

WINTER 2024

ECM LIFE

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN MISSION BRITAIN
NEWSLETTER

HOW EUROPE IS MEETING JESUS TODAY



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DIRECTOR'S LETTER



KENT ANDERSON

Jesus declared in Matthew 5.13-14, “You are the salt of the earth” and “You are the light of the world.” What does that mean in Europe today?

The late John Stott wrote, “The world... is like rotting meat. But you are to be the world’s salt. The world is like a dark night, but you are to be the world’s light.”

This issue of ECM LIFE looks at how ECM workers are bringing ‘salt and light’ to people across Europe that need it. While this may look different from place to place, in every location it involves showing Jesus’ love and inviting people to meet Him.

Here are just three of the stories you’ll find in the pages ahead:

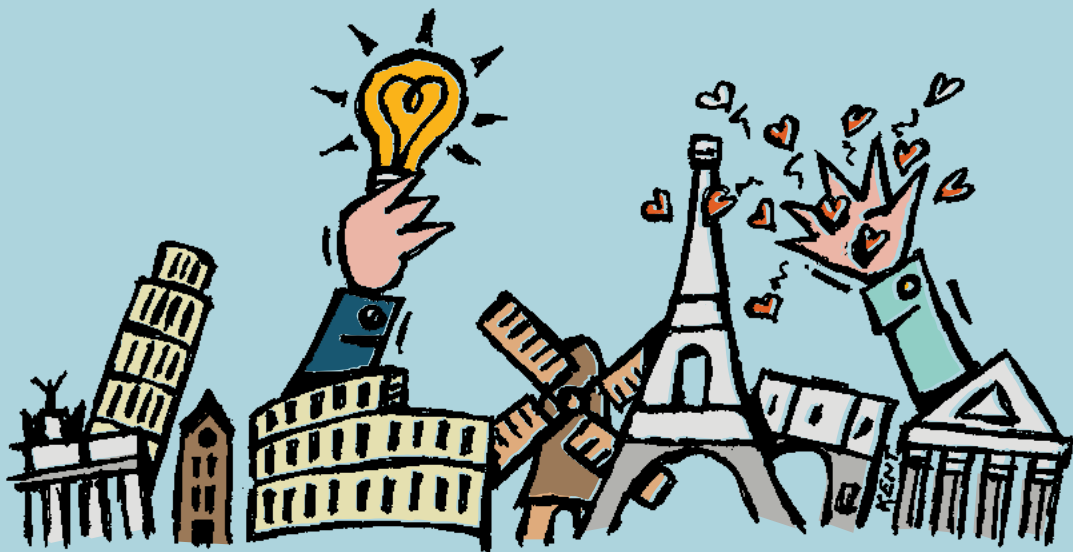
- New Portuguese candidates Pedro and Ana feel called to stay at home to reach out in Porto
- Short-termer Rosie Patterson served refugees in a food bank and education centre in Málaga

- A series of foreign missionaries helped an Austrian church grow until it is now under local leadership

Vibrant local churches are an essential part of bringing God’s ‘salt and light’ to more villages, towns, and cities across Europe. And with your help we can continue to create more stories like these.

Remember, none of this can happen without people like you. Thank you for praying for and donating to us and our workers. Lydia Evans echoes our appreciation when she explains how much her supporters mean to her as she serves as a single worker in Madrid.

I hope that as you read these stories you will be inspired to be salt and light to the people and community around you.



HOW EUROPE IS MEETING JESUS TODAY

Jesus calls us to bring His light and love to those around them. Take a look at how ECM workers are doing this in three locations across Europe.



From a bar to the Bible



*Terry and Christine Miller,
Spain*

Can I ask you a question? What do you think of first when you think of Spain? Tapas? Wine? Sun? Beaches? Retirement paradise? Holidays? Football?

Those are all very fun and sunny. But the church is not having such a bright time in Spain. Although historically a Catholic



country, today less than 17% of Spaniards say they practice their faith. Or if you'd rather hear about how many Spaniards are evangelical Christians, then that would only be 1 person out of every 100.

Like the rest of Europe, Spain is a place where fewer and fewer people know about or, more importantly, care about God.

But let me tell you about two British people who live in Spain – Terry and Christine. They live there because in the old city centre of Córdoba there isn't a single evangelical church, and Terry and Christine think that the people there deserve the chance to get to know Jesus.

In order to meet people they do lots of social activities, such as Terry playing in a jazz band in a local bar and Christine holding English conversation classes. As they build up relationships with people, they invite the ones ready to think about spiritual things to something they call the Story of God.

