his wife Angelica serve two different people groups in and around Mirandiba: the Quilombola and Atikum tribal group. Mirandiba has approximately 15,000 people and 80% are Quilombola. The Quilombola people are descendants of former slaves who rejected slavery. In addition to Mirandiba, there are about 15 Quilombola communities within 8-10 kilometers. The furthest is 30 km and there are 45 Christians in that community.

The first evening in Mirandiba (Oct 9), Pastor Joel traveled with us to a village of Quilombola families called *Quixa Beira* about 5km south of Mirandiba where we had a service of music and testimonies. The village consisted of 18 families. There were some believers there and many children.

In the morning of Oct 10, we went to a public school in Mirandiba called Manuel Expedito Lopes de Barros. We were able to share and sing with the students. We also had the opportunity to meet with Principal Saude and the vice principal and hear their hearts. They were born and raised in this area. They are both from the Atikum tribe. The problems they have with the kids include drugs, discipline issues, and cell phone addiction. The parents in general are also difficult to work with because they take the kids' side in discipline issues. The parents leave a lot of the "value teaching and parenting" to be done at the school. As we prayed for them and were leaving the principal said, "I hope that you can come". We felt like there was an open invitation to volunteer there. We were impressed with these Atikum educators' decision to stay in the community that they grew up in and we affirmed their commitment to their community.

In the afternoon, we visited an Atikum community about 10km south and 8km west of the highway south. In this remote community, ten small homes were being built to replace the "hovels" where the people were living. Some Christians from the south of Brazil came with materials to build the houses at the cost of $5,000 and each small house could be completed in a week. There are 14 families in this community. Only one of those families is Quilombola and the rest are Atikum. We met a Brazilian missionary named Sueli from the south part of Brazil who has been consistently ministering in the community this past year. She teaches the children all day. We met the oldest woman of the tribe, and she was about 63. Before the Gospel reached this area alcoholism was very prevalent. Now there is a school where the former bar was located. We prayed over that teacher and affirmed her ministry. Pastor Joel's assistant, Pastor Franscisco, and his wife Ivanya minister there as well. The influence of the internet and the images that the children can see are an evil influence in this community. There was a well dug in this community when Joel started getting involved with them. They used to have to walk 2km to get water. Water is a great need in many of the places that we have visited. A great opportunity for ministry.

Later that evening we went to a community called *Cachoeirinha* where Joel led a street service in front of a woman's house. They served about 110 snacks, and they ran out! There were 45 children and 75 adults. They closed the street Joel and many of the children lead in singing and Telê presented the gospel. Eighteen people raised their hand to accept Christ, old and young. That was the first service we experienced in the Sertão where multiple men were in attendance. And at least one man accepted Christ. Joel does a good job in including children in the music ministry. Music is a huge influence in gathering people. Kids respond to music and love to sing along with Joel.

We met in the morning of Oct 11th with eight young moms in Joels church. Angelica teaches them how to sew and crochet/knit. A skill so that they can raise funds to be financially independent. They like to get involved while the women are pregnant and provide a kit when they have their baby. They are doing some parenting talks as well. A missionary family would be a good choice to minister in this area because of the need for a good example of family and parenting.

In the afternoon we met with Joel and Angelica. They shared their testimonies and we prayed for them. We asked what are needs of the people and Angelica said, "they don't have much, not even love". Joel talked about the need for a missionary to be very flexible. They have learned much through crying. Ministry here is very difficult. There is also a fiscal cost for the ministry here, between driving

and keeping a vehicle running and handing out food. Their hearts are larger than their pantry. Joel has the gift of evangelism and is able to use his great singing voice as a point of entry in ministry.

We went to *Pedro de Amolar*, a Quilombola village we went to in March. There were about 25- 30 kids and several adults. We were able to share our stories. Autumn and Karen and Cassi shared their testimonies. Wilson presented the gospel to the kids before we met while the rest of the group prayed with Valmir, a catholic man who just had prostate surgery. He always opens his house for Joel to do ministry. There is a man there who is a spiritual leader of the community and works with Joel.

In the evening, the team was able to revisit the Atikum family near *Carnaubeira da Penha* who we had met in March, some 15 Km south of Mirandiba. During this trip the father we had met in March gave his testimony about his alcoholism and how he was never around his family. The three daughters did not have any relationship with him. But now God has saved him, and he has turned from alcoholism and restored his family. He is now best friends with his daughters. The father talked about the difficulty of breaking into the Atikum community with the Gospel. Approximately 15 Atikum tribal people gather on a regular basis to worship on the man's porch at his home. They all came to visit us as we met at the home that evening. We then traveled back to Mirandiba to worship in Joel's Baptist church. Telê and Dan gave the message and Frank and Cassi shared their testimonies.

Sousa Area (Oct 12-13)

The morning of October 12th we traveled to Boa Esperanza north of Sousa and met with Flavio and Mercia, World Renewal missionaries in the Sertão. It was national children's day and they had prepared a program for the children of the community. About 60-70 kids were there from the community. Mercia also does a women's program for the community. They also have an active Living Stones ministry to the community children.

The woman from Lastro whose house we visited in March was there at the children's program. Mercia shared that she is very open to the gospel and comes to the church and is involved in many things, but she has not yet made a decision for Christ. There is a strong hold of the catholic faith here. The catholic church will actively tell people not to come to their events or hold events at the same time as Flavio's church.

A serious challenge here is idolatry and the persecution from the catholic church. Another issue is men who leave to go elsewhere to work and don't come back very often or send money. There are also about 10 families who have been abandoned by their husbands and fathers and they live with other women in another state.

