

WINTER 2025

# ECM LIFE

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN MISSION IRELAND  
NEWSLETTER

## SHARING LOVE



# ECM IRELAND

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN MISSION IRELAND  
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 Ireland

Ballymacoss Avenue, Lisburn,  
BT28 2GX, Northern Ireland

**tel.** +44 (0) 28 92 666 044

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

**web.** [www.ecmireland.org](http://www.ecmireland.org)

# PARTNERSHIP & PERSEVERANCE

BY GEOFF DONALDSON



Paul was brought to joyful prayer due to the ‘partnership in the gospel’ embraced by the Philippian Church. Further, he exhorts them about God carrying on the ‘good work in you’ – perhaps a reference to their growth in faith but more likely a further comment on their gospel work. While the emphasis is on this being a work of God, it also requires commitment and perseverance in the lives of the Philippians to see this partnership maintained (Philippians 1:3-6).

Partnership and perseverance are two words that come to mind when I think of the ministry of our missionaries. A most recent example comes in the work of Jonathan and Nicola McCracken and the Church in Claremorris. As they saw their plans for a permanent space to base their Church come to completion, it represented the importance of partnership and perseverance. As a couple they have served in several locations in the Republic of Ireland with ECM and at times the progress of the gospel was harder to see. But they persevered and answered God’s call to establish a Church plant in Claremorris. And then through partnership with other workers, local Christians and many of you reading this magazine they have seen prayer answered

and provision made for the building. And just as Paul reflected, this perseverance and partnership has been a source of much joyful prayer and encouragement for the wider ECM Ireland family.

As 2025 draws to a close we thank all of you who partner with ECM Ireland in reaching Europe with the Gospel. Your prayers and practical provision have been such an encouragement and as you read on you will see how this support has facilitated many diverse ministries and projects led by our missionaries.

We trust that the Christmas period will bring you joyful and peaceful celebrations with family and friends.



# SHARING LOVE THAT SPEAKS VOLUMES



By Szczepan Cackowski

Szczepan Cackowski and his wife Kamila serve in their native Poland and they are a part of a vibrant outreach community in central Poland that currently works in 4 locations. Their work revolves mainly around church planting in Piotrków Trybunalski and are involved in running camps between the end of June and middle of August.

In a world often overwhelmed by noise, division and disconnectedness, sometimes the most powerful message is not shouted—it's shown and shared. That's the heart behind Jordan Basket Plus, our free basketball coaching program for kids aged 8-11. But this is far more than just a game. It's about

offering a practical, genuine expression of Jesus' love to families in our community.

This year, nearly 50 children dribble, shoot, and pass their way through skilful training sessions, but what's happening off the court is just as significant. We're building

bridges—with kids and their parents. We invite not just children but whole families into a community centered on care, excellence and, most importantly, love. And it's working!

The involvement of parents has taken a beautiful turn. Last year, they stood back during devotion times, often disengaged or simply waiting on the sidelines. This year, they sit with us. They listen. They take part. They ask questions. Among these parents are devoted Catholics, committed atheists, and those somewhere in between. However, the common ground of serving their own children together with us has opened hearts in a way that words alone could not.

Through sweat, encouragement, and teamwork, a deep respect and curiosity are forming—one that naturally leads to deeper conversations about life, faith, and the God who loves them. Local media have taken note, calling attention not just to the numbers—nearly 30 committed volunteers and dozens of enthusiastic children—but also to the quality, intentionality, and visible joy that mark the program.

### **But the story doesn't end there.**

This year, for the first time, we launched Hype Games—an exciting, high-energy sports tournament for students in grades



*"...the common ground of serving their own children together with us has opened hearts in a way that words alone could not."*

---

5-7. Six schools sent 30 players each, battling it out for the coveted Hype Trophy and a grand prize of 3,000 PLN to spend on sports equipment. The planning was intense, the execution detailed, and the energy electric. The impact? Unforgettable. So much so that the local media's Head Editor, moved by the event, shared that "hope for the city returned to her heart."

