

SPRING 2022

ECM LIFE

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN MISSION IRELAND
NEWSLETTER

LOOK TO THE LORD AND HIS STRENGTH;
SEEK HIS FACE ALWAYS.

1 Chronicles 16:11



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

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DIRECTOR'S LETTER

LINDSAY MOORHEAD

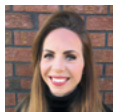
Over the past two years, the ECM Ireland staff team have been reading and praying through the Psalms.

The Psalms have really helped us, as a team, to focus ourselves on God, but they have also allowed us to be real about the circumstances we find ourselves in, as the Psalms are full of praise, full of lament, full of questions and full of emotion. The Psalms are a wonderful place to start when we don't know what to pray or even how to pray, and Kent Anderson, ECM Britain Director, writes more about this on page 6.

My husband and I recently asked some of our friends and supporters to pray for us as a family, especially as we wanted to start a new routine of praying together more. God answered those prayers and at the beginning of the year we started reading through a family devotional book called 'Family Time' and as well as that we use a simple prayer activity to stimulate our prayers for others using wooden spoons. We draw the face and write the name of the person we want to pray for on the spoon and then each morning, we take

turns to pick out a different spoon (person) to pray for. It's a fun way to spend time with God and pray for others, as a family.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers for our missions' family. At times, it can be very difficult and challenging for our missionaries to keep doing what they are doing, amidst the joys, there can be setbacks, challenges, and discouragements too. So please pray specifically for them in their times of praise, lament, questions and emotion, that God would sustain them but as well as that, that they would also grow in their love for God and that they would grow in their love for others. ECM's mission is to plant churches and make disciples – but we can only do that if we are all walking closely with God.



Lindsay
Director, ECM Ireland



LOSING CONTROL

**A PASTOR'S REFLECTION ON
PRAYER IN THE LIGHT OF THE
CRISIS IN UKRAINE**



BY PASTOR GEOFF MCILRATH

As I write these words our continent is experiencing an earthquake of such magnitude that it will likely reshape the European landscape for years to come. Who knows what the full extent of the damage will be? And who knows for how long the after-shocks will continue? What is clear is that it is now the turn of our pandemic-weary generation to deal with a different kind of threat, as 'Ukraine' replaces 'COVID' in our search engines. Millions of our fellow Europeans are already negotiating this new reality.

“What one thing above all others can you do that will impact those who are just getting on with the everyday grind of missionary work? Pray!”

As God's people, our reaction to this latest crisis is instinctive. We turn to prayer. We sense the need to invite God into a situation that so obviously lies outside our control. And this is what crises do – whether at the level of an individual facing a health scare or a continent facing war, they uncover the illusion that we are actually in control in the first place. We're not. We're too small for that. Crises can be great counsellors!

I serve as a member of the ECM Ireland council, as pastor of a local church, and as a writer of gospel literature*. Through these roles, it is my privilege to partner with many missionaries and mission organisations throughout the world. And one of the results of this is that I get a behind-the-scenes look at how the work of mission happens.

Can I let you in on a secret?

Missionaries and mission societies are not in control! Not the good ones, anyway! For they operate on a daily basis by the principle that our occasional crises reveal – none of us are big enough for this! And because they know it and really believe it, they turn to God in prayer. Mission work is the story of what we can't do but God can, and God does.

So, what one thing above all others can you do in this current crisis that will genuinely make a difference? Pray! What one thing above all others can you do that will impact those who are just getting on with the everyday grind of missionary work? Pray!

Brothers and sisters, we are not in control – not any of it. Embrace it, and turn to the One who is. Invite God in. He is big enough for all of this!



A prayer for Ukraine

Geoff has reminded us of the need to intercede for Ukraine. Please join us in praying:

Father Almighty, we proclaim that You are in charge regardless of what we see in the world around us. Jesus, we declare that You are Lord of love and peace, even if people reject Your way and turn to violence. Holy Spirit, we pray that You will move in the lives of Your children and show them how to shine Your light during this dark time. We turn to You and beg for peace in Ukraine. We pray for You to confound Satan's schemes and use even this crisis to bring the lost to Your-self. In Jesus' name, Amen.



