



Evangelical Friends Mission

September 2024 Prayer Letter

www.friendsmission.com
efm@friendsmission.com
303.421.8100

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

A. and M. A. | Serving in Bangladesh

Jeremiah 29:11 God says, *“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”* Yes, his plan for us is always good. Sometimes, we do not understand when we go through different challenges.

Many times, we ask, Lord, what's going on with me? Why is this happening? We often blame God. We always try to understand the situation with our logic, knowledge, and science. But God's work is often not judged by logic or scientific principles. It requires faith and obedience to God's word. We are disappointed when we judge God's work with our limited eyes of knowledge but not with God's eyes.



Sofia flew from Las Vegas to Bangladesh. This was her first visit to Asia and Bangladesh. She is 24. She was with us from July 9-22. She was working on her dissertation, which deals with understanding the needs of missionaries and exploring how missionaries experience trauma. We planned to visit some areas of our ministry as well as some historical sites. But God had a different plan. In the first week, we visited some churches in the southern part of Bangladesh. It was a very hot day, but we had a very good time with the church members. On July 12, we learned that our prayer coordinator's right hand was paralyzed, and his right leg was about to go numb. We cut short our ministry activities and returned to the hospital to see him, but we did not see him as he was in the CCU. His vocal cord was paralyzed, and he could not speak. The next day, he was taken to another hospital. Sofia has seen how the people of Bangladesh are deprived of proper healthcare. Hundreds of patients were on the floor just to get medical care. He was taken to his home three days later as his condition did not improve much. The doctor gave him no hope of recovery. In the meantime, student movements started all over the country. They were agitated about the job quota movement. We were stopped twice by protesters on the way, but God saved us, and we were able to reach our destination safely. The next day, we visited two churches.

On Friday, July 19, the situation was even worse. All internet connections had been shut down. No one was able to use Facebook, Messenger, WhatsApp App, or email; ATMs were not working. People were completely cut off from the world. That night, a curfew was imposed, and 'on-site shooting' was ordered. Everyone was afraid to go out of the house. Many students and civilians were shot dead. We had to suspend all our activities. Our only thought was how to reach Sophia at Dhaka airport. We can't go to Dhaka because of the curfew. My son reminded us of a domestic airport nearby. We went to the airport and asked for tickets. They recommend coming the next day. The next morning, we went to the airport, bought a ticket for her, and put her on the plane. I praise the Lord. Now, the second thought was how we could get back to our hometown. It was about a 12-hour drive. Curfew was active. The three of us held hands and prayed for his guidance and protection. We talked to an army officer. He gave road instructions and assured us that we could drive safely for at least two hours and talk to the officer at the next checkpoint to learn the situation in the next place. We returned to our hometown, and no one stopped us on the way. We were hungry, but the Lord provided the best food on the highway, where most of the food courts were closed. Everything was perfect, and we were well protected.

I hope Sofia can move forward in her dissertation and work towards being a beneficial therapist for missionaries.

All praise be to God,
A. and M. A.



From the EFM Office

Praise God...

- That the Brad and Chelsea Carpenter family are fully funded and back in Rwanda, Africa.
- For a fruitful visit that Dan Cammack and Edwin and Maria Giron were able to make to Guatemala. The leadership of Guatemala Yearly Meeting is committed to hosting a missions sending-learning conference for Friends leaders throughout Latin America in August of 2025.
- For a short visit to Bolivia that Dan was able to make in order to participate in a centennial celebration for the first Evangelical Friends church planted in the capital city of La Paz. It is a church that has planted many other congregations in Bolivia and is also very supportive of missions.

Please Pray...

- For the Fred and Jonelle Liddell family as they raise prayer and financial support in preparation for going overseas with EFM. Pray especially that they can get to 50% of their support soon so that they can then devote much more time and energy to raising the rest of it.
- For the EFM Staff as they gather in Louisville, Kentucky, September 10-15, for their annual retreat. During part of that time the directors will participate in a yearly conference for mission agencies sponsored by Missio Nexus.
- For Dan Cammack as he travels from Kentucky to India, Eric Dale, the missions coordinator for Indiana Yearly Meeting, will join him there. Together, they will visit some of the Friends ministries and participate in a three-day retreat with their leaders.