The next morning, we met Flavio and Mercia in Vieiropolis and visited a family interested in starting a church in the community. They expressed openness to the Gospel and in fact when we asked the young woman what would benefit her community most she replied with the Word of God. While leaving the home we noticed a man named Pedro reading his Bible and went to talk with him. The man said that it was a "divine appointment", and he was waiting for us. He is from the Assemblies of God church and had become disappointed/disillusioned with the amount of political preaching going on. Flavio was able to exchange contact information.

Cigano (Gypsy) People - We went to a Cigano community on the west side of Sousa. They have traveled and traveled and 40 years ago they established a community in Sousa. They have homes on the west edge of town (next to the prison) based on squatter's rights. Sousa has the largest Cigano

population in Brazil. There is a total of 2,500 Ciganos in the area spread across about 5 settlements. The second largest population of Ciganos is in the capital city of Brasilia. We met with the son of the community's former "chief". They have one water tank which only has water available once every 2 weeks. They do not have enough water for everyone. Digging a well would be very helpful here. This community is generally discriminated against because they are gypsies. They are hard workers but need an opportunity.

The community has a building that could serve for a children and sports ministry with a large uncovered concrete pad about the size of half a basketball court. Building a pavilion rooftop could make the space even more accessible/useful. Behind this is a soccer field. Teaching/learning (?) English would be a helpful skill in this area.

This community is VERY family focused. This cultural trait makes it difficult for children to get training and have certain careers. It may be a combination that they, as gypsies, are generally untrusted, but they also cannot move out of their communities. They only speak their language, řomani čhib within the community and they do not teach that language to outsiders. God performed a miracle and healed his wife from cancer.

Overall, the team was received with open arms in both the Mirandiba and Sousa areas, lots of hugs, and a receptivity to the Gospel. As a team, we felt our times of prayer, good conversation, and simply being present at their ministry sites was a real blessing and provided much encouragement in each place we visited. The need is great, but the workers are few!



NORTHEAST BRAZIL TRIP 2 CAN-GO REPORT

Trip Dates: October 6-17, 2023
Written by Phil Burgi

C for Champion

RMYM was the only yearly meeting that named Northeast Brazil during the Denver Think Tank meeting in May 2021 (Three churches: Denver, Colorado Springs, and Lamar participated) and then followed up by sending two exploratory teams (Denver Friends Church) to Brazil in 2023.

Cassi Coleman, a member of Denver Friends and RMYM has expressed a mission call to Northeast Brazil. However, to launch this field it will take more than RMYM. EFC-ER has expressed interest in Northeast Brazil and has supported Friends' work in the Carpina, Brazil area. There are likely others across EFC-NA who God may be calling.

Others indicating major interest include leaders from World Renewal Brazil: Telê Moraes, John Snow, Pastor Flavio, and Mercia (Sousa area) as well as Rachel Ferguson and Frank Penna from World Renewal, and Pastor Joel and Angelica from the Mirandiba Baptist Church.
Our team members from Denver Friends (Phil, Patrick, Cassi, Autumn. Jesse, and Karen) are also champions.

A for Affirmation

We saw the following affirmations in the second visit:

- Pedro in Vieiropolis (Sousa area) and another local family – affirmed our presence and encouraged our ministry in their community.
- Bousano - leader in the Cigano Community of Sousa has a small Christian group but needs spiritual leadership and mentoring.
- World Renewal Brazil - Telê, Flavio, John Snow and the three “friends” pastors are excited about partnering with EFM in Northeast Brazil
- Johnathan (a teacher at the international school) has targeted the Sertão area of Brazil and is burdened by how few workers there are in this unevangelized field.

N for Compelling Need

The percentage of evangelical Christians in the Sertão is less than 1%.

- Telê, President of WR Brazil refers to the Sertão area we visited as the “10-40 window” of Brazil.
- Cigano community. They need spiritual training as well as physical needs such as water, jobs.
- There is a lack of family values and a “hope and a future” throughout the Sertão, especially with men. Women are expected to do everything. Opportunities to engage men will be difficult and is a huge need.
- The Word of God is needed here. Discipleship and self-propagating ministries. There is such spiritual poverty and more importantly spiritual slavery in the Sertão.
- The indigenous Indian tribe, the Atikum. They number 8,000. 10% Christian and less than 1% evangelical Christian.
- Idolatry is a big problem in the Sousa area. Catholic idolatry mainly.

- There is a great need amongst the children and young people for the love of God.
- There is a high percentage of people who need water, basic health care, food, jobs and to address social justice.

G for Gifting

- Spiritual maturity is critical. Intimacy with the Holy Spirit.
- Strength in discernment and application of Scripture
- Strong prayer life.
- The ability to live in harsh conditions (poverty and hot & dry climate)
- Flexibility
- Teaching children in general. Teaching English
- Having a background in basic medicine (EMT trained) and water supply.
- Skill in language acquisition and speaking,
- Having a holistic mindset, people who can identify needs, persevere, teach with educational skills, evangelism, and discipleship.
- Someone who can help the people build ownership through spiritual and human development and creativity (D for D).

O for Opportunity

- Cigano community, there was openness and welcoming spirit as we visited the community.
- Opportunity to teach English online.
- There is a sense of real openness in Mirandiba with the Quilombola people group and the Atikum tribe.
- There are also ministry opportunities in Sousa (a bigger city.)
- There is openness and even invitations for us to come and join in ministry together!
- There are opportunities to learn Portuguese and the culture, teach English or another subject at the World Renewal Brazil International School in Carpina.
- There are also opportunities to learn from local leaders in evangelism, outreach, discipleship, church planting and missions work.
- A “missionary training field.” There are three Friends churches established in the Carpina area already.

