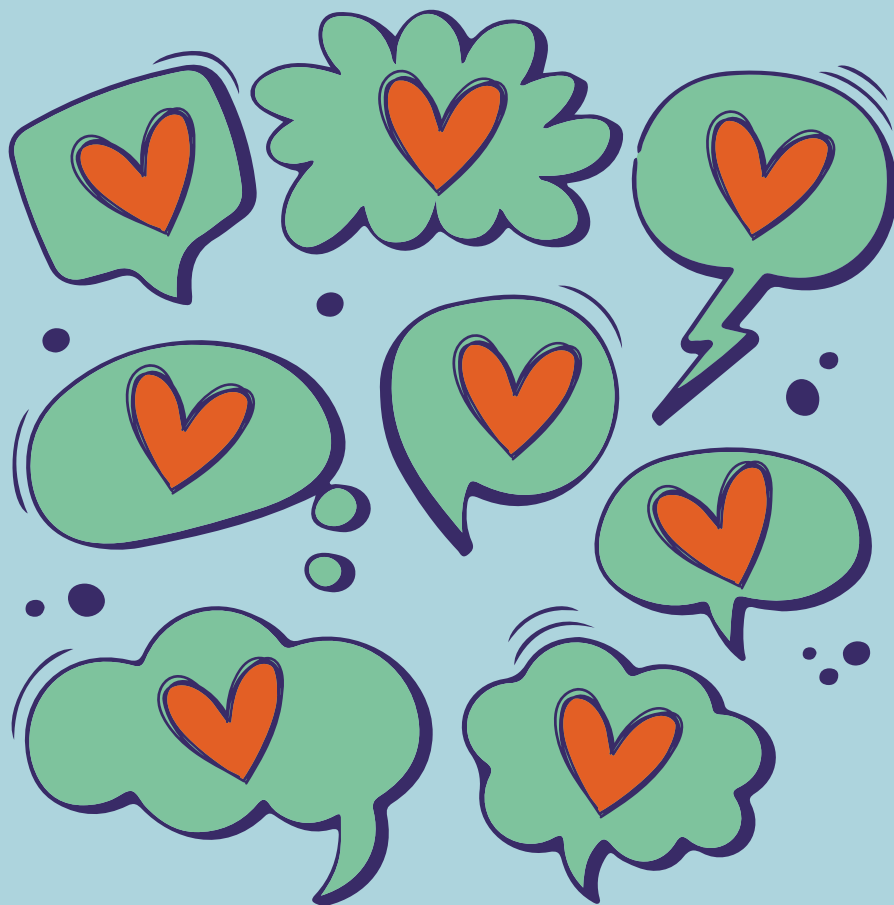


SPRING/SUMMER 2025

ECM LIFE

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN MISSION BRITAIN
NEWSLETTER



SPEAKING LOVE

ACROSS EUROPE

ECM BRITAIN

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

WE LOVE EUROPE AND WE LOVE JESUS



SPEAK LOVE

We speak God's
message of love
across Europe.



SHOW LOVE

We show love in
practical ways
across Europe.



SHARE LOVE

We plant churches
that share love
across Europe.

**HELP US TO SHARE THE LIFE-CHANGING
LOVE OF JESUS ACROSS EUROPE**

CONTACT DETAILS:

ECM Britain

Unit 34-35 Moulton Park Business Centre
Redhouse Road
Northampton NN3 6AQ

tel. 01604 497603

email. ecm.gb@ecmi.org

web. www.ecmbritain.org

European Christian Mission (Britain) is a registered
charity (1059464) and Company (3277668) limited by guarantee,
registered in England and Wales.



DIRECTOR'S LETTER



KENT ANDERSON

What do you want first – the good news or the bad news?

Well, here's the good news. Because we know how wonderful the love of Jesus is, we want to tell other people about Him. But now here's the bad news. We live in a society where people have been misled so many times that they find it difficult to believe what anyone tells them – including us.

So how can we tell people about Jesus in a way that they can both understand and accept? Ephesians 4.15 tells us: ***"We must say what is true and say it with love."***

This issue of ECM LIFE looks at how ECM workers are speaking love to people across Europe in situations as diverse as refugees in Germany and prisoners in the Czech Republic. Whatever language or approach we may use, we are always telling people about the love of Jesus.

Here are just three of the stories you'll find in this issue:



Pilgrims from Spain, France, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, England, Brazil and beyond are welcomed into a guesthouse on the Camino Antiguo trail (p5)



Members of one of Greece's most marginalised groups, the Roma community, are receiving love in the form of classes that promote literacy, job skills, and personal development (p7)



For 25 years, thousands of refugees from the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe have been supported and cared for in southwest Germany (p16)

None of this would be taking place without people like you. Thank you for praying for and donating to us and our workers!



