

EFM PRE-LAUNCH PLANNING REPORT

In order to for the read to easily distinguish between the questions with the report and the responses, the responses have been centered on the page.

Please let me know where corrections, additions, subtractions, and grammar need to happen. When doing this, please “reply all” in the group.

‘ARE YOU THE YOU?’

The EFM Luke 10 Pre-Launch Questions report builds a proposal for next steps and logistics in sending short- and long-term missionaries, and will include details such as: There may be answers available in the EFM CAN GO Reports can be copy and pasted and/or adapted.

1. Vision: It is always worth circling back to vision to make sure we are under growing compelling conviction. What is the compelling picture that is worth giving our lives or the lives of our sons and daughters to? How might these people or places look different because we paid the price to take holistic Good News? How could we sharpen our words on how we convey EFM’s Help Wanted message to communicate this vision?

VISION: To establish a work in the PGS that will equip followers of Jesus to plant disciple making communities in the PGS and around the world.

- A. Additional insights that continue to shape the vision:
- B. The work in the PGS will be to come along side of existing ministries to help fill the gaps they are experiencing.
- C. Coming along side Fellowship Dubai to develop a strategic plan to equip, send and to plant disciple making communities throughout the world.
- D. Coming along side Nepali congregations to assist them in starting small businesses so their church can become financially self-sustaining. Thereby freeing resources to make more disciples. Examples will be included later in the document.
- E. ADDITIONAL THOUGHT – Friends could establish a ministry hub in the business world by sending employees and entrepreneurs. They would be united in purpose (disciple making in the work place) and diversified in work.

2. Partnerships and relationships with other organizations, or collaborations with other regions/yearly meetings in the U.S.

- Partnerships: Continue to connect in conversation with partner organizations

that have emerged concerning written partnership agreements. As we think about a potential partnership agreement proposal in 2025 (fifth stage), what kind of expectations might we have of each other in order to strengthen each other's mission goals? What information should be noted for EFM to approve a partnership agreement? Identify where our expectations and their expectations of the partnership align? Identify where expectations differ and need further conversation or additional input from others.

PARTNERSHIPS:

- A. Fellowship Dubai (FD): This is an evangelical church. It has baptized new believers for nearly 50 consecutive weeks! In October 2025, their attendance was 5,200. In October 2026, their attendance is 6,500. EFC and FD are unified in doctrine and mission. While FD has a soft complementarian view, women can lead ministries and teach men. The roles they cannot serve are pastoral and eldership. We asked how this would effective the training of women for ministry and planting disciple making communities. Their response, there is no difference in training men and women.

1,000 individuals leave FD every year. They are going to their next stop. Many will be returning to their homeland.

B. FURTHER CONVERSATION:

- a. A pastor at FD asked us to prepare an invitation that he could presenting to church leaders. The invitation is basically their intent that he is seeking approval from leadership at FD. The twist is this, we are writing our own invitation.
- b. When launching international discipling making communities in other nations, will the overseeing body of those plants be FD or EFM?
- c. If EFM seconds a person to be on staff, what will that look like in terms of accountability. The staff will receive training in how to function as a church in the PGS, ministry experience in various capacities, and personal oversight. Theological training is available from a local seminary.

• Relationships: What contacts, organizations and connections would we identify as informal relationships where we might receive consultation, encouragement or support? As we think about these relationships, what notes would we write in order to clarify to EFM what the nature of the relationship is (what will we give, receive or experience in this relationship).

- A. Nepali congregations: through Norbu Tamang we participated in three Nepali gatherings. A specific opportunity for coming alongside these congregations for small business development. One church spends 60% of their budget on transportation. Their people need transportation to attend church. Possible solution: we come alongside them to train them how to start their own

transportation business. This could provide more resources for the church and increase the salaries of individuals. We could loan them funds to get the business started. Just to be clear, the church liked the idea of a loan.

