



Evangelical Friends Mission

November 2025 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.

Christ's Light in a Land of Many Idols | Shared by D K Sarkar serving in India

The following report comes from our missionary, D K Sarkar in Kolkata, West Bengal. October was filled with many Hindu festivals across the region, times that bring both challenge and opportunity for believers. Please pray for our brothers and sisters who face pressure during these celebrations and who continue to share the hope of Christ with their neighbors.

I am sending you an update about the Hindu festivals in West Bengal. These celebrations often bring challenges for us. Local festival committees sometimes insist that we contribute money toward the events, and at times the situation becomes very difficult. During these festivals, we organize camps and prayer meetings to encourage and strengthen our new believers. Please continue to pray for us.

The month of October was filled with Hindu celebrations focused on idol worship. People become deeply devoted to these idols, following traditions passed down from their ancestors. They often do not know much about the idols themselves but simply continue the customs they have received.

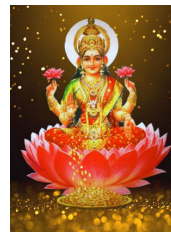
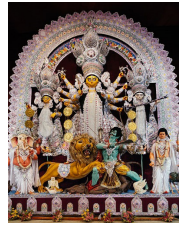
Many different idols are worshiped, each believed to hold its own kind of power. These idols have no real existence, yet priests and holy men have promoted their worship for generations. Below are a few of the main idols celebrated in West Bengal:

Ganesh – Considered the god of wealth. Many people believe that if they worship Ganesh, they will gain financial prosperity. This worship began mainly in Mumbai but later spread to Bengal as people desired the same material success.



Biswakarma – Regarded as the maker or architect of the world. People worship him, believing he will help them in building and improving their homes.

Durga – Durga Puja is the biggest Hindu festival in West Bengal. She is considered the powerful goddess who killed the demon Ashur (Devil). Depicted with ten hands holding weapons, she is worshiped for four days during a time when schools, colleges, and offices close for the celebration. Her festival attracts many people, even some Christians come to watch the events



Lakshmi – The goddess of wealth. Hindus believe that worshiping Lakshmi will bring them prosperity and abundance.

Kali – Known as the goddess of destruction. She is depicted as dark, standing on the chest of her husband, with a garland of human heads around her neck. Her worship takes place at night and involves blood sacrifices, often from male goats



We are enlightened by the blood of Jesus. We know all these idol worships are fake. Only the blood of Jesus can cleanse of our sins. We are called to tell these people about the truth. Please pray for us.

D K Sarkar, EFM Kolkata

Please pray:

- For our strength and protection as we face difficulties and demands during the Hindu festival season.
- For steadfast faith among new believers who may feel isolated or pressured during these celebrations.
- For open hearts among those devoted to idol worship, that they may come to know the truth and freedom found in Jesus Christ.
- For fruitful ministry as we hold camps and prayer meetings to share the gospel and encourage believers in West Bengal.

From the EFM Office

Praise God...

- For an amazing EFM Board, who sacrifice time and financial resources to guarantee that the work of the Great Commission thrives. This month, specifically, they have met in committees overseeing financial stability, strategic alignment, missionary health and growth and mission advancement.
- For the thousands of people who contribute to the financial support of EFM missionaries. Without them, this work remains undone.
- For those who pray regularly (including you)! Because of you, this work moves forward.

Please Pray...

- For the EFM Board as it meets at Canton (OH) First Friends Church, on November 6 and 7. There will also be an Igniting the Hope Banquet on the 6th. Pray for unity and the Holy Spirit's inspiration, direction and conviction.
- For our North American missionaries who may miss friends and family during holidays like Thanksgiving. Pray that they will find many things to be grateful for right where they live.
- For the Holy Spirit to teach us all how to pray effectively and fervently.

EFM Five-Year Goal: To send 10 new missionary households from North America to launch five new fields by December 31, 2025.

Praise God...

- He has used our Five-Year Goal to reveal where he wants us to work and to humbly recognize that we must grow in our dependence upon him to send the workers to these open fields!
- He continues to open doors of opportunity for us to send workers. This month, trips to the Persian Gulf and to Ecuador confirmed our callings to those fields.

Please Pray...

- For the Lord of the harvest to send more workers into the harvest fields.
- For the National Luke 10 Think Tank that will take place in Canton, OH on Wednesday, November 5. Leaders of the evangelically minded Friends regions/yearly meetings in the United States will gather in person for the Think Tank along with EFM staff, future missionaries, newly approved missionaries, and others who want to experience this kind of discernment and decision-making process. Specifically, we will be discerning what are the next steps as we continue to respond to God's call to move forward in sending.
- Before the end of the year, there are further Luke 10 trips scheduled.

November 10-24 to the Balkans – Pre-launch

November 15-25 to Greece – Prayer

- For those who are in the discernment process regarding missionary service with EFM.

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 Lana Thurston

Serving in Israel

Praise God...

- That my visa was approved and I was able to quickly move here again.
- That I found an apartment without a long stretch of needing to stay in hotels.
- That my students have been enthusiastic about starting classes again.

Please Pray...

- That Israel and Hamas will agree to a ceasefire and everyone will keep the agreement.
- That relationships with continuing and new students will develop outside the classroom.
- That I will continue to make progress with my Arabic lessons.

From Brad & Chelsea Carpenter

Serving in Central Africa

Praise God...

