

SPRING 2024

# ECM LIFE

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN MISSION IRELAND  
NEWSLETTER

LOVE EUROPE?



# ECM IRELAND

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN MISSION IRELAND IS AN INTERDENOMINATIONAL, EVANGELICAL, MISSIONARY ORGANISATION WORKING IN EUROPE.

ECM'S MISSION IS TO



EQUIP,  
CONNECT  
AND MULTIPLY  
FOLLOWERS OF  
JESUS

THROUGH  
DISCIPLESHIP  
AND

CHURCH  
PLANTING  
ACROSS  
EUROPE

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## DIRECTOR'S LETTER

BY GEOFF DONALDSON



Love Europe? What is there not to love about Europe? The diversity and richness of culture, the varied and breathtaking landscapes, the historic buildings with wide ranging architectural influences, the sumptuous culinary options – yes, I love Europe!

There is however a more fundamental reason why I love Europe and that is because God loves Europe. I take liberty with the Bible text here, but you get the sentiment, 'For God so loved Europe that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.' (John 3:16) Our love for Jesus ought to overflow with love for Europe with all the deep-seated spiritual needs that are so apparent in the many countries, cultures and people groups that now dwell in this continent. You may have felt my opening comments were a bit too generous in my view of a continent that includes nations at war and has concerning signs of a rising nationalism and a deepening secularism. And these are areas of concern, but they need to be met not with judgmentalism or pessimism but rather by a passion for the Gospel to come afresh to a once dominant mission sending continent reaching the

nations to one that now needs to be evangelised by the nations.

This is what excites me about being part of ECM Ireland. To see people on our team from countries like Brazil, Portugal, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, England, Serbia, Poland, Ireland, France, Cyprus and Northern Ireland reaching this diverse and Gospel needy Europe through discipleship and Church Planting warms my heart. Bringing the message of God's love to people through words and works is their expression of love for Jesus, and their love for Europe.

**We thank you for praying for the work going on across Europe through ECM and trust you will continue this journey of support for ECM Ireland Office staff and missionaries.**

# CONNECTING ACROSS EUROPE



BY MIA BENTLEY



After finding ourselves with some available time, my dad and I knew that we wanted to fill it by going to another European country to help with a project or a ministry. Through ECM, we were introduced to Dan and Primrose, missionaries in Kamenica, Kosovo. After various zoom calls and forms, we went out to join them for three weeks.

We had a wonderful experience learning about the culture and language, especially as Albanian was not something we had any experience of! We were able to help Primrose in her daily work teaching English to teens by reading with them, as well as play games with them at some social events. We hosted a sports event while we were there and I gave my testimony to the young people in the refreshment break. My Dad also helped Dan with his work supporting a group of men in the town who have disabilities and learning difficulties who meet twice weekly to play sport, games and drink coffee.

It was wonderful to get to know the town of Kamenica and some of its people. In a place where engaging with people about Christianity can take a lot of time and personal investment, and where opportunities can be few, it was a privilege to see how the Avilas live for Jesus in that place. We had great laughs and chats around the dinner table, and times of

sharing. We appreciated attending their daily devotions looking at the Psalms, praying together and joining them at church. They also took us on an overnight trip to Peja, on the west side of the country, where they used to live and where other mission teams are based.

After going on short-term mission to Kosovo, seeing another culture, speaking a different language and experiencing another way of life, we have both grown as people spiritually and mentally. We learned so much in a short time: about ourselves and the place, about mission, and most importantly, about the Lord and all His goodness.

Kosovo will definitely have a special place in my heart and I fully intend to head back very soon. I can't recommend short-term mission enough and we are so thankful we had ECM to help with everything and pray for us whilst we were out there. We continue to pray for their work as they share the love of Christ all over Europe.

## RESPONSE SLIP

# I want to connect with ministry in Europe



### PLEASE SEND ME

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ECM Life Magazine                   | <input type="checkbox"/> post <input type="checkbox"/> email |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ECM Ireland EuroLink (Prayer Diary) | <input type="checkbox"/> post <input type="checkbox"/> email |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ECM Ireland Legacy Leaflet          | <input type="checkbox"/> post <input type="checkbox"/> email |



**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_ **First names:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Surname:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Postcode:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Send to:** ECM Ireland, Ballymacoss Ave, Lisburn, BT28 2GX