### **It was a moment we'll never forget.**

Behind both projects stood the incredible support of Coach Jon Yeh and his team from the Truett McConnell BEARS (GA, USA). Their passion, excellence, and partnership elevated the programs and underscored the unity of love that crosses borders and languages.

When love is shown and shared in practical, sincere ways and excellence—especially through sports—it reaches people who may never step into a church. It speaks louder than a sermon. It plants seeds. It opens doors. And it brings hope.

As we dribble, sweat, cheer, and serve, our prayer is that every parent, child, and spectator would see not just a basketball or a game—but a glimpse of the relentless love of Jesus Christ. Because sometimes, showing and sharing love is the most powerful way to speak it.



# SHARING LOVE IN THE SUMMER



**Sebastian Forjan**

Every summer, in partnership with the local youth centre, we organize a kids' day camp to serve our community, build new connections and share the love of God. This year, with the help of an amazing team from Northern Ireland, we enjoyed fun activities, Bible stories, pool time, and meaningful conversations. We were especially encouraged that many kids heard the Gospel for the first time through the Superbook cartoon.

One special highlight was when the national TV came to record a segment about our summer kids' work—the children loved the experience!

It's such a joy when children recognize us later in town and greet us with a smile and a wave! Please pray that the seeds planted during this camp will grow and bear lasting fruit.



**Amy Hampton**  
(member of Ballydown  
Presbyterian Church)

Ballydown Presbyterian and The Bridge, Banbridge, support ECM missionaries Novica and Tamara through regular donations, but we didn't want them to feel we had set up a standing order and forgotten about them. In July, a team was sent out by the churches to Camp Timok, Serbia to encourage and practically support them.

*"It was such a blessing to see so many children reached with the Gospel and touched by God's love through all the volunteers' hard work."*

We were blessed to serve alongside Novica, Tamara and their team of volunteers at a camp for children aged 7-13. Each day the children had Bible lessons on the life of Abraham, as well as games, and some of the best food I've ever eaten!



God's hand was evident in the roles we were assigned. Nigel was a golf club professional and took the opportunity to bring golf and the Gospel to Serbia! In the kitchen, Karen took on a mentoring role with a younger Christian there alongside preparing food. Molly was working with the teenagers and was an amazing witness to them in a country with so few Christian young people. Ellie was with the younger kids, and the letters she received in the 'Happy Post' were testament to her impact. My main task was to organise crafts linked to the Bible story, which meant flying with 8kg of supplies!



It was such a blessing to see so many children reached with the Gospel and touched by God's love through all the volunteers' hard work. In a week, we only saw a glimpse of what Novica and Tamara do and were so completely humbled by and thankful for all their work in Christ.



# SHARING LOVE AT THE UNIVERSITY



**Aislinn Duffy**  
*Spain*

God is love. He is the One who loves us the most, and He calls us to show this love to those around us. My ministry is with university students, and we seek to share this love of Christ's on campus. One way we do this is by holding different events throughout the year; we call them GO events, where the students step out of their comfort zone and try to show the campus God's love and engage in conversations.

Last year in one of the university squares we set up a Christmas tree and got the students to write a wish for next year, giving them chocolate and a Bible verse afterwards. On another campus the students gave out candy canes with a quote 'Jesus is the reason for the season' written on them. Instead of writing the text in Spanish, they wrote it in English so as to stop and explain the meaning, and thus have more conversations!!

It's not just about sharing love to students on campus, but also, those who work there, the teachers and staff too. When the Christian students printed off the text for the

candy canes, they had a really interesting conversation with the lady who worked at the printer shop, and they ended up giving her a Gospel of John to read!

This year we are planning various GO events in the different campuses, as well as organising a Christmas concert on the 12th of December. Please pray for this event, that we would be able to share Jesus' love with the students who come along here.