- For Pastor Nicodeme making good initial connections with various people in South Sudan during his three month exploration trip.
- For some testimonies of God beginning to restore some marriage relationships through the D for D mentoring process.

Please Pray...

- For Nicodeme to have wisdom and insight as he connects with people and as he discerns where God is calling him and his family to focus. Also for protection and blessing for him and his family while they are apart from each other.
- For the Evangelical Friends Church of Rwanda as they prepare for the Yearly Meeting Session that will happen November 26-28, as there will be big decisions made about leadership and churches. Please pray for God's will to be done.
- For the D for D teams in Rwanda, Burundi, and Congo as they engage their communities toward whole-life discipleship.

From Abe and Diane Bible

Serving in Ukraine

Praise God...

- We rejoice in a fruitful training workshop in October—always with the topic of evangelism and church planting. New materials. People received fresh vision.
- Praise the Lord that 57 people were reported to start a new life in Christ in September, and 12 public testimonies of water baptisms have been planned for October. All of Heaven rejoices!
- Our Ukrainian documents have come through for another year of knowing that we can be here. Gives peace and we are grateful to the Lord.

Please Pray...

- The November workshop is November 3-5. Abe will be presenting fresh materials on discipleship. Pray that they will be well received and that leaders will be freshly engaged in discipling all of these new born again believers.
- We are having some difficulties getting personal funds into Ukraine. Pray for wisdom in how to pursue this. Part of it is due to transitioning of our permanent address in the US from Ohio to Oklahoma, where 3 of our 5 children now live. It does NOT affect mission funds. Just personal issues that we need to sort through.
- We have increased salaries of people by 20% as inflation is an ongoing issue in Ukraine. Pray that the Lord will provide the extra funds needed so that our faithful people will not have to face additional hardships when the war already brings so many. God is so faithful!

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

- The two handcraft party in Budapest were fruitful. We invited unbeliever families to our church and gave a testimony for them. God used children to reach their parents.
- We are so thankful for the children in our churches, in our mission. Every child is a gift from God. They have an open heart to Jesus.
- The storage room of the Charity House is ready. We continue the work together.

Please Pray...

- For Susan from Serbia. Susan and her husband give place to the house group month by month. Two weeks ago, Susan's father died. Please pray for her, that God give her comfort.
- For Mary from Kölked. As I wrote you earlier, she has a cancer. She is a loyal caretaker in the church house. She is in bad condition.
- And please, pray for Ilonka, from Tolna. Ilonka (Helen in English) is an old lady, but she is very fit and she always go to the mission to serve the Lord. Now, she is sick and she also has a heart problem. Please, pray for recovering, we need her too.
- For our General Assembly. It will be on November 8th in Kölked (Gipsy Mission Center). Please, pray for our occasion.

Fred and Jonelle Liddell
The Balkans
Praise God...

- We recently completed 4 weeks of training and preparation at Mission Training International. This time was rich, giving us tools for language learning, principles for integrating in a new culture, and spiritual practices to help keep our eyes on Christ as we deal with the stress of culture shock. We are deeply grateful for that time of encouragement, equipping, gaining friends, feeling some stability, seeing God work in our hearts and minds.
- We are fully funded! God used the deputation process to stretch our faith, build friendships, see answers to prayer, see timely and targeted encouragement from people who barely knew us, and see the beauty of the wider Body of

Christ. The word that kept coming to mind was fun, it was fun, refreshing, energizing, to meet so many of you and see a bit of what God is doing through you in your communities and around the world.

Please Pray...

- At EFC-ER's yearly meeting sessions, they sang the song "Holy Forever" in English and Spanish. It brought both of us to tears and when we talked afterwards we found that it was for the same reason: we both had a sudden, aching longing to hear a body of Balkan believers singing praises. Please pray for the Spirit's work in this region, that he would draw every more people to Himself, that they would have confidence in hope, that they would stand strong in the midst of cultural opposition.
- There are a lot of logistics to figure out as we prepare to leave. Please pray for timely answers to questions, for good goodbyes and hearts prepared to embrace a new culture.

Samson & Priscilla Retnaraj
Serving in Nepal
Praise God...

- For the blessed time in Chitwan Jhurjhure Church (led by Gokarna and Raju), celebrating their Silver Jubilee and as they and some other leaders in their communities shared testimonies of these 25 years in their growth and how the Lord blessed them in spite of the many odds. CHE has played a major role in their overall growth with intensive trainings conducted among all their children, women and adults, and which culminated a year ago in them forming their own organization (CLC) with the help of a few other churches in the region and which has approval from the local and central government of Nepal to continue their training activities in various fields.
- Our son Prateek as he returned to India after having completed 6 years and graduated from the honors course at the GFU Newberg US, having majored in Psychology. He now lives in India and is seeking options to study more as well as work as a counselor.

Please Pray...

- For Ranjana and her three daughters in Santpur of Cha'pur and also her husband who is miraculously recovering after a fall from the roof and having been bedridden with quadriplegia for the last 11 months. He was very strongly against becoming a believer but the efforts of the church members specially Shanti and Suleman as well as Asha who persisted in their visiting the family and praying for the family. Last week we had the opportunity to visit the family and Ranjana asked for prayers and was led into becoming a believer.
- For our CLCs in Chitwan and Cha'pur to be equipped and furnished with the necessary material to continue the training in their communities. For the Jesus Film shows and the people watching them as we have resumed the shows now that the monsoon is gone.



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