

AUTUMN / WINTER 2020

ECM LIFE

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN MISSION IRELAND
NEWSLETTER

EUROPE

IS NOT JUST A HOLIDAY DESTINATION.
IT'S A MISSION FIELD.

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ECM IRELAND

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN MISSION IRELAND
IS AN INTERDENOMINATIONAL,
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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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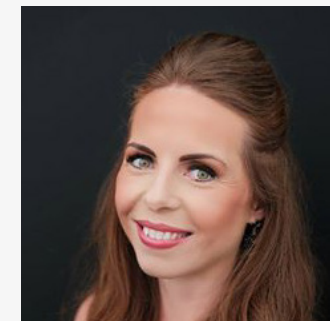
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DIRECTOR'S LETTER

LINDSAY MOORHEAD



On the 9th January, Oxford University Press issued their list of 'Five new words you shouldn't miss in 2020'. Among this list were two words that were particularly prescient - the word 'hellacious' and the word 'hothouse'.

The word 'hellacious' means 'an awful experience' and I think we can all agree that the COVID-19 pandemic has been an awful experience for people all over the world.

Meanwhile, 'hothouse' in this instance, refers not to a greenhouse of some sort, but to "a place or situation that encourages the rapid development of ideas, emotions and knowledge". Again, what a fitting word to suggest at the start of 2020 as, whilst the Pandemic has been hellacious, it has also, without a doubt, encouraged creativity among many of our missionaries and churches across Europe. 2020 has pushed us in ways we couldn't have imagined and the new initiatives that have been happening will be to our great benefit in the years to come.

In this edition of ECM Life, we will uncover some of the more 'hellacious' moments but also some of the 'hothouse' times too.

On pages 14 and 15 Josh and Ali Reeve write about the history of Albania and whilst it's had a troubled past at times, we are very excited to see that God is at work and the Gospel is being made known.

Not too far from Albania is the country of Kosovo, and on page 16 we read about the challenges that Kosovo has faced over the past few months, particularly with the sharp increase in COVID-19 cases and high-unemployment rates. To bless their community during this tough time, our missionaries who work there, would like to give the children in their neighbourhood Christmas presents. Each present costs only £5 or €5 and there is an opportunity for you to be part of this outreach, read more on page 18.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers, partnership and support.

NEW ECM IRELAND COUNCIL MEMBER

MEET ANDREW GREEN



My name is Andrew Green and I am married to Lauren. We live in Newtownards with our three children and are members of Greenwell Street Presbyterian Church. I enjoy the outdoors, reading and good coffee.

My interest in mission, specifically mission in Europe, developed while we were members of Hamilton Road Presbyterian Church, Bangor.

Over the past few years my interest in Europe and in ECM has really grown,



especially as I have been connecting with people who are involved in church planting, in particular, with Sasko and Ania who are ECM Ireland members, working in Krakow, Poland. My friendship with Sasko and Ania started through some emails and texts, but further developed when my family and I visited them in Krakow on holiday and as we hosted a coffee morning in support of the Publishing Ministry for Christ The Saviour Church in Krakow. I am very excited about joining the Council and I'm really looking forward to continuing this journey.



THE SAME ONLY DIFFERENT

CHARLIE AND TANIA DEERING

Charlie and Tania Deering have just finished their time with ECM in sunny Spain. Below, they write about some of their highlights but also the more challenging times as well.

Earlier this year we took the decision to end our time of service with ECM in Spain and begin a new chapter of our lives with GLO-Europe (Gospel Literature Outreach) in Motherwell, Scotland. It was certainly not a decision taken lightly and there are many details we could share but in summary:

- From January 2019, we believed that our time in Camarma was coming to an end, so we began to investigate possible opportunities within Spain.
- In December, we became aware of the need for a Centre Manager with GLO at their facility in Motherwell and knew it was something we needed to follow up.
- After a visit in March this year, a time of reflection, talking and praying we believed that the Lord was giving us this opportunity to continue serving him in a role that suits our strengths, gifts and desires.

But before we talk more about GLO and what lies ahead, let's look back on the last 8 years with ECM and try to summarise those.

For those of you who don't know, much of our work was based in the running of a small ECM ministry centre in the town of Camarma, just outside Madrid. During these past years we have been blessed with meeting many diverse people from all over the world.