**Sharing Jesus' love for us will look different for each of us and for our unique situations. How can you show Christ's love to those around you today?**

# SHARING LOVE IN THE DARKNESS



**Anna Jankova**  
Greece

**New to the ECM family, I already feel welcomed and part of something bigger—just as I felt five years ago when I joined Nea Zoi (New Life), Christian organisation in Athens Greece, working with victims of sex trafficking.**

Back then, I had little idea how vast and complex this issue truly is. Human trafficking is now the fastest growing and most profitable criminal industry in the world, with an estimate of over fifty million people being forced into labour or commercial sex. We live in times when there are more “modern slaves” than ever before in history.

Confronted with such darkness, I often find my only true comfort in Jesus—the One who hears every cry, counts every hair on our heads, and continually seeks the marginalized and oppressed. He is the One we meet when feeding the hungry, visiting those in prison, or simply being present with the broken-hearted.

This conviction shapes everything we do at Nea Zoi. Together, we step into places of deep pain—brothels, streets, and hidden corners of the city—as an expression of the love Jesus has for each person. We break isolation, build trust, share moments

of prayer, and invite people into a journey toward freedom.

Beyond visiting people in the brothels and on the streets, we invite them to take steps toward freedom by offering ongoing support and practical help. Vocational training is one part of this wider journey, giving participants the chance to learn new skills while continuing to build trusting relationships. Through these spaces, we aim to care for the whole person—socially, emotionally, physically, and spiritually. Together with networks of evangelical churches and partner organizations, we also connect individuals with doctors, legal aid, and other essential services that help them rebuild their lives.

In all these ways, we see love in action—love that restores dignity, rekindles hope, and reminds each person that they are never forgotten.

## **Ireland Director note**

We are thrilled to have Anna serving with ECM Ireland. Having read this article please pray about whether you could support her prayerfully and financially.



# SHARING LOVE THROUGH THE CHURCH



**David and Samanta Gilkinson**  
*Salou Evangelical Church*  
*Tarragona, Spain*

As a church we have been experiencing the Lord moving and opening doors in the community and many visitors, including with no faith coming on a weekly basis especially amongst the youth and young adult groups. One way to love these groups of people well is to explain the Bible study or sermon thinking from the perspective of someone who is educated but has never read the Bible: for instance giving some context without patronising them, explain the various steps of the service, repeating the vision and values of the church often and making sure they have a point of contact to connect with others on a deeper level.

Through this period of silent revival, we are seeing the Lord bring some of the least likely groups of people to himself. Pray that we can shepherd them well.



**Josh and Ali Reeve**  
*Albania*

About 50 folk meet together as Kisha Ungjillore Ersekë (The Evangelical Church of Ersekë), on a weekly basis. Ersekë is a small town situated in the south of Albania, quite near the Greek border. It has the feel of a village, surrounded by farms and forest, high up on a plateau lined all around with high mountains.

The church is unusual, in that, despite its location, almost as rural as it gets in Europe, it has a very multicultural feel. It was founded in the early 1990's shortly after communism fell, by a missionary family and still has a core group of Albanians and missionaries from that time. Since then, the church has reached out into the local community in many ways. Mainly through family connections, friendships, evangelism and serving.

Twenty-five years ago, the Udhëkryq (Crossroads) Torchbearers Bible School and Camp Centre was established in partnership with the church. Students come from all over the world to study here and this has been a special partnership, providing mutual ongoing teaching and maintaining a missional focus. The church provides ways for the students to be involved in ministry each week and they in turn give their time, energy and love as they serve alongside local church members.

One particularly lovely routine is that almost the whole church goes out for coffee after the church service each week. People gather round tables at the nearby cafes and catch up and enjoy time together. It's a time treasured by many as a keyway of showing care, friendship and sharing the gospel. It's a crucial way that Albanians show love to one another, welcoming new people, connecting with friends regularly and enjoying fellowship. All the students love this aspect of Albania and wholeheartedly join in this routine too, which helps in the process of getting to know each other and the local church family.



**Tom + Grace Campbell**  
*Amazing Grace Community Church, Ireland*

We're part of Amazing Grace Community Church in Skibbereen. We are in a rural and beautiful part of Ireland in West Cork. We have approximately 100 people at our Sunday services each week, as we gather to sing, hear from the Bible and stay connected to one another.

