

SPRING 2021

ECM LIFE

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN MISSION BRITAIN
NEWSLETTER

EUROPE

IS NOT JUST A HOLIDAY DESTINATION.
IT'S A MISSION FIELD.



ECM BRITAIN

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN MISSION BRITAIN
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

KENT ANDERSON

If I asked you what ECM does, you'd probably say church planting and discipleship. And you'd be right, as that's the fruit we want to see our ministry produce. But three important words describe how we are encouraging that fruit to grow: **EQUIP**, **CONNECT** and **MULTIPLY**. This issue of ECM LIFE looks at how the missionaries you support are carrying out these activities in loving and relevant ways across Europe (despite COVID-19).



Jesus came to **CONNECT** people to His Father in heaven and to each other. He came to **EQUIP** his disciples to make disciples of all nations. And he came to **MULTIPLY** the Kingdom of God on earth.

ECM wants to equip, connect and multiply God's people across Europe so that they can be the disciples He wants and plant the churches He loves. But how do we do this? Here are a few examples:

EQUIP: We identify people's gifts and abilities and develop them into ministry and leadership. We train ambassadors of Christ who share the good news, speaking prophetically in their local contexts. We care for people so they thrive in both life and ministry.

CONNECT: We build networks so that God's resources in one place can extend His kingdom in another. We encourage people

to work in teams so their ministries have greater impact. We collaborate and partner as an expression of the Church's unity in Christ.

MULTIPLY: We mobilise and envision people for God's mission in Europe. We challenge people to become disciples of Jesus who make more disciples. We facilitate the planting of healthy churches that reproduce naturally.

In this issue of ECM LIFE you'll read updates from the missionaries who you have sent or supported. The equipping, connecting and multiplying they are doing is because of your generosity. Thank you for enabling them to succeed through your prayers, donations and encouragement. I hope you enjoy their stories.



HOW I EQUIP, CONNECT AND MULTIPLY...

We asked ECM Britain workers across Europe what equipping, connecting and multiplying meant within their ministries. Here's what they told us.



Jules Mercer-Wilson in Spain:

Moving to multiply

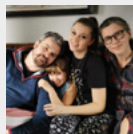
Over the summer I moved to a new town where there is no visible church. My desire is to CONNECT up with any believers in town (slightly more challenging during a pandemic) and for us to start functioning as a body. This involves knowing one another, loving one another, praying for one another and praying for and blessing the town of Alovera in practical ways. It's been so encouraging to see four new Discovery Bible Groups start: one with non-believers, one with children, one with the youth leaders from church and one 1-to-1 with a young guy, shaking in his faith but an incredible influencer on his friends. The idea is to EQUIP them to be able to help others encounter God through His word and for the groups to MULTIPLY.



David and Holly Delameillieure

Equipping the church

'Can I pray with my Muslim friend?' 'Are we allowed to eat Halal meat?' 'How do I talk about my faith with Muslims?' These are some of the questions I regularly receive from Christians who want to develop their relationships with their Muslim friends, but often feel uncertain and unequipped to express their faith for fear of losing the friendship. As part of my work for Mahabba Belgium, a prayer network that seeks to motivate and mobilise everyday Christians to love their Muslim neighbour, I give workshops and seminars on how to build bridges with your Muslim neighbours. I've learnt that equipping the church is as much about giving people confidence in their calling as Christians, as it is about giving specialised knowledge.



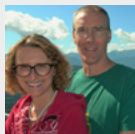
Rita Rimkiene in the UK:

Community connections

Life has certainly been altered by the pandemic. For some this has been a life-threatening experience. Even Christians have struggled to know how to live through the pandemic while still recognising a call to serve the Lord, build communities, equip the church and multiply.

We have been holding on to one another in the World Cafe (a relational ministry connecting migrants and locals) by keeping our connection fresh, deep and nurtured via social media. That might be posting an encouraging verse, dancing, running and walking, having fun and even making a fool of yourself while supporting a good cause.

Our call is to equip people with the peace and hope of Jesus Christ. Therefore during this time we have called people to allow themselves to see the world through the eyes of others. While they helped others they connected with the community, multiplied compassion and equipped themselves with resilience — thus growing stronger to live through the pandemic themselves.