- B. We need further discernment to confirm the direction between us and the EFC Nepal.
- C. Arun George: he works with Living on the Edge ministry. He has served in the PGS for several years. He has insights about the culture and the business world. He also has many contacts. This contact came through Sam Chappidi.
- D. BAM and Small Business Development – This is increasingly gaining momentum

- Collaborations: What other regions/yearly meetings in the U.S. have interest in participating with the field's sponsoring region/yearly meeting in the benchmarks for launching and supporting this new mission? Develop clarity for how the regions will work together at this point, and how the collaboration will be assessed and adjusted.

Don't know!

3. Strategy : What informal ideas make the most sense at this time for how this mission field will be launched and developed? How does this impact entry strategy?

Keep in mind that ideas for strategy are informal at this stage, as EFM expects that formal strategies will further develop later after missionaries have immersed into learning postures in the culture for 2 years and discover new insights for input to the Field Study Group and EFM.

TWO PRIORITIES AS A RESULT OF TRIP

- A. 1.SMD (Small Business Development) with the Nepali sitin the labor markets or with churches in need of transportation. The churches spend over 50% of their income to transport congregants from labor camps to the church. The thought is to help build a business for the church that can provide income, decreased costs and employment. We also met a young Nepali couple that is ready to start a bakery.
- B. Staff or apprenticeship at FD. As stated above, this would focus on developing a strategic plan, curriculum, and implementation of how to equip men and women plant disciple making communities when they return to the homeland (all will return one day).
- C. BAM – Business as Ministry could be an integral part of this journey. This may look like new business development or tag along with something already established.

ASPIRATIONAL

- A. I see professionals from various parts of the world and in various businesses sitting around a table in the PGS. The table is focused on discipleship making in the workplace. The table will provide cultural training and ongoing small group support. The world is going to Dubai to work. Let's meet the world where they work.

- B. Planting Churches/Disciple making communities in the UAE.
- C. For our Nepali Friends to start a Small Business in the labor camp market

4. Visa: What are the visa requirements and what are our best options? What, if anything, does this mean for strategy or preparation?

There are a few different visas and ways to obtain them. Further investigation is needed. What we know:

- A. Work visas are for a period of two years.
 - a. This could be obtained through the partnership with FD.
 - b. There are also student visas for college attendees
- B. Individuals have to earn a certain amount of money for their spouse to obtain a visa.
- C. Golden Visas are available.

5. Skill Sets: What are the skill sets that stand out as we look for missionary candidates for this field? How might people in your church hear the opportunity and call, including those who never imagined themselves as “missionaries.” How might the call for workers help people discover that their life or work experiences, character and interests fit into the missionary team/s? Young adults? Mid-career? Retired? Long term? One to two years of service?

- A. Local Church servant-leader
 - a. Clear calling
 - b. Comfortable with multi-cultural settings
 - c. Capable strategist
 - d. Experienced disciple maker
 - e. Leader - coachable & learner
 - f. Communicator
 - g. Curriculum developer & implementer
 - h. Fund raiser – current or willing to learn
- B. Business starter
 - a. Clear calling
 - b. Comfortable with multi-cultural settings
 - c. Willingness to learn and implement B.A.M. type plan
 - d. Entrepreneur
 - e. Understanding and experience in business procedures and processes
 - f. Experience disciple maker
- C. Multi-cultural, microbusiness trainer (this may be a good role for a Nepali Friend.)
 - a. Clear calling

- b. Comfortable with multi-cultural settings
 - c. Willingness to learn and implement B.A.M.
 - d. Understands and has experience with micro business practices
 - e. Experience disciple making
- D. Professional – (Nurse, accountant, sales, ...etc)
- a. Clear calling
 - b. Comfortable with multi-cultural settings
 - c. Willing to learn how to make disciples in the workplace in the Persian Gulf States
 - d. Earn a self-sustaining income while serving

6. Possible Missionaries: Who are possible missionary candidates for this field that we should be talking with and preparing? This includes people who don't have traditional "call" but are willing and able to serve within EFM's missionary qualifications and within context of type of service.