Recently, Terry and Christine invited some of these people to a Story of God introductory evening at their home, and 26 people showed up! Here's how they describe it:

"The evening went really well and people loved the dynamic. The people who we asked to share from the previous course talked about how God had moved them on in their thinking and each one shared how they felt they were closer to God now than when they started. They shared their love of the atmosphere and that people were welcome from all backgrounds without feeling judged. They loved the sense of family as people felt they were able to share honestly where they were at. They shared how they often came with one perspective and went home challenged often seeing things differently.

"Given the number of people who were coming we had decided not to give time to a "taster" of what we usually do but just let people share about their experiences. However, there was a large group of the people who pleaded that we give them a taster, so somewhat on the fly we looked at the story of the lost sheep. To our surprise the comments and questions went very deep very quickly and there was a very real gospel challenge evident. So it was another late night with people not leaving till 1am! Everyone who came said they wish to start the Story of God course in October!"

And just to give an update, their Story of God course has begun and is progressing well.



Growing a church that will last for generations

Have you ever been to a Christmas market? They are extremely popular in countries like Austria. But while they have “Christ” in their title, they are mainly about shopping, eating, and drinking.

While most people in Austria still need to meet Jesus, God is at work there! Here’s an example of the long-term impact ECM has had there, thanks to the prayers and gifts of people like you.

The first ECM missionary arrived in Austria’s Vorarlberg province way back in 1965. Seven years later the first evangelical church was planted in the town of Dornbirn. Then, for 30 years, it was led by a series of ECM workers from the UK, the Netherlands and Australia. These were people sent, prayed for and funded by people like you.

In 2012 something really exciting happened. The church appointed its first Austrian pastor! Stephan Pohn was someone who had been discipled and trained by that string of ECMers, especially Ian Wooley from Australia.

And today? This church is now Austrian-led and self-sustaining. A thriving team of ECMers strives to train and disciple young Austrians into leadership. The church wants to both plant new churches and strengthen other churches so that they can reach out effectively within their own increasingly secularised and ethnically diverse society.

British ECM worker David James says,

“What an amazing impact ECM has had in this region with six local Austrian Christian leaders building on the foundations laid by ECM missionaries. Thank you – they couldn’t have been here without your support!”

But God isn’t only at work in Austria. ECM has more than 250 workers (increasingly ministering in their own nations) spread across some 25 European countries. Whoever they are, wherever they are from, they are there because of the generous support of people like you. Thank you!



An experience I couldn't recommend more!

*Rosie Patterson,
short-termmer in Spain*

From June to July 2024, I had the incredible opportunity to volunteer with Diez42, a food bank and education centre in the heart of Málaga, Spain, that primarily serves refugees.

At Diez42, my work extended beyond helping with food distribution. I also had the privilege of leading an English summer school for the children whose families rely on the food bank's services. As a university student studying languages, this was a unique chance not only to practice my skills but also to use them in a meaningful way.

I was able to form deep connections with the people I met and truly immerse myself in the culture, all whilst serving the community I was living in.

Interestingly, I first heard about the short-term missions offered by ECM (European Christian Mission) through a friend who had participated in the same programme

a few years ago. Unlike me, she arrived without knowing a word of Spanish! Her experience highlights that language shouldn't be a barrier – her immersion and the connections she formed were just as deep and fruitful as mine!

Living and working alongside Spanish-speaking locals left an impression that will stay with me forever. I stayed with a local family who welcomed me with open arms, making me feel at home in a new country. I even got involved with their church, playing drums on their worship team – a small but meaningful way of feeling part of their church family. By the end of my time in Málaga, I felt like I had a second family there.

My relationship with God deepened immensely during my time there as well. Being able to see the work that goes on in His name around the world, and offering a hand in that work was an experience that will live with me forever.

One of the most special aspects of short-term missions with ECM is how adaptable they are. You can dive into the work quickly, but also move at your own pace, offering your unique skills and talents. The mission partners are incredibly supportive, ensuring you feel valued and engaged, no matter what you bring to the table.

Looking back, my time in Málaga was not only a time to physically serve the community there, but it was also a time of forming connections and experiencing an entirely new culture. Whether you speak the language or not, a short-term mission like this is an experience I couldn't recommend more!

HOW MUCH MY SUPPORTERS MEAN TO ME



LYDIA EVANS, SPAIN

Despite serving as a single person in Madrid, Lydia values knowing that she is not alone.

We all need a support network to thrive, and this is particularly important if moving abroad, alone, to start a new life from scratch. Building local support takes time and when things don't quite turn out as envisioned, having strong home support is key to keeping going and holding on to God's calling.

