

SPRING 2023

ECM LIFE

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN MISSION BRITAIN
NEWSLETTER

A photograph showing the lower half of a person walking on a crosswalk. The crosswalk consists of alternating red and white stripes. Two large, white, stylized arrows are painted on the red stripes, pointing towards the right. The person is wearing dark blue jeans and brown leather boots. The background is a blurred city street.

GO!

THE WORLD
STILL NEEDS JESUS!

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

Going is not for everyone as many of us are called to stay and send. However, this magazine is all about encouraging each of you to consider afresh if the Lord is calling you to go. As you do that, here are five points to think about:



1. By going, you are obeying the Lord's command. In Matthew 28 Jesus tells us to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you". Europe has a population of 750 million people and only 2.5% are evangelical Christians. Europe is a continent that needs to hear the Good News of Jesus, and we need people, like you, to go and share that news.

2. By going, you are sharing God's desire for all nations to know Jesus as you meet

with people and share the love of Christ with them. 1 Chronicles 16:24 "Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous deeds among all peoples".

3. By going, you will be a blessing to others. You will also be blessed. We go because we want to help and share the love of Christ with people in a particular country and community, which reflects God's heart. By doing that, we are also blessed and loved by other believers, which builds up our faith and our relationship with Him. In John 13:34 Jesus tells us to "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another".

4. By going, you will be able to pray and support missionaries better in the future. Research shows that those who "go" are more likely to come back and be involved in praying for and giving to mission work in the future.

5. By going, you are joining with God to reach out to the continent of Europe. ECM's International Director Simon Marshall writes, "God is at the centre of mission, and indeed the instigator of mission; it is His work before it is our work. It is based in God's love for the world and for His creation".

WHY GO?



Popular speaker and author John Piper has long been a powerful missions advocate. In his final missions sermon to Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota, he summarised some of his main convictions. Here are some powerful excerpts.

Worship is the goal

Missions exists because worship doesn't. Missions is our way of saying: the joy of knowing Christ is not a private, or tribal, or national or ethnic privilege. It is for all. And that's why we go. Because we have tasted the joy of worshiping Jesus, and we want all the families of the earth included.

"All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you."
(Psalm 22:27)

There is salvation in no one else

People must be told about Jesus, because there is no salvation, and no worship where the gospel of the crucified and risen Son of God is not heard and believed.

"Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life."
(1 John 5:12)

Missionaries must be sent well

We must send the global partners in a manner worthy of God.

"You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God."
(3 John 1:6)

This is why senders are crucial along with goers. We don't believe everyone is a frontier missionary. Frontier missionaries cross cultures and plant the church where it's not. But if we are not a goer, there is a great calling: Sender.

We live in wartime

It is fitting for us to have a wartime mindset in the use of our resources as long as peoples are without the gospel, and we have resources to send it.

The Macedonians in 2 Corinthians 8.2 are a model for us in the face of great need: "In a severe test of affliction, their abundance

of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part." Oh, that we would deepen in our grasp of the urgency of the hour, and remember that ultimately we don't own anything. God owns us and all we have. And he cares about how it goes in the war effort to reach the nations with the gospel Jesus died to send.

Prayer is for mission

Prayer is a wartime walkie-talkie, not a domestic intercom.

"I chose you and appointed you," Jesus said, "that you should go and bear fruit . . . so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you."
(John 15:16)

I give you a mission so that your prayers will be fruitful.

Prayer is for mission. It is mainly for those on the front lines of the war effort to call in to headquarters to send help.

The mission cannot fail

The global cause of Christ cannot fail. And nothing you do in this cause is in vain. Jesus said,

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go, make disciples" (Matthew 28:18). Not some authority. All. He cannot be defeated. "I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). "This gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."
(Matthew 24:14)



He has ransomed a people for all the nations. And he will have them.

"I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd."
(John 10:16)

Will you heed the call?

I'm not asking that you be absolutely sure. I'm asking that as far as you can discern, this is God's leading for you, and you will follow it, unless he makes it plain otherwise. You might be 12 years old. Or you might be 55, or 75.

John Piper is the author of more than 50 books, a pastor, a theologian and a New Testament scholar. You can find his podcasts and writings at desiringgod.org

I'M GOING TO SPAIN!



