



EVANGELICAL FRIENDS MISSION

LUKE 10 TRIPS

South Sudan Pre- Launch Planning Report

EVANGELICAL FRIENDS MISSION
P.O. Box 771139, Wichita, KS 67277, (303) 421-8100
efm@friendsmission.com | www.friendsmission.com

EFM SOUTH SUDAN PRE-LAUNCH PLANNING REPORT

Written by EFC-Rwanda Missions Leaders and Brad Carpenter

The EFM Luke 10 Pre-Launch Questions report builds a proposal for next steps and logistics in sending short- and long-term missionaries. You do not need to give an answer to every single question in this template. Just tell EFM what you know and what is applicable. Brevity is encouraged. The questions below are intended to inspire documented communication which would allow EFM to send workers to the field with peace of mind.

How do we “launch” a field? Workers or missionaries MOVE TO THE FIELD!

There may be info available in the EFM CAN GO Reports that could be copy and pasted and/or adapted.

1. In a brief sentence for each of the five CAN GO criteria, what is the latest update concerning each: Champion/s, Affirmation, Need, Gifting, and Opportunity/Openness.
 - a. Champion(s): We have a team we are calling the EFC-Rwanda Missions Technicians who are championing the preparation and mobilization required for EFC-Rwanda to send missionaries to South Sudan. The team includes Pastors Jean Paul Nsekanabo, Nicodeme Basebya, and Gerard Munyanganizi as well as Brad Carpenter
 - b. Affirmation: The Yearly of Rwanda approved the plan for sending missionaries to South Sudan and chose Pastor Nicodeme and Annonciata to be sent as the first EFC-Rwanda missionaries to South Sudan. They also approved the EFC-Rwanda Mission Board to give leadership to the mission.
 - c. Need: Even though there are churches in South Sudan, many of the people called Christians are Christian only in name. There is a great need to proclaim the gospel and make disciples. There are some areas that are unreached by the gospel.
 - d. Gifting: Pastor Nicodeme and Annonciata have many gifts and years of experience in pastoral ministry and they are surrounded by a group of strong church leaders who have many needed gifts to complement and support the mission.
 - e. Opportunity/Openness: We have been welcomed by everyone we have talked with in every area we visited: church people, government officials and others we talked to.

2. Compelling conviction to launch (to build just a short paragraph on top of the CAN GO summary). What is the compelling picture that is worth giving our lives or the lives of our sons and daughters to? How might these peoples or places look different because we paid the price to take holistic Good News? What words would sharpen our Help Wanted sign for this new field?

We are called to be a part of the Great Commission and take the gospel to the nations. We are challenged by the missionaries who brought the gospel to us and believe God is calling us to do the same. There is a great need for a gospel that transforms peoples' lives, families, and communities. The people of South Sudan have been through many years of war and internal conflict including tribal conflicts. The war has caused much of the land to be unused and people are very poor. As Rwandans we have experienced the trauma caused by the genocide against the Tutsi and the consequences of that time. Now, we live in peace and unity as a country and so we believe we can give a good example of Jesus bringing peace where there was conflict. We believe that as we have prayed that God has led us as EFC-Rwanda to be a part of taking the life-transforming gospel.

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 in the culture for 2 years and discover new insights for input to EFM. So...strategy step one is to get workers/missionaries on the ground for language and culture learning, regardless of what role those workers would have in long term team. (Even workers who are potential missionaries still exploring a call to this place, or shorter term willing to help us create a presence and gather intel).

To use the tool of D4D to gather and disciple groups in the local communities to be whole-life disciples of Jesus. This will help us to raise up South Sudanese leaders who will lead the EFC of South Sudan.

Another idea is to start a school that would help meet a need in the community and also bless them by offering good Christian education.

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

We need to find more information about this. But this is easier for East African citizens.

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?

In the future, we will need teachers, builders, farmers, business-people, nurses/doctors. Some of these would be for short-term service, others for long-term service.

6. 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?

Reverend William and Bishop Luke are our advisors for many things. We do not know of a language learning school. We think that the PILAT method from Mission Training International will be the best tool for learning Arabic. This method includes time in the community every day to practice language and is a great way to learn culture.

7. Location: Where will our missionaries live? What is the region, specific city, or neighborhood?

We believe that the first missionaries will begin in the Juba 2 area of Juba, which is the capital of South Sudan. Although, Nicodeme has discovered that that area is made up primarily of people from the Nuer tribe. So, he is prayerfully considering if there might be another area that would have a greater mix of people from various tribes.

