

WINTER 2023

# ECM LIFE

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN MISSION BRITAIN  
NEWSLETTER



**CONNECTED  
TO GOD'S HEART**

# 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

## CONTACT DETAILS:

### ECM Britain

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

tel. 01604 497603

email. [ecm.gb@ecmi.org](mailto:ecm.gb@ecmi.org)

web. [www.ecmbritain.org](http://www.ecmbritain.org)

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# HOPE



## DIRECTOR'S LETTER

KENT ANDERSON

We live in a world long on anxiety and short on hope. It has too many broken relationships and not enough love. People are lost and lonely. Their only hope is to be connected to Jesus.

Europe has the same problem as the rest of the world. Most of the people living there simply don't know Jesus. And that means that they can never be truly happy. All the money in Switzerland cannot fill the 'God shaped hole' in someone's soul.

**That is why one of ECM's key values is to CONNECT. We want to:**

- **Connect** people with God through faith in Jesus
- **Connect** people in communities of love called churches
- **Connect** people to the truth in the Bible
- **Connect** people to the Holy Spirit's unique call on their lives

In this issue we are exploring what it means to **CONNECT** in Europe today. I hope you will enjoy the stories from locations as

varied as Ukraine, Britain, Romania, and Croatia and coming from short-termers, long-serving missionaries, and staff.

At this stage I really need to say "Thank you!" We can only do what we do across Europe because of your **CONNECTION** with us. Your prayers and financial support enable us to go where we go and do what we do. That reminds me of Ephesians 4.16:

*"He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love."*

Your part, **CONNECTED** to our part, is helping the church in Europe to grow. Thank you!

# CONNECTED TO YOU!

ECM Britain's mission family



**ECM BRITAIN TEAM**

- |           |        |
|-----------|--------|
| Kent      | Astrid |
| Pete      | Diana  |
| Ruta      | Sarah  |
| Christine |        |



Jim & Christine  
(England)



David & Holly  
(Belgium)



Roland & Carolien  
(The Netherlands)



David & Linda  
(Austria)



Sarah  
(Slovenia)



Stephen & Tabita  
(Croatia)



Gary & Ioana  
(Romania)



Anonymous  
(Serbia)



Gani & Adile  
(Kosovo)



Berti & Tatiana  
(Albania)



Julia  
(Spain)



Delyth  
(Spain)



Terry & Christine  
(Spain)



Lydia  
(Spain)



Edgar & Jane  
(Spain)



Mike & Daveen  
(Portugal)



Steve & Lydia  
(Portugal)



Lemuel & Rachel  
(Spain)



Jack & Sarah  
(France)



Peter & Silje  
(France)



Rita  
and Vidas  
(England)

Matt & Usha  
(England)





# CONNECTING SHORT-TERM TO LONG-TERM



Gary Stoll explains how a short-term trip to Romania changed his life.

In August 2003 I arrived in Piatra Neamt, Romania, for the first time as part of a short-term mission team from Tanterton Christian Fellowship. 20 years later I have two children registered at the very school where I was involved in sports evangelism during that first trip!

The goal of any short-term mission trip ought to have longer-term aims in mind. This does not mean that every short-term should marry and settle down in the places they go and serve! But it does mean that short-term overseas mission trips ought to mean something more than just a summer get-away or something to look good on the CV!

By my own admission, a big part of me wanted to come to Romania in 2003 for the experience and for enhancing my CV. Never did I think that 20 years later I would still be serving here. But God in His grace has taught me the importance of long-term

vision in short term missions. Little did I know that God was using my short-term mission trips every summer to prepare me for long-term overseas service.

Not everyone is called to be sent as a long-term overseas. But we are all called to be partners in the gospel in whatever shape or form that may take, and short-term mission can help ignite a passion for missions both at home and on the field. Therefore, short-term missions can be of great value.

Ioana and I set out in 2014 on a two year overseas mission here in Piatra Neamt. Two years have now become nine and a half years. So we are extremely thankful to God for you, for your long-term support, and your heart for overseas missions in Romania!

Explore our short and long-term opportunities at [ecmbritain.org/long-term](https://ecmbritain.org/long-term) and [ecmbritain.org/short-term](https://ecmbritain.org/short-term)

## RESPONSE SLIP

# I want to connect with 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**

APP10138

Office use only: Received:

Dest:

URN:



## I WANT TO GIVE

- ☐ For use where most needed:  
☐ Towards the work of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 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.