Which of the 5 criteria do we see the strongest?
Affirmation, Need and Opportunity.

We had multiple invitations to come, volunteer at the school, start a church, provide training, etc. As described in our trip report, there is great spiritual need in the Sertão. There are people of peace in the Sertão and an openness “to come”.

Which of the five criteria is yet to become convincing?
Champion. DFC is more of the champion in this situation than any of the other churches in RMYM. The vision for Brazil needs broader investment by Rocky Mountain churches. Although we need additional champions from here in the States, our team feels this is a very needy field with

opportunities if God places the call on EFM and its constituency. Our Team's sense is that "With such Compelling Need, Affirmation to come, and Opportunity, we cannot, not respond".

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

March Trip

- Quilombola- There were two special moments. We went into a home of a group of very destitute people and the need in that home was so great. In the same day we went to a community where 2 homes were built, and a well was dug. Needs were met. We saw what the Gospel can do to transform the lives of people. The juxtaposition between the poor and the helped was just so strongly seen.
- The Joshua project mentions about the Atikum people, that there are key prayer points where physical healing can draw people to Christ. That's what story we heard when a Atikum man was healed of his medical condition and him and his whole family accepted Christ!
- The Living Stones project which provides an opportunity for children to be off the streets, expand their education and receive some food. This is a great strategy used by World Renewal Brazil to reach kids and their families for Christ near their planted churches.
- Vieiropolis (Village north of Sousa) -We walked around and talked with two boys who were open to talk and let us pray with them. Wilson asked them to pray for us. Patrick never felt any hesitation to talk about God and the Gospel. Patrick saw opportunity strongly at that time.

October Trip

- Being blessed by the Atikum tribe last time and then seeing the true need for Christian training and discipleship when we came back.
- The Quilombola nighttime street meeting in *Cachoeirinha*. There were more than 100 people and there were more men than usual if it had been in a building. The gathering included families where they watched their children worship.
- Living stones is a fantastic strategy to reach children for Christ and their families.
- Vieiropolis where there were three generations of women seeking to worship God.

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

- In October, we returned to many of the areas in the Sertão we visited in March, and it was well received.
- After our October visit – Prepared this second trip report and updated our CAN GO Report

After our March visit –

- We posted reports on the RMYM website.
- Sent out a letter to the RMYM constituents encouraging them to look on the RMYM website for information on the EFM-RMYM Luke 10 Northeast Brazil Trip. And we plan to go to meet personally with pastors.
- We had a short presentation at the RMYM summer gathering.
- Cassi made a video to send to the RMYM churches.
- We met several times via zoom, once to plan a follow up trip in October 2023.
- Frank and Cassi shared it with Countryside Friends Church (RMYM). Phil and Patrick shared the men's group at Denver Friends church.
- We shared with Friend's Women in June.

- Cassi feels pulled to this ministry. She has begun learning Portuguese and attending English/Portuguese classes 3-4 times a week with Wilson via zoom.
- Cassi keeps in contact with 3 girls she met in Brazil, one of them is from the Atikum tribe.

Northeast Brazil Luke 10 Team Recommendation to EFM

What is the general sense of the team, concerning a recommendation to EFM's Think Tank?
As we return from this second exploratory trip to Northeast Brazil our hearts resonate with Jesus' words from Matthew 9:37, "The Harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few." We hear a definite plea from many "people of peace" in the Sertão and from the few workers in the ministry "*please come and help*." We feel the Affirmation, Compelling Need, Gifting, and Opportunity are all present to move forward with Northeast Brazil as an EFM mission field.

From our perspective coming from RMYM and mainly the Denver Friends Church we cannot make a commitment for the full EFM constituency. Our recommendation is that EFM prayerfully consider Northeast Brazil as a future ministry point. We join with EFM, praying for additional missionary units (especially a couple or family to join with Cassi's sense of call) to serve in the Sertão of Northeast Brazil. Our only reservation is that we come from a small yearly meeting without the capability to adequately provide all the financial and people resources. However, we believe the ultimate affirmation for EFM in Northeast Brazil, will come from a call on those our Lord is calling to this field.

This is to be a brief summary describing potential next steps in exploration and discernment.

Explore further? Pray that the Lord of the harvest would call workers into the field of Northeast Brazil. How many people will it take to begin a pioneer here? We feel 2 or 3 couples. 2 singles or 1 single and 1 family are needed before a mission work can be launched in Northeast Brazil. These units do not need to all be from the United States! Brazilians or from other countries could also be considered.

Pause exploration for now? No, we feel EFM and EFM's yearly meeting constituents should promote this field actively seeking the appropriate mission units to launch this new field.
Certainly, any future exploratory trip should include additional potential missionaries.

Recommend that a new field be opened? Yes

Gulf Countries Trip 2 Summary

The following is a report written by team member Rusty Savage (EFC-ER).

Who Was on this Trip & Where Did We Travel?
The members of this team were: Norbu Tamang (EFC-ER), Zach Bohler (EFC-ER), Rusty Savage (EFC-ER Director of Multiplication), DB Tamang (EFC-MAYM), Amen Thapa (EFC-Nepal Superintendent), Prakash Thing (EFC-Nepal pastor), and Thomas Moore (EFM Future Missionary).

What was our experience traveling here?
Our team spent one week in the United Arab Emirates and one week in Qatar.



In the UAE, we were based primarily in Dubai. While there, we focused on a district known as Bur Dubai, which is home to many of the city's migrant workers. On one occasion we drove several hours outside of Dubai into the Ras al Khaimeh emirate to participate in a Nepali worship service.

Before leaving the UAE, we also spent two days in Abu Dhabi where we had opportunity to connect with some individuals who were members of EFC-Nepal prior to their move to the Persian Gulf.

