

SUMMER 2026

ECM LIFE

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN MISSION IRELAND
NEWSLETTER



**PARTNERSHIP
IN THE GOSPEL**

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

web. www.ecmireland.org



PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL

BY GEOFF DONALDSON



Partnership is a popular word in mission circles as agencies recognise the strategic and practical importance of working in a united way to fulfil the Great Commission. A prime Biblical example comes in Paul's thanksgiving for the 'partnership in the Gospel' with the Philippian Church (Philippians 1:6), a text that highlights the importance of working together under God's leading.

However, in reading through the various examples of partnership expressed in this edition of ECM Life, I am reminded of Romans 16. Here Paul provides us with a long list of fellow-workers and partners in the Gospel. Take a look at this passage and you will see diversity in what it means to be a partner in the Gospel:

- Some offered help and practical support v2
- Some risked their lives v4
- Some offered 'hospitality' v5a
- Some worked very hard v6, 12
- Some are commended for their friendship v5b, 8, 9
- Some are mentioned for simply being part of the Church v13-15

This rich tapestry of partnering encourages Paul greatly and reminds us of the range of ways we can play our part in mission.

We at ECM Ireland thank you for your partnership with us in taking the Gospel to Europe. You may well be able to identify the part you play from the list in Romans 16. Of course, this is not an exhaustive list, and we could add practical examples like your praying, your sending emails or letters of encouragement to our missionaries and even when possible your visiting them.

We hope the articles that follow are both a cause of thanksgiving and gives you insight to help you in your praying.

LET THE WATER FLOW



By Andrew McCormick

In May 2025 and again in May 2026, the Gospel Workers Gathering brought together participants from Southeast Europe, Northern Ireland and elsewhere. It was held at Lake Modrac in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Just a short distance from the venue, there was a dam which controls the outflow from the lake, which is an important reservoir.

What I saw, as I looked at the scene, was that Northern Ireland is like a reservoir. Yes, we have an abundance of rain. But we also have an abundance of resources, both spiritual and financial. We have a great many churches. We have many church leaders who are well trained in the word of God, and full of grace and insight into the message of the Kingdom.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is one of the places in Europe with very few believers. The Bosnian Muslims (or Bosniaks) are one of the least reached people groups in Europe. There are some wonderful people sharing and living the Gospel in the country, both from within Bosnia and Herzegovina, and from outside (from Croatia, other parts of Europe, and from North America), but the work is hard and slow, requiring tremendous patience and endurance. The neighbouring countries (Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia) have similar challenges but are perhaps not quite as dry spiritually as the country around Lake Modrac.



"What I saw, as I looked at the scene, was that Northern Ireland is like a reservoir. Yes, we have an abundance of rain. But we also have an abundance of resources, both spiritual and financial."

I shared what I saw on my walk at Lake Modrac with some of the other leaders at the Gathering. One drew a parallel with the Jordan Valley in Israel. There are two bodies of water there – the Sea of Galilee which is (as it was in the time of Jesus' earthly ministry) alive and life-giving; the Dead Sea which is, well dead. The difference? One has an outflow and the latter does not.

The second response was even more direct. A flow of giving is essential to the life of the church in Northern Ireland.

It is wonderful that so many individuals and churches in Northern Ireland contribute to mission, in praying, giving and going. But the picture of the Lake Modrac reservoir was, for me, a very strong reminder and challenge, showing just how important this is.

Ezekiel 47.8

This water flows toward the eastern region, goes down into the valley, and enters the sea. When it reaches the sea, its waters are healed. And it shall be that every living thing that moves, wherever the rivers go, will live.

GOSPEL WORKERS GATHERING



Geoff Donaldson



The Gospel Workers' Gathering sees people not only cross geographical borders to take part, but they also cross unseen political and emotional borders created by a complicated Balkan political history. So, what is the catalyst to the gathering? It is the Gospel. The Gospel that unites brothers and sisters from Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia and from our host country Bosnia (plus a few from other countries).

While there are so many great aspects to the gathering it is seeing people embrace and shake hands with others who history would warn them to hold with suspicion. More than ever, the 2026 edition of GWG revealed deepening relationships among those who have attended for many years, and there was an evident integration of those attending for the first time. It was very encouraging to be part of a group united before God comprising people with such rich diversity of language, context, and denomination.

