

JESUS' RELENTLESS LOVE

Reflections from EFM Missionaries & Staff

2025 YEAR-END OFFERING



EVANGELICAL
FRIENDS MISSION

Jesus' Relentless Love

Reflections from EFM Missionaries & Staff

Each of these devotionals has been prayerfully written by EFM staff and missionaries with the hope that they bring encouragement, peace, and joy this Christmas season.



Whether you read them with family and friends, share them with your church or small group, or take time alone to reflect, may these words remind you of the steadfast love of Christ and the hope we have in him.

Our prayer is that, however these devotionals are used, they will be a gift that draws hearts closer to Jesus and to the work he continues to do through his people around the world.

If these devotionals encourage you or remind you of God's work through EFM, we invite you to consider making a year-end gift at friendsmission.com/year-end or by scanning the QR code.

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF WHAT GOD IS DOING THROUGH EVANGELICAL FRIENDS MISSION.



Jesus With You!

Written by Stan Leach, EFM Staff



Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.
Isaiah 40:4 (NIV)

This passage reminds us that the coming Messiah - Jesus - will lift every valley, make every mountain low, make the way straight. In other words, the ever-present Lord carries us through the dark and hard and chaotic and challenging moments of our lives. It echoes Psalm 23: *"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, you are with me."* Certainly, Jesus is "God with us," Emmanuel!

Thank you, Jesus Emmanuel, for being with me today!

The Faithfulness of Isaac

Written by Krista Gonzalez, EFM Staff

Isaac spoke to his father Abraham and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." And he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together. Genesis 22:7-8 (NASB) (Read 1-14 for full passage.)

Often we read this story and marvel at the faithfulness of Abraham, who nearly sacrificed his son at God's command, but what of the faithfulness of Isaac? A young man strong enough to carry the wood on his back could certainly have fought off his elderly father or run away, but instead, Isaac willingly laid down upon the altar. Isaac's trust in his father led him to obedience even in the face of terrifying possibilities, and God provided as he always does. May we have the faith of Isaac to trust and follow the Lord wherever he leads.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that you are trustworthy and provide for our needs. Give us faith like Isaac to trust and to walk in obedience to what you call us to, even through trials and danger. We know that you are there with us. Amen.



What in the World is Going On?

Written by Scott Sward, EFM Missionary to Cambodia



The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

*It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the LORD
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be lifted up above the hills;
and all the nations shall flow to it,
and many peoples shall come, and say:
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."
For out of Zion shall go forth the law,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.
O house of Jacob, come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD. Isaiah 2:1-5 (ESV)*

We live in uncertain times. But God gave Isaiah a picture to show us where everything's ultimately headed ("in the latter days" v. 2). Through all the tumult and trouble, God is at work in the world to:

- magnify himself ("*the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of mountains*" v. 2);
- draw to himself people from every tribe and tongue ("*...all the nations shall flow to it, and many people shall come, and say...*" v.2-3);
- and form them into a peculiar people who reflect his character ("*...that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths*" v.3).

May we join God in this worldwide mission.

Lord, please use us to glorify you; to draw people from all nations to you; and to be formed together into a people who reflect your grace and truth to the world. Amen.



Our God Who Gave

Written by Barb Arroyo, EFM Staff



For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (NIV)

Christmas reminds us of the simple yet powerful truth: “God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son.” The word GAVE captures the very heart of our faith and God’s generosity toward us. He started by giving his best, and though we can never out-give him, we reflect his heart when we give to others. Our generosity is a living reminder of his love, bringing hope and peace to those who need it most.

Dear heavenly Father, We thank you for the gift of your son, Jesus. He is the greatest expression of your love and generosity.

This Christmas, we pause in awe that you began by giving to us so freely and fully. Lord, we confess that we can never out-give You. We rejoice that you invite us to participate in your work through our prayers, our service, and our giving. Bless each organization and donor who has chosen to reflect your heart in generosity towards EFM. Multiply their gifts so that lives are touched all over the world. May hope be restored and your name glorified. Fill their homes with peace this season. We thank you for the privilege of giving because you first gave to us. In Jesus’ precious name, Amen.

Taking Delight in the Lord

Written by Dan Cammack, EFM Staff

Do not fret because of those who are evil or be envious of those who do wrong; for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away. Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun. Psalm 37:1-6 (NIV)

This psalm of David begins with an exhortation about something that I have difficulty NOT doing. Verse 1 says, “Do not fret...” But there is so much to fret about! How can I NOT fret?

The following verses point the way. Verse three instructs us to do three things: Trust in the Lord, do good, and stay put. Verses four and five add two more: Take delight in the Lord and commit our ways to him. I am praying that the Spirit of God will have more freedom to establish this pattern in my life. I am inviting him to do so. How about you?