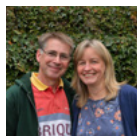
David and Linda James in Austria:

Equipped to multiply

ECM has a leadership development course that I usually help run. But when I attended it as a participant it became clear that my life is focused on equipping and facilitating people into roles that build God's kingdom across Europe.

For many years Linda's life purpose has been to assist others in their service of God in a variety of ways, including mentoring.

The Lord has blessed, and things have multiplied: three of our youth group joined ECM, another took over our regional youth ministry and yet another is a missionary in South America. Many others continue to serve the local church and in the teabus (a mobile cafe outreach).



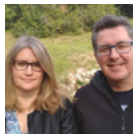
Roland and Carolien Smith in the Netherlands:

Connected to hope

Carolien and I have enjoyed taking part in several new initiatives set up by Christians here in Maastricht since we arrived in 2006. One of these, Serve the City, was begun in 2015.

Recently Serve the City Maastricht has responded to the pandemic by setting up a 'buddy' project called the NOAH Program, for friendship and company. Already there are 15 young men and women sharing their time and interests with a local person in

need of support. I was the 'guinea-pig' to help start up the project. A signed agreement is drawn up between each person. Since October last year, and with permission from the asylum-seekers' centre, I have been meeting a refugee from Iran, who is waiting for the courts to decide on whether he can be resident here in the Netherlands. We walk in the city and enjoy tea from a kiosk. It turns out that he became a Christian through an underground church in Iran, led by a South Korean missionary. The church has been discovered and prohibited from meeting. If the refugee returns home, he says he too will be persecuted. In the uncertainty, we are enjoying praying together — a comforting way to connect with God and one another which helps us both and gives hope — and joy.



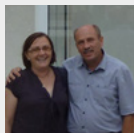
Terry and Christine Miller in Spain:

Everyday connections

As missionaries in Córdoba, God has called us to reach out to the more secular people of the city. We are equipping the small group of believers in our church family with a DNA of living as disciples of Jesus who make more disciples in every area of life. We encourage them to see that we are all missionaries living out our faith while truly believing who God is in the practice of every day life.

By example, and by creating opportunities connecting both the church family and their non Christian friends in homes, bars and coffee shops etc., we help them to see how sharing Jesus doesn't have to be from a pulpit or in a religious environment. It can

take place in everyday life, sharing that he's the best news they could ever have to share with their friends. We encourage them to look at the world around them and see the difference the gospel makes and how we can be and speak good news into society.



Gani and Adile Smolica in Kosovo:

**Equip + Connect +
Multiply = Church**

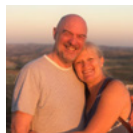
Working for the Lord to plant a new church is not an easy job, as it demands a lot from you. In the beginning, you need to prepare the ground. In many cases this is a ground-breaking ministry and a lot of help from the Holy Spirit is needed in order to achieve this calling by God.

As the church grows in God's knowledge and numbers, there are other aspects of the development that need to be in place. It is our duty to EQUIP the believers for ministry within the church and out at the frontline. We have set a goal for all present workers to MULTIPLY themselves by at least one other person who can continue the ministry.

Many churches here are small and not ready to do evangelism on their own. Therefore we seek to CONNECT them with other churches and mission organisations in order to do things together for God's glory and the spreading of the good news of Jesus Christ.

"We encourage them to see that we are all missionaries living out our faith..."

TERRY AND CHRISTINE IN SPAIN



Peter and Kate Knowlson in Spain:

Confined but connecting

The internet is almost the only way to meet with people these days and it has broken down the barriers of distance. Our church draws people from five towns yet only Peter has to travel in order to run a Zoom meeting for older members who can't manage the technology. The weekly Bible study connects our members with a Columbian family who visited last year. We connect for prayer with supporters in their own homes.

Kate leads two women in studies in another town and is equipping one to lead a Bible group when she moves house with her husband. WhatsApp groups are the seedbed of our evangelism.

Peter hopes to multiply expository preachers amongst the students at a denominational training institution. He teaches them how to prepare, present and evaluate their messages to improve the application of their sermons amongst believers in the churches where they will serve the Lord.

Thank you for your partnership with these and other workers across Europe. Christ's love is being shared because of your prayers and gifts.

ECM BRITAIN'S MISSION FAMILY

A pull out prayer resource. Please hold us in your prayers.