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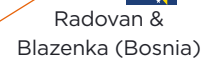
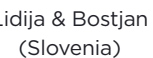
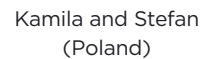
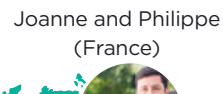
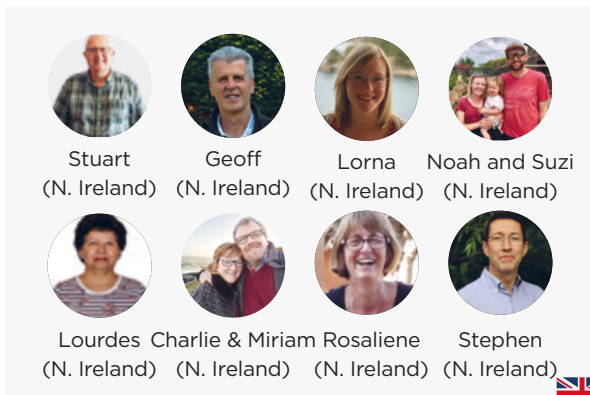
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# ECM IRELAND MISSIONS' FAMILY

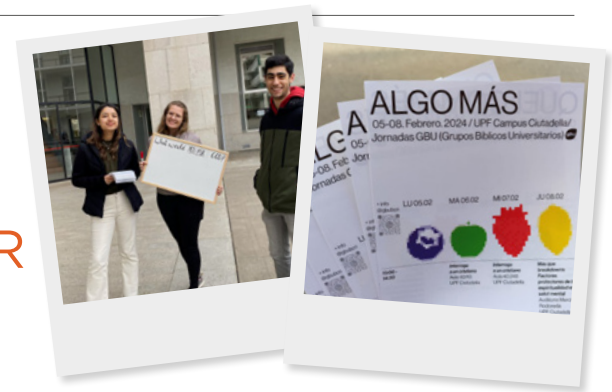




# UNA HISTORIA MEJOR - A BETTER STORY.



BY AISLINN DUFFY



In the midst of so much bad news, war, hurt, fleeing, pain, we have a better story to tell. We have a hope that lasts, and we want to share this with Europe; we want to share Jesus.

I work with university students in Barcelona and we have just launched a new evangelistic resource that consists of six seeker bible studies all based on looking at the Better Story that the Bible has to tell in relation to six ruptures in today's society: climate change, immigration, corruption, internal battles, machismo and truth. Each of the studies point to God's salvation plan in Jesus, starting with Creation and ending with the resurrected Jesus.

The aim is to see students open this resource with a friend and study what the Bible says about each one of these topics, loving their friends in a practical way as they share the good news that we have in Jesus. Students reaching students with the gospel; this is the vision of GBU (Grupos Bíblicos Universitarios), the Christian Union in Spain, as we want every student in Spain to have the opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel of Jesus.

Personal evangelism, talking about Jesus to your friends and classmates, is just one way that we share the gospel. Another way is through wider mission activities; in

February 2024 we held Events Week in one of the university campuses in Barcelona where we invited students to come along to events on the topic of "Something More" – Algo Más.

It wasn't straightforward to organise, with the university hindering some of the activities planned and many last-minute changes, however through personal invitations, interacting with students with whiteboard questions and giving out thousands of flyers (and kitkats!), many students came along to the events to hear about Something More. It was a real joy for me to see Christian students who love Jesus engage with people on campus, challenging them as to where they are placing their hope and basing their life, and inviting them to explore more. I feel privileged to work with these students, to see them grow in faith and boldness as they step out of their comfort zone and share Jesus here in Spain.

**For more information:**  
<https://unahistoriamejor.es/>

## I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT GOING

**If God has been guiding you to consider serving Him in Europe, please get in touch for a conversation.**

Explore where we work and the opportunities available at:  
[www.ecmireland.org/changing-europe](http://www.ecmireland.org/changing-europe) or [www.ecmireland.org/ecm-workers](http://www.ecmireland.org/ecm-workers)

### CONTACT US:

Online at [www.ecmireland.org/getting-started](http://www.ecmireland.org/getting-started)  
 By email at [geoff.donaldson@ecmi.org](mailto:geoff.donaldson@ecmi.org) and we will get in touch with you  
 By phone on **028 92666044**  
 By completing the information below and returning it to us

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Country of interest:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Length of service:**  less than 1 year;  1-2 years;  3 years;  3+ years;  not sure

**Type of ministry desired:** \_\_\_\_\_

(By submitting your personal data via this form, you agree that ECM ay use your data to contact you)

# LOVE JESUS. LOVE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS. LOVE EUROPE.



BY CARLOS AND ANA FREITAS



Coimbra is our beautiful city and known as the city of knowledge. Across the river you can see the lights are on and the university shines bright. Spiritually speaking, Coimbra is heavy in sin; the light of God’s Word during the Reformation never reached Portugal and the gospel work is hard. It takes time and there is a lack of resources, gospel workers and affordable Christian literature.