The days leading up to the gathering saw a couple of our key people needing to withdraw for health reasons. While it was unsettling it was great to see other people step up to help the time run so well. A lesson we have learnt over the years is that when we are 'hands off' we see God work his good purposes out and this was so evident this year. The Bible teaching inspired us; the ministry updates grounded us and the informal chats over meals and walks encouraged us.

We came away from GWG 2026 with a strong confirmation of the importance of partnership both among those workers serving in the Balkans but also among all those were part of the planning, resourcing, praying and leading. One great picture of partnership came in the period between the last two gatherings when the Maribor Church in Slovenia helped the Evangelical Church in Tuzla, Bosnia, with some practical needs. We look forward to more partnerships in the Gospel of this kind going forward.



STUART ROWELL

A LEGACY OF GOSPEL VISION AND FAITHFULNESS



By Tom Greer

"Dear Stuart... You have been much more than a colleague in ministry. You have been a dear brother in Christ, a mentor, and for me personally, a spiritual father...Your faithfulness, humility, perseverance, and genuine love for people have left a lasting mark on our lives."

This one tribute written by an ECM member in Slovenia so well encapsulates what many others have expressed towards Stuart Rowell at this time of his impending retirement; and it replicates so many similar words of gratitude that were spoken by those attending the recent Gospel Workers Gathering in Bosnia back in May. Indeed, that gathering in so many ways represents the wonderful outworking of so many years that Stuart has invested in the Lord's work, especially in the Balkans, since he first joined ECM on 12 July 1990.

In those first years Stuart and Ellyse and their family settled in Vienna, where Stuart worked as East European Director, but later having relocated back to Northern Ireland Stuart would make 4-5 week trips up to four times a year continually supporting Gospel work in Eastern Europe and always seeking to identify new workers and new opportunities for church planting. In this the constant support and encouragement of Ellyse was vital and had she not shared Stuart's vision for how the Lord would build his church, none of the wonderful legacy of the past thirty-six years would have come to pass. But what a legacy Stuart leaves, having been instrumental in

seeing nineteen people brought through theological education and five growing churches planted, not to mention countless other Gospel workers pastored, nurtured and cared for through good times and bad.

Over many years Stuart has poured sacrificial love and kindness into so many people's lives, and like Caleb of old would not have let advancing years stand in his way. Sadly, health issues no longer allow him to travel, but daily he continues by phone to encourage many brothers and sisters whose ministry and personal lives are indelibly stamped on his heart and form the burden of his prayers.

I have known Stuart since the beginning of his ECM journey, and with many brothers and sisters at this time I would extend to Stuart the words of Paul to Philemon.

"I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you."
(Philemon 6-7)

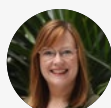
ECM IRELAND MISSIONS' FAMILY



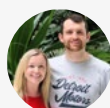
Stuart
(N. Ireland)



Geoff
(N. Ireland)



Lorna
(N. Ireland)



Noah and Suzi
(N. Ireland)



Lourdes
(N. Ireland)



Rosaliene
(N. Ireland)



Stephen
(N. Ireland)

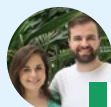
Vimal & Louise
(Germany)



Joanne and Philippe
(France)



Jonathan & Nicola
(Ireland)



Tom & Grace
(Ireland)



Colin & Ali
(Ireland)



Shane McGloin
(Portugal)



Carlos & Ana
(Portugal)



Marcus & Andressa
(Portugal)



David & Samantha
(Spain)



Aislinn
(Spain)





THE OPEN HOUSE



By Anna Crawford

Three years ago, an unusual friendship began when two women from different worlds started living together in a Christian community flat, they call The Open House.

Anna C is a veteran in mission work, church planting, member care, and a grandmother. Anna J (from the Czech Republic) was a recent graduate as a social worker.

In our home we try to share our faith through our lives — through hospitality, open dinners for anyone, finding ways to laugh during Open Mic nights, and going deeper with others, to evenings with theologians from the Greek Bible College.

With mutual care, respect, and prayer, we carry each other through the joys and struggles of each day. Our friendship grew beyond the walls of the shared flat into a partnership in anti-sex-trafficking ministry work. We are involved, in different capacities, with local ministries such as Nea Zoi (New Life), as well as with the international network EFN (European Freedom Network) and various church plants associated with the Greek Evangelical Church.



