



EVANGELICAL FRIENDS MISSION

LUKE 10 TRIPS

MEXICO Pre- Launch Planning Report

EVANGELICAL FRIENDS MISSION
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EFM MEXICO PRE-LAUNCH PLANNING REPORT

THIS IS A 2024 REPORT WHICH HAS BEEN UPDATED WITH NEW 2025 INSIGHTS IN SHADED AREAS

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.

- In a brief sentence for each of the five CAN GO criteria, what is the latest update concerning each:

Champion/s:

- Erik Nilson-FSW **Pending Status*, Luke and Ximena Macy EFC-MAYM, Angelica De La Cruz-Coahuila Friends Church, Sergio Contreras Coahuila Friends Church, ~~Karina Orozco ITA Student~~, Pedro and Sandy -MYM VM32
- Mexico YM Central
- Mexico YM North
- Iglesias Evangelica Amigos Las Vegas adopting New Church Planting in Jalisco.
- ITA-Mexico Theological Bible Institute- Training new planters and missionaries.
- Future Missionary Retreat LA- Those that have attended and exploring the calling to missions in the future.

Affirmation: We continue to see the great need for people to know the Gospel and come to know Jesus as their savior in every town that has been visited in Durango, Jalisco, Nayarit and San Luis Potosi. A great example is the town of Juan Aldama where the Holy Spirit poured into a house and 7 people accepted Jesus as their savior.

This town in Durango (Juan Aldama) was visited again this past January by the Luke 10 prayer team from Haviland, Kansas Friends Church and leader from Zacatecas and leader from MYM, affirming that this area is still a potential field, with some contacts already made.

Need: In the entire country of Mexico the population is around 130 million people of which only less than 9% are Evangelical Christians.*In the center of Mexico exists a zone identified as the circle of silence, this zone includes 8 States: Jalisco, Zacatecas, Aguascalientes, Nayarit, Michoacan, Guanajuato, Queretaro, San Luis Potosi. In the

Circle of Silence there are 115 towns with less than 1% of Evangelical Christians. This is the place with the fewest Christians in Latin America!. MYM and EFM will be concentrating in the four chosen states for now until these are cover with workers planting churches or missionaries teaming up with nationals.

Giftng,

- Erik Nilsen- Has expressed interest in joining a team. He has teaching gifts. Erik was about to leave to Zacatecas in October for a one year internship, now he is in a process with a pending status.
- The Friends Theological Institute in Mexico is currently training a group of interested people to go out and plant new churches for which EFM is providing scholarships.
- Future Missionary Retreat: Has become an important event to identify people that are showing interest in becoming church planters or missionaries. We have seen that God is raising youth with a passion and wanting to serve him at a field.

Opportunity/Openness.

- There are many opportunities and ways to develop ministry in many of these explored places. There are good possibilities through opening businesses, community service, working with children, and marriage restoration ministry, among others
 - Jalisco- There is a couple (Pedro and Sandy Moscosa from Mexico City) ready to move to Jalisco this coming January. The opportunity is a group of people already waiting to be minister and to form a church in the town Estanzuelas. This is a opportunity for missionaries to EFM to come and team up with the Moscosa Family.
- 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?

Due to the great need that we have already mentioned, more than 91% of the population are bounded to religion, traditions, idolatry, without hope, without knowing that the true salvation of Jesus exists, because He desires to give life and life in abundance. People need to know the Truth of the Gospel and become Disciples of Jesus, only in this way will there be transformation in communities, cities and throughout the country.

- 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).

- *Business as Missions to create opportunities to reach out communities*
 - *Social Service- Family Counseling, Counseling for addictions, Workshops for Social needs*
 - *Education Leveling for Kids and Teenagers (in Math, Reading, writing)*
 - *Perhaps we could apply DforD in certain communities*
 - *More conversations between EFM directors and both MYMs to establish a partnership agreement and develop healthy strategies to work together.*
 - *Since VM32 was launched EFM has been involved in providing scholarships for training people at the Theological Bible Institute.*
 - *EFM has been involved in providing aid with ministry expenses to new church planters.*
 - *EFM has been involved in giving opportunity for special projects for new church planting to be funded through the Christmas brochure, such as: Funds for Marriage Seminaries, Kids evangelistic events, training for new worship team members, among others.*
- **Visa:** What are the visa requirements and what are our best options? What, if anything, does this mean for strategy or preparation?
 - Foreign Missionaries could be assisted by the Mexico Yearly Meeting to work on legal status to obtain a minister's visa. (This is not a too complicated process)
 - **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?

The most compelling needs and skill sets needed in this country are church planting, personal evangelism, one-on-one discipleship-making, leadership making, marriage counseling, experience in psychology, addictions therapy/treatment, and kids ministry.