GOD IS WORKING



BY VIMAL VIMALASEKARAN

During lockdown in August 2020, Vimal was contacted by a colleague from the Refugee Highway Partnership who had met a 17-year-old Afghan man who was on his way to Germany to meet his older brother, which happened to be near the city close to where Vimal lives. He was not permitted to stay in the refugee camp because he was a minor and was assigned a room in a special asylum centre for children. Vimal visited him and introduced himself as a refugee Christian worker. The Afghan was very wary since he had preconceived views about Christians. Nevertheless, Vimal pursued him and took him for coffees or small meals and, over those months, built up a good rapport and friendship with this young Afghan man, whom we will call Mr. M.



After experiencing firsthand, the kindness of a Christian, Mr. M was keen to investigate Bible teachings, so Vimal and Mr. M would invariably look at a verse for the day and read in their own language. Mr. M was beginning to show a great interest in spiritual things and eventually considered attending church, so on Christmas Eve, 2020, Mr. M set foot into a church and for the first time, met other Christians. They made him welcome, but because of the language barrier, it was difficult. As well as the language difficulties, COVID-19 restrictions made it a challenge to collect him and take him to church, as well as reserve places to attend. Although it was complicated, Vimal found a church that was more accessible, and the church gladly received him. He was invited to a young men's Bible study group during the week, which helped him feel like he belonged, and he enjoyed the fellowship. Naturally, Mr. M is very shy, but his confidence and courage has been increasing and he even started to go to Vimal's home for fellowship. Before long, Mr. M surrendered his life to Jesus.

In the summer of 2021, Mr. M asked to be baptised. Due to health issues for him and the Pastor, the baptism was postponed twice, but Mr. M did not stop pursuing it. Mr. M and Vimal met for a small class and in November 2021, after coming to Vimal's home to read over his testimony, they were able to pray for him. It is amazing to see how far the Lord has brought him, and it was a wonderful encouragement and a witness to the power of prayer. On 21st November, in a cold tank of water, in the grounds of the church, Mr. M was baptised. An Iranian believer prayed for him in Farsi, and his new life in Christ. They also gave him a new name, at his request as a new identity in Christ, so he is still called Mr. M, but the M stands for a Bible character beginning with "M."

We enjoyed celebrating Mr. M with a surprise party in the Evangelical Migrant Centre, and it was good to celebrate the Lord's goodness to him over the past few months. It was a joyful time with decorations, delicious food, and Mr. M's close friends. He had the opportunity to share his spiritual journey and his faith in Christ. Such a wonderful testament, with blessings and hope for the new Mr. M.

Prayer Activity:

Get yourself a map and place a pin in that country whenever you pray for the people and missionaries located there. Pray that God will prepare hearts with a spiritual truth, an openness and readiness to receive Christ. Pray for workers to be called and sent, and for relationships and clear communication of the Gospel.

A NEW WAY TO PRAY OLD TRUTHS



BY KENT ANDERSON, ECM BRITAIN DIRECTOR



Many of you are already praying for our workers in Europe. Thank you! But how can you pray effectively during those times when you don't always know what's going on in their lives?

There is no better place to start than with God's word. We know that when we pray in line with the promises of God that He will do whatever we ask Him (1 John 5.14).

Here is an example of how to do that based on Psalm 23 (scripture shown in bold type).

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.



Pray that they will know Jesus, the good shepherd, ever more closely.



Pray for them to have all that they need for life and ministry.

He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul.



Pray that they will have times of rest and refreshment.

He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.



Pray that they will know the Holy Spirit's guidance in all they face.



Pray that all that they do will be to God's glory.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me;



Pray for them to know God's presence during times of trouble.



Pray for them to be kept safe from anxiety and worry.



Pray for them to be protected from the evil one.

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.



Pray for them to know God's comfort and peace.