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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.

*giftaid it*

## 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](https://ecmbritain.org/donate)



## 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. \_\_\_\_\_





## 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](https://ecmbritain.org/long-term) or [ecmbritain.org/short-term](https://ecmbritain.org/short-term)

## CONTACT US:

online at [ecmbritain.org/get-started](https://ecmbritain.org/get-started)  
 by email at [personnel@ecmi.org](mailto: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](https://ecmbritain.org/privacy-statement))



# CONNECTING ACROSS EUROPE

What does it mean for our ECM Britain workers to connect with the people around them? Here are a few of their stories.



## Connecting in Kosovo

**Mia Bentley**

After finding ourselves with some available time, my Dad and I knew that we wanted to fill it by going out to another European country to help with a project or ministry. Through ECM we were introduced to Dan and Primrose, missionaries in Kamenica, Kosovo, and after various zoom calls and forms, we went out to join them for three weeks.

We had a wonderful experience learning about the culture and the language, especially as Albanian was not something we had any experience of! We were



able to help Primrose in her daily work teaching English to teens by reading with them as well as play games with them at some social events. We hosted a sports event while we were there where I gave my testimony to the young people in the water break, and my Dad also helped Dan with his work supporting a group of men in the town who have disabilities and learning difficulties who meet twice weekly to play sport, games and drink coffee.

It was wonderful to get to know the town of Kamenica and some of its people. In a place where engaging with people about Christianity can take a lot of time and personal investment, and where opportunities can be few, it was a privilege to see how the Avilas live for Jesus in that place. We had great laughs and chats around the dinner table, and times of sharing. We appreciated attending their daily devotions looking at the Psalms, praying together, and joining them at



church. They also took us on an overnight trip to Peja, on the west side of the country, where they used to live and where other mission teams are based.

After going on short-term mission to Kosovo, seeing another culture, speaking a different language, and experiencing another way of life, we have both grown as people spiritually and mentally. We learned so much in such a short time: about ourselves and the place, about mission, and most importantly, about the Lord and all His goodness.

Kosovo will definitely have a special place in my heart and I fully intend to head back there very soon! I can't recommend short-term mission enough, and we are both so thankful that we had ECM to help with everything and pray for us whilst we were out there. We continue to pray for their work as they share the love of Christ all over Europe.

## Connecting with the Global Church

Stephen and Tabita Bell, Croatia



The challenge of church planting and evangelism in Croatia can sometimes feel quite daunting. So much so that, after ten years there, I knew that I needed help.

A lightbulb moment came when a senior ECM leader asked me, "Could you use 12 Brazilians?" My mind started buzzing. This was a great challenge — something quite out of the ordinary.

At first I felt intimidated because I realised that I would have to travel to Brazil to meet with important pastors and denominational leaders in order to mobilise missionaries for Croatia. "Who am I?" I thought. "How am I worthy for such a task?"

Also, I thought I'd better have a 'Plan B' in case Brazilians didn't come. I decided to also travel to Ukraine and mobilise there. Brazil and Ukraine were both nations well acquainted with the "Revival" and "Faith" that I was convinced Croatia needed.

As part of this I realised I needed to also visit Croatian churches in search of 'vision-minded' church leaders who could effectively use these dynamic new missionaries when they came.

Has it worked? Yes! Some 20 missionaries have now come from Brazil and Ukraine. There have been new churches planted, new ministries begun and new converts made. The current leader of ECM's work in Croatia even came as part of this initiative.

But God has also sent us workers "by surprise". This January a pastor from India came seeking work, due to his father's business collapsing. He is now organising Croatian lessons and a gospel service for immigrants. God certainly does move as we seek to connect with His Global Church!

## Connecting with Leaders across Europe

Jim and Christine Memory



Connections bring people together and enable us to do more than we can do on our own. That was true when Christine and I were ECM missionaries in Spain, planting a church in a small town in Andalucia. And it is no less true today in my new responsibility, seconded from ECM to be the Co-Regional Director for the Lausanne Movement in Europe.



For nearly 50 years the Lausanne Movement has been connecting leaders in pursuit of one goal: making Christ known in every tongue, tribe and nation. Starting in 1974 with Billy Graham and John Stott, first in Lausanne, Switzerland, then around the world in the following decades, Lausanne is now planning its fourth global congress in Seoul, South Korea, next year.