I've been wonderfully blessed with a fantastic group of supporters. I'm humbled by their generosity and eagerness to give as well as by their enthusiasm for the work I'm doing and their desire to be a part of it. I'm grateful for a group who pray regularly for me, and whose prayers God has frequently used to bring significant – and even instant – breakthroughs. I'm grateful for those that have walked with me through the many and varied challenges I've faced, who have strengthened me in my calling, and whose messages God has often used to encourage and uplift me when I've felt weak or disheartened. It's a great blessing to have supporters who value both my work and my wellbeing.

“Knowing I'm not alone and that I have so many behind me cheering me on is an immense privilege.”

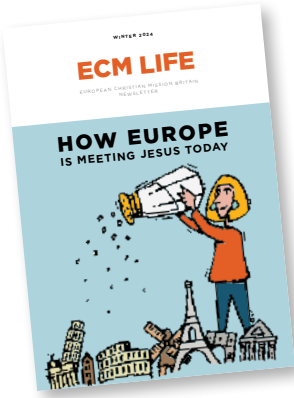
God has also used their lives and faith to inspire and encourage me and it's helped lift my eyes above my own circumstances when I've been a bit submerged. It's been great to see a number in Madrid too, and particularly at the beginning, it was a boost to see familiar, friendly faces when things were new and perplexing.

Knowing I'm not alone and that I have so many behind me cheering me on is an immense privilege. Their support enables me to support those I work with here. They are God's hands and feet to me so that I can be the same for others. I'm incredibly grateful to God for the team He's formed around me – I couldn't do this without them but I also wouldn't want to.

I want to help multiply ministry in Europe



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A/C: 03056715

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☐ £5 ☐ £15 ☐ £30 ☐ £50 **Other £**

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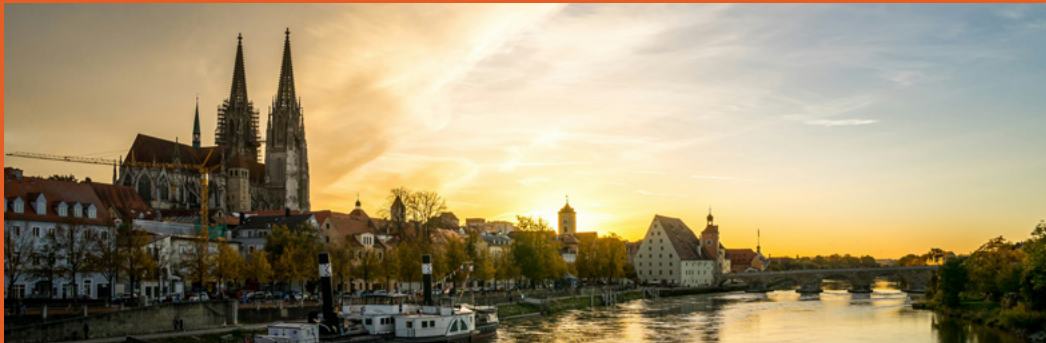
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Please notify us if you: want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address, no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains or are related to the missionary you support. If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.



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Bank address: _____

Postcode: _____

Account name: _____

Account no:

Sort code: - -

Please deduct £ _____

from my account on / /

and then each ☐ Month ☐ Quarter ☐ Year (tick one) until further notice.

Pay this sum to: European Christian Mission Britain

A/C: 03056715 Sort Code: 30-96-09

Lloyds Bank, 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. _____



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:

ecmbritain.org/long-term or ecmbritain.org/short-term

CONTACT US:

online at ecmbritain.org/get-started

by email at personnel@ecmi.org and we will get in touch with you

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Name: _____

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Country of interest: _____

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

Type of ministry desired: _____

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PRAY FOR SPAIN

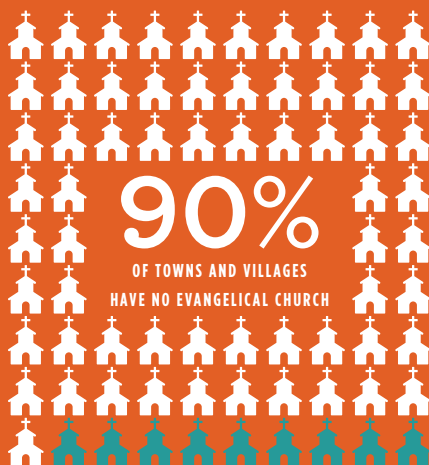
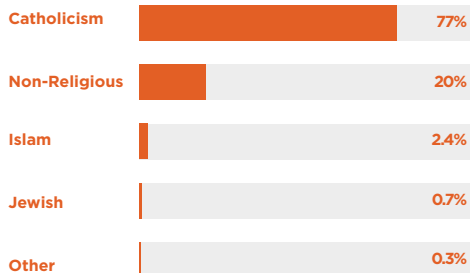
We've shared a lot about ministry in Spain in this issue, so let's take a deeper look at that country and its needs.