SPEAKING LOVE ACROSS EUROPE

Everyone everywhere needs to hear about the love of Jesus. Thanks to our faithful supporters, this is taking place in many different ways and places. Here are three examples of our workers speaking love to those around them.

Speaking love behind bars

ECM is partnering to bring hope and transformation inside Czech prisons through the Discipleship Explored programme.

In the Czech Republic, where only 0.7% of the population identifies as evangelical Christians, the need for gospel outreach is immense. For nearly a decade, a programme called The Prisoner's Journey has been transforming the lives of inmates across 19 prisons by bringing the message of forgiveness and restoration.

Now ECM worker Martina Valchárová is working to help these new believers behind bars to grow in their faith. This uses a programme based on Paul's letter to the Philippians called Discipleship Explored Prison Edition. These materials address the unique challenges faced by incarcerated individuals, guiding them to freedom, purpose, and a restored identity in Christ.

One inmate described the impact of this work: *"I feel freer inside these walls than I ever did outside, now that Christ is in my life."*

The programme goes beyond teaching, by meeting prisoners at their deepest point of need and equipping them to build a new life grounded in faith.

"I feel freer inside these walls than I ever did outside, now that Christ is in my life."

In order for these resources to be available, they need to be translated into Czech, distributed into prisons, and chaplains and volunteers have to be trained to lead the programme. Through this initiative, ECM aims to extend the message of Christ's love and healing to more lives behind bars, demonstrating that no one is forgotten in God's kingdom.

Speaking love through hospitality



James and Carolynn Webb

"My wife passed away two years ago. I walk the Camino to be with her and with God." These words of Duncan*, an Australian pilgrim who stayed at Casa Camino Antiguo (Ancient Way House), our Christian guesthouse in the Basque Country on the renowned pilgrimage, the Camino de Santiago in Spain.



Stay tuned as this transformative project unfolds and continues to change lives in the prisons across the Czech Republic.

Give online at ecmbritain.org/life-behind-bars or using the response form.

Duncan* was the first pilgrim to stay at the guesthouse which opened in April 2024, after six years of planning and prayer. He had just finished his first day of walking and was continuing another 818 kilometers, or 30 days of walking, onto the city of Santiago, where the Camino ends.



At the guesthouse, pilgrims can stop to stay the night, have a shower and be refreshed before continuing on their way. Our aim is to offer them a safe space and the warm hospitality of Jesus along their journey.

Pilgrims are just ordinary people walking the Camino, and though many simply walk to enjoy the beautiful Spanish landscape or as a break from life's busyness, others — like Duncan — walk for deeply personal reasons. Around 45% of pilgrims say they walk the Camino for religious or spiritual reasons, and many are searching for God.

Since April 2024, we have welcomed over 200 pilgrims to Casa Camino Antiguo, men and women, young and old. Over half are Spanish and the rest come from all over the world — France, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, England, Brazil and Russia to name a few. Every encounter is different; sometimes we have an open personal conversation about spiritual things, other times they might not want to talk about faith at all; we might get to share Scripture together or they might just want to keep to themselves and rest quietly.



Sometimes we invite the pilgrims to share a meal with us. It might just be a friendly chat, a glass of water and a comfortable bed is all they need. However our interaction with pilgrims works out, we aim to be a God-glorifying presence and to show them the love of Jesus in a practical way.

As a team along with volunteers who have come to help at the guesthouse, we have had opportunities to reach those who are searching, hear an atheist respond to Jesus in the Gospels, pray with a priest, meet Christ-following hippies and send a few pilgrims along with a Bible in their backpack.

“However our interaction with pilgrims works out, we aim to be a God-glorifying presence and to show them the love of Jesus in a practical way.”

When they arrive, each pilgrim has their credencial (like a passport) stamped with our logo which has the words of Jesus above it from John 14:6 “I am the way, the truth and the life.” Our prayer is that they leave not only with the literal words of Jesus stamped in their passport, but that God would impress His grace and mercy upon each one in some way.

The guesthouse is in the same building where our small church plant meets. These ministries are not separate entities but make up a whole where we aim to reach out not only to pilgrims, but to be a visible gospel presence to locals in our town here in the Basque Country.



Speaking love to the most marginalised



Giorgos & Luciana Christoforides

“In the DNA of the ministry, there is the opportunity for people to have a life-changing experience with God.”