During our week in Qatar, we stayed in the capital city of Doha, where over 80% of the country's population lives, including over 2 million migrant workers.



What did we do?
In both countries, our team had several opportunities to visit with Nepali-speaking migrant workers, hear their stories, and learn about the unique struggles and opportunities they experience as visiting laborers. We shared several meals with them and spent time in their homes.

We also renewed our friendship with two churches that we first met on our original exploratory trip one year ago: the Himalayan Vision Church in UAE and Qatar Nepalese Christian Ministries in Doha. We met with pastors Kumar and Rajendra and their leaders on several occasions during our stay, attended and preached in their worship services, and received their advice about ministry opportunities in the region. Both churches represent vibrant ministry that is taking place among the migrant worker population in the Middle East and are potential partners for future ministries.



While in Dubai, we met with N. M., a missionary with FOCUS (Fellowship of Christian UAE Students). N and his missionary team work on 15 university campuses throughout the UAE with students from many nationalities and religious backgrounds, including Muslim Emiratis. He shared with us about the dangerous conditions his team has experienced doing ministry in this restricted nation as well as his conviction that although the risk remains, there is more openness and opportunity for ministry in Dubai at this moment than he has ever seen before.



Alongside these interactions, our team participated in several prayer walks in all three cities and had opportunities for unique cultural learning events including a visit to the Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Centre for Cultural Understanding in Dubai and the Qasr Al Watan Presidential Palace in Abu Dhabi.

The multinational makeup of our Luke 10 team (2 Nepali nationals, 2 Nepali Americans, and 3 Anglo- Americans) provided a small window into understanding both the distinct challenges and unique opportunities for sending multinational missionary teams. One of the goals for our time together was to have strategic conversations with Amen and Prakash about the current vision and capacity for mission sending within EFC-Nepal. We spent time talking through the "Missions Sending Framework" developed by the recent gathering in Burundi, which was a very productive conversation.

GULF COUNTRIES TRIP 2 CAN-GO REPORT

Trip Dates: October 19-31, 2023
Report Written by Rusty Savage

C for Champion

- The original champions for this field came from our Nepali-speaking congregations in EFC-ER. Pastor Norbu Tamang was particularly influential in articulating the opportunities for ministry among migrant workers in the Gulf States to the EFC-ER Multiplication Team. Pastor Norbu has also worked hard to share the Luke 10 vision with Nepali-speaking Friends in other regions (currently there are 7 congregations throughout EFC-NA). Pastor DB Tamang of Mid-America Yearly Meeting was invited to participate in this Luke 10 trip because of the growing interest for mission sending within these Nepali-speaking US churches.
- Pastor Amen Thapa of EFC-Nepal has consistently given his affirmation to exploring ministry opportunities in Dubai and Doha. He is in contact with dozens of EFC-Nepal members who have relocated to this region, including potential leaders like Roman, a young man whom Amen led to Christ and discipled while in Malaysia.
- Pastors Zach Bohler, Matt Bradbury, and Rusty Savage have been influential champions for this field on the EFC-ER Multiplication Team and throughout the Eastern Region.

- Thomas Moore, an EFM Future Missionary, was part of both exploratory trips to the Gulf States and has a deep love for Arab peoples and a definite desire for EFM to engage in ministry in this part of the world.

A for Affirmation

- Key leaders in EFC-ER have sensed a growing pull to open a field in this strategic region of the world where so many peoples from restricted nations throughout the 10/40 window are now living. While we have not yet identified individuals from within our region who sense a clear call to be sent as missionaries, there is a definite desire within EFC-ER to "own" a field in such a way that we are recruiting and sending our own people over the long haul. If Dubai were identified as one of the new EFM fields, EFC-ER leaders believe that families and individuals from within our region would be called to go.
- The sense of affirmation on our Luke 10 team increased significantly on this second trip, especially as our team progressively felt that God may indeed be calling EFM to Dubai, but not necessarily to minister exclusively to Nepali-speaking people as we originally envisioned. Our team felt much greater affirmation for endorsing EFC-Nepal's efforts to minister to Nepali- speaking people while EFM focuses on multinational leadership development in this strategic, diverse city in the heart of the most unreached region of the world.
- During our time together in the Gulf, leadership from EFC-Nepal expressed their commitment to begin casting a vision for missions sending to this region within EFC-Nepal and take steps to form an EFC-Nepal Missions Committee that will begin to build the necessary framework to recruit, train, send, and care for missionaries from Nepal to the Gulf States.
- Nepali-speaking Friends Churches in the US have already committed to raise funds for this field.

N for Compelling Need

- The United Arab Emirates is made up of 36 distinct people groups, 31 of which are considered unreached.
- Only 1.1% of the UAE population is Evangelical Christian.
- 83.1% of the total UAE population is considered unreached.
- Geographically, Dubai is located in the heart of the most unreached region of the world.
- Millions of migrant workers live in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Doha. The majority of them come from nations with significantly unreached populations and heavy restrictions on missionary activity.
- Most of these migrant workers are separated from spouses and/or children who remain in their home nations. In many cases, they are only able to visit their families once every 1-2 years.
- During our time with Christian migrant workers in this region, their consistent request was for leadership development and biblical training.

- The relative freedom allowed by the UAE to establish churches for non-Emirati people who are living in the country as migrant workers allows for a significant Christian "beachhead" to be established within the heart of the Arab world.

