



Evangelical Friends Mission

April 2024 Prayer Letter

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

Tony and Agi Frei | Serving in Hungary

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I am very grateful to God because I can declare together with Samuel: *"The LORD helped us all the way to this place!"* 1 Samuel 7:12.

A little remembrance: In February I celebrated my birthday, I turned 60 years old. Also, we started our mission in Tolna on March 27, 1997, and after that, we were registered as EFC Hungary. Here are some special moments in a ministry that were accomplished in 2023.

In August 2023, we arranged the EFC Hungary youth camp and the children's days. There were about 20 youth and young adults in the youth camp, for three days. They had meetings every morning and afternoon. Their main topic was how it is possible to hear God's calling for their life. On the children's days, there were about 80-100 children, with whom my wife, Ági could share the gospel. We also provided them with lunch and some arts and crafts activities. In the afternoon, we spent time near the river Danube and the firemen visited us and provided a so-called "foam party", which the children enjoyed very much. On that weekend, at the Sunday church meeting, these children's parents were invited to church so we could talk to them about Jesus.

In Budapest, we have had children's bible study meetings every month for three years now. These church meetings are perfect occasions for sharing the good news with children and with adults as well. Our experience is that these are quite fruitful meetings. Also, last year was very busy for us. Our friends, Thomas and his missions group from Germany visited us and we had street mission and evangelical meetings in the church in Tolna, Budapest, Ozora, and in Serbia.



Last year, after COVID-19, we finally managed to organize the EFC Hungary General Assembly and EFC-I Europe Conference. Adrian & Lisa Halverstadt, the director of the EFC-I Council, and his wife were here. Together with them, we arranged the EFC-I Europe conference in October. Before the conference, they served in Serbia, Kölked, Budapest, Pécs, and in Tolna. We are very grateful for them; their presence and ministry were a big blessing for us.

At the EFC-I Europe Conference, we listened to different reports, and we made some decisions. I am grateful for our youth that I could hand out some of my tasks and positions to them. My goal for the next years is that I could find successors for every position and that we could build the EFC in Europe as well. Please, pray for that.



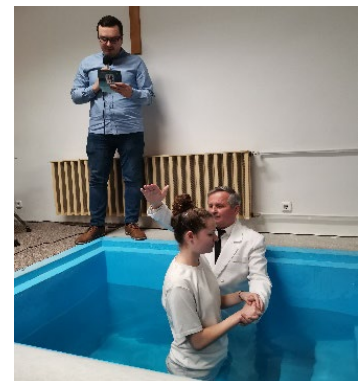
We had a guest from Burundi, Dr. Donatien, who recently worked in France as a doctor. We are hoping to start EFC with him in France. After the conference, Dr. Donatien stayed with us for a week, and he served in all our churches. It was a big blessing for our mission and for Dr. Donatien as well, since the brothers and sisters encouraged him for the new French church planting.

Tim and Ethel were here at the EFC-I Europe Conference as the representatives of the Quaker friends. It was useful as the church could build friendships with them. Last year, we had three weddings and a public testimony of baptism meeting.

We were in Ukraine from November 29- December 2, 2023 so we could hand out food and clothes. Before Christmas, we also handed out food and sweets with our co-workers to the poor people in Serbia, Croatia, and in Hungary. We also gave them biblical calendars, prospects, and Bibles.

I am very thankful for all of my co-workers. They help me to build boats and ships in these hard times for the glory of God and for the saving of people.

With love and blessing,
Tony and Ági Frei



From the EFM Office

Praise God...

- That once again EFM was able to be part of the annual Personal Evangelism Seminar at Barclay College. This time Dan Cammack and Matt Macy got to be there on behalf of EFM along with Alan Amavisca of North County Project in California and Brockie Follette of Barclay College. There were about 20 students who participated, and they engaged well with the presenters and evangelism activity.
- For the opportunity that Stan Leach and Dan Cammack had to participate in Northwest Yearly Meeting's Pastors Conference at Twin Rocks Friends Camp on the Oregon coast.
- That Dan Cammack and Rusty Savage (the EFM Board chairperson) were able to spend some time with William and Mary Bertrand in Port St. Lucie, Florida. The Bertrands are EFM missionaries in Haiti but have been in Florida for many months due to the unrest in Haiti (see the prayer request in the next section).