8. 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?

In the beginning, the missionaries will use public transportation (or taxis sometimes) and live simply in general. Because they will move as a family, it is difficult for them to stay in someone else's home, but our observation is that South Sudanese are very open to talk and fellowship with us. They will live in a neighborhood that has many South Sudanese in it.

9. 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)?

Many people we have interacted with said they were Christians but appear to have continued in their traditional beliefs that include: idols or other gods, witchcraft, polygamy, and other things. The coaching team will need to include these issues in topics that they discuss often with the missionaries. The missionaries and the mission board will need to work together closely to determine the proper way to handle various issues that come up theologically. For example if a man with multiple wives becomes a Christian, will he be required to divorce his wives? Or what?

10. 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 rhythms should 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)?

We have begun discussing a few of these topics, but much more study is required before decisions can be made.

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

11. Teams: It is natural to ask "what if" we have one missionary household ready to deploy but we don't have others identified or ready. There are many ways to define teams and each context/scenario will impact the way EFM would have "peace of mind" short or long term in the process of launching and building/developing healthy thriving teams and mission strategy long term. Please identify what missionary or ex-pat personnel outside of EFM are working (or planning to work) in the area of this new field location who could serve as interim or long term "team" support to EFM worker/s. Briefly explain current status of relationship with these persons.

We are friends with Reverend William, Bishop Luke, the ALARM organization, and the PEACE Plan Organization. There are also Rwandans in South Sudan: soldiers, police, and business people. All of these could potentially be helpful as informal team members before other EFC missionaries move to South Sudan.

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?

We are working on this. Some parts of life in Juba and South Sudan in general will be quite a bit more expensive than life in Rwanda. Housing seems especially expensive. One challenge will be schooling for Nicodeme and Annonciata's youngest child, Joy. She is in 7th grade and they hope to have her with them in South Sudan. The educational standards in Rwanda have meant that some of our pastors with diplomas and degrees from other countries were not considered valid. So, it is possible that Joy will need to go to a rather expensive school or will need to study in Rwanda which would require some flights for her or Annonciata during school breaks.

13. 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.

Pastor Nicodeme and Annonciata have been chosen by EFC-Rwanda are preparing to go. Others might be interested but are not known specifically yet.

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

NOTE: We are not intending to write comprehensive partnership proposals at this point, rather in brief, note key points concerning potential partnerships and what we know at this point.

We are planning to partner with EFM in the launching of the mission in South Sudan. The details are still unclear about what this partnership will look like. EFC-Rwanda is planning to send the first missionaries in 2025 and will take the lead for this mission venture. We as EFC-Rwanda suggested that in the beginning that EFC-Rwanda would pay for 40% of the mission budget in South Sudan and asked that EFM would pay for 60%. The idea would be that EFC-Rwanda would gradually increase its giving as missions become more normal for the YM. This needs some clarity between EFC-Rwanda and EFM.

- **Partnerships:** Continue to connect in conversation with partner yearly meetings on other continents or partner organizations that have emerged. Name organization and basic summary of why partner with them. As we think about a potential partnership agreement proposal in 2025 (fifth stage), identify summary of what kind of expectations we may have of each other in order to strengthen each other's mission goals? Identify where our expectations and their expectations of the partnership align, and where they differ and need further conversation. What plans have been made or need to be made to develop a proposal (specific dates and places are welcome if applicable).
- **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 each party give, receive or experience in this relationship).
- **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.

From the Luke 10 Initiative GLOSSARY

Partnerships and Collaborations: Partnership Agreements are to be written by regional field study groups in collaboration with EFM staff to be proposed to the EFM Board for approval (may involve EFM Think Tank). These partnerships may be "works in progress" in this journey.

- **Multinational partnerships** with international sending yearly meetings. These occur when EFM and a missions-sending board in another yearly meeting outside of the U.S. endeavor to both send missionaries to work together to start/oversee a mission field together.
- **Partnerships with organizations** with whom we may collaborate with in launching the mission. These occur when EFM works formally with an organization in order to accomplish the goals of the mission. We wish to have expectations from both parties summarized in writing for clarity. This does not include informal 'relationships' or 'friendships' with other organizations or missionaries who we may consult with or collaborate in a strictly relational capacity.

Inter-regional/yearly meeting collaboration within EFC-NA is encouraged to build capacity in the EFM family of churches. This occurs when one or more regions/yearly meetings within the U.S. create an intentional relationship with the sponsoring yearly meeting of a new field in order to help accomplish benchmarks.

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