G for Gifting

- Our team envisions the possibility for two distinct but overlapping missions in this region. One mission, under the care of EFM, could focus on leadership development and biblical training for multi-national English speakers. Dubai is a hub for people from all over the world, but especially from south Asia. English and Hindi represent the two most common and unifying languages for this cross-section of people.
- A second mission, under the care of EFC-Nepal, could focus on church planting among Nepali- speaking people.
- Having separate but overlapping teams in Dubai may allow for significant partnership between EFM and EFC-Nepal while also avoiding some of the complexity of a single, unified work.
- Prakash Thing, a young pastor in EFC-Nepal has expressed a desire to be sent as a missionary and was invited by Amen Thapa to participate in this Luke 10 trip as a means of helping to discern his call.
- Thomas Moore participated in both Luke 10 exploratory trips to the Gulf States. Thomas feels a sense of calling to minister to Arab peoples, but is not clear that Dubai is the place. He remains open to this region and continues to pray for the Lord's direction.

O for Opportunity

- Our missionary contact with FOCUS (Fellowship of Christian UAE Students) encouraged us that he sees more opportunity and less restrictions for gospel ministry in UAE than ever before.
- Two different Nepali women, unaware of our reason for being in UAE, asked us to send workers to establish churches among the migrant worker population. These honest invitations from migrant workers felt very much like a "Macedonian call" to members of our team.
- When asked for his advice, Pastor Kumar of the Himalayan Vision Church in Dubai told us that "the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few" in UAE. He was very encouraging to our team that he and his church would welcome our presence and partnership in the region.
- Pastor Rajendra works full time as a driving instructor in Qatar and also leads a church for migrant workers with over 700 attendees who worship in three services on Fridays. Many of the members travel more than two hours on a bus to be part of the worship services. On both of our visits, Pastor Rajendra has refused our offer of a small financial gift to help cover the large cost his church has incurred by feeding and hosting our group. His consistent request has been for help in leadership development and Bible training for his people.

- Many of the Christians we spoke with in the UAE and Qatar told us that migrant workers are uniquely open to considering Christianity in a way that they would not be in their home countries. They all sensed that the "soil" among migrant workers in the Gulf Region was ready for the seed of the gospel.
- The isolation from family that many of the migrant workers experience upon their arrival in the Gulf Region provides a profound opportunity to meet a genuine need for community and friendships.

Luke 10 Team Recommendation to EFM:

Our team recommendation to the Think Tank is a strong "yes" to opening a new field in the Gulf Region, centered in Dubai, UAE. We think that working out of Dubai specifically would result in the greatest opportunity for ministry in multiple emirates.

We believe that four of the five CAN GO criteria have been met. The one criterion which has not yet been met is "Gifting," as no missionary candidates from EFM have expressed a strong desire and clear sense of calling to be sent to this region. Nevertheless, we are clear in our sense that there is great potential for fruitful kingdom work among the migrant worker population in the Gulf and have confidence that God will raise up workers for this field.

The most compelling reason for our team is the opportunity that Dubai presents for ministry among a large number of people from some of the most restricted nations around the globe. Population growth in the UAE is among the highest in the world, due almost exclusively to the influx of workers from India, Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. During our time in the region, we sensed a genuine openness among many of these immigrants to gospel conversations. This was confirmed by many of the believers we spoke to in the region. Our ministry contacts in UAE and Qatar have consistently requested help in leadership development and biblical training for their people, which would not only strengthen the church in the Middle East but would impact the home nations and communities to which most of these workers will eventually return as well. Establishing strong, healthy churches among migrant workers who make up 80% of the population in this region may even open the door for future ministry among the native Arab population.

Although our original interest was in working exclusively with Nepali-speaking migrant workers in the Gulf, our team ultimately concluded that God may be calling EFM to have a *multinational focus* that concentrates on training and equipping workers from a variety of backgrounds and ethnicities who have all gathered in this one region of the world.

At the same time, we believe that God may be calling EFC-Nepal to send workers of their own, who would focus on church planting among Nepali immigrants. These separate but overlapping ministry spheres could provide a unique opportunity for fruitful partnership between EFM and EFC-Nepal while also avoiding some of the difficulties of a single multinational team with a singular ministry focus. In other words, we could work closely together as Evangelical Friends from the US and Nepal, sharing strong fellowship and cooperation, but on separate teams with our own distinct goals, sending organizations, and procedures.

In addition to our recommendation about opening a field in the Gulf Region, our team recommends that EFM partner with Asian Friends to hold a conference in the very near future, similar to the recent gathering in Burundi, which may help Yearly Meetings in Asia begin conversations about how to develop the necessary framework for missions sending.

Eastern Europe Trip 1 Summary

The following is a report written by team member Jonelle Liddell (NWYM).

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 TRIP 1 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.

Luke 10 Team Recommendation to EFM
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.

Additional Notes

- Lahu in Asia exploration on pause for U.S. missionaries.
- Northern India exploration on pause for U.S. missionaries.
- If you would like to reference additional Trip 1 Reports, Please visit: https://friendsmission.com/2023-luke-10-think-tank/
    - The 2022 Think Tank Packet contains trip 1 reports from: Mexico, Ecuador, Greece, Eastern Europe, Tanzania, and South Sudan.
    - The supplemental packet contains trip reports from: Gulf Countries, Thailand, Northern India, and NE Brazil. Kavet People of Laos (and Cambodia) under exploration

ARTICLE: TEAM GIFTEDNESS IN PIONEER WORK

Written By Ron Stansell
February 2022

EFM is committed to the concept of ministry teams sometimes as close collegial relationships or sometimes as limited partnerships and often as both. A pioneer missionary does far better with a strong spiritual sending support base, but has eyes and ears to networking with others on his/her field, discovering local "persons of peace," and partnering with early converts. From the beginning one seeks to work himself/herself out of a job and pass the baton to local Spirit-filled followers of Jesus. *[Questions with (*) indicate discernment of open doors. Questions with (+) relate to team building and giftedness for pioneers.]*

