

SPRING 2024

ECM LIFE

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN MISSION BRITAIN
NEWSLETTER



MULTIPLY!
GROWING GOD'S
KINGDOM

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IS AN INTERDENOMINATIONAL,
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EQUIP,
CONNECT AND
MULTIPLY
FOLLOWERS OF
JESUS



THROUGH
DISCIPLESHIP
AND



CHURCH
PLANTING
ACROSS
EUROPE

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DIRECTOR'S LETTER

KENT ANDERSON

We want to see many more churches and disciples of Jesus multiply across Europe. And thanks to your prayers and financial support this is taking place. That's why this issue of ECM Life focuses on stories from places where this is happening.

Another word for multiplication is growth. But sometimes God's kingdom doesn't grow in the ways we expect or at the speed we would like.

Thinking about yeast can provide useful insights into how spiritual multiplication works.

- Yeast takes time. It cannot be rushed. Likewise no one can control the speed at which God moves.
- Yeast is a bit of a mystery. I don't really understand how yeast functions. Likewise even when you don't fully understand God's plan, you can still trust Him.
- Yeast takes effort. Kneading yeast into dough is hard work. Likewise God expects people to roll up their sleeves and get to work in His harvest field.

• Yeast will work. Follow the instructions and yeast will make dough rise. Likewise when we follow God's commands, we can count on Him to deliver on His promises.

• Yeast is necessary. Flour cannot rise on its own. Likewise God's power is needed for any spiritual endeavour to succeed.

• Yeast produces a delicious result. Hot fresh bread is worth all the effort. Likewise we can look forward to God producing spiritual fruit at His perfect time.

• You plus us plus God equals a powerful combination. Thank you for sharing with us in our efforts to see Europe changed as God's kingdom grows.

**"Go and make disciples of all nations".
Now that's a challenge to multiply
that's worth being part of!**

ECM'S GROWING MINISTRY

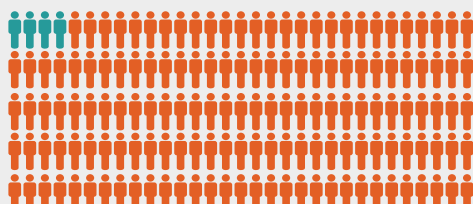
Your faithful prayers and gifts have made all of this possible. Thank you!



Most ECM teams do **CHURCH PLANTING** or **CHURCH DEVELOPMENT** or **DISCIPLESHIP**.



Evangelism, leadership training, youth and children's ministry and pastoral care are other common ministries.



OF EUROPEANS ARE EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANS

MULTIPLY THROUGH DISCIPLESHIP



BY NOAH AND SUSIE BARTLETT

M. and I sit in the lobby of a church in Belfast. He recounts to me the many ways in which God has helped him in his journey from Iran to Northern Ireland - he knows God is with him even today. I tell him this is wonderful and ask him how he came to faith. He thinks for a moment and then says, 'no no, I'm not a Christian, I'm not good enough yet!' One hour later, with tears in his eyes, he finally calls himself a Christian. What changed? John 1:12 shows that all who receive Jesus are children of God. And a child does nothing to earn the title of 'child'. He was persuaded. But the story is not over...

Our theme in this edition is 'Multiply'. Well, the following week we agreed to meet and start a discipleship course together. The time came to begin, but we had a problem. There were two other Iranian young men we could not get rid of! They just wouldn't leave so we could start our discipleship session. I was resigned to the fact that we would have to reschedule. But then something strange happened. I watched as M. started to teach these two men how to read the Bible and spend time with God. He shared the Gospel with them, and they were so captivated they texted him later scolding him for never having invited them to do this before.

I got to share the Gospel with M., M. got to share it with the two young men, and we

trust in time they will each begin sharing with others. In the space of a week, we got to see a really exciting example of disciples multiplying.