Lydia Evans is preparing to go to Spain for two years to minister to women who have been trafficked into the sex industry.

I studied Spanish as part of my university degree, spending a year in Salamanca, and also spent a few months with a missionary couple near Madrid in my gap year. Living in London for the past seven years, I've been involved in cross-cultural ministry, particularly supporting women trafficked into the sex industry. Spain is the no. 1 country in Europe for sex trafficking (as the top consumer of prostitution and both a main trafficking route and destination) and God seems to be calling me to combine my heart for these things to now serve with an anti-trafficking ministry in Madrid.

For the next two years, I'll be training with Amar Dragoste who reach out to women trafficked into the sex industry, offering practical support alongside the hope of the gospel. Spread over three cities on the edge of Madrid, they have a range



of projects, from street/club outreach and day-to-day support through a drop-in centre, to influencing government policies and raising public awareness. I will be working with the women once they've left the sex industry as they transition to independence and employment. This will mainly be through a café and a jewellery business and in the refuge houses where the women live for the first 18 months. After two years with Amar Dragoste, I plan to move on to a less-developed project elsewhere in Spain.

God has amazingly provided the support and funds to do this work so I'm currently sorting my visa and hope to move soon.

RESPONSE SLIP

I want to help ministry in Europe

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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 TSB, 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.
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I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT GOING

If God has been guiding you to consider serving Him in Europe, please get in touch!

Explore where we work and the opportunities available at:

ecmbritain.org/long-term

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

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)

I WENT TO KOSOVO!



Toyin Olukoya, a student at All Nations Christian College, spent five weeks in Kamenica, Kosovo — a town with no church! Here are her reflections.



I worked as part of a cross-cultural team from the USA, Ireland and the UK for five weeks in Kosovo's eastern town of Kamenica.

I immediately observed that many Kosovars have

not had the opportunity to travel outside Kosovo (or beyond Albania) and so had little knowledge about the rest of the world — most had never seen a person of 'colour' such as myself. In view of this, I suggested to my supervisor that we focus on multiculturalism and diversity as the theme of our week-long summer camp for 11 to 14 year-olds. My main activities included planning, organising and teaching as we

focused on topics such as music, animals, clothing traditions and food customs from around the world.

I also planned, organised and taught in a week-long summer club for children aged 5 to 11. As most of the younger children did not speak English, I taught English while my supervisor interpreted into Albanian. We focused on core values of God as: a sovereign God who knows the right king to appoint (1 Samuel 16:3b), a good shepherd (Psalm 23:1) and as a God who does not look on outward appearances but considers the heart (1 Samuel 16:7).

I also had the privilege of experiencing a ministry to disabled men, made regular home visits to locals and visited some historical places in Kosovo.

Though short, my placement was rich in culture and I am most thankful to God and ECM for orchestrating this unforgettable experience for me.

CALLED TO STAY

Branko and Rada Tihojevic have been called by God to serve in their native country of Serbia for decades. A key aspect of their work is children's camps, as they explain below.

We have so much to share about this summer's four camps. The first was for children with disabilities, the next for younger children, then a teenager's camp and finally a music camp. There were over thirty children at each camp and we created an atmosphere where every child was welcomed, looked after and accepted.

Every summer, the camps are a new challenge for us waiting to see how God is working in the children's lives. As usual there are children coming from home

where the parents are atheists and hear the gospel for the first time. So, it is a special time for every child to make new friends and play games, learn about the Bible and pray together.

Camp Timok has been in operation for 17 years and every summer we have had over one hundred children present. When we started building the campground we did not have running water or a proper electricity supply. The children had to sleep in tents even on stormy nights and many

other things were missing. Thankfully Camp Timok is now functioning with 70 beds in comfortable dormitories, a large meeting room, proper bathrooms and a big kitchen.

We have seen many generations coming to Timok over these years. Some have been converted and we have helped them to mature spiritually. Most of them were little kids and are now teenagers or young adults. The most encouraging aspect for us is to see them now as active Christians in churches and a few are also involved in full-time ministry. Everywhere ministry requires perseverance and investment in the next generation who will carry on passing on the gospel.