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 people within the regions/yearly meetings of evangelically minded Friends in the United States who are helping to promote EFM's Five-Year Goal in their regions and who are also helping to implement the various pieces of the Luke 10 Initiative that give us concrete steps towards reaching the goal.
- For those who are faithfully praying to the Lord to cast out workers into areas of the world where there is a harvest to be gathered.

Please Pray...

- For the Lord of the harvest to send more workers into the harvest fields. This still feels to us like the most urgent prayer request.
- For the regions/yearly meetings as they discern what further steps they can take in this united effort to launch new fields through EFM.
- That the enthusiastic support for EFM's Five-Year Goal and the Luke 10 Initiative will lead to doing more and more of the same kind of activities in our own neighborhoods and nation.

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. Prayer points and the link for the gathering will be sent a few days before the event. If you would like to participate in this gathering, you can sign up for it at <https://friendsmission.com/five-year-goal-pray/>.

From Benson and Annie Sam

Serving in India

Praise God...

- Our ministry is going well, and all the pastors are doing well. Outreach ministries like open-air meetings and door-to-door evangelism are going well by God's grace.

Please Pray...

- For our ministry as we are facing lots of persecution from the Hindu fanatics and enemies of the Gospel. Let God open their hearts to see the light and accept the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

From A. and M. A.

Serving in Bangladesh

Praise God...

- We became independent for the second time on August 5. The former autocratic Prime Minister resigned and fled the country. People in Bangladesh want to see honest, corruption-free, and servant-leadership in our country.
- As Christians, we are still safe in our country as the Hindu community and people are being tortured in some places of our country. We are thankful for the opportunity to serve people during this crisis.
- That our ministry team is doing great. God has protected all of us from robbery and burning houses from the terrorists.

Please Pray...

- We had to postpone our Youth Seminar due to the unstable situation in our country. Pray that we can continually follow up with our youth groups to strengthen their faith and encourage them to engage in ministry.
- Our dream is to see an Evangelical Friends Church in each of the 64 districts in Bangladesh. To fulfill this dream, we need many pioneers, evangelists, lay leaders, and pastors. Ask God to send his labors to his ministry field.
- For M. as she recovers from a surgery she had at the end of August.

From D.K. and Choity Sarkar

Serving in India

Praise God...

- I (D.K.) was in an accident, but now, by God's grace, I am doing well. Praise the Lord.
- Eight people in Shamnagar Friends Church accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior and made a public testimony of baptism.
- The 78th Independence Day of India was on August 15. Our Friends Churches in different places could have open celebrations and worship services. They thanked the Lord for our country and for the believers in India.

Please Pray...

- For our country. There are lots of oppositions for Christians. There are new laws to make India a Hindu Country coming. Let the Christians be strong in their faith.
- For our mission. Opportunities are coming, but we need workers.
- My granddaughter is suffering from dengue and urine infection. Please pray for her.

From Tony and Agi Frei

Serving in Hungary

Praise God...

- John Grafton and his mission team visited us in early August. They met many brethren and were a great blessing to us in their ministry.
- On August 9 and 10, we held a children and youth day, which was attended by many unbeliever children and teenagers from outside.
- This year, our young people organized their fourth youth camp in recent years. They said they had a truly blessed time and came home with many testimonies.

Please Pray...

- That the seed of God will begin to grow in as many of the unbelievers as possible among the participants of the children and youth days.
- One of our church members fell away from God a few years ago. Since then, their family has fallen apart, and his wife has just left him. He is now drawing close to the Lord again amid his difficulties; please pray that he will find his way back to God and, in doing so, bring his family back to God.
- Our co-worker Maria, who is one of the key people in our mission in Ukraine, is suffering from a serious illness. She has problems with her liver, but because of her heart, she cannot be put to sleep, so under the circumstances, surgery cannot be performed. Please pray that God will perform a miracle because her health is not the best.