Yet before that, Christine and I are helping to organise a Lausanne Europe Regional Gathering which will bring together 160 leaders in teams of four from every nation with more than 100,000 people. We will

be gathering in Budapest from 2nd to 5th November to connect with God, consider together the challenges and opportunities for the gospel in each of our European countries, and make our European contribution to the global conversation leading up to the Seoul 2024 Congress.

**Please pray along with us for the Budapest Gathering in November and that the connections that Lausanne provides might open up new opportunities for ECM.**

## Connecting with needs in Ukraine



**David and Linda James**

During July we visited the team in Ukraine to encourage and support them as they minister to the many people in need. Signs of growth and hope shined amid the ruins of the war.

First, we stopped in Lviv, where on the surface life is slowly returning to normal. However, the city is still adjusting to the massive influx of displaced people fleeing from the war. While power cuts are rare now, air raid sirens still sound almost every day.

David preached in Lviv and then ran three days of team building and vision casting with the ECM Lviv team, which was very timely. Due to Covid and the war, the original ministries of most of the six team members had been entirely disrupted. David's visit encouraged them in their common vision and helped them gain team coherence as they continue to serve God and serving others.

We then travelled on to Irpin, which was far less desperate compared to when David was there in December. The warmer weather, home grown fruit and vegetables, and a gradual rebuilding of the economy all

contributing. But the scars of war are still visible. The apartment we stayed in was in the part of the city the Russian army had occupied. Almost all the buildings were damaged in some way – with bullet holes in walls and fences, smashed windows, twisted balconies, etc. Along the 2km route we walked each day to the church, we passed five to ten houses that will have to be demolished. Many others have already been partially rebuilt. The road surface is marked where grenades and rockets exploded, roads and footpaths clearly damaged by tank tracks.

The Irpin Bible Church and their volunteer centres ended the distribution of bread in June, having given people six weeks' notice. The overwhelming reaction from the recipients was one of gratitude that they had continued for so long. People who continue to be in real need could be identified and helped as appropriate. The focus of each volunteer centre now is to provide spiritual food, as each has developed into a church – with a vibrant programme of Sunday services, midweek Bible studies, women's meetings, youth groups, kids' clubs etc. ECM crisis funds are supporting three volunteer centres (paying the leaders' salaries and rent for the premises). It was a joy to meet these leaders.



As well as listening to their stories, David and the ECM team could encourage and pray with them. There were again heartfelt thanks for the support we have been able to channel to them.

There they also ran two days of team building for the volunteer centre teams and other groups that are part of the Irpin Bible Church – training around 55 people in seven teams.

David preached in one of the Irpin daughter churches, which had been planted just before the Russian invasion. He had seen the outside of this building in December, when the upper story had been destroyed by a missile. The building has now been repaired and services are held there again. That morning there were six baptisms – all those baptised were in their 70s and 80s and came from the Orthodox church (where they had felt abandoned) or were from a communist/atheist background and had found faith following the Russian invasion. It was an amazing blessing to witness this.

Later that day we attended the church service that has grown out of the ministry of the Hostomel volunteer centre, where David could bring a briefer message of encouragement. There was immense gratitude towards ECM from everyone we met.





# CONNECT TO YOUR CALLING

Is God speaking to you about serving in Europe? If so, we'd love to talk!

**By Sarah Hay and Christine Memory**

'Connecting' is a key thing we do at the British office. We love to come alongside people who are exploring whether God wants them to serve in Europe.

Christine Memory, a long-term ECM missionary who handles enquiries explains: "In arranging short-term placements for people, I often see myself as a matchmaker. I help make connections between those enquiring and the opportunities we have".

This is also what we do with longer term enquiries as we begin a conversation to help them discern where God is wanting them to serve and what He is asking them to do. Most people have no idea of the breadth of opportunity or places in Europe where someone could come and serve within ECM.

Sometimes people already know where they want to go and what they want to do, while others are open to options. Having been with ECM for many years, Christine is very aware of the countries we work in and the ministries available.

Mia and Steve Bentley (who you can read about on page 11) initially contacted us about a short-term visit to Spain or Portugal. But we felt that they could be useful in Kosovo, a country that they had not even considered. You can see that they had a great time, and the ECM couple who they visited were so encouraged to have them there.

**If you are ready to explore whether God wants you to serve in Europe, please contact us! There is a response form in the middle of this magazine to make that first step easy.**



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

**tel.** 01604 497603

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