We have hosted groups from Belgium and Hungary who came for church planting courses; welcomed students from California doing summer camps in the area; a group from Singapore doing a mission trip in Madrid and a team from Guatemala en route to their mission trip in...Cambodia! Not to mention our many ECM colleagues from all over Europe who converged on Camarma for various training and leadership meetings. The centre has been a stopover for mission families en route to other destinations. It also has been a

short-term home to newly arrived missionary families while they searched for a permanent place to live. As well as this, the centre has been used for English Clubs, Food-banks, Camarma church activities, home groups, prayer meetings and even a wedding!

So what do we take with us as we leave Camarma? For both of us, many great memories and friendships that will continue on into eternity and the privilege of living in a country full of culture, history and natural beauty. There is no way we can share all of the highlights or experiences with you on these pages but here are a couple that we'd like to mention...

TANIA WRITES...

"For many years, Precept Inductive Bible Studies have been an important part of satisfying my desire to know God better. So I was delighted to have the opportunity of meeting on a weekly basis with a multicultural group of ladies using the Precept materials. We also introduced Precept material in Spanish to adult Sunday school classes and used them as a basis for a ladies mini-conference in February of this year. For me, this conference was a highlight of my time here. To see sixty women from various backgrounds and family situations, learning from the life of Hagar about the God who sees, the God who hears and the God who keeps his promises. Unknown to us, these principles were a firm foundation for the next three months as Spain went into lockdown. Discipleship continues via social media and God continues to work in the lives of all of these women and I thank God for the privilege of being a part of it."

CHARLIE WRITES...

"We experienced a painful division in the church a few years ago with more or less all of the leadership team leaving. Although I felt very much out of my comfort zone, I believed I had to be willing to allow my name to be put forward as a candidate for eldership. As a result, the church membership approved me with four other men to serve as elders on a temporary basis. Church divisions are rarely pleasant so it's no surprise that the following two years proved to be challenging, emotional, and stressful with complicated issues. However, they were also ones of learning, encouragement and joy, experiencing a real sense of fellowship within the church family. After two years, I stepped down from the role believing that the Lord had used me to "stand in the gap" and bring some stability and continuity to the church despite my weaknesses and failures. I also ended up appreciating much better the challenges for those who are involved in full-time church ministry... and know that I'm not called to it!"

On a final note, how encouraging to see that three of these men are now back on the eldership team, continuing to promote unity and give continuity and direction to the Camarma church community."



"This conference was a highlight of my time... sixty women learning from the life of Hagar about the God who sees, the God who hears and the God who keeps his promises..."

So going back to the future and our work with GLO.

We will be based in the GLO Ministry Centre in Motherwell and we'll let the GLO director, Stephen McQuoid, give an outline of our responsibilities:

"The Centre contains a Bible college where we have residential and external training. In addition there is a bookshop, coffee shop and conference facility which not only generates funds and resources mission, but also provides a shop window for GLO. In other words, people and churches engage with GLO through the centre and it is an important Christian facility in Scotland."

Charlie and Tania will be taking on a key role in managing the centre. It is a multi-skilled role which enables each department to be supported, helped and resourced. The job involves using a whole range of skills and is very people centred and relational. They will be in constant contact with a large number of missionaries, staff, students, customers and visitors, many of whom will not be Christians."

This is a crucial role which sits at the very heart of GLO's ministry."



So you could say, it's the "same only different". It was a joy and privilege to work with ECM in Spain and we believe that our paths will cross again in the future and indeed, we look forward to that!

If you are not on our mailing list but would like to follow us in this new chapter of our lives please get in touch via candtdeering@gmail.com.

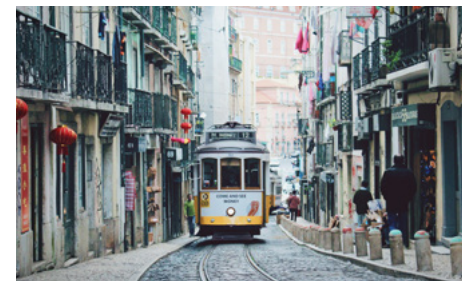
Please give thanks for Charlie and Tania and their ministry in Spain. Pray for them as they move to Scotland and start their new work with GLO.



IN GOD'S HANDS

WRITTEN BY ANDRESSA BARIDO

Portugal is a growing holiday destination with over 16 million tourists* visiting the country in 2019 but yet it is a country which needs to hear about Jesus, with just over 3% evangelicals* living there.



Marcus and Andressa are from Brazil and they moved to Portugal with ECM in November 2019. Before they moved to Portugal, they lived in Northern Ireland for over a year. Here they write about the impact that their time in Northern Ireland has had on their ministry in Portugal.

