



Evangelical Friends Mission

October 2024 Prayer Letter

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

The Howell Family | Serving in Ireland

“Please pray for...”

As people who are doing our level best to be disciples of Jesus and walking alongside our friends in their own faith journey, these three simple words are some of the most powerful words we can hear. For this phrase carries with it so much more than a mere surface-level understanding. It may carry the crushing weight of a situation that seems beyond our ability to bear it, watching the strength in our legs ebb away moment by moment. It may carry the vulnerability of admitting that we are overwhelmed and helpless. It may carry the deep, resounding hope that can only be found in Christ Jesus. It may carry the last ounce of desperation for one clinging to the lifeline that feels like it is slipping out of their tightly held grasp. It may carry the uncertainty of the next steps in life.



This last week, we had the thrill of catching up with several of the young people who are now in their mid to late twenties, whom we have worked with over the years. As we talked and caught up on life, this theme of “Please pray for” was echoing in my ears. We were listening to their stories and hearing their pleas for prayer. One of the comments struck me like a hammer blow. I was told, “This probably wasn’t how you thought I would turn out.” I paused for a moment and said, “Maybe not. But the strength that you have shown to get through that situation and get where you are today is absolutely what I would have thought.” Life gets ugly. Life gets messy. Being followers of Jesus in a broken world is hard. What a blessing it is to be invited into this mess through prayer. For we know that in prayer, God’s power is on display. We have and continue to pray for every one of these “kids” on a regular basis. In the wider ministry in Ireland, it is a regular occurrence for our friends to ask, “Please pray for.” What a joy to see God move and answer this heart's cry.



When you read that first paragraph, have you ever found those statements to be true in your own prayer requests? I know I have. But rather than feel shameful or like a failure because of that, it is empowering and uplifting to know the freedom of being able to share vulnerably with Jesus’ fellow disciples.

Friends, what a joy it is to share what God is doing in Ireland and around the world. To make known the love and good news of Jesus Christ. But it truly can’t be done without your prayers. Mighty men and women of faith, please pray for us all. Ephesians 6:18-19 *“Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God’s mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike.”*

David and Tricia Howell



From the EFM Office

Praise God...

- For the rich and fruitful time that the EFM Staff had together in Louisville, Kentucky, last month.
- For an extraordinary missionary team, working hard and sacrificially around the world. We are grateful for each one.

Please Pray...

- For the EFM Fall Offering. This opportunity focuses on raising support for underfunded missionaries and ministries. Pray that God's people would become more deeply aware of God's love and respond with joyful generosity.
- For Dan Cammack and Eric Dale (Indiana Yearly Meeting missions coordinator) as they wrap up their time in India, they are visiting some of the Friends ministries and participating 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.
- For current trips taking place this fall for exploration to the Kavet of Cambodia and prayer, plus some planning in the Gulf States (Dubai), Ecuador, and South Sudan.
- The National Luke 10 Think Tank is convening for reports, proposals, and discernment in November.

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 Brad and Chelsea Carpenter

Serving in Central Africa

Praise God...

- Brad and the Discipling for Development (D for D) team's trip to Tanzania was a good experience, though short. We praise God for the testimonies we hear and for our hope that these groups will continue forward in disciple-making movements.
- For helping and sustaining the family while Brad was gone
- For our three months in the United States. We are also thankful to be back in Rwanda, to be back in our home, to be among Rwandan friends and colleagues, and to again be with the missionary and international school community

Please Pray...

- For wisdom and endurance for the leaders of EFC-Rwanda as they deal with several challenges
- For the D for D groups from Burundi and Congo that Brad and the team met with in Tanzania recently, pray that the Lord helps them follow through in discipleship so that they continue growing in the Lord and multiplying.
- For our family as we have gone through some different sicknesses, as we continue to settle into our house and neighborhood, and as we continue adjusting to a new school year with new teachers and changes in workload.

From Samson and Priscilla Retnaraj

Serving in Nepal

Praise God...

- Ritu's mother recovered from severe dehydration and shock and is back at home. She was diagnosed with typhoid. Ritu also had some health issues (Sciatica and kidney stones) but, by God's grace, has recovered well and is on medication. Samson underwent cataract surgery of both eyes and is recovering normal eyesight slowly and steadily.
- Chitwan CLC has finally been registered with the Nepal government, and its committee of nine people includes four women leaders from different churches. Rautahat CLC has been renewed for the third successive year with the Nepal government as an NGO and can conduct many of its trainings and Discipleship trainings under this banner.
- Many new tuition centers have sprouted up as the community saw this great need and convinced Rautahat CHE and Aurahi CHE (Janakpur) to help enroll more students. Chitwan is already doing this work well, and their Jhurjhure church has allowed this in their church Sunday School rooms.

Please Pray...

- For the Vision Seminar to be held in Bishram Vasti (Chitwan) where 15-18 leaders and members of the local church are scheduled to attend this CHE Training. Please pray for the trainers for anointing and Spirit-led training sessions.
- For all our CHE teams as they plan to show the Jesus film in communities as part of their CHE training, leading people to Christ and forming house fellowships.
- For the Training Center for our two already registered Community Learning Centers in Rautahat and Chitwan.

From A. and M. A.

Serving in Bangladesh

Praise God...

- The surgery went well for M., and she is now at home on bed rest.
- That the fascist Prime Minister has to resign because of the student pressure in our country. The Nobel prize winner, Dr. Yunus, has taken responsibility as the chief advisor. We are pleased for this interior government team.
- That all our Friends believers were saved from the flood this year. It was very bad flood situation for the 17 districts in our country. People are still suffering.