Anna Crawford

As I got to know Anna J, I saw her deep commitment to anti-trafficking work at Nea Zoi and her care for the women she serves. Initially, she did not have a mission family to provide the support and stability she needed, so I am glad that ECM Ireland is now that family for her.

Although our roles at Nea Zoi are different, we work closely together. I joined the Monday evening outreach, and my involvement with the Threads of Hope project led me to become involved with Nea Zoi. We try to support one another when things get difficult.

Recently, Anna was supporting a trafficking survivor through a court case against her trafficker, attending hearings that were repeatedly postponed. I joined some of the proceedings to encourage her. More recently, she became involved in a child trafficking situation outside Nea Zoi's remit and had to step away, which was heartbreaking for her. During that time, all I could do was pray.

Anna is also a true minimalist. While I tend to pack far too much, Anna travels with only a backpack!



Anna Jankova

Every morning, before leaving her room, Anna C begins her day with Scripture and prayer. Living with someone so deeply grounded in Christ brings a sense of stability to those around her, and I am continually learning from her example.

Having lived in many places and shared life with many people from different cultures, Anna brings wisdom, compassion, and an abundance of experience. She is willing to challenge me when my youthful enthusiasm clouds my judgment, and she does so with grace and care. Both officially and unofficially, she has become a mentor to many (including me), offering a listening ear, advice, and a safe place to bring burdens.

Although she could easily choose to rest, Anna remains deeply committed to ministry. She regularly joins Nea Zoi outreach to the brothels and uses her passion for member care to support her teammates. She also serves on the EFN board, helping strengthen prayer across the network.

After difficult days, I often find myself in her room, sharing burdens, talking, resting, or watching a K-drama together.

Together

For this season of our lives, it is a real privilege to live and share life in these ways.

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ."

Galatians 6:2



SPOTLIGHT ON SPAIN



By David Gilkinson

I stood on stage with my three co-workers, sweating in the Spanish July mid-afternoon heat. We looked down on 200 young people with their parents, pastors and Exodus supporters surrounding them and praying over them. Each of these young people was about to travel to one of seven Spanish evangelical churches and begin a week of kid's clubs and outreach events. For the four of us standing on stage, the moment was the culmination of a year of behind-the-scenes work. A surreal moment of knowing that we were living in a special moment in time of God moving among the next generation.

Exodus has been partnering with Spanish evangelical churches for 18 years. The mission week in Catalunya has also been in existence for the last five years. With the organic growth of the teams and partnerships produced, paired with the desire to have long-term impact in Spanish youth ministry gave birth to Exodus Espana 18 months ago.

Since its inception, the ministry has been a rollercoaster of new opportunities, establishing the culture of the organisation, challenges of starting a new organisation and the financial challenges and paperwork challenges that go with it.

Our Values, how we work



Discipleship: The model of Exodus, as in Northern Ireland is a focus on the discipleship and preparation of team members and not just the short-term experience.



Bible engagement: In each of the programs for young people and youth leaders there is biblical basis and emphasis on participants opening the Word of God and discovering the richness of the Bible for themselves.



Partnership: We work with, for and in the local church to serve them and equip their youth ministries.



Community: We invest in the depth of authentic relationships between young people.

Our Ministries, what we do



Mission teams: Young people from churches around Catalonia meet for discipleship and preparation monthly before a short-term summer mission trip. In 2026 we have 37 young people in four teams going to Bilbao, Albania, Romania and Northern Ireland.



Mission week in Catalonia: Young people from Spanish evangelical churches work together with a foreign team to run English Bible Schools and outreach events. From 16th -27th July we have 200 young people involved with nine churches hosting and running EBS. In recent years around half of the children who come to the activities come from unbelieving families. This year we're praying and expecting around 600 children.



Mentoring: We have written several resources and run training events to equip mentors for one - one discipleship. The resources are available on Amazon (search 'Caminando Juntos' on Amazon).



Leaders training: We are currently in the development phase of a leaders training program called Radix Academy. Pray for us as we speak with youth leaders, Pastors and seminaries to develop a program which

can serve the church across the region and stimulate excellence in youth ministry.