Please Pray...

- For Samson and Priscilla Retnaraj as well as David and Tricia Howell as they are in the midst of their deputations.
- For the light of Christ to shine brightly in Haiti during all the chaos that is currently happening there. None of the Friends churches are located in the capital city where most of the chaos seems to be occurring, but nonetheless, they are affected along with everyone else. May the Lord in his mercy restore order to that country.
- For the Multinational Missionary Teams Study Group Retreat that will take place in Denver, Colorado, April 30-May 2. Missions leaders from several of our regions/yearly meetings will gather in Denver to continue learning about best practices for teams composed of members from more than one country.

EFM Five-Year Goal:

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

Praise God...

- For the way the Spirit is working to mobilize Friends to carry out the Great Commission of Jesus Christ at home and abroad.
- For those who are actively exploring whether God is calling them to be part of the next wave of missionaries that go out through EFM.
- EFM leaders have continued to enjoy face-to-face conversations with Friends in Rwanda, Burundi, and Mexico who are mobilizing their churches to send their own future missionaries to South Sudan, Tanzania, Mexico, and Ecuador.

Please Pray...

- For the Lord of the harvest to send more workers into the harvest fields.
- For the regions/yearly meetings in the U.S. and other parts of the world as they take an active part in launching the new fields that have been approved through EFM's Luke 10 Initiative.
- For the Multinational Missionary Teams Study Group Retreat mentioned above.
- For the Future Missionary Retreat that will be held at Quaker Ridge Camp and Conference Center in Colorado May 27-30 of this year. Pray that those that the Lord of the harvest wants to have there will be there.

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

From Tony and Agi Frei

Serving in Hungary

Praise God...

- Our youth pastor and his wife (Mánuel and Kinga) have become parents. Benjamin was born at the end of January; he is the first child of his family.
- My brother-in-law Attila (who is the pastor of Pécs) is better after his December blood circulation problem. He had an MRI scan, which showed that everything was fine since then.
- The leader of the community house of Budapest invited us to host a handicraft party. It was a good opportunity because we could invite unbelieving families to the church again.

Please Pray...

- For little Benjamin's health and his life, that God would give him a long and happy life.
- For our Easter church occasion, because we always invite unbelieving people to this church celebration.
- For our co-workers Susan and Joseph's family. As you know, they lost their nephew, Daniel, who died in a car accident in January. Daniel also looked after his grandparents. Now, this is Joseph and his sister's task. The grandparents and the mother are in bad condition. Please, pray for them, that they search for consolation in God alone.

From David and Tricia Howell

Serving in Ireland

Praise God...

- For Tricia's safe return home from a short and very productive visit back to Ireland.
- For the opportunity to meet up with so many of you already and be blessed and encouraged to share the work that God is doing in Ireland.
- To be able to see extended family and friends when the schedule brings us close to them.

Please Pray...

- For safety, health, and stamina as we travel all across the US in the coming weeks and months.
- For our friends in Ireland as we are away for this deputation. That the Holy Spirit will continue to work on their hearts and minds even when we are separated for a time.
- For our funding needs to be met to enable a swift return to Ireland.

From Scott and Andrea Sward

Serving in Cambodia

Praise God...

- For the work of the Holy Spirit throughout Stung Treng, leading people from darkness to light, captivity to freedom, and death to life.

Please Pray...

- For the prison ministry- for the weekly Bible study with 30+ inmates.
- For the monthly bible school- for the 50+ students enrolled in the program, many of whom are village church leaders.
- For church planting- for new groups to be started and existing groups to be strengthened.

From Kathi Perry

Serving in Ireland

Praise God...

- The parent and baby group is up and running again. Thankful for new beginnings and a helper!
- I am thankful that God restored the work and opportunities that were stripped away by COVID-19, followed by deputation, and then major surgery. I am glad to be working with young families again, co-leading one study for young mums, and leading another for some other women.
- Thankful for the opportunities to preach at the Nazarene Church as part of the preaching rotation.

Please Pray...

- For direction and purpose as ministry opportunities expand and I make decisions for the next few years.
- For the parent and baby group - that it would be a place of encouragement, community, and the foundation for ongoing relationships with families.