Pray for them to trust the Lord's strength, rather than their own.



You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.



Pray that they fear God, not those who oppose their work.



Pray for their physical needs to be met day after day.

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.



Pray that they will know the abundant life that Jesus promised.

Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,



Pray that they will experience the depth of God's love and goodness.



Pray for them to continue on as faithful servants of our Lord.

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.



Pray that they will find ways to worship God forever.
Amen.

It really can be that simple. But don't stop with Psalm 23. There are lots of other passages of the Bible that you can base your prayers on. Why not let us know if you find another one that you like?

Thank you for praying for our workers. The fruit of our ministry is dependent on the intercessions of people like you.

COWS, CLOWNS, CRISIS, COPING AND THE ORDINARY EVERYDAY



BY CHARLIE AND MIRIAM ANDERSON

There is nothing more delightful for the believer than answered prayer. Here are some examples from our lives and those with whom we work in ECM:



When COVID-19 restrictions ceased travel, Charlie (whose ministry involves face to face interactions) wondered if he could still have a ministry, BUT GOD brought zoom into our lives. He established unimagined opportunities to encourage people, pray with them and to see many answers to prayers.



A family of musicians in Croatia during lockdown got an unexpected, weekly invite into nursing homes to play music and sing, lifting the spirits of the patients.



A missionary prayed for a way to help children traumatized by earthquake devastation and found himself bringing fun and laughter as a 'clown' in the villages near where he lives.



A lady, who could find no cause for her debilitating pain, was suddenly symptom free after her home group organised days of prayer and fasting for her wellbeing.

Have courage to pray when you don't see what God can do. He has all sorts of ideas.

Our own Support Fund needed input for quite a while, so when COVID-19 meant our deputation plans were shelved, hope was low. BUT GOD himself provided - new donations, furlough pay (instead of a mission allowance for Charlie) which, along with the 'Eat Out to Help Out' and 'Spend Local cards' helped make our Support Fund healthy for a while. Who could have imagined!

Most of God's answered prayers come clothed in the ordinary every day - so don't be afraid to bring your ordinary every day to Him and trust He will hear and answer you.

Prayer Request:

ECM as a mission needs people who feel called to take on Leadership positions. Please pray.

Prayer Activity:

Why not get yourself a puzzle of the world and keep a piece in your pocket. As you walk, drive or even cook, why not pray for that country represented when you find the puzzle piece.

ANSWERED PRAYER

BY AISLINN DUFFY

Something that God is teaching me is that not only does he answer our prayers in ways that we don't expect, but he does so according to his timing, not mine. In GBU Barcelona we are now in a process of **REBUILDING**, rebuilding ministry with the students that we have.



These last two years have been challenging with the COVID-19 restrictions. It has meant that classes are online and little meeting up with students in person has been possible. It has been very difficult for the students, with many graduating from GBU and very few coming into first year, as well as the added complication of being saturated with screens. In one of the GBU groups in Barcelona, traditionally the smallest group, it seemed that we were going to be left with just two students. So we started praying that God would bring two more students to this GBU group; two more students to be salt and light in this university campus; two more students to be bold with the gospel message and two more students to share hope with their classmates.

Well, God answered our prayers.

The first year we had one more student join, which was amazing, and so we continued to pray. In September 2021, at the beginning of a new academic year, we were expectant to see what God was going to do and he

brought six new students to the group. The group now has eight students! Two students in nursing, two in medicine, two in dentistry, one student in media and another in engineering. Not only this, but it is a joy to see how they are on fire for sharing Jesus on campus. One of the first-year students has already started a seeker Bible study with one of her classmates as they showed interest in knowing more about Christianity. God answered our prayers in a way that we didn't expect and according to his timing.

Please pray for these students, that God would bless each one of them in their classes, that they would be bold to share the gospel message and that we would see lives transformed with the hope that we have in Christ.

Prayer Idea

Why not make use of technology and write a quick prayer for a friend as a text message? They will know encouragement and feel fellowship.