Lord, direct my steps as I learn more about how to experience the pattern outlined in Psalm 37:1-6.



What a Waste?

Written by Jonelle Liddell, EFM Missionary to The Balkans



While Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, a woman approached him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume. She poured it on his head as he was reclining at the table. When the disciples saw it, they were indignant. "Why this waste?" they asked. "This might have been sold for a great deal and given to the poor."

Aware of this, Jesus said to them, "Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a noble thing for me. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me. By pouring this perfume on my body, she has prepared me for burial. Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her." Matthew 26:6-14 CSB

Waste has such a negative connotation for most of us. Something that should have been used for one purpose has been squandered on another. But recently I was thinking about the beauty of "wasting" resources that I view as precious: time, energy, talent, in ways that aren't productive. Poured out before Christ, like expensive perfume turning the dirt floor into something beautiful.

Father, so often I look at my resources and worry about how well I'm stewarding them. Am I being productive enough to please You? But today I recognize that I'm not your employee, being evaluated on my performance. I'm your child, who has receiving lavish gifts out of your overflowing goodness. Help me to shift my perspective, pouring my best out for you even in ways that feel wasteful. Give me an eagerness to sit in Your presence in the stillness, so close that I carry your aroma away on me.

Wait for Jesus Coming Back!

Written by Antal (Tony) Frei, EFM Missionary to Hungary

When the master comes and finds that servant doing the work he gave him, it will be a day of blessing for that servant! Matthew 24:46 (ERV)

We have to be in personal contact with Jesus Christ! We need to plant new churches and make them strong look after and encourage the church members! We should make them disciples!

Lord Jesus Christ please support me with a Spirit of obedience, so that I may always be ready to do your will! Amen



Love That Gives First

Written by Kimberly Mer, EFM Staff



Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. 1 Corinthians 13:4:8 (NIV)

At Christmas, we celebrate the moment love took on flesh and entered our world. Long before we offered anything in return, Christ came near. Before we knew his name, he was already preparing a way for us to know his heart.

This love isn't shallow. It is steady, enduring, and costly. It gives first. It lays itself down. And it continues to move toward us even when we don't deserve it. When we love as Christ loves, we begin to reflect his heart in tangible ways: forgiving those who've hurt us, giving generously without expecting credit, and serving with joy even when it goes unseen. That kind of love transforms not only relationships, but whole communities. It's the kind of love the world is still aching to see.

As we go through this Christmas season, may we do so from hearts shaped by his love.

Jesus, thank you for showing us what perfect love looks like. Teach us to love as you love – freely, humbly, and without condition. Let our words and actions this season reflect your heart so that others may see you through us. Amen.

'Tis the Season

Written by Debby McElroy, EFM Staff

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1 (KJV)

As we enter the Christmas Season, I have been thinking about the different seasons of life that we go through. When I was a little girl, it was a season of carefree play - running barefoot and riding my bike all around the small Kansas town I grew up in. Then I reached the teen years, and a season of school, learning more life lessons, preparing for the next steps. The season of college was marked by study, more independence, and making big decisions about my life. The same week I graduated, I entered the season of being a married lady and learning how to live life with another person. Then came one of the biggest - motherhood. Those early years are a blur of babies, toddler years, navigating all of that with laughter and tears (theirs AND mine). For some years now, I have been in the empty nest season and the fun season of being a grandma. Through all these seasons, I have known that God is with me, loving, holding and guiding me. Sometimes I feel his presence in a very real way. Some seasons, though, it's a little harder. But I trust him. So I keep going, and look forward to the next season that is approaching.



Lord help us to trust you with all the seasons of our life. Help us to follow hard after you and bless us with the assurance that you are in control of it all.

A Candle in the Window

Written by Kathi Perry, EFM Missionary to Ireland



In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

“So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. Luke 2:1-7 (NIV)

*“Who has believed our message
and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
He grew up before him like a tender shoot,
and like a root out of dry ground.
He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.”
Isaiah 53: 1-2 (NIV)*

The Irish, historically, have placed a candle in the window on Christmas Eve. The candle represented a welcome to Joseph and Mary; and indicated, especially to the poor, that they may find an offering of food within this house. Isaiah asks, “Who has believed our message?” I’d like to think it would have been me, candle lit. If you have not welcomed the Christ child in – the one who was born to bear your pain – make room for Him... in this season, in your life... open the door.

Come to my heart, Lord Jesus. There is room in my heart for you.





2025 YEAR-END OFFERING



FRIENDSMISSION.COM
efm@friendsmission.com
303-421-8100