The Petalouda Centre focuses on education and community development. This ministry is committed to supporting the Roma community, one of Greece's most marginalised groups. The vision is to break the cycle of poverty and social exclusion through a Christ-centred programme and to create a community of faith where the Roma people can become followers of Jesus.

Many of the participants of our programmes experience daily trauma and face numerous challenges, including high illiteracy and social exclusion.

We provide classes that promote literacy, job skills, and personal development. In

our outreach programme, we immerse ourselves in the Roma community, listen to its members, work to understand their identity, values, and cultural elements in order to build relationships by sharing our lives in Christ.

We integrate evangelism and discipleship with actively working to build a community of faith (church planting) as the foundation for sustainable change. In the DNA of the ministry, there is the opportunity for people to have a life-changing experience with God.



In Greece only 1 person in every 250 is an evangelical.



Speaking love through media



Marc Hepton

Meet Marc and his family, who are heading back to Slovakia to work with Trans World Radio

Hello! My name is Marc, I'm married to Jana, and we have two children, Livia (5) and Henry (3). We live in South Wales where I work for a local government organisation on their housing needs unit as I prepare for ministry in Slovakia.

While my background is working in the housing and homeless sector, God is now calling me out of my comfort zone! In August 2024 I was accepted as a missionary with an organisation called Trans World Radio (TWR) to work in Bratislava, Slovakia. As a project manager for the Europe & CAMENA region (Central Asia, the Middle East & North Africa), I'll be developing existing projects and introducing new ones so people can hear about Jesus. Over 3 billion people have little to no access to the gospel and with a potential audience of 4 billion people globally, TWR are bringing people hope in Jesus' name.

Why Slovakia & TWR? Brought up in a Christian home, Jana is originally from Poprad, Slovakia, and moved to Wales

in 2007. In 2009, following a period of addiction, God used the ministry of Teen Challenge to start my healing and recovery process. Through that, God gave me a passion for outreach and by the time I met Jana on a Christian dating website in 2013, I'd seen God at work in the lives of people on the streets of London through the same ministry that He used to save me.

In 2021, we moved to Slovakia to be closer to Jana's family. I retrained as a teacher, but due to difficult circumstances, we returned to the UK in December 2023. Shortly after that my father passed away, but through this challenging time we had a clear sense of God's presence. While we were in Slovakia, we had become friends with some TWR missionaries. Seeing a project manager job in Bratislava felt like God's guidance. Now, we are returning to Slovakia, where our journey began.

Marc is looking for prayer and financial partners. Let us know if you'd like to know more.

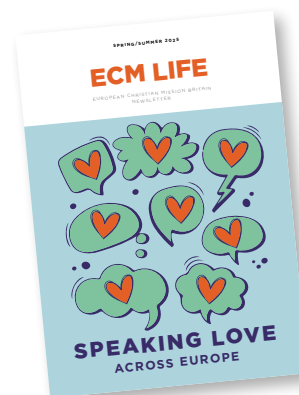
RESPONSE SLIP

I want to help multiply ministry in Europe



PLEASE SEND ME

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ECM Life Magazine | <input type="checkbox"/> post <input type="checkbox"/> email |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ECM Britain Monthly Prayer Diary | <input type="checkbox"/> post <input type="checkbox"/> email |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ECM Britain Legacy Leaflet | <input type="checkbox"/> post <input type="checkbox"/> email |



Title: _____ First names: _____

Surname: _____

Home Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Email: _____

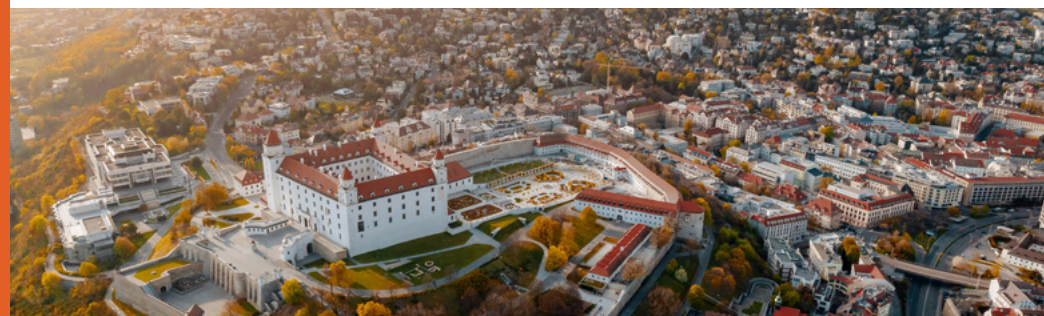
Send to: ECM Britain, 34-35 Moulton Park Business Centre, Redhouse Road, Northampton NN3 6AQ