ECM BRITAIN TEAM

Kent (UK)	Annette (UK)	Ruta (UK)
Richard (UK)	Diana (UK)	Ali (UK)
Sarah (UK)	Rachel (UK)	Vreni (UK)



David & Holly
(Belgium)



Rita
and Vidas
(England)



Lemuel &
Rachel (Spain)



Jack & Sarah
(Candidates
for France)



Mike & Daveen
(Portugal)



Peter & Silje
(France)

Andy & Andrea
(Spain)



Steve & Lydia
(Portugal)



Julia
(Spain)



Edgar & Jane
(Spain)



Peter & Kate
(Spain)



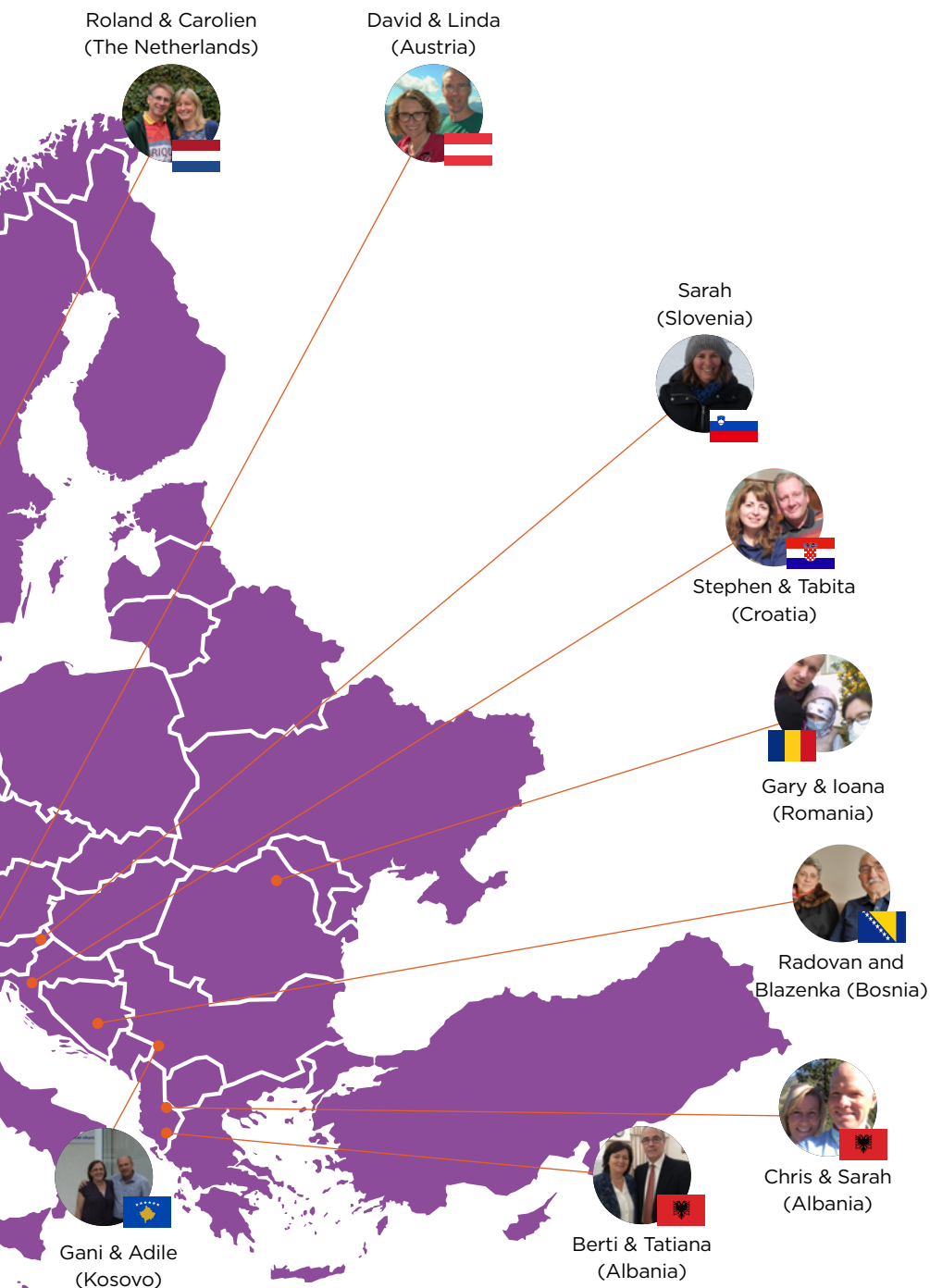
Jim & Christine
(Spain)



Terry & Christine
(Spain)



Delyth
(Spain)



INTRODUCING JACK AND SARAH



Jack and Sarah Winterburn recently joined ECM Britain with a heart for ministry in France. How has God led them on this step of faith?