Multiplication is a very fitting word to describe the Iranian Church and work with Iranians. There is an unprecedented growth in the underground church movement within Iran as well as among the Iranian diaspora. There is a multiplication of seekers, disciples, evangelists, teachers, pastors and churches. And with this there is a multiplication of opportunities; opportunities for evangelism and discipleship but also opportunities for Iranian believers to teach us, bless us and mould us more into the image of Jesus Christ.



MULTIPLYING ACROSS EUROPE



There is no “one size fits all” when it comes to helping God’s kingdom to grow. Here are five diverse examples from Spain, England, Slovenia and N Ireland.

Multiplying young leaders



Sarah Deacon,
Slovenia

In November we started a new monthly group for some of the older teenagers and young adults in the church. After speaking with a friend who works with students, we recognised the need to help the teenagers transition from being in the youth group to becoming young leaders. The expectation is that if these young people are believers, they will lead and serve in some way. The group has two main aims. Firstly, to be a space where they can ask and discuss questions they are struggling with. We have had good discussions on the sovereignty of God, predestination and the role of the Holy Spirit.

Secondly, we want to give them tools to be able to read and understand the Bible for themselves, with the hope that they will then be able to share this with other people. Too often in Slovenia people are taught to believe what they’re told without thinking about it critically. We want these young people to grow in their relationships with God, based on their own personal faith, not just because it’s what they’ve been taught but because they can see the truth in the Bible for themselves.

We have five young people who are enthusiastically committed to the group. My prayer is that they will learn, grow and mature so that in the future, God would use them to multiply His church.



Only 0.1% of Slovenians are evangelical Christians!



Multiplying children from everywhere



Delyth Sutton,
Spain

In 2019 we didn’t have any children in our church. But things began to change after Gloria, a missionary from Guatemala, started praying for God to send us children.

When Covid arrived, Gloria began an online children’s ministry. A church member had a niece who lived in Columbia and this girl joined the meeting on Zoom. She said she wanted to be a missionary. Last week she and her grandmother immigrated to our area!

When confinement finished, Gloria returned to Guatemala. By then a few families were arriving at our church: one from Venezuela with four children; a Brazilian lady with two children; and a couple from the other side of the valley with two more kids.

That meant we needed more Sunday school teachers. One I have been training up is a woman in a wheelchair. Despite speech and flexibility challenges, she was always the first to help at our children’s open air summer outreaches. So now she prepares lessons online, we print them at church and our oldest Sunday school member serves as her helper. Which means we are also discipling him in leading and serving in love.

Last year we began a children’s club together with two other churches. We meet monthly and encourage parents to be part of teaching their children. Our prayer is now that the children will have a space where they can invite their friends and that in the warmer weather we can go out into the squares and parks to share the Good News with both children and parents.



Only 1% of Spaniards are evangelical Christians!

Multiplying quickly



Pete Benest,
England

In addition to being part of the ECM Britain office team, I am leading a church plant in my hometown of Shepshed, Leicestershire. It was only 16 months ago that we felt God lead my wife and I to start a church in our home. This wasn't something I ever thought I'd do and at times I have felt completely out of my depth, but God has blessed us so much.

Within two months we had too many people to stay in our home so we moved into a classroom sized meeting space. By our first birthday we had outgrown even this as more families and children joined us. Our congregation of 40 people now meets in a 200-year old chapel that we share with another church.

We have seen people join us for many reasons. Some people had not been back to church since Covid but wanted to get back into a church community. Others joined through the Alpha Course we ran in the autumn. At a recent baptism service two people responded to the gospel message and started their walk with Jesus.

We are trying to be involved in the community too. We booked a pitch at the summer Shepshed Carnival offering free games, face painting and craft, alongside free kids Bible stories and Alpha/Christian literature. Altogether, we must have interacted with over 250 people from the town.



**Almost 9%
of people in
the UK are
evangelical
Christians!**

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

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

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Type of ministry desired:

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LIVING MULTIPLICATION



BY TOM CAMPBELL

This is one of the earliest instructions God gives to His people - Multiply! After creating Adam and Eve, God blessed them and told them to be fruitful and multiply; to fill the earth and subdue it.