APP10144

Office use only: Received:

Dest:

URN:



I WANT TO GIVE

- ☐ Bringing LIFE behind bars* appeal (use **Single Gift** section below or donate online at ecmbritain.org/life-behind-bars)
- ☐ For use where most needed:
- ☐ Towards the work of:

**If this project is oversubscribed, your generous gifts will be used to support other ministries.*



SINGLE GIFT DONATION

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

☐ I have made a bank transfer to ECM Britain

A/C: 03056715

Sort Code: 30-96-09 / Lloyds Bank, Northampton NN1 1DJ

I have donated:

☐ £5 ☐ £15 ☐ £30 ☐ £50 Other £

Acknowledge: ☐ by post ☐ by email ☐ no acknowledgement

Donate online: ecmbritain.org/donate

GIFT AID DECLARATION

Your full name and home address are needed above to identify you as a current UK taxpayer. Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate. Gift Aid is reclaimed by ECM Britain from the tax you pay for the current tax year. In order to Gift Aid your donation select:

- ☐ I want to Gift Aid **only this** donation of £
- ☐ I want to Gift Aid **all donations** I have made in the past 4 years from the date of this declaration, or since ____ / ____ / ____, **and in the future.**

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signature: **Date:** ____ / ____ / ____

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.

giftaid it



REGULAR DONATION

REGULAR PAYMENTS INSTRUCTION TO YOUR BANK

- ☐ Set up a new standing order
- ☐ Amendment to existing standing order

Bank name:

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.

SPEAKING LOVE THROUGH SPORTS

From the church in Gostomel



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!

1. EXPLORE WHERE WE WORK AND THE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE AT:
ecmbritain.org/long-term or ecmbritain.org/short-term

2. CONTACT US:

online at ecmbritain.org/get-started

by email at personnel@ecmi.org and we will get in touch with you 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 may use your data in accordance with the ECM Privacy Statement (find at ecmbritain.org/privacy-statement)

Three years of war hasn't stopped the church in Gostomel, Ukraine, from reaching out to their community to start friendships and make disciples.

A volleyball team for kids aged 12-15 was provided with a Christian coach. Other members of the church meet up with the team to play for fun and share some Bible stories. After getting to know the young teens, they invite them to church and other events. Praise God that several have given their lives to Christ and have also begun attending Sunday services.

When the church held a summer camp, more than 140 children and teens attended! The camp had a sports theme, but included workshops, Bible stories and prayer. Each day they would practice a different sport: volleyball, football, baseball and ultimate frisbee. Not only was this fun for the kids, but the parents were also invited to watch, enjoy refreshments and attend two seminars. At the end of the camp, everyone was invited to church.

One boy was particularly enthusiastic about the camp, and attended a Sunday morning service for the first time. After a time of reflection about the week, he suggested they all stand up and pray. Then he prayed aloud, sincerely and humbly.

But sports aren't just fun for kids – the church has its own adult ultimate frisbee team. They have even participated in an international tournament in Latvia. Because of their success, the team started a kids team at the local school that went on to host an ultimate frisbee Ukrainian Cup with 17 teams!

The local church says:

“We are grateful for our ECM supporters, whose prayers and generosity allow us to strengthen these communities, even in the midst of ongoing conflict. Thank you!”

CONNECTED TO YOU!