One way our church shows love is through our monthly church lunches. On the first Sunday of the month, we have a family friendly service, followed by a lunch together,

where we invite people to bring some food along, so we can have lunch together afterwards. This is a great opportunity to chat, get to know new people and go deeper in our personal relationships. We show love to one another in these times of chat and eating together, as we have opportunities to share more of our lives together. This has also been a great way to get to know new people or people on the fringes, as it is a relaxed and informal way for people to connect.



**Jonathan and Nicola McCracken**  
*Calvary Church Claremorris, Co. Mayo, Ireland*

Amazingly, less than 2 years since we launched our new building project, we opened the doors on Sunday 12th October for our first church service! We praise God for all His provision in every way, including all the support and encouragement we have received from many people in different places. Psalm 105 v1 has been our church text over the last year or so, "Give praise to the Lord, proclaim His name: make known among the nations what he has done." With God's help, we will use our new building to praise and proclaim His name in Claremorris and beyond.

On 18th October, our rescheduled coffee morning and cake sale showed us the great potential of our new premises to encourage people in and get to know them. Whilst it was a renovation fund raiser with donations gladly received, one person commented that they knew it was a success because everyone seemed happy. Some people came in off the street and enjoyed the relaxed, friendly atmosphere. What an encouragement to be able to share the love of God with others in this simple way. We look forward to many more times like this.

# SHARING THE LOVE OF JESUS



By Noah Bartlett

*By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”*

**John 13:35**

Picture with me for a moment the disciples to whom Jesus was speaking! And, more specifically, picture Simon and Matthew. Simon the zealot was part of a political movement seeking to violently overthrow Roman rule. Prior to following Jesus, Simon had given his life to the anti-roman cause. Matthew was a tax collector. He worked for the Romans and got rich by ripping off his fellow Jews. Prior to following Jesus, Matthew had given his life to the Roman cause.


Now... read that verse again!

No wonder Jesus says people will know they are His disciples if they love one another. Nothing but divine intervention could have forced these two to sit side by side let alone love and serve one another!

As my family and I serve in Ireland and the United Kingdom we have more and more opportunities to live this out very practically. Whether it be Muslims, those seeking asylum, right wingers, left wingers, and every other faction we see in our context, there are countless opportunities for Christians to reach across boundaries, boundaries no one dares to cross and show the wall-breaking love of Jesus and in so doing preach loud and clear that we are disciples of Jesus, not of a political or national movement.

And this boundary crossing love often happens one conversation at a time, getting to know and honour that one person with whom you have a world of difference. This boundary crossing love takes asking questions, seeking to understand and give the benefit of the doubt rather than seeking to win a debate or an argument. This boundary crossing love ultimately will look weak and pathetic to many as we resist the temptation to take up our positions and shout past one another, demonising and seeking the other's destruction.

However, Jesus was no hypocrite. Jesus never asks anyone to do something He hasn't already done. As we look at the cross, we see the ultimate boundary crossing love, the love of Christ that crossed the boundary between heaven and earth, between Holy God and sinful



*Jesus never asks anyone to do something He hasn't already done. As we look at the cross, we see the ultimate boundary crossing love...*

humanity, that crossed enemy lines into hostile territory and won the day... by dying!

Simon and Matthew had the best possible example after whom to shape their love. The creator God had just stooped down to wash their feet and was about to stoop even lower and die for them. They could therefore lay aside their differences, surrender their political and national allegiances and love one another in Christ.

And we are called to do the same - to demonstrate this love that will preach loudly that we are followers of Jesus.

Many years ago, the pastor of the church in which I serve was approached by a local man shortly before the service started. He proudly stated 'Hello, my name is James and I am a racist!'. Wisely, the pastor did not turn him away but simply said 'You are so welcome! You should know though that we are a culturally diverse church so please keep those racist views to yourself.' Years later at James' funeral the church was packed with people from many different nations. What had changed? The boundary crossing love of this church had slowly broken down the ethnic walls in this man's heart and he had come to love and be loved by his former enemies.

