

European Christian Mission



Prayer Diary March 2023

I can do all things through him who strengthens me.
Philippians 4: 13

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WEDNESDAY 1

ECMI: Jim and Christine Memory (UK), ECM International and Lausanne Movement

Please pray for Jim as he travels to Poland from today, 1-3 March, to take part in an International Partnering Summit on the response to the Ukraine situation. For the last year, Jim has been chairing a platform of agencies engaged in the refugee response leading to a digital collaboration platform in which ECM has also been a partner. Pray that this summit would serve "to strengthen the response of the global Evangelical community to significant crises, responding to and learning from the situation in Ukraine" and lead to new collaborative relationships between churches and mission agencies like ECM, both in Ukraine and beyond.

THURSDAY 2

AUSTRIA: David and Linda James in Villach

Three funerals in eight days were emotionally draining. Firstly, for John Fraser, a friend of 30+ years and leader of our monthly prayer support group. Then for David's aunt. And finally, David's dad. His memorial service was very emotional, but we were all delighted with a fitting send off, with happy memories of a real gentleman and a great dad. We have decided to wait until April to travel to Spain to scatter the ashes of Linda's dad. Please pray as we continue to grieve.

FRIDAY 3

ECMI: Simon Marshall, International Director

Please pray for Simon Marshall who will be in Ukraine from February 23 until March 5. Pray that he may be able to bring something of the love and fellowship we all have in Jesus to our brothers and sisters in Lviv and Irpin and that they might be encouraged.

SATURDAY 4

ECM IRELAND: Geoff Donaldson, Director

Please pray for Goran and Metka Macura who are visiting Northern Ireland from today, March 4-13. They will be connecting with their sending Church and supporters to update about their ministry. The Ireland Office is also hosting a lunch time gathering for them to share about their ministry with the local ECM network.

SUNDAY 5

GERMANY: R and A in Berlin

Please thank God with us for a good building for us to meet in as a church. Please also pray for wisdom to know whether we should do a kid's mission or a church music album or both.

MONDAY 6

NETHERLANDS: Bert and Jenny de Ruiter in Amsterdam

Bert leads several networks of churches, mosques and synagogues in Amsterdam and Arnhem (another city in the Netherlands). Pray that through these networks walls of prejudice and hostility will be broken down and that the truth of God will set people free.

TUESDAY 7

KOSOVO: Gani and Adile Smolica in Peja

Please pray for more regular attendance now that the weather is getting warmer in March. Special prayer is needed for the youth of our church. As they reach 16-17 years old, their families and peer pressure discourage them from coming to church. We are planning a picnic with youth in the second week of March. They are more regular and some of them practically run to church meetings from their last classes of school on Friday afternoon. Pray for more women to be regular to this important ministry. Pray for Adile and me as we take part in many activities, pastoring different people of the church and taking care of their needs.

WEDNESDAY 8

ECMI: Dave Allen, International Board of Trustees

This evening we will be meeting via Zoom. Please pray for wisdom as we seek to make good and wise decisions that will further the development and ministry of ECM across Europe. Pray we will continue to be Spirit-led in our discussions, and united in our decisions, as we undertake our role with diligence and good governance. We really value your prayer support, especially for those times when we have to make difficult decisions.

THURSDAY 9

SPAIN: David and Samantha Gilkinson in Salou

In March we will facilitate our first marriage course. It's an 8-part series, every other Thursday evening. Please pray for good numbers to sign up, and in an area which sees many marriage breakdowns, that it will be positively significant for many couples.

FRIDAY 10

SLOVENIA: Sarah Deacon in Ljubljana

Give thanks that some of our older teenagers are excited about their faith and want to use their gifts to serve in the church. Please pray for the group I have tried to set up for younger children, in English. We have 5 children from 2 families, but it has been a struggle for the families to commit. Please pray that I would have the wisdom to know whether to continue with it or not.

SATURDAY 11

AUSTRIA: Tobias and Esther Giersch in Arriach

Our monthly Teabus outreach is today. The Teabus is a bus converted into a café that we drive into the Villach town centre at nights to invite the youth for tea, coffee, cake and a good chat. Today we will be supported by a group of students from the Word of Life Bible College in Hungary. Please pray for open hearts and deep conversations. Please also pray for more members in the teabus team, especially more young women to talk with the girls coming to the bus.

SUNDAY 12

SPAIN: Armando Gutierrez Berreondo in Azuqueca de Henares

Please pray for our Church planting project as we are trying to build a youth group; for wisdom and God's guidance during this process. For Yvonne and I, as we are starting a Steiger movement in Madrid, a worldwide mission organization called to reach and disciple the global youth culture. We ask for prayer for the group that we are leading and for the evangelistic outreach we are planning to do there.

MONDAY 13

PORTUGAL: Mike and Daveen Wilson in Mourão

Please pray for a hunger for God and his Word in the people of Mourão. Also, please pray for better relations between the Cigano (Roma) community and the town folk? There have been a lot of break-ins (a few attempted ones in our place as well), and other anti-social behaviour and tensions are high. Pray for the Ciganos who are Christian that they would be salt and light within their community.

TUESDAY 14

NETHERLANDS: Roland and Carolien Smith in Renkum

The church we have joined near the university here has just recently appointed a pastor. Please join with us in praying for him and his wife and family, as they start meeting lots of new people and as he takes up responsibilities.

