



Evangelical Friends Mission

December 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.

Edwin and Maria Giron | Missions Mobilizers for Hispanic Friends

Edwin and I can testify to you that it is truly worth serving Jesus Christ, living for him, and being obedient.

The Lord has allowed us to lead 10:2 prayer trips to Mexico and Ecuador and to be able to see and even touch the need in fields that are ready for the harvest. One of the many ways that God shows up on these tremendous prayer trips is how he so wonderfully opens doors and has led us to know the person of peace in different places where he has allowed us to reach.

During the prayer trip to the Amazon area of Ecuador, where the Shuar people are centered, we accompanied Jose Olivas, a Friends missionary from Mexico, to look for a Shuar man whom Jose met on a bus who invited Jose to his home so that he could share the Gospel with him and his wife. His name is Juwan. They have heard the Gospel before from a wife's relative who lives very far from them. Juwan and his wife have since been hungry to know more about the word of God. The team traveled four hours by dirt road deep into the jungle to get to this remote Shuar village called Nunkui.



When our prayer team arrived at Juwan's house, he was not home. So, the team stopped there in front of his hut, and we decided to pray for this Shuar man and his wife and this Nunkui village, even though they were not present. The team prayed that God would open doors for Jose to start a church in that community. While each of us on the team took time to pray, something exciting happened: a woman approached us and told us that she was Juwan's daughter! We told her that we were Evangelical Christians and that we came to pray for the Shuar community. Surprised but very happy to hear who we were, she told us that a few years ago, she, her husband, and her children heard the Gospel, accepted Jesus, and even witnessed by a public testimony of baptism, but that it had been a long time since they had gone to a church because they live very far away from the nearest town and it is not affordable for them to travel.

Juwan's daughter took us to meet the rest of her family and to pray for them. Missionary Jose offered to come every Friday to have Bible studies with them, and he only asked them to allow him to set up his camping tent on their land. The family was so happy with Jose's offer that they even offered him a place not on their land but a space inside their house so that Jose could spend the night every time he came to speak to them about the Word of God.

Incredibly, this event was a quick answer from God to our prayer! Now, Jose is coming weekly to gather with three families who are so happy to be able to study the Word of God. Praise the Lord!

Now, Friends, we invite you to pray that these people would become a Shuar church that worships God in spirit and truth and become disciples of Jesus who bring the good news and make more Shuar disciples for the honor and glory of God.

We are simply so grateful to have been part of this beginning of God's work in which He has involved us, Friends.

In obedience to him,

Edwin and Maria Giron



From the EFM Office

Praise God...

- For the EFM Board meetings and the Igniting the Hope banquet that were held in Southern California in early November. There is a sense of excitement about how God is helping evangelically minded Friends to work together to accomplish the task he has given us to do.
- For the opportunities that come this time of year for our missionaries and the churches they work with to share tidings of great joy with those who walk in darkness.
- For all those who are blessing believers and nonbelievers around the world through participation in this year's EFM Christmas Catalog.

Please Pray...

- That many more people around the world will come to know and follow Jesus Christ during this Christmas season.
- For our North American missionaries who may miss friends and family at this time of year. Pray that they will experience peace and joy right where they live.
- For peace in our war-torn world.
- For EFM to experience a strong finish to this fiscal year.

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 National Luke 10 Think Tank that took place in Southern California on November 6. Representatives from all the regions/yearly meetings of evangelically minded Friends affirmed pressing ahead in the opening of the six fields that were approved in 2023 and recommended to the EFM Board that one more be added (The Balkans).
- That the EFM Board approved the addition of The Balkans to the list of new fields to be opened. That makes a total of seven at this point in time. The Fred and Jonelle Liddell family are actively raising prayer and financial support so that they can move to the Balkans as soon as possible to help open this new field.
- For those who participated in the 10:2 Prayer Trip to South Sudan. Friends from the US and Rwanda went together to do the essential work of prayer and discerning the next steps in the opening of this new field.

Please Pray...

- For the Lord of the harvest to send more workers into the harvest fields. At this point, we need at least thirteen missionary households to go to the new fields that have been approved by the EFM Board.
- That the Liddells will be able to raise their full support as soon as possible in order to proceed to the Balkans. Pray also that the Lord will raise up workers to go with them to help open this new field.
- For those who are in the discernment process regarding missionary service with EFM. May they and those working with them be able to discern what specific steps to take.
- For Ivan Penrose (from Kansas), who is raising funds and prayer support for going to North County Project in Southern California. This will be an important step in his discernment process.

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 D.K. and Choity Sarkar

Serving in Nepal

Praise God...