**'By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.'**



# A TRIP TO ATHENS

80 expectant 'passengers' boarded ECM flight BW2025 to Athens in August as part of the Bangor Worldwide Missionary Convention. With safety announcements made the passengers were then updated on the sort of challenges that mission in Europe faces today. On landing in Athens interviews took place by video and in person from Anna Crawford and Anna Jankova regarding their work in Athens.

So, okay, the passengers maybe did not literally travel all those miles to Athens from Bangor but they did travel in terms of their understanding of the mission context there and how ECM Ireland missionaries are responding. It was an engaging time and provided a lot for the passengers to reflect on afterwards.

Earlier in 2025 we ran a few roadshows taking a similar journey but to other destinations alongside Athens such as Slovenia, Spain and the Republic of Ireland. If you would like us to come and take a similar awareness raising programme (or flight!) with your Church then please contact our Ireland Director, Geoff Donaldson, [geoff.donaldson@ecmi.org](mailto:geoff.donaldson@ecmi.org)

# LEAVING A LEGACY



If you are willing to leave a gift to ECM in your will, there are three main ways to do so:

## 1. Residuary gift:

a share (or all) of what remains of the value of your estate once your family and friends have been dealt with. This has the advantage of staying the same over time and therefore your will won't need to change to keep up with inflation.

## 2. Pecuniary gift:

a specific amount of money.

## 3. Specific gift:

a named item such as a piece of art or jewellery.

If you want to leave a gift to ECM, or want to know more about doing so, please tick the appropriate box on the response form.

**Thank you for investing  
in ongoing ministry  
in Europe!**

# GIVING TO ECM IRELAND

Name: .....

Address: .....

Postcode: .....

Telephone: .....

Email: .....

## Please send me:

- ECM Life (three times per year)  post  email  
 ECM's monthly prayer diary  post  email  
 Eurolink (*ECM Ireland monthly prayer resource*)  post  email

Signature: .....

## SINGLE GIFT DONATION

£5  £15  £30  £50 Other £ .....

Euros Amount € .....

For use where most needed

For the Christmas Appeal

Towards the work of: .....

I enclose a cheque made payable to ECM Ireland

I do not require an acknowledgment.

## You can also donate on line

[www.ecmireland.org/give](http://www.ecmireland.org/give)

## GIFT AID DECLARATION

*giftaid it*

I wish to gift aid to ECM this and any gift I have given in the last four years, until further notice. I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year.

Full name: .....

Signature: .....

Date: .....

## REGULAR GIVING

For use where most needed:

Towards the work of: .....

## STANDING ORDER DETAILS

**Bank name:** .....

**Bank address:** .....

**Postcode:** .....

**Account holder:** .....

**Account no:**

**Sort code:**   -   -

**Please deduct (amount in words) .....** pounds

**from my account on**   /   /

**Month**  **Quarter**  **Year (tick one)** until further notice.

**This standing order (tick as appropriate)...**

Replaces

Does not replace an existing standing order to ECM

**Pay this sum to: European Christian Mission**

**A/C:** 40615008 **Sort Code:** 98 09 60

Ballymacoss Avenue, Lisburn BT28 2GX

**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. ....

## LEGACY GIVING

I have included ECM in my will.

I would like to consider including ECM in my will.

## GIFT AID DECLARATION

I wish to gift aid to ECM this and any gift I have given in the last four years, until further notice. I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year.

**Full name:** .....

**Signature:** ..... **Date:** .....



# PRAYER POINTS

1. Pray for our missionaries who will be leading special events over the Christmas period that they will make good connections as they share the Gospel.

2. Pray for Ann Jankova as she seeks to build her support base to sustain her in her ministry in Athens.

3. Pray that our the ECM Ireland Staff Team as they meet for a day of thanksgiving and planning on the 17th December



### ECM Ireland

Ballymacoss Avenue,  
Lisburn, BT28 2GX,  
Northern Ireland

**tel.** +44 (0) 28 92 666 044

**email.** ecm.ni@ecmi.org

**web.** www.ecmireland.org

**Charity no.** 102665

*giftaid it*