WEDNESDAY 15

AUSTRIA: Klaas and Eline Rozema in Innsbruck

From today, 15-19 March, there will be a big evangelism event in Innsbruck. Several churches are participating and Klaas is also part of the organising team. His specialty will be *spiritual care*. Pray that God will send the people that need to hear the gospel and that the spiritual caretakers will be able to bring a lot of people to Christ! The Tirolian government are considering loosening up the abortion policy. Many people demonstrated, including a lot of Christians, through protest and signature actions. The signatures will be sent to the government this month. Pray God will provide wisdom for the government and that unborn life will be protected.

THURSDAY 16

SPAIN: Edgar and Jane Álvarez in Madrid

K in our Spanish church has just been diagnosed with breast cancer as she was nominated to the church leadership in a time of leadership renewal. Pray for Edgar's role as lead elder. In ECM Spain, pray too for God's wisdom for new leaders being chosen. Pray for good self-care as God's servants.

FRIDAY 17

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND: Colin and Ally Holmes in Waterford

Please pray for Colin and Jonathan on field council for Republic of Ireland, as there are a significant number of enquiries from different people, from different places, at different stages. Pray for wisdom and discernment in helping these enquirers forward in the best way. Give thanks for their willingness to serve. Pray God might grow the ECM team in Ireland. Also, on St Patrick's Day Claremorris will be having a parade in the town this year and as a church we hope to do some outreach and have a presence in the community.

SATURDAY 18

AUSTRIA: Günther and Mallory Fugger in Vienna

Please pray for an all-day seminar about gender and faith which starts today, March 18, for church leaders and members in southern Austria. Pray for the preparations and for good discussions among the attendees.

SUNDAY 19

NEW ZEALAND: Féy Cotter, National Director

Today, March 19, I head to Europe for three weeks. I will be visiting Bilbao, Spain, and then Dornbirn in Austria before heading to Umag for two days of meetings (ILT and MLT) before the Biennial. Please pray for safe travel and helpful conversations with everyone I meet with.

MONDAY 20**ROMANIA: Jennifer and Adi Grocott in Timisoara**

Please pray that our lives would be marked by praise, prayer and thankfulness. God would continue to guide our steps as we develop a ministry of encouraging and equipping local children's workers. God would continue to equip us to keep raising Anna and Luca to know and love the Lord.

TUESDAY 21**ECM AUSTRALIA: Liz Mahanidis, Mobiliser**

The Reformed Theological College (RTC) in Melbourne has invited me to share with the students, about ECM. I will be sharing today, 21 March. Please pray for me as I share about opportunities with ECM. Pray that many students will be engaged and responsive to God's call to missions in Europe.

WEDNESDAY 22**PORTUGAL: Shane McGloin in Vila Real**

Since September we have been working with a young man called Miguel, who had come to our church in Vila Real after issues with drugs and family dysfunction. Things still prove to be difficult; please pray for the power of the gospel and for God's practical provision in Miguel's life.

THURSDAY 23**REPUBLIC OF IRELAND: Jonathan and Nicola McCracken in Claremorris**

The Ladies night went well last month, and we plan to meet up again today 23 March. We are also doing a fundraiser for the Irish Heart Foundation like last year. Pray also for the Youth weekend from 24-26 March for young people in several churches from County Mayo.

FRIDAY 24**MCE BRAZIL: Elecir Brito, Director**

Please pray for the MCE Brazil Missionary Conference, which we will hold from 23-26 March. Our theme will be "Europe needs missionaries". Please pray for all arrangements, including mobilisation of intercession, participants, financial resources, and the results of teaching the church and awakening vocations.

SATURDAY 25**ITALY: Erwin and Almut Buschlen in Montichiari**

Please pray for Almut's family as Almut's father went to the Lord on February 8. We are thankful that we could be with him the last days of his life but the loss is heavy. It's so hard for Almut's mother as they celebrated their 60 marriage-anniversary last year. We are sure to see him again by Jesus. Please pray for the development of the Church in Desenzano, especially the guidance of the Lord for the future of the Church building. May the Lord call some young people in the Leadership!

SUNDAY 26**ITALY: Susanne Stoehr in Macherio**

Please Pray for Eleisa. After the death of her husband all 4 children have problems, especially her son Noah, who now is major age and is threatening the whole family with his anger. Pray that he may get an encounter with Jesus and freed from all kinds of bondages.

MONDAY 27**ECMI: Dave Allen, International Board of Trustees**

Some of the International Trustees are preparing seminars for delivery at the Biennial. Please pray that the Lord God will guide their preparation and be with them in their delivery and that the seminars will be helpful and practical and effective in supporting the ECMI family.

TUESDAY 28**AUSTRIA: Tobias and Esther Giersch in Arriach**

God willing, we will become parents again in May. Especially after our son Kaleb died shortly after his birth, we are very thankful that the ultrasonic scans have shown no signs of any defect so far. We are amazed at how peaceful and relaxed God has brought us through pregnancy. Please pray for the final weeks of the pregnancy and a good birth.

WEDNESDAY 29**ECMI: Biennial Planning Team**

Pray for safe, smooth travels and health for the more than 500 attendees of the Biennial Conference.

THURSDAY 30**ECMI: Biennial Planning Team**

Pray for the first day of the Biennial Conference today: for the main session speakers – Simon Marshall and Hélder Favarin.

FRIDAY 31**ECMI: Biennial Planning Team**

Pray for all of today's events, focusing on Ukraine.