God calls His people to be stewards of His creation and there are echoes of this multiplication command in Jesus' instruction to his followers to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Jesus is calling his disciples to multiply more disciples: to go and draw others into his Kingdom. That is our desire at Amazing Grace Community Church, and we have seen exciting multiplication over the last year. We were beginning to run out of space in our first venue, so we have moved our Sunday services to the Skibbereen GAA hall, where we now regularly have 80-100 people attending.

We have also seen God's work in multiplying ministries at Amazing Grace. Since we have moved to our new venue, we have been able to start Sunday school for our primary school aged children. We have

established a monthly kids club and a youth group for secondary school age kids. We also praise God for five people who have just been or are about to be baptised.

Multiplication in these ways has been a great blessing from God, for which we are very thankful, and with this multiplication come challenges of varying kinds. A need for more helpers and leaders within children's ministry. A need to care for and connect with new individuals and families who have begun to attend. A need for wisdom and vision within the leadership team as we experience growth and make decisions for the life of the church. A need for God's grace and help in all that He has entrusted to us as His stewards. We value prayer for us in all of this.

Multiplication is a gift of God in church ministry, and we trust Him for the future, that we can continue to grow in our love for Him and for those around us.



MULTIPLIABLE MISSION TEAMS



BY DAVID GILKINSON

It's impossible for us to tell our testimonies and calling into full-time missions without mentioning the impact of short-term missions. God had been planting seeds of missions long before we applied to ECM as full-time candidates: He used short-term teams to put a deep discontent about the spiritual condition of Spain years before He called us to live here.

Serving short-term creates a lasting impact on the lives of young people: take a young person out of their comfort zone, give them an opportunity to serve selflessly, provide dedicated devotional time, and the result is that God works through this process to make disciples.

I would like to share our experience of how to facilitate mission teams that are sustainable, multipliable and worthwhile for local churches.

Over the last 11 years 'La Iglesia Protestante de Salou' (where I'm the Associate Pastor) has hosted mission teams annually. Last year we hosted five teams with over 130 young people serving; over 250 children came to five holiday Bible clubs; thousands hearing the

Gospel in evangelistic events in parks and plazas. Unity between churches has been vital, with one pastor saying: "This is the first time in history this kind of unity has happened in the province of Tarragona." Perhaps the most significant impact has been the engagement of the local Spanish young people in the process.

Tips for making mission trips multipliable

1 Local Leadership and Collaboration

Pastors, members and young people of local churches must be fully committed - it's a whole community event. Leadership, direction, promotion and follow-up need to come from local believers. The team brings energy, extra hands, even some money, but the vision needs to be from the local church.



2 Prepared for Success

We partner with Exodus from Northern Ireland annually and the thing I love most is the preparation phase - the teams have already met for 5 months for a weekly Bible study before they arrive. On the first day, we 'Launch' which is a day of training and prayer together. This breaks the ice and sets the vision and expectations for the week ahead.

3 Discipleship is the Goal

Every team has a time protected each day to have a team meeting with the purpose of the members growing in their knowledge and experience of God. Protect that time and keep the discipleship of the young people a cornerstone of the experience.

4 Get the Team Busy

I've seen teams serve in a kid's club for a couple of hours and the rest of the day becomes a holiday. If the team has

prepared well and paid to come, then it's essential that there are plenty of service opportunities for them which are suitable for their ages, abilities and maturity. Young people will surprise you with how much they want to serve if you facilitate the right opportunities.

5 A Simple Budget and Timetable

Local churches set a price for hosting the team per person per night. They organise food, transport and accommodation with the budget they've been given. The teams are together for 'Launch', a day off and three outreach events, other than that they are with the local church.



Ready for a short or long-term missions adventure? Explore the options at ecmbritain.org/short-term and ecmbritain.org/long-term



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Find out more about leaving a legacy to ECM at www.ecmbritain.org/leave-a-legacy

When you leave a legacy you're not just leaving behind a gift, you're leaving behind a testament to the enduring power of Christ's love.



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