Questions for discernment:

1. Where and in what settings do we already see God at work in this location? *
2. What are the possible opportunities for friendly networking with other evangelicals, Christian or non-believing "persons of peace" or sympathizers in this location? *
3. What access doors are open or will need to be opened for expatriate workers to minister in this location? *
4. How important will it be for a two or three-unit expatriate team to commit for ministry together at the pioneering stage? (highly important? preferred but not essential? a one-unit team would be preferred?) +
5. What concrete elements of "team" do you see developing already? +

The best team will include wisdom gifts of the Spirit of broad vision and passion on the one hand, and practical Spirit-directed action and management on the other. By temperament, pioneers will do best when their identity in Christ is secure. Pioneers need to be self-starters, good observers, and quick learners, and humbly accept flexibility as a virtue in life rather than a mere necessity!

6. What language learning will be short-range essential? What language learning will be highly beneficial over the long haul? +
7. What, if any, are the unique physical or technological demands for pioneering in this field? *[Keep in mind that different gifts and a willingness to mesh those gifts together will be beneficial.] +*
8. How are relationships built in this pioneer culture and what are the personality traits essential for relationships in this field? +
9. What administrative (business and bureaucratic) skills are a part of ministry in this field? +
10. What gifts and passion will be important to plant an indigenous and self-propagating ministry in this setting? *[i.e., evangelism, leadership development, cultural sensitivity, economic development skills, etc.] +*
11. What concerns for social injustice and peace, if any, will need to be addressed for the gospel message to best represent the love of Christ in this field? +
12. What pioneering approaches have been tried in this field and what can be learned from successes and failures? +

Summaries of selected chapters for Luke 10 Trip teams and/or prospective missionaries from Ron Stansell

Allen, Roland. ***Missionary Methods: St. Paul's or Ours?*** **Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans Publishing Co., originally published in 1912 but reprinted frequently.** Available used and in electronic form from Amazon.com.

This book was one of the early sparks for the indigenous church and church planting movements during the twentieth century. A classic for pioneers. Other writers of this kind of literature are Donald McGavran, Ralph Winter and Allen Tippett who stressed cultural sensitivity, homogenous people movements and the balance between conversion evangelism and Christian nurture.

Bush, Luis and Lutz, Lorry. ***Partnering in Ministry.*** **Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1990.** This book might possibly be found as used copies at Amazon.com.
This small book gives a survey of various kinds of "partnerships" where diverse people work together with a special awareness of people of various cultures collaborating in pioneer work.

- Ch. 2 traces biblical roots for the concept.

Partnership goes back a long way. The gifts of the Holy Spirit make it evident that **"lone ranger" Christians are handicapped.** Unity of the many bring glory to God. New Testament teams began with the disciples and Jesus and extended to the Pauline teams in Acts. Paul's financial partnership with the Philippian church began in the very early years. In fact, his relationship with Philippian Christians is a model for us and included communication, deep expressions of love, shared joy, and shared strength. Each "partner" wants the other to grow, have opportunity to minister and a capacity to fulfill his/her calling. Throughout Philippians, Paul urges the special partnership of prayer to flow among team members in every direction.

- Ch. 3 sharpens the distinction between paternalism and partnership.

The heritage of colonialism and control by westerners has been hard to overcome. Any new field team must struggle with the disrespect, lack of cultural sensitivity, control and "looking down" upon the host culture that can be a default response. It will be important to do the following for a new field:

- Work through Western ethnocentricity.
- Avoid a donor mentality.
- While recognizing the essential value of self-organization, self-propagation and self-financing, **international partnerships look for ways to help one another fulfill their callings.**
- Look for interdenominational links and joint projects that can display the essential unity of the Body of Christ.
- Talk sincerely and openly about differences between westerners and non-western workers. It will clearly take all true Christians working together in unity to win the world for Christ.
- Other chapters may be found helpful while still others may seem dated.

Sinclair, Daniel. ***Mission: Possible. Defining and Empowering Your Ministry Among the Unreached.*** **MOF Publishing, 2021.** Available at Amazon.com in print and Kindle format.

- While especially written for the context of ministry with Muslims, some truths are clearly universal. I recommend the following:
- Ch. 1. "Apostleship Revisited" shows the **historic validity of pioneering** as thoroughly biblical. Pioneer "sent ones" may suffer greatly and even redeploy to new locations because of opposition, but faithfulness counts.

- Ch. 4. “Discipleship Making Movements for Dummies” gives strategic missiological principles of value for many fields. **Discipleship needs to be clearly understood**.
- Ch. 5. “Stewardship on the Field” focuses on self-care for a variety of personality types who find themselves in pioneer work. **The worker needs self-care.** Boundaries are essential for survival.
- Appendix 7. The Story of Alma. A view of an **“insider” church planting** process. This appendix chronicles a ministry in the Muslim world where the woman convert to Christ maintains cultural identity with her Muslim neighbors but is leading people to Christ as Savior and to a life of biblical discipleship. **“Jesus is for everyone, not just for Christians.”** It’s a truth that might work in resistant animistic, Hindu or Buddhist cultures as well as among Muslims.

Stansell, Ron. *Missions by the Spirit: Learning from Quaker Examples.* Newberg, OR: Barclay Press, 2009. These four “Quaker examples” present four different pictures of pioneers and their policies and practices. The narrative shows a variety of gifts and how these pioneers worked with others. Available through Amazon.com or Barclay Press.