Each year we had children who were converted but this summer it was a special blessing when four teenagers gave their lives to the Lord Jesus. It was greater joy for all of us that they, and one of their mothers, also decided to be baptised in the river. So, we organised the baptism at a special event on the 11th September in the River Timok that runs beside the camp where the children swim and cool down. There



were over 50 people present and everyone was blessed with the opportunity to renew the fellowship with believers from the surrounding churches. There are two more candidates who wanted to be baptised but could not be because one has had a stroke and the other is having a kidney operation.

After distributing a lot of literature and New Testaments this year we have many contacts to follow up and some new people have started coming to the church. We are now adapting our teaching and Bible study to the needs of people who do not know much about Bible truths, while some believers have matured spiritually and can make next step in life.

We are also doing our best to take care of the Roma Church in Bor. Recently we managed to repair the roof on the church building and are thankful for the funds donated for this project. Now they need to prepare for winter and we need to buy a wood stove and wood for heating. Our help is a great encouragement for the Roma believers because some of them do not have proper heating in their homes.



For safety reasons the pictures are representational.

WHY GO TO EUROPE?

When you hear the word 'missions', you probably think of far-off places like Africa or Asia. But are they where the greatest spiritual needs are today?

It's surprising, but far fewer people follow Jesus in Europe than in Africa or Asia!



Asia has the world's highest number of evangelical Christians, with **215 million**.



Africa comes next, with **185 million** evangelicals.



So why go to Europe? The answer is simple. Go because so many of the people living there still need to know about Jesus!



South America has, according to the estimates, **123 million** evangelicals.



North America has **107 million** evangelicals.

Europe has only **23 million** evangelicals! Five million of those are in the UK.* We believe that Jesus' command to "Go and make disciples of all nations" still includes Europe. Our continent may have turned its back on God, but God hasn't turned His back on its people.

HOW DO I START GOING?

1

Discover more about mission work in Europe. Reading copies of ECM Life or visiting our website at **www.ecmbritain.org** are great places to start.

2

As soon as you are seriously considering mission work somewhere in Europe, please contact us for an exploratory conversation. We will ask you to tell us something about your motivation and to send us your CV.

3

If we agree together that there appear to be opportunities for you within ECM, you will become a candidate. This includes:

- Completing questionnaires and asking others to complete references about you.
- Conversations with ECM-workers, your church leaders, and the team leader of your potential ECM team. Usually, we recommend that you also visit the ECM team you're hoping to join.
- Possibly (additional) theological/missiological education or more experience with work in your church.
- Building your support group in terms of prayer and finance. We will help and advise you, and your church and friends will play an important part. It isn't always easy, but we have seen that God provides with everything necessary when He calls you to serve Him.



Europe needs more people to share Jesus' love by planting and developing His church so that we can reach those yearning for meaning and purpose in their lives. **Do you have a burden to see Europe transformed by the gospel?**

Search our opportunities at **ecmbritain.org/long-term** and **ecmbritain.org/short-term** Or contact us today at **ecmbritain.org/get-started**



WHAT IF I DON'T GO?

Going is important, but not everyone is called to go.

John Piper once said, “You have three choices in world missions: be a joyful, sacrificial goer, be a joyful, sacrificial sender, or be disobedient.”

More people are called to be senders than goers. But what does it mean to be a good sender? Here are four ways you can make a difference from right here in the UK:

1 Pray. Prayer is the one thing that anyone can do, regardless of age, education or wealth. We have all been commanded by Jesus to ask the Father to send workers into the harvest field. Your intercessions can open the doors of God's spiritual blessings into the lives and ministries of Christian workers. To receive ECM's free monthly Prayer Diary, sign up using the enclosed response form.

2 Give. To make a gift to someone you know, or to our appeal, or to European

ministry in general, please use the enclosed response form.

3 Encourage. It can be hard work to be a Christian worker. They will face times of suffering, spiritual opposition and discouragement. Your messages of love and support can keep them going when things get tough.

4 Spread the vision. Not everyone is convinced of the importance of missions. You probably are — otherwise, why would you be reading this magazine? So why not share the need for mission and stories of God at work in your church? ECM Life magazine and our website (www.ecmbritain.org) are great sources for exciting examples of missions today.

As I read once, “Every goer needs a sender.” You could be that special one!



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