TEACH US TO PRAY

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BY LORNA MOORE, ECM IRELAND ADMINISTRATOR

*“This, then, is how you should pray:
 “Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 And forgive us our debts,
 as we also have forgiven our debtors.
 And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from the evil one.*

Matthew 6:9-13



The Lord's Prayer is a familiar prayer and if we are honest, it can sometimes be too familiar. However, this prayer is one that is a guide from Jesus Himself, in teaching us to pray. It should help us as we pray every prayer – this traditional prayer straight from the mouth of Jesus should be our foundation.

A Model Prayer

There are many patterns to pray but this is the model. Jesus went beyond these words often as He prayed, but The Lord's Prayer should be our structure for every prayer.

A Literal Prayer

We should recite this prayer both privately and collectively. It has deep meaning, and it is a prayer that unites us.

A God-Centered Prayer

The Lord's Prayer begins and ends with God and has petitions to Him. This prayer shows us how God should be our centre.

A Simple Prayer

It is plain, straightforward and easy to understand. It should help us to realise that words don't need to be complicated when we pray, or artificial. Jesus gives us a conversational prayer to guide us. Try to commit it to memory.

A Short Prayer

It is only 10 lines – brief and to the point. It contrasts the prayers of the Pharisees in Matthew 6:7. A lengthy prayer doesn't mean answered prayer. Jesus listens to every heart and every prayer, no matter the length.

A Comprehensive Prayer

This prayer may be simple, but it is also masterful and deep. It draws together the foundations of the gospel and is not shallow. It points us to topics such as God's will, forgiveness, confession, intercession, grace.

A Precious Prayer

The Lord's Prayer is a life-transforming prayer. It is a profound prayer that should both strengthen and challenge us daily.

FOUR WAYS TO LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY



Think of someone who's had a lasting influence in your life. Perhaps a grandparent, a pastor, a teacher, a close friend.... Who they were has affected who you are today.

It's exciting to think that you, like them, can contribute to the lives of others in a way that will outlive you. And you can start building that legacy today. But how?

A great way to start building a legacy that will endure is to stop. Stop and ask yourself, "If I were to die today, what would I want people to say about me?" Next write down those things you'd like to be remembered for. Then just start living out that list!

- 1 **Pass on your values to those you love.** Having an impact on the next generation is one of the most important things you can do.

- 2 **Help make the world a more loving place.** Volunteer in a food bank. Coach a youth sports club. Mentor someone. Just be generous.

- 3 **See that more people know Jesus.** Nothing you do on earth is more important than helping others join you in heaven.

- 4 **Be responsible with what you own.** Writing a will that takes care of your loved ones and supports the causes you believe in guarantees your earthly belongings will be used in line with your values.

Perhaps your way of leaving a legacy is to partner with ECM Ireland. ECM depends largely upon the financial support of individual donors to help us share the gospel in Europe. If you'd like your legacy to further the gospel across Europe, through the work of ECM Ireland, please email ecm.ni@ecmi.org for more information or call us on 028 926 660 44.

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:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ECM Life (twice yearly) | <input type="checkbox"/> post <input type="checkbox"/> email |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ECM's monthly prayer diary | <input type="checkbox"/> post <input type="checkbox"/> email |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eurolink (<i>ECM Ireland monthly prayer resource</i>) | <input type="checkbox"/> post <input type="checkbox"/> email |

Signature:

SINGLE GIFT DONATION

☐ £5 ☐ £15 ☐ £30 ☐ £50 Other £

☐ Euro Amount €

☐ For use where most needed:

☐ 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

☐ 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:

giftaid it

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 Ireland

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:**

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PRAYER



Thank God for:

- The Bible, which teaches us how to pray.
- Our prayer partners, who faithfully pray for our missionaries and the work of ECM.
- Our workers, serving across Europe.

Pray for:

- For the people of Ukraine.
- Mr. M – that he would grow in his relationship with God.
- The new students in Barcelona, as they seek to share the gospel with their friends.



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