Chapter 18 Summary: The four persons featured in the book each have distinct personalities but there are some similarities including the following:
- Each taught with vigor and attention to biblical preparation.
- All had ecumenical ties outside of Friends circles.
- They loyally supported the Friends movement.
- They believed in Christian conversion as an encounter with Christ.
- They believed in moral transformation.
- They knew how to laugh and enjoy people.

In addition, these twelve principles are highlighted:
1. Pioneers must step into untested waters and work arduously.
2. Relationship with Jesus is at the heart, never to be eclipsed by social reform.
3. While public proclamation may or may not be prominent, the majority of conversions happen through converts sharing their new faith with others.
4. The social sciences (cultural anthropology, sociology, economics, and political science) greatly benefit pioneers with cultural sensitivity, cultural values, and worldview awareness.
5. Witness for the purpose of conversion of individuals and families must be integrated with compassion and concern for justice and peace. (Whole Life Discipleship)
6. Belief in human equality plays out with genuine attention to the poor and oppressed and the equality of ministry by both women and men in the missionary force.
7. Friends rely on extensive prayer and waiting for guidance for major steps. They rely on corporate spiritual discernment.
8. An attitude of simplicity engenders generous sharing by relatively affluent westerners in new cultures and works to break down cultural barriers.
9. The concept of Christian leadership includes teamwork and unity within the emerging church.
10. Friends pioneers have contributed efforts to benefit the broader evangelical movement through cooperative programs like literature, humanitarian relief, development, leadership education and evangelistic programs.
11. Friends have a vision for the church, guided by the Holy Spirit (not by foreigners), that is self-governed, self-financed and self-propagated.

12. Western missionaries will continue to "pass the baton" of pioneering to the daughter churches of Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Westerners will have a more modest role in the future but will continue to work alongside or under the direction of non-western apostles.

ARTICLE: DISCERNMENT REGARDING DECISIONS ABOUT NEW MISSION FIELD ENDEAVORS

Written by Lon Fendall

Submitted by Lon Fendall on February 24, 2022. Lon, of NWYM, served on the EFM board for many years. His thoughts in this article have been shaped by his participation as recording clerk in numerous meetings for clearness by the Shuar Luke 10 Trip planning team regarding the expected re-birth of the missions effort and EFM field in Ecuador.

Seeking unity regarding the many decisions to be made during the planning of the EFM Luke 10 Trips and Initiatives.

We might assume that the main objective of this initiative is to accomplish the numerical goals of the program-- 10 new missionary units going to 5 new fields in 5 years.

There is no doubt that the needs are great—there are about 7,400 unreached people groups in the world, made up of more than 3 billion people.

But clearly our goals will only be reached if there is unity and clarity among those who are doing the planning, those who are going to investigate the opportunities in the selected areas, and those who ultimately will respond to God's call to be "pioneer missionaries" to the people groups that are selected.

The focal point of this entire process is to make Spirit-led decisions regarding the people groups to be reached, selecting those whom the Holy Spirit is calling to become the first missionaries to the selected people groups. Equally important is the quality and quantity of the support that will be forthcoming among those of us who will be the "senders."

The process began with invitations being extended to small groups of men and women in all of our EFCNA yearly meetings to become a part of a "Luke 10 Trip Planning Group."

In the past year these groups have been praying together and seeking unity about the various steps in the process-- first of all, selecting the specific people and territories where there are unreached people; then the planning of one or more trips to investigate the authenticity of the need in that area, particularly looking for people who are "unreached" with the Gospel of Jesus; then extending the challenge to men and women who might make up the team of those who will be sent to begin making contact with the unreached people; and finally developing strategies for outreach in those areas that are appropriately matched with the needs of those people.

In all of these planning processes, the key word is "discernment." Some of those who have been part of one of the "Luke 10 Trip" planning groups may find themselves being drawn toward joining the first team of missionaries in that particular area. The Luke 10 Trip group which has been doing

the planning will at this point work with EFM who will lead a decision-making process that involves whatever parts of the sending yearly meeting that are most appropriate-- the YM Mission Boards, the YM Superintendents, and the Luke 10 groups themselves.

It is exciting to think ahead to the moments when the first missionaries will board planes to become a part of teams to activate the work of evangelism and church-planting in that location.

Those who are part of the Friends churches which make up the Yearly Meetings will have many opportunities to become actively involved with the sending process.

To pray diligently and regularly with the Luke 10 Trip groups and the Yearly Meeting leaders with EFM as potential new missionaries are being selected to become the "pioneers" in each of the new fields.

At their best, Friends think of this as a "discernment" process. There will probably be no votes taken to decide who will be the first missionaries. The heart of the process will be "discernment," not voting. Endless hours will be spent in prayer for the potential pioneer missionaries to respond to God's call to join the first outreach teams to the selected people groups. At the heart of the process is listening-- discerning the authenticity of the call that is being heard by a few people who are ready to become the first missionaries to particular people groups.

No one becomes a missionary because of a good salary, or the excitement of being a pioneer in a new adventure. Rather, they are led to accept the challenge of being exactly where God wants them to be, getting to know people who have never heard about Jesus and inviting them to become part of a life-changing relationship with Jesus.

Listening to the Holy Spirit will become the central task of the new missionaries. That will involve the challenge of learning the "heart languages" of the people to whom they are called to minister. Hopefully there will be those who can help with that language learning process, people who understand and support the central task of missions, leading people to accept Christ as their Savior.

Friends often use the word "clearness" to describe the process through which decisions are made as believers respond to God's call into ministry. Sometimes we speak of "clearness meetings," which focus on particular decisions being made by particular individuals and groups at particular times.

At the heart of this interesting terminology is the certainty that the issue at hand is of great importance. Another way of speaking about the decision is that it is "weighty." A great deal is at stake and a great deal of prayer and listening to the Holy Spirit must precede any conclusion or decision.