There’s beauty and hope if we look at the sun; it is setting, but one thing we’re certain is that it will dawn and God’s light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it (John 1:5). It’s been a real privilege to support the work that GBU (IFES) Coimbra is doing. Last year, Carlos taught two sessions for university evangelistic events. One was about a Coldplay song “Fix you”, (as the band was coming to Coimbra), and the other about Halloween.

Ana is the “The Mark Drama” coordinator for Portugal and has been involved in several performances by GBU Coimbra – “The Mark Drama is an innovative way of experiencing the Gospel of Mark and communicating it to others, performed as theatre-in-the-round.” It’s a great evangelistic tool but it transforms and edifies the ones that take part. Even though GBU isn’t doing a performance this year, our church will on the 23rd and 24th of March and amongst the team we have a few university students that will invite their friends and family.

One of the great things we’ve been witnessing in our church is their openness to university students. Once, the attitude was seeing them attend for a short time (here today and gone tomorrow) and no relationship building took place. Now, older people are inviting students to their homes and sharing their lives. God’s Word through God’s Spirit has been transforming lives in Coimbra and it’s great to be a part of this and witness all that God has been doing.

Another ministry we’re involved with is called Proclama (Proclaim). Our aim is to promote the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus through conferences, translation, support Christians considering theological education to go into ministry. In May, we’re running a conference which is open to all denominations with Leonardo di Chirico as our main speaker. We hope that all Christians will be reminded and encouraged by the amazing Grace in the gospel of our Lord Jesus, from darkness light!

## LEAVING A LEGACY



If you are willing to leave a gift to ECM in your will, there are three main ways to do so:

### 1. Residuary gift:

a share (or all) of what remains of the value of your estate once your family and friends have been dealt with. This has the advantage of staying the same over time and therefore your will won’t need to change to keep up with inflation.

### 2. Pecuniary gift:

a specific amount of money.

### 3. Specific gift:

a named item such as a piece of art or jewellery.

If you want to leave a gift to ECM, or want to know more about doing so, please tick the appropriate box on the response form.

**Thank you for investing in ongoing ministry in Europe!**

## GIVING TO ECM IRELAND

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Please send me:

ECM Life (three times per year)  post  email

ECM’s monthly prayer diary  post  email

Eurolink (ECM Ireland monthly prayer resource)  post  email

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## SINGLE GIFT DONATION

£5  £15  £30  £50 Other £ \_\_\_\_\_

Euros Amount € \_\_\_\_\_

For use where most needed

For the Christmas Appeal

Towards the work of: \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose a cheque made payable to ECM Ireland

I do not require an acknowledgment.

## You can also donate on line

[www.ecmireland.org/give](http://www.ecmireland.org/give)

## GIFT AID DECLARATION

*giftaid it*

I wish to gift aid to ECM this and any gift I have given in the last four years, until further notice. I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year.

Full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## REGULAR GIVING

For use where most needed:

Towards the work of: .....

## STANDING ORDER DETAILS

**Bank name:** .....

**Bank address:** .....

.....  
**Postcode:** .....

**Account holder:** .....

**Account no:**

**Sort code:**  -  -

**Please deduct (amount in words) .....** pounds

**from my account on** //**and then each**

**Month**  **Quarter**  **Year (tick one) until further notice.**

**This standing order (tick as appropriate)...**

Replaces

Does not replace an existing standing order to ECM

**Pay this sum to: European Christian Mission**

**A/C: 40615008 Sort Code: 98 09 60**

Ballymacoss Avenue, Lisburn BT28 2GX

**Signature:** ..... **Date:** .....

**For bank use only:** Paying bank please ensure all backdated payments are made and the following reference number is quoted with all payments.

Reference No. ....

## LEGACY GIVING

I have included ECM in my will.

I would like to consider including ECM in my will.

## GIFT AID DECLARATION

I wish to gift aid to ECM this and any gift I have given in the last four years, until further notice. I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year.

**Full name:** .....

**Signature:** ..... **Date:** .....

*giftaid it*



## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for the online ECM Ireland Inter-Biennial Gathering of missionaries, Council and staff on Wednesday 10th April. This is an opportunity to reflect on God's word, pray together and look at some of the opportunities and challenges we have in reaching Europe.
- Sebastian Forjan is visiting supporters in NI from 18th to 29th April - pray for good connections and opportunities to share about the work Gloria and he are part of in Slovenia.
- Pastors to Pastors 2024 takes place in Serbia from 8th to 13th May, pray for good connections and encouragements for all those attending including people from NI, Slovenia, Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia.



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