ECM Britain's mission family



ECM BRITAIN TEAM

Kent

Pete

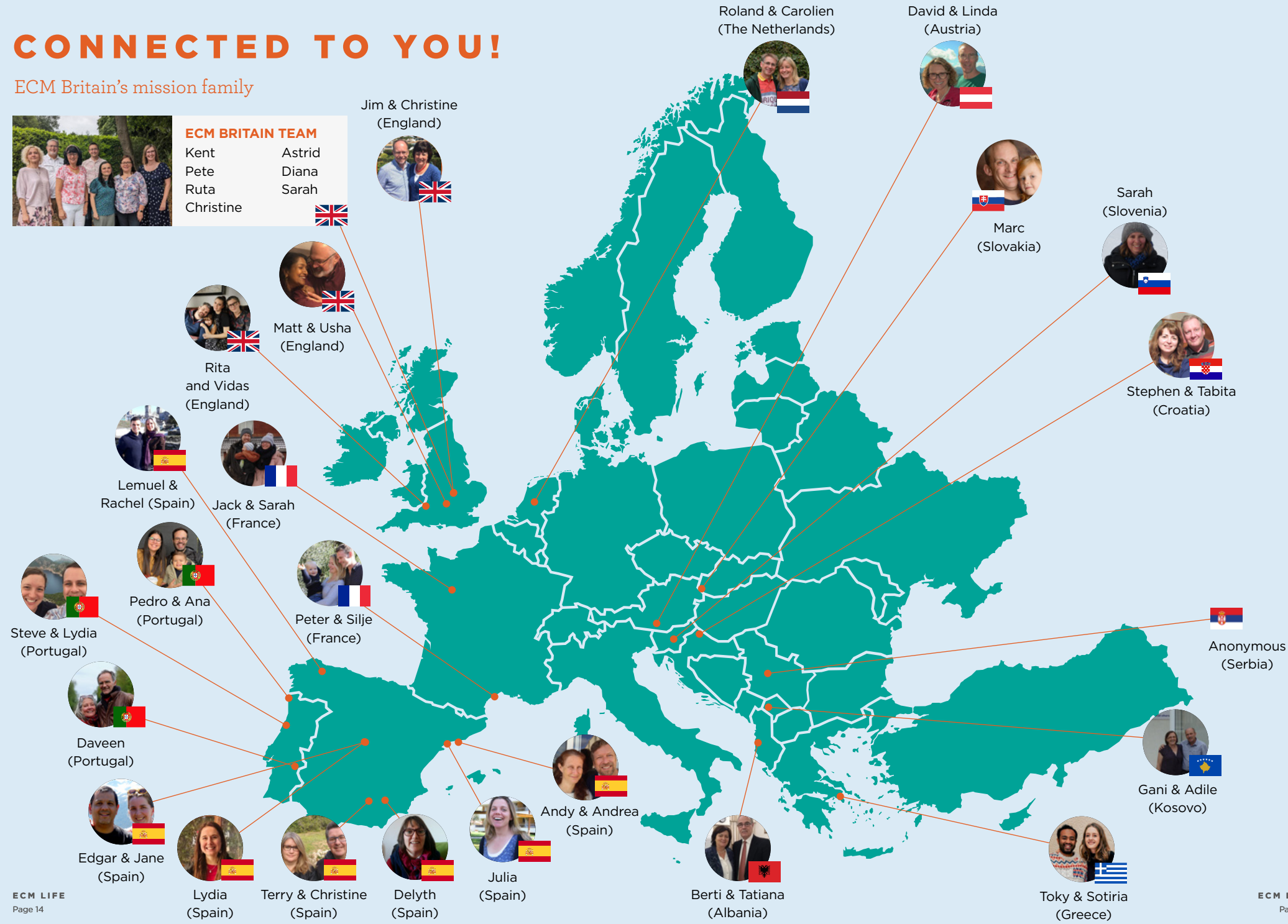
Ruta

Christine

Astrid

Diana

Sarah



SPEAKING LOVE TO REFUGEES



Vimal and Louise Vimalasekaran



We passionately believe that the gospel is the answer for all human beings, especially refugees who need a place of comfort, security and love in Christ Jesus.

We have been working for the past 25 years in southwest Germany ministering to thousands of refugees from the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe. Over the past 10 years, we have seen a dramatic increase of refugees. Most come with varying levels of traumatising and disability, but that is where we can rely on God's wisdom and support to help us minister to these desperate people appropriately. We passionately believe that the gospel is the answer for all human beings, especially refugees who need a place of comfort, security and love in Christ Jesus.

Of course, this does not mean that we are less interested in caring for their physical needs. We visit refugees in camps and support them in whatever ways we can, always pointing them to Christ. We work with the free evangelical alliance of churches in Karlsruhe and neighbouring cities, to establish networks and support their ministries to the

needs of refugees, praying that the Lord will bring them to a knowledge and experience of the gospel.

We have established an Evangelical Migrant Centre where refugees can build up community life, cook their native food, celebrate birthdays and play children's games. We do all of this to create an atmosphere of welcome in the hopes that we will be able to speak about the gospel with them. We are also making efforts to support many traumatised refugees using local counsellors.

We intentionally invite our refugees to events in the churches, summer camps or Alpha Courses. These are done to build up friendships in collaboration with a network of local churches. Most of our activities are very practical in meeting their needs, and are done on a one to one basis, by visiting the refugees in their camps, taking them to appointments and events in the city or churches, or through providing meals and other forms of hospitality.



ECM Britain

Unit 34-35 Moulton Park
Business Centre, Redhouse Road
Northampton NN3 6AQ

tel. 01604 497603

email. ecm.gb@ecmi.org

web. www.ecmbritain.org



European Christian Mission (Britain) is a registered charity (1059464) and Company (3277668) limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. ISSN: 2756-2174