Weighty decisions can never be made in a hurry. If there is to be unity in the decisions in the very early stages of an outreach directed toward a particular people, there must be unity among those who do the initial planning.

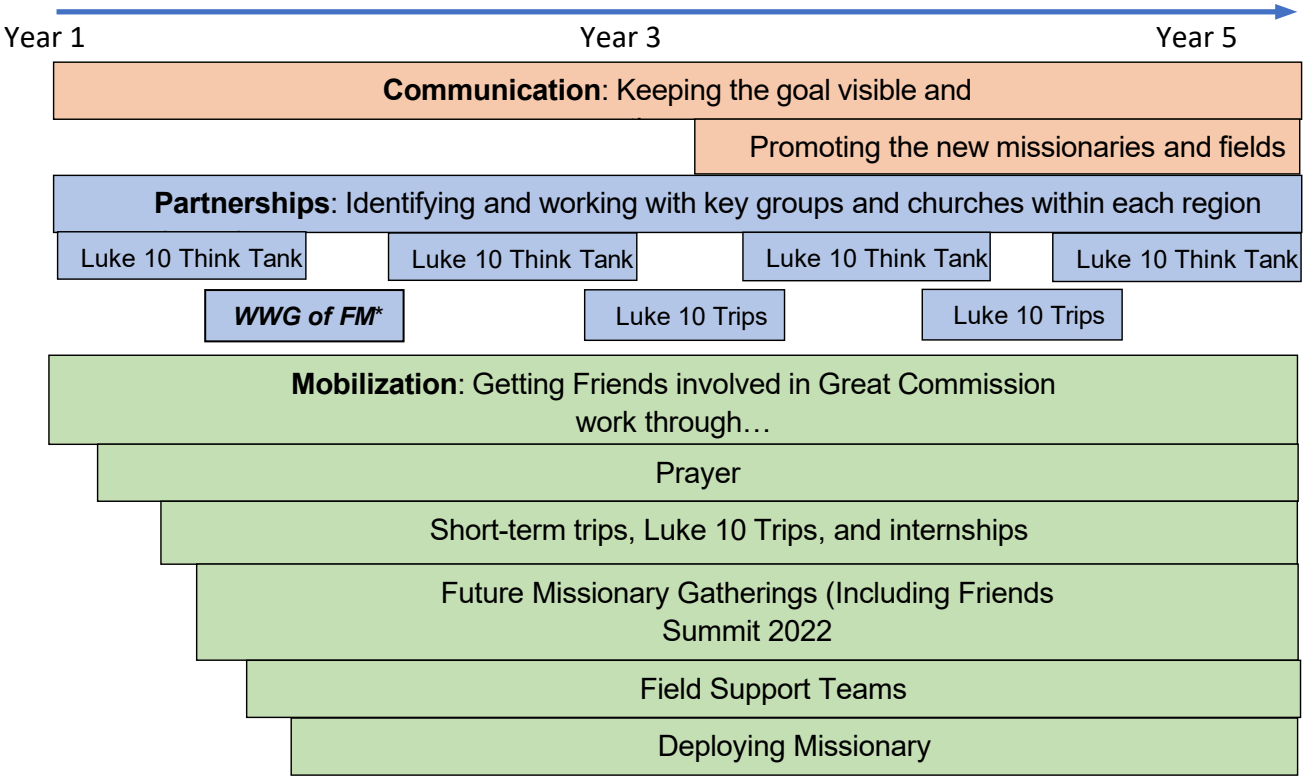
Who is God calling to give their lives to reaching this people group? Who are the potential allies in the country where these people live? Who are the best prayer warriors back home and among the new friends one makes in the ministry point?

The EFM Luke 10 Initiatives have the potential of producing as much spiritual growth and strength among those of us who will become the "senders" in this process as among those who will have the amazing experience of sharing the Gospel of Jesus with someone for the very first time.

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.

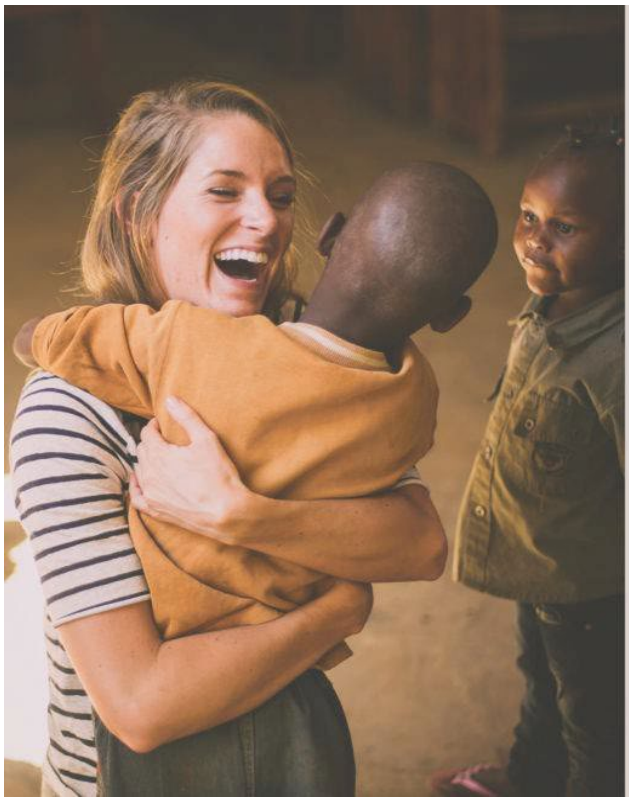
What are the four boundaries? Mission, Guiding Principles, Daily Focus, and Friends Culture.





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

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.

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