From Abe and Diane Bible Serving in Ukraine

Praise God...

- Diane had a full medical checkup after many years without. Such is missionary life. She is very healthy with a few minor things that need tweaking. Praise the Lord. Yes, energy is lower. Ah well.
- Several evangelistic/church-building workshops were held in March. At the last one, with an attendance of 81 people, 62 people had been led to the Lord in the previous three weeks! This is one-on-one evangelism. Direct contact presenting the Gospel and asking for a decision.
- Our granddaughter Elizabeth is marrying a Ukrainian young man in May. (Her parents are church planters, and she has lived here in Ukraine her whole life.) Lots of excitement as her two sisters fly in from Australia—and her Australian grandparents! Such a privilege as missionaries on the field to be able to participate in such a family event! God is good!!

Please Pray...

- In April Abe has five meetings he needs to lead or participate in—a very busy month. Pray for him to not grow weary in well-doing! And always the Holy Spirit's leading not only in the big plan but in the details.
- Spiritual attacks are real. Pray for the leaders involved in Centers of Hope to not be distracted by flaming arrows from the evil one but to be fully armed from head to toe and effective in the battle to free souls from the kingdom of darkness.
- Russia's attacks have increased in intensity over the past two months. There is again an influx of refugees who are having to flee the eastern front lines—often knowing that they will have nothing to return to as apartments and houses are destroyed. But in the midst of the sorrow and chaos, it seems that there is a fresh spiritual fervor in believers. Pray that this earthly pain would be heaven's gain!

From Samson and Priscilla Retnaraj Serving in Nepal

Praise God...

- Ram Prakash from Rautahat CLC received a grant for veterinary medicines as he is a trained vet's assistant, and this will help him to move forward in continuing the free tuition for the brick kiln workers and their children in Basantpur.
- For the silver jubilee celebrations of Aradhana Bhakti church in Cha'pur which was attended by many believers and friends from other districts too. The Rautahat CHE CLC committee organized the program and was one of the first churches to have full training in Community Health Evangelism led by Suleman And his wife Asha.
- For the business proposal submitted by Narayan and his wife Gowrie for a fish pond which has been given to them on a lease for five years by the local administration. Pray that this will help them welcome more people to the small house fellowship in Tapara Bardia. Pray also for Karn and Philip as they continue their house fellowship in Bansgarhi (West Nepal).

Please Pray...

- For the blood donation camp organized by Rautahat CLC in Cha'pur on Easter Day. Pray that many non-Christians coming forward to donate blood will be touched by the word of God and the Easter story. The Jesus film will be screened to the general public during this program.
- Exactly a year ago Arun our CHE trainer from Janakpur was involved in a near-fatal road accident and subsequently, the district court which has been hearing the case has almost reached an end, and we await their decision on the award of a jail sentence and monetary fine to the truck driver whose mistake took the life of a female CHE worker from Sarlahi returning home from our CHE CLC meeting and convention.
- The Chitwan CHE CLC committee will be submitting their application to be registered with the district government as an NGO after making necessary corrections to the constitution and area of work. Please pray for the leaders: Gokarna, Pastor Pusparaj, Safal Praja, and the other four members of the committee as they prepare a project proposal and budget for their needs in getting the CLC in Chitwan moving forward.

From A. and M. A. Serving in Bangladesh

Praise God...

- That we could conduct our team meeting in February after returning from the US. It was our desire, and the Lord answered our prayer. Thank the Lord.
- That we were able to organize the revival meeting with our Friends churches in the Southern part of Bangladesh. All our expenses were sponsored by our local church people for this spiritual meeting. We have seen God's mighty hand in this meeting. Many were healed immediately and saw visions. It was amazing. We are very thankful for his mighty presence.
- That God has provided Wi-Fi boxes through a lady to show the Jesus film in restricted places. Our team members are showing the Jesus Film and sharing the gospel through these Wi-Fi boxes.

Please Pray...

- We are lacking local leaders in some of the churches. Pray that we can get local leaders and some lay pastors in those areas.
- For our upcoming SSTS training next month. This training is especially for the persecuted believers. Pray that our people can be prepared to stand strong amid persecution.
- Pray for our safe travel to different parts of the country as we are now visiting our ministry fields. Pray for our good health and safety.