

EFM LUKE 10 INITIATIVE MAJOR BENCHMARKS

The vision of EFM's Five-Year Goal, set in 2020, launched EFM into what we now call the Luke 10 Era. Today that vision continues as we remain committed to sending at least seven missionary (field worker) teams to at least seven fields through the Luke 10 Initiative.

In launching these new fields, we will pursue partnerships with Evangelical Friends groups in other countries who share our vision and wish to work with us.

During the first three stages we focus on three goals:

1. Regions discerning where and if to explore with EFM's feedback.
2. Regions organize themselves to shepherd the initiative for each field.
3. Trips and discernment occur for decisions of commitment to launch field/s.

STAGE ONE MAJOR BENCHMARKS

- Regions identify their Four Types of People, including the call for future workers for the harvest. *(2026: "field worker" is a term EFM is adopting for printed and formal use to replace "missionary.")*
- Regional Think Tanks identify field/s to propose to EFM for exploration.

STAGE TWO MAJOR BENCHMARKS

- Region develops a Field Focus Group for any potential field under exploration which they have adopted.
- Regions establish Field Prayer Team/s who meet regularly at home in the U.S. to pray for each field.
- Regions visit field/s with Four Types of People for Luke 10 Exploration Trip and provide EFM CAN GO report and recommendations to EFM

STAGE THREE MAJOR BENCHMARKS

- Potential fields visited for at least the second time, providing a second CAN GO report to EFM with any proposals to EFM to either pause exploration or commit to launching. *(EFM gives a "yes" or "not yet" to commitment for launching new field. Potential fields not ready for commitment may repeat trips or pause as appropriate).*

During the next two stages we will focus on three goals:

1. Lay a strong foundation of prayer – locally, regionally and nationally.
2. Send workers to launch each new field.
3. Establish a disciple-making ministry presence in each field.

STAGE FOUR MAJOR BENCHMARKS

- EFM posts Help Wanted signs for short- and long-term worker households for each field.
- Regions send annual 10:2 Prayer Trip/s to each field to pray for the soil and for workers and endeavor to increase participation and resolve for CAN GO Criteria.
- EFM commissions Field Focus Group/s to complete Pre-Launch Planning Reports for each field.
- Field Focus Group/s initiate conversations about missions-sending plans with any potential partnerships.*

STAGE FIVE MAJOR BENCHMARKS

- EFM receive at least 2 short-term (2 years) or long-term (4 years or more) applications for new field/s.
- Regions send annual 10:2 Prayer Trip/s to each field to pray for the soil and for workers and endeavor to increase participation and resolve for CAN GO Criteria.

- Field Focus Groups propose partnership agreements where applicable and Partnership Advisory Teams are formed.
- EFM deploys field worker teams on each field (short term or long term).

During these next three stages:

1. Expand prayer ministries on every front.
2. Follow EFM protocol to provide care and support to workers on each field.
3. Develop a long-term disciple-making strategy for each field.

STAGE SIX MAJOR BENCHMARKS (2026)

- Regions send annual 10:2 Prayer Trip/s to each field to pray for the soil and for workers and endeavor to increase participation and resolve for CAN GO Criteria.
- EFM in collaboration with regions provide care for missionaries through Missionary Care Teams and Field Coaches on every field who are engaged into full time focus on immersion language learning and culture bonding during at least the first 2 years.

STAGE SEVEN MAJOR BENCHMARKS (2027)

- Regions send annual 10:2 Prayer Trip/s to each field to pray for the soil and for workers and endeavor to increase participation and resolve for CAN GO Criteria.
- EFM provide care for field workers on every field in collaboration with Missionary Care Teams
- Field Focus Groups are in conversation with field workers, regional missions team and EFM in developing a long-term strategy.
- Field Focus Groups propose appropriate updates concerning any formal or informal partnership agreements.

STAGE EIGHT MAJOR BENCHMARKS (2028)

- Regions send annual 10:2 Prayer Trip/s to each field to pray for the soil and for workers and endeavor to increase participation and resolve for CAN GO Criteria.
- EFM receives proposals from Field Focus Groups in sponsoring regions for long-term field strategies for each field.
Regions are asked to receive proposals and insights from field workers with field immersion experience.
- Field Focus Groups identify growth plans needed for pioneering field-worker team. Update Help Wanted signs. Recruit more field worker team members as appropriate.
(Field Focus Groups' duties are handed off to the field-worker team once it is established on the field.)