- We could complete the Khonta Friends Church building in Malda District. On November 24, the building was inaugurated for his glory. All our staff was present there.
- Our Muslim ministry in Murshidabad district is growing. They need a Pastor for church functions. One young man committed his life to this service. His name is Kamrul. On November 17, he was ordained.
- My health is OK. All my pains have gone by God's grace.

Please Pray...

- A few people are ready to make a public testimony of baptism. They are all from a Muslim background. It took place on November 23. Please pray for all of them.
- One very elderly lady from our church has been in bed for four years. She is suffering, and also her two daughters are suffering. Please pray so that God's grace will be upon her.
- We are planning to have a public program at Christmas time.

From Brad and Chelsea Carpenter

Serving in Central Africa

Praise God...

- We are thankful for a good year in 2024. We look back with special thankfulness to our summer in the States and how the Lord gave us the blessing of connecting with people there and that he provided people to continue to partner with us, as well as others to begin partnering with us.
- We praise God for the slower season December provides (as far as work and school). We look forward to having some special times with the Lord, with our family, and with a few friends this holiday season.
- Together with you, we praise God that he is always the king on the highest throne and that whatever troubles we face, he is always bigger and stronger, and he will never leave us or forsake us!

Please Pray...

- Please continue to pray for the churches in this region of Africa, who are often facing various challenges - that God will give them wisdom and encouragement
- For EFC-Rwanda as they prepare to send missionaries to South Sudan - for all the logistics, fundraising, missionary prep, etc. Pray that God would clearly lead into his purposes
- For the whole-life discipleship movement, for the groups in Rwanda, Burundi, and Congo, that they can effectively disciple the groups in their churches and communities towards deep transformation and multiplication.

From Abe and Diane Bible

Serving in Ukraine

Praise God...

- Diane led another seminar on healing trauma in November. Many people thanked her afterwards. Both refugees and those working with displaced people attended.
- We will be going to Oklahoma for the holiday season and are excited! Twelve or fifteen grandchildren will be there. We have not seen the family in the US for two and half years, and some of them longer! We thank the Lord for the opportunity!

Please Pray...

- Abe will lead one more evangelistic workshop in December before we go. Some men are afraid to travel as they are still conscripting soldiers, and if their registration documents are not in order, they can be taken immediately to a holding station and then sent to the front. Pray that faith would override fear!
- For the many evangelistic efforts that will take place during the Christmas season, that people would come to faith, be transformed into a life with Christ, and find the peace which he only can offer. Worldly peace comes and goes. Christ is the same now and forever.
- We have enjoyed very good health. Pray that God will continue his grace upon us as we travel. Different countries have different viruses! Pray that our train and flight connections will be successful! It is a long trip as we travel by train to Warsaw and then fly from there to Oklahoma with a couple of transfers.

**From Benson and Annie Sam
Serving in India**

Praise God...

- We are so privileged and honored by the visit of EFM Field Director Dan Cammack and Dr. Eric Dale to the mission fields and for them to be able to attend our Pastor's conference and Sunday worship service in a village church.
- God enabled us to do the dedication of Friends Bible Church at Muttom, Thodupuzha, on November 11 in a rental building which we have for five to seven years.
- We had spiritual Life Conferences in two or three churches, and that was a blessing to many believers.

Please Pray...

- For the following pastors who have not had children for many years: Pastor Dominic and Shyni and Pastor Pradeep and Manju.
- For the outreach ministries, we are facing threats from the enemies of the Gospel, and many times, we were attacked. Uphold the persecutors in your prayers.
- For us to start more new churches in the villages where there are no believers or churches.

**From Tony and Agi Frei
Serving in Hungary**

Praise God...

- Slava, son-in-law of Maria from Ukraine is discharged from military service. It's a huge miracle because it happens very rarely.
- One of the main men of the Serbian mission has been unwell in recent weeks, but thank God it was not a stroke but a facial nerve injury, which can be cured. Glory to God that he may be better now.
- This year, we can't go to Ukraine, but Marika has taken on the task of preparing and distributing the Christmas parcels all by herself. Glory to God that we can have such colleagues.

Please Pray...

- During the autumn, there were several programs at the Budapest Community House. Please pray that the personal conversations and testimonies will come to fruition.
- Our trip to Slovakia planned for the autumn was canceled, but God willing, we would like to try again this year. Every beginning is difficult, but I believe God has prepared a blessing for us.
- Joseph, who was one of our members, started to be active in our church again. He is going through a difficult time in a divorce. His wife wants to take their youngest son with her, but he wants to stay with his father. Pray for the situation, that God will either work a miracle in their relationship or they can resolve the situation peacefully without hurting the children.