Please Pray...

- That we can arrange our youth seminar that we have to postpone due to the unrest situation in our country.
- For the Beautiful Feet conference, which will be held from October 4 to 6. Ask God to train and motivate more women to fulfill the Great Commission.
- For more pioneers, evangelists, and pastors. This is an urgent need and a very important prayer request. We want to saturate all 64 districts in our country.

From Kathi Perry

Serving in Ireland

Praise God...

- For a few days away in early August, and for rest and refreshment.
- That two groups started up in September, and that I have a wonderful helper for each one.
- For opportunities to preach, teach, and encourage others throughout the summer.

Please Pray...

- The Mother and Baby group has started up again, and I'm adding the "Baby Graduate" group (toddler group) back into the schedule this month. Pray for the relationships made, encouraging times, and growth.
- I will begin studying in October, a two-year program called "Training in the Ministry of Spiritual Companionship." I am really looking forward to the challenge and growth in myself, which I can use to come alongside others.
- If all goes well with the baby and toddler groups, I plan to start Little Friends and Family in a couple of months using Godly Play for Advent. Please pray for openness and interest as we prepare for that.

From Tony and Agi Frei
Serving in Hungary
Praise God...

- Last month we asked for prayers for Joseph and his family. Thank God Joseph has since started attending church again and has managed to find a job after a long time. We believe he will also be able to sort out his broken relationship with his wife.
- Our youth pastor couple moved into their new house on the first of September, after two years of hard work. Glory to God that they managed to finish the construction.
- At the beginning of September, the leaders of the community house (Budapest) organized a family day again. Due to the rainy weather, the outdoor program was cancelled, but thankfully, a lot of people came inside. Our church workers organized a handcraft party for the visiting children. Once again, we had the opportunity to do a mission and build relationships, which is one of the greatest assets in this hectic world.

Please Pray...

- In the Serbian mission, unfortunately, a conflict has developed between permanent members. The devil wants to destroy the growth that has started there. Please pray that through the love of Christ, they can settle this conflict peacefully.
- Next month, I'm going on a longer mission trip to Slovakia. Together with church members, we are preparing donations for poor families. Please pray for my trip and that God will open doors for me.
- Pray for Maria's son-in-law, Slava, from Ukraine. He was taken into the army one week ago, and two small children and his wife are waiting for him at home. Unfortunately, we don't know much about him; he can't really communicate with his family.

From L. T.
Back from Serving with Teaching Abroad
Praise God...

- J. arrived safely and has been holding English classes with our students.
- My time in the U.S. has given me the opportunity to visit with friends and relatives.
- As far as I've been able to determine, all friends and students in the West Bank are safe, despite increased violence by illegal settlers and the Israeli military.

Please Pray...

- That the Israel/Gaza war will not spread to a larger regional conflict.
- That my visa application process (which must be delayed until December because of Israeli regulations) will go smoothly and I will be approved.
- That necessary humanitarian aid will be provided to Gaza and the affected areas in the West Bank.

From D.K. and Choity Sarkar
Serving in India
Praise God...

- All the preparation for our Annual Camp is completed.
- Six people accepted Jesus by making a public testimony of baptism with Pastor Chandan Mondal in a river at Shyamnagar.
- The gallbladder operation of my granddaughter is over. She is getting better.

Please Pray...

- One of our coaching teachers was admitted to the hospital after an accident.
- Our Uttarakhand people are facing persecution. They had to stop all the house fellowships. Only one-to-one evangelism is able to take place there.
- For the Annual camp, which will be held from October 9 to 11 in Kolkata.

From Erik Nilsen
Serving in a Disciple- Making Apprenticeship
Praise God...

- Nick Ward and I have started connecting with the new campus leaders of several Christian clubs at CSUF, including Cru and InterVarsity, advising them of the spiritual realities on campus and the presence of cults. We are preparing to collaborate to evangelize on campus and disciple college students. One student we have known for a while, Anthony, recently told us he wants to ask Jesus to take control of his life.
- A friend of mine from college asked me several months ago to be his sponsor and prayer partner in overcoming some personal struggles. He has been faithful in confessing sin and taking tangible steps to remove himself from temptation and develop healthy spiritual disciplines throughout his day.
- Adele, an eight-year-old girl at Glendora Friends Church, where I intern, has taken special interest in asking me deep questions about the Bible and about what she is learning in Sunday school. After she hears the children's storybook version of a Bible story in Sunday school, she'll ask me to read the passage from the "real" Bible to her after service.
- One day, Adele asked me where different ethnicities come from, so I showed her the Table of Nations in Genesis 10. Without my prompting, she concluded that because all people are descended from Noah, that even her enemies are actually distant family, and therefore she needs to love them.

Please Pray...

- At the time of writing, I have been suffering from gout in my right foot for two weeks, which inhibits my mobility. Please pray that God would swiftly heal me so I can resume active public ministry and evangelism, which requires lots of walking around.
- For my aforementioned college friend, who has been estranged from relationships in life, that Jesus would reconcile them.
- That the Holy Spirit would bring revival to the students, staff, and faculty at California State University, Fullerton. Pray that the cults on campus, the agents of Satan, would be utterly thwarted and their lies and abuses exposed. Pray for the conviction of and repentance from sin, that they would believe in the Lord Jesus, be saved, and obey him completely.