Sam & Sherly Chappidi have expressed a great interest in going. His focus would be on BAM. Her focus may be on nursing. Sam and his family went to Dubai in the Spring of 2025. Sam also went on the October 2025 trip. Stan L met him. They both speak English, Hindi, and Telugu.

7. Language Learning: First term missionary's objectives will focus on language and culture learning through immersion. What relationships and connections might be available for language helpers for language learning through immersion? Are there formal language school options that should be considered? How much will these options cost? How does this impact what city or neighborhood they start?

Language learning is not necessary. English is the primary language.

8. Location: Where will our missionaries live? What is the specific city, neighborhood, etc?

- A. In Dubai but away from the city center.
- B. Not sure which neighborhood - Location, while doing some searching, a good area to begin may be the Sharjah area. There is a cheaper cost of living.
- C. There are lots of places to rent.

9. Lifestyle: What will the missionary lifestyle look like for their first term of culture and language learning immersion? Will they have a car or use public transportation? Will they live on their own or with someone else?

- A. A single person could easily get around Dubai with public transportation and the use of taxis.
- B. A family could do the same, but I would recommend a vehicle of their own.
- C. There are private schools and homeschool programs available for children.
- D. There are nannies from Nepal and other countries who are available and a good opportunity for discipleship.
- E. There is easy access to groceries, medical care, and other integral living needs

10. Spiritual Issues: What are the significant spiritual issues in the area? How does this impact missionary self-care and support in this particular environment (i.e. coping strategies)?

- A. The religion of the region is Islam. However, this makes up a small portion of the population. The local government maintains control over the churches. Learning the restrictions will be important. These restrictions vary from one Emirate to another.
- B. There are terms that churches do not use in public or private. Terms such as missionary, evangelism, converting ... etc.
- C. We heard that the government is always listening. The level of intensity varies from one individual to another.
- D. Official churches have designated areas in which to meet.
- E. There are unofficial churches that have to lay low.

11. Missionary Care: What needs considered for missionary care in the first term of language learning and culture bonding. What support is required? What pace and should rhythms be considered in this immersion context? Where will the missionary/s go for respite? Are there needs for on-site short- or long-term missionary support personnel? What support or camaraderie already exists in the area of service? What options are there for children's education (if applicable)?

EFM provides for each missionary: an EFM Coach, a Missionary Care Team, and a Language Learning Coach.

- A. Beyond what EFM already provides, it would be simple to connect missionaries to a local church and small groups.
- B. Public schools are expensive. Home schooling is an option. OR we start a school as a BAM.
- C. We were told that there are no atheists in Dubai. Everyone believes in something.
- D. Many are open to hearing about what the Bible teaches.

12. Support Budget: What will the major field expenses be during the first term? Housing? Language helper and/or language classes? Transportation? Any insights concerning income levels and lifestyle in the area of service? What else?

From 2024 report ... leave room for inflation

- A. In Dubai the average expenses for a single person per month is \$1025.00 plus rent. Rent on average is comparable to the US, but the apartments are much different.
- B. In the Sharjah region, the average monthly expense is \$762.00 plus rent.
- C. The average income per year in Dubai for an Emirati is \$52,000.00.
- D. An American with some type of degree that can find employment with a larger company may be able to make more money.
- E. Americans usually have to be specialized to get work in the UAE because they require higher salaries than other countries.

13. What are other insights, questions, concerns, points which need to be noted and remembered?

- A. *How do we raise funds for starting businesses in other countries? Find investors? Raise funds in a traditional manner?*
- B. *Will the decision making for the business ultimately rest with the individual owner of the business or with EFM?*
- C. *How will partnering with non-Friends impact the plan of new ministries? Do the new works have to include Friends in the name?*
- D. *EFM's website is not always available to individuals in the UAE because of the word 'mission' in the name. What do we do?*