Focus on partnerships

Collaboration between churches from different backgrounds has been fundamental in Exodus España. In a country which has traditionally struggled to find common ground between different denominations, Exodus has been able to unite churches from Baptist, Brethren, Pentecostal and non-denominational backgrounds.

The partnership between ECM Ireland, ECM Spain, Exodus UK and the Evangelical church of Salou was also key. In the initial set-up phase, each had the opportunity to shape the organisation. We consider it a blessing and a sign from God that so many committees and leadership groups with a vested interest were able to agree and fully support the creation of the ministry.

The network of ECM in other places has also been key with mission teams traveling to serve with other ECM missionaries in Bilbao and Albania this summer. The hope is that these teams would not only serve the local ministries in the short term but be vehicle for training and raising up future missionaries. Watch this space.

Find out more:

Follow us on Instagram:

@exodusspana

Check out our webpage:

www.exodusspana.es

Contact Exodus España director, David,
david.gilkinson@ecmi.org

SUMMER OUTREACH

Throughout the summer months, we have many outreach events and camps for children and teenagers across Europe.

- Pray for the events that have already happened, giving thanks for the opportunity to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Pray for the participants to have open hearts to the Gospel, and for follow-up conversations and meetings.
- Pray for those events that are about to happen – pray for safety, good relationships and openness from participants.
- Give thanks for the partnerships that are shown throughout all these events – between local churches, between churches in NI and our ECM members and partnerships also between individuals.

24-28 June: Summer Camp, Athens, Greece (*Giorgos & Luciana Christoforides*)

29 June - 2 July: Children's camp in Murska Sobota, Slovenia with a team from Union Road PC Magherafelt (*Alen and Lila Kercmar*)

29 June - 4 July: Domžale church children's residential camp, Slovenia (*Goran Macura*)

6 - 10 July: Domžale church children's day camp, Slovenia (*Goran Macura*)

6-11 July: Summer camp for children, Camp Timok (*Serbia-Camp Timok*)

8 - 19 July: Team to Kosovo, from Arizona (*Kid's Club 13-17 July*)

12-18 July, Word of Life Camp, Spain (*David and Samantha Gilkinson*)

16-18 July: Cataluña misiones week launch, Spain (*David and Samantha Gilkinson*)

19-27 July: English Bible Schools, Spain (*David and Samantha Gilkinson*)

20-27 July: GBU Summer Conference, Spain (*Aislinn Duffy*)

20-25 July: Summer Camp for teenagers (*Serbia, Camp Timok*)

20 July - 24: July Domžale church teen day camp, Slovenia (*Goran Macura*)

22-24 July: Claremorris Holiday Club, Ireland (*team from 1st Portadown Presbyterian Church with Jonathan and Nicola McCracken*)

22-24 July: Children's Summer Camp Radovljica, Slovenia (*Sebastian and Glorija Forjan*)

27 July - 30 July: Children's camp in Moravske Toplice, Slovenia with a team from HRPC Bangor (*Alen and Lila Kercmar*)

1-8 August: Teen Street in Germany with OM (*Shane McGloin*)

2 August: Agricultural Show outreach, Claremorris, Ireland (*Jonathan and Nicola McCracken*)

3-8 August: Sports Camp for migrants, Germany (*Vimal Vimalasakaran*)

7-9 August: Ferrybank Holiday Club (with a team from Portrush Presbyterian Church), Ireland (*Colin and Ally Holmes*)

8 August: Family Fun Day (Ferrybank, Kilkenny Presbyterian and Portrush Presbyterian), Ireland (*Colin and Ally Holmes*)

13th - 15 August: Awake Ministries outreach in Porto Lar, Portugal (*Shane McGloin*)

16th-22 August: Palhal young adults camp, Portugal (*Shane McGloin*)

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 £ _____

☐ Euro 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

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 / / **and then each**

☐ **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. Summer opportunities:

Pray for the camps our missionaries are leading this summer. Ask that children and young people encounter God's love and forgiveness in Jesus.

2. ECM on the road

Pray for our involvement at New Horizon, Kinfire, and Bangor Worldwide. Ask for meaningful connections and that people respond by praying, giving, and going. If you're attending, please come and say hello.

3. Rest and refreshment

Pray for missionaries to find rest and renewal over the summer, and to be strengthened in the Lord during times away from busy schedules.



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