Why France?

Bonjour! I'm Sarah, married to Jack and mother to Benjamin. I fell in love with France as a teenager, and not for the pâtisserie! On French exchange, while speaking to my exchange partner about faith, I found her to be surprised that young people might choose to go to church. As I learned more about France I realised that it was not an easy place to be a Christian, or indeed to hear about Jesus. France has a very strict separation between church and state (laïcité). You cannot wear obvious religious symbols while working in a civil service job, or as a teacher. There is no religious education in schools. The evangelical church is very small (various statistics state between 0.8 and 2%, depending on which groups you include). There has been a drive to church planting in recent years amongst evangelicals; there have been around three churches planted per month. We want to join in with what God is doing in France and to serve and build up His church there, and to share the good news of Jesus Christ with those who haven't yet had the opportunity to hear.

A little about us

I studied theology at Durham university and stayed on in that city as a church intern, then as a teacher trainee and then worked for two years as a teacher of RE at a Catholic secondary school. Jack studied Physics at Durham and was involved in the Christian union, doing two different executive roles (events week and international students) before being an intern at our church and staying on as a ministry trainee to serve in preaching and ministry to international students. Jack and I got married in 2017 and began

seeking God for whether we should serve Him overseas and if so where, and also visited some missionaries and had conversations with our church in Durham. In 2019 we made contact with Marc and Jodie van Eijden from ECM and on visiting them and their church in Tours saw a place where we could serve the French church and also learn from people more experienced than ourselves. Later that year, we went to All Nations Christian College to study their En Route course and there we welcomed baby Benjamin into our family.

What next?

We are currently back in Durham, preparing to go to France. Jack is working in marketing and as a maths and science tutor, and I am working part time in worship ministry in our church alongside looking after Benjamin. We are excited to join in with what God is doing in France and to help serve and build up the church there. Jack has a particular heart for seeing people come to faith, I am interested in working with church plants or one day becoming part of a church planting team. We are open to serving in a variety of ministry areas in Tours. In all things we want to trust God and follow His lead. We can see looking back how God has been guiding and preparing us, and we have known His faithfulness and provision and prayers answered in the past and know we can trust Him for the future.

Please pray for Jack, Sarah and Benjamin. Pray that God would bring in the funds and the people needed to support them. They will need visas due to Brexit, so pray for those at the right time. And pray for wisdom about when to go due to the pandemic.



HOW TO REACH YOUR NEIGHBOUR

The Forgotten Seed

We had the honour of welcoming one of our neighbours into Christ's family. Goran and his wife Annika* attended the Alpha Course a while back. They kept their questions and comments entirely to themselves whenever we met. I don't think Annika ever uttered a word in any of the meetings. Even during the much-prayed-for weekend retreat they were seemingly unresponsive.

Recording one of Jesus' parables, Mark wrote that God's kingdom is like seed thrown on a field by a man who then goes to bed and forgets about it. That's kind of what happened to Goran and Annika. They attended the course and then went their own way, somewhat forgotten.

But the parable continues: The seed sprouts and grows, and he (the farmer) has



no idea how it happens. The earth does it all without his help. And that's kind of what happened here, too.

Over the subsequent months, Goran began to feel the nearness, conviction, and friendship of God in his life. So in response, with sweaty hands and a racing pulse, he logged into his Facebook account, navigated to the info tab, and indicated that he was indeed "Christian". Then he sat back in his chair and waited for the proverbial fireworks.

But, "All men shall know thou art mine disciple by thine Facebook status" is not exactly what Jesus said. So months later, Goran realised his newfound love needed a proper context.