People with the ability to establish conversations and relationships with new people. People with the ability to evangelize and disciple communities from scratch. People who are willing to live in very modest places or rustically in small towns. People who are willing to invest time and effort

in local people. People with a focus and mentality of going to serve and present Christ to those who need a personal relationship with him. Preferably, people with influence in Spanish or a knowledge of the language or willing to immerse themselves in the culture and learn the language.

- Passionate people with experience and ability to work with children and adolescents to lead them into a relationship with Jesus.
- Households willing to go and live modest and moderate in small towns, who have the facility to share the gospel and love of Jesus with others. With experience using practical methods of personal evangelism.
- Mature Evangelical Christians with teaching and discipleship making skills.
- Households with experience in pastoral counseling and/or psychology. *Biblical marriage counseling is much needed.
- Candidates preferably, with at least some Spanish language influence/understanding.
- 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?
 - Every major city in every State of Mexico has language learning schools. But what is recommended is that they live close to local families making relationships with people and places where they have the opportunity for immersion, learning, and practice the language. Find a mentor right away after arrival to the field for greater effectiveness in learning the language. The cost may vary depending on the city, although we believe that learning Spanish in Mexico cannot be too expensive.
- Location: Where will our missionaries live? What is the region, specific city, or neighborhood?
 - So far 4 States have been explored: Durango, San Luis Potosi, Jalisco, and Nayarit.
 - Jalisco: we recommend Cocula-main city surrounded by many small towns
 - Nayar: Tepic City, and Huichole Group Communities outside the city limits
 - San Luis Potosi: Mexquitic is a head town surrounded by many small towns (some of these small towns did not even have a catholic temple)
 - Durango: Durango City and the town Juan Aldama

- 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 order to build trust among the local people we want to reach, it is advisable to live modestly with the lifestyle of the majority of people in that area. Mostly it will be in rural places, small towns, cities of lower-middle social level.

Both own car and/or public transportation is recommended, avoiding isolation and not having a relationship with the community. We understand that in the case of being a family with children, we believe that it is necessary to own car.

In the case of a family with children, it would be recommended to have their own house. If a single person or a couple without children, It is advisable to try to find a family that is willing to host for a short term for better immersion in the culture.

- 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)?
 - Alcohol and drug abuse
 - dysfunctional families
 - In some places the practice of witchcraft.
 - War between drug cartels
 - We recommend that people who are going to be sent to Mexico learn and understand very well the concept of spiritual warfare.
- 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)?
 - Weekly sabbatical time off.
 - It is recommended to have relationships with other ministers and ministries in the area as spiritual support.
 - Attending the annual sessions of the Yearly Meetings of Mexico to meet and interact with the leaders and pastors of the Friends in Mexico, is highly recommended for spiritual support and learning and adaptation of the culture.
 - For children's education we recommend that they attend public schools which are safe, although it would be even better if missionaries could search if there are options around

their service area where could be already Christian ministries that offer education for children.

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

- 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.
 - Mexico Yearly Meetings (North and Central)
 - Leaders/pastors of existing Friends Churches near the area where the missionary will be serving.
 - Local churches, not necessary friends, but that are willing to assist with guidance about culture, city live, etc.
- 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?
 - In Mexico the monthly budget being managed for new planters is approximately 15,000-20,000 which is approximately (1,200 dollars) depending on the city or town where the ministry is being established. This budget only covers housing, transportation, internet, and utilities. (Take into account that the majority of workers are bi-vocational). Does not include health insurance, owning a car, or ministry expenses.
 - It is recommended that missionaries live modestly, adapting to the lifestyle of the majority of people who live in the area where they are going to serve. Avoiding, luxury, which could cause damage to building relationships, and damage to the ministry, and even close doors of opportunity.
- 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.
 - Luke and Ximena Macy
 - Andrew Walters
 - Hannah Thoenen – Canton, Ohio EFC ER
 - Nataniel y Ana Wong- San Antonio, Tx

- 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.

- 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.
 - Friends Southwest Hispanic Ministries
 - Some English speaking churches in FSW have shown interest in supporting the future mission fields in Mexico and Ecuador
 - MidAmerica YM
 - Iglesia Roca de Refugio, non-Friends church in Idaho, supportive of VM32.
 - Wilmer Vicen, business owner in Texas- supportive of VM32 providing some scholarships to students.

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.

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

As a reminder, EFM has been partnering with both Mexico Yearly Meeting in VM32 project with the following:

- *Since VM32 was launched EFM has been involved in providing scholarships for training people at the Theological Bible Institute.*
- *EFM has been involved in providing aid with field budget ministry expenses to new church planters.*
- *EFM has been involved in giving opportunity for special projects for new church planting to be funded through the Christmas brochure, such as: Funds for Marriage Seminaries, Kids evangelistic events, training for new worship team members, among others.*