POPULATION

47,480,000



BELIEFS



The majority of churches in Spain are Roman Catholic, but the church has lost much of its historic influence. The church has also lost credibility among many Catholics, due to its link with the Franco regime along with other factors. Emerging in the vacuum are atheism, materialism, occultism and other secular ideologies. Whilst the number of evangelical believers is slowly growing, (mainly due to an influx of believers from Latin America) 90% of towns and villages across Spain, have no evangelical church.

Famous for its cuisine, cultural traditions (like the Running of the Bulls) and artists such as Velázquez, Goya, and Picasso, Spain's global influence is vast. The landscape is just as diverse offering; sandy beaches, high mountains, lakes and waterfalls. Since 1978, Spain has experienced a profound transformation. A political dictatorship (under Franco) exchanged for democracy, from poverty to wealth, integration into Europe and increased religious freedom.

Prayer points

- Pray for vibrant believers within every town and ethnic group.
- Pray for the Basque region where around 0.3% attend an evangelical church (which is less than the 2% in the rest of Spain). The Basques are a fiercely independent people group in Spain, so please pray that God will continue to work to soften their hearts to the abundant life that can be found in Jesus.

ECM Ministry

ECM Britain has a number of workers serving in Spain. Pray for them as they work for God in various places and different contexts, as they plant churches in a secular culture, full of atheism, materialism, occultism and other ideologies. A strong Bible believing testimony is needed in Spain.

Key opportunity

There are many opportunities to serve in Spain. But one exciting option is to volunteer at the Camino Guesthouse during summer 2025. You could show the love of Jesus through hospitality, welcoming pilgrims on the Camino de Santiago and taking care of the guesthouse.



HOW GOD CALLED US TO STAY AT HOME

BY PEDRO AND ANA

More and more workers in ECM are people ministering in their own countries. Meet Pedro and Ana, a Portuguese couple who have just joined us to be part of a church plant in their home city of Porto.



We are a family of three living in Portugal – Pedro, Ana and Natanael, who is 18 months old. Pedro grew up in a Christian family and Ana was converted during her time at university. We live in Porto, a beautiful city in northern Portugal known for its world-renowned Port wine.

About three years ago, seeing the need for gospel workers in Portugal and with a growing desire to serve the Lord in full-time Christian ministry, we decided to pursue Bible training. This led us to the UK,

where we studied at the Cornhill Training Course and served as ministry trainees at Emmanuel Church Wimbledon. After three years of preparing for ministry, we returned to Portugal just over a month ago to serve the Lord in Porto.

Portugal, and especially the northern region, is predominantly Roman Catholic. Many here still live in spiritual darkness, burdened by a false gospel that emphasises works. Evangelical churches are few, often small, and frequently lack expository Bible teaching and a heart for evangelism. Yet, people in Portugal desperately need to hear the saving message of the gospel of grace in Christ.

We have a great desire to see more people coming to faith in Christ and believers growing in their knowledge and love for Jesus. And we believe that the faithful



proclamation of God's Word is the way to bring people to faith and grow them to maturity in Christ.

We are very excited to have joined a new church plant in Porto. The church is part of the Christian Presbyterian Church and began holding public services in March 2024. On Sunday mornings we have now about 20 people attending the service, with some non-Christians going every week. For now we are meeting in a house, but we are looking to find a public venue soon.

As part of the church plant's team, our ministry will revolve around teaching God's Word. Pedro will join the church's pastor as part of the preaching team, while Ana will mainly work with women. We plan to study the Bible with people in small groups and one-to-one, and organise activities/events to reach out to the lost with the gospel.

We would also love to serve the church in northern Portugal more widely by

providing training opportunities to equip Christians for word ministry. We believe this to be one of the greatest needs of the church in Portugal, and would love to help meet this need through mentoring, small group training, or training conferences.

We are all too aware that without the Lord's help, our labour will be in vain. So, thank you so much to those who are partnering with us in prayer. We are very grateful too for the brothers and sisters who have also decided to support us financially. By God's grace we currently have about 50% of the support we need. We are praying and trusting that the Lord would provide so that we can both be involved in ministry full-time.

Please pray for Porto, that many would come to saving faith in Christ, for we know that "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Acts 2:21).



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