That's when Goran called me out of the blue and asked if I would be willing to baptise him and welcome him into the church as a new member! Praise God that He is always working, even if we have forgotten the seed.

Written by Jesse Ashmen who ministers with his wife Krista on the Island of Gotland in Sweden.

Chain sawing for Jesus

Charlie Anderson oversees field ministry across Europe for ECM. Much of his time is spent in meetings (virtually at the moment) helping ECM workers decide how to show the love of Jesus to those around them.

But sometimes Charlie just wants to make a difference in his own community. Where do you start? This past Christmas, Charlie started with a chainsaw.

Charlie has a neighbour with a farm and a lot of trees that needed to be cleared. When he invited Charlie to help with the work, they agreed to cut the trees into firewood and offer it free of charge to the families living nearby.

In the end, around twenty families benefited from their hard work. It provided a chance to meet up, bless them in a practical way and build deeper relationships.

After all, Jesus came at Christmas. When could be a better time to start talking to people about him?

Jesse talked to a neighbour. Charlie used a chainsaw. What do YOU have that could be used to draw people around you closer to Jesus?

Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'



SHARE CHRIST'S LOVE

We are all called to Equip, Connect and Multiply followers of Jesus in some way. What is your part?

Europe desperately needs to know the love of God. As Charles Swindoll said:

"Whatever we do, we must not treat the Great Commission like it's the Great Suggestion."

So what can you do to 'Equip, Connect and Multiply followers of Jesus' in the challenging mission field of Europe? Despite many cynical minds and hearts having hardened to the gospel, there is still hope. God can use everything from your heartfelt prayer to your obedience to his call into service.

The pandemic has shaken people's lives. We are seeing people increasingly open to knowing more about Christianity. For example, the Alpha Course has reported a tripling of guests and many churches across Europe have had unexpected new interest in their

virtual services. The field is 'ripe unto harvest'!

Are you willing to ask God what your part is? Could He be calling you or someone you know to help meet the needs of Europe?

We are looking for workers to answer the call; from discipling youth in Sweden up in the North, to mission co-ordination in Greece in the South; from church planting in Croatia to the East to immigrant community outreach in Portugal in the West. Explore some of the many roles available today at www.ecmbritain.org/opportunities or contact our office for more information.

While God doesn't call everyone to go, every prayer, pound or person dedicated to this purpose is a step forward. So until the end of the age, may you know Jesus with you as you Equip, Connect or Multiply his followers.



THE TIME HAS COME

When considering our life's legacy, what better example can we look to than Jesus? When he knew the time had come, Jesus said:

“Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.”
John 17.3-4

We are so grateful for anyone willing to continue ECM's ministry in Europe through a gift in their will. Please tick the box overleaf if you would like any more information.

GIVING TO ECM BRITAIN

Name:

Address:

.....

Postcode:

Telephone:

Email:

Please send me:

- ☐ ECM Life (2-3 times a year) ☐ post ☐ email
☐ ECM's monthly prayer diary ☐ post ☐ email

SINGLE GIFT DONATION

☐ £5 ☐ £15 ☐ £30 ☐ £50 ☐ Other £

☐ For use where most needed:

☐ Towards the work of:

☐ I enclose a cheque/charity voucher payable to
ECM Britain

☐ I do not require an acknowledgement.

You can also donate by card online
www.ecmbritain.org/donate

GIFT AID DECLARATION

I would like you to Gift Aid my donation and

☐ I have previously given ECM Britain a Gift Aid Declaration **OR**

☐ I wish European Christian Mission Britain to reclaim tax on any gift I have given in the last 4 years from the date below and from now on. I confirm I am a UK taxpayer and 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 or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 and that I will let the charity know if any of the details on this declaration change.

giftaid it

Full name: 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 £

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 Britain

Pay this sum to: European Christian Mission Britain

A/C: 03056715 Sort Code: 30 96 09

Lloyds TSB, George Row, Northampton, NN1 1DJ

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 Britain in my will.

☐ I would like to consider including ECM in my will, please tell me more.

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I would like you to Gift Aid my donation and

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Full name: **Date:**



PRAYER



Thank God for:

- God is still at work
- Churches are reopening
- New ways are being used to proclaim the gospel

Pray for:

- The health of field workers
- The challenges they face
- Creative and practical ways to reach into our communities during this difficult time.



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