GLOSSARY, EFM's Luke 10 Initiative

Luke 10 Initiative: The systematic EFM initiative to discern where, who and how to launch new mission fields.

Four Types of People: The EFM initiative is intentional to invite and include 1) future missionaries/field workers 2) people with missions experience 3) influential church leaders 4) people from other nearby countries, usually Friends Church leaders

EFM CAN GO Criteria: The five criteria EFM uses for discernment in decision to send missionaries/field-workers to start a new mission field, based on study of history in how this kind of discernment was made:

C – Champion/s Multiplying passion that we must go

A – Affirmation Church agrees: local, national, international

N – Need Compelling need for the gospel, worth the cost of our sons and daughters

G – Gifting

Missionary team with gifting, character, support and collaborations

O – Opportunity Openness among these people, even a sense of invitation

Luke 10 Think Tank: Regional or national discernment gatherings specifically for prayer, discerning where to explore, receiving reports, discussion and forming proposals to the EFM Board in the Luke 10 Initiative process.

Field Focus Group: Group deployed by/with sponsoring region/yearly meeting **missions team** to explore, gather information and make proposals in next steps of discerning/launching field. The Field Focus Group, for example, provides the CAN GO reports, Pre-Launch Planning Report and leads conversations and proposals for partnerships. They may also lead the region in shepherding growth in CAN GO Criteria, organize at least one prayer trip each year, and provide support to field worker recommendations for long-term strategies and help wanted updates for more workers. This team may include the “4 Types of People,” meet as needed to accomplish tasks, and adjust participants based on group’s needs. When a mission field has a well-functioning team of field-workers**, the Field Focus Group may dissolve.

Luke 10 Exploration Trip: Group/s deployed by sponsoring region/yearly meeting missions team/field focus group who gathers information and makes trips to potential fields. CAN GO Reports and proposals are made with the sponsoring region/yearly meeting missions team to the EFM Think Tank. *This is “exploration” terminology EFM used in pre-EFM “yes or no” decision of commitment to launch field.*

National Luke 10:2 Prayer Gathering: EFM’s monthly national conference call prayer gathering on the second Thursday of each month to pray for workers and pray for EFM’s efforts in the initiative.

Regional Field Prayer Teams: People in sponsoring (and collaborating) regions gather for prayer on a regular basis “at home” to pray for each field. (specific leader/s, established meeting times, identified regular participants)

10:2 Prayer Trip: Regions deploy a group to travel to the field to pray for the soil and pray for the workers. In the purest sense, this group is not required to do anything but pray! This is an opportunity for people to see and experience the places where we are going so that they are better prepared to be prayer and financial partners and champions/mobilizers for this field. Regions may wish to provide opportunities for tangible service or help to ministries on the field, and engage people who may not feel qualified/interested to focus solely on prayer.

Pre-Launch Planning Trip: Regions/Field Focus Groups are asked to provide Pre-Launch Planning Reports in order to help EFM identify basic information that is needed in order to actually have a missionary move to the field to get started. This may require additional trip/s.

Missionary Care Team (MCT): A group of five to seven committed individuals who walk alongside an EFM missionary to provide intentional, holistic support throughout their season of service. Established to strengthen the care surrounding missionaries—from prayer and ministry encouragement to deputation and fundraising—MCTs offer consistent relational connection, practical assistance, and spiritual support. Teams typically meet monthly with their missionary to check in, pray together, and respond to areas of greatest need, ensuring the missionary is well-supported both personally and in ministry.

***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 as multi-national missionary teams 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

Partnership Advisory Team (PAT): This is a team formed with delegates from both/all partners which is the direct-report for the worker team on the field. This team operates within the boundaries/authority given by the

organizations they represent so that there is “one group” in direct oversight of the field worker team. The details of how this group will function are still under construction.

Missions Ambassadors: Regions organizing and naming people at crucial moments to physically visit and verbally announce a brief missions message from EFM to each local church. This is being initiated for EFM’s Help Wanted message.

Why two years for long term formal strategies