We are currently based in the city of Mora in Alentejo. My husband, Marcus, immediately started helping at the local church plant, both preaching and playing guitar and I started a Bible study with three children in the city. For the Children's Bible study, I wanted to use 'The King of Glory' material that I discovered in Lurgan, Northern Ireland, through a missionary called Jennifer Quinn, but this was not available in Portuguese.

We started working on the translation of the book and recording the dubbing of the movie. When the COVID-19 Pandemic started and lockdown paralysed our activities, we were very frustrated and we even started to feel useless, but God had everything under His control and He began to put in my husband's heart a greater desire to produce evangelistic content for digital media.

“God again showed himself to be the creative author of our history”

Marcus' work inspired me to think about the possibility of an online Bible Study, where I could use the curriculum we already had to reach more children. From there, in May, I started the first online class for children from Portugal, Brazil, and Indonesia.

God brought to my memory the name of a young Portuguese boy in Northern Ireland, who was a member of Table Church in Tandragee. I had met him while he was on holiday at his aunt's house, so I spoke to his mother and aunt, who then promptly allowed him to participate in the online Bible Study.

God again showed Himself to be the creative author of our history, bringing people and places to us, bringing Portugal to Northern Ireland and vice versa.

There are currently four classes ongoing; three classes for children aged nine to fourteen and one class for training adults who will multiply this work. Before the Pandemic, there were three children and now there are fifteen children and nine adults.

Nothing has ever been in our control, it's always in God's hands, regardless of the country, with or without a Pandemic.

May our sovereign God continue to guide us through the greatness of His plans, which are much greater than ours.



CONQUERING A SPIRITUAL FORTRESS

WRITTEN BY PHILIPPE MAYHEW

France remains the most popular holiday destination in all of Europe. France entices people of all ages with some of the world's most iconic landmarks, world-class art and architecture, sensational food, stunning beaches, beautiful countryside and a staggering amount of history.

Philippe and Joanne Mayhew have been missionaries with ECM in France since 2008 and here they write about what God is doing in the towns of Donnemarie-Dontilly and Provins.



Why not come and spend a holiday with us! You will enjoy the quiet rural town of Donnemarie-Dontilly, just an hour and half away from Paris. We could visit the beautiful castle of Fontainebleau or the medieval fortress of Provins. Our local cultural heritage is quite impressive but, sadly, our spiritual heritage has evaporated throughout the centuries, and the need for the Gospel is great.

It has been a joy for us to witness God's work in many lives since 2008. It all started with prayer and a Good News Club in our home. In 2016, God opened doors in a mighty way and a local church started. With the support of ECM partners, in 2018, we were able to buy a carpenter's workshop and house and turn it into a welcoming church building. There are now approximately sixty people gathering on Sunday mornings and our congregation is growing steadily. We praise God for all he has done!

Over the last two years we have invested in preaching God's Word, training elders and preachers and strengthening every aspect of Church life. Since March 2020, the COVID-19 Pandemic has had a strong impact on all our activities, but thankfully most people are now back (respecting

strict safety rules), although some still watch services online. In early September, three new families joined the congregation, one with six children! We are also looking forward to baptising three people, including a mother and her twenty-year-old son. God's kingdom is reaching many hearts.

Two years ago, the church started thinking about the possibility of planting another church in the large town of Provins, 25 minutes away, because several of our church members lived in that area. We recruited and trained a young couple in church planting but they have now decided to move on to another ministry in the South of France. Many Christians have prayed over Provins and have tried to start a church there but there is still very little Christian witness in the town. Tourists flow into the medieval city to admire its ramparts, but we believe that God can conquer this spiritual fortress.

Could you pray with us for a couple who could come and work alongside us to consolidate the church of Donnemarie-Dontilly and/or become church planters in Provins?



TRUSTING GOD TO GUIDE

INTERVIEW WITH CHARIS TULLY



Ireland is an increasingly popular holiday destination with an estimated 11.2 million visitors* in 2019. However, whilst it may be a popular holiday destination, the Republic of Ireland has one of the lowest evangelical populations in all of Europe - around 1.5%* - and is also one of the least evangelized countries in all of Europe.

One of our missionaries, Charis Tully, has been serving with ECM in Waterford for the past seven years and she shares some of her reflections on her time in Waterford as well as her plans for the future.

Charis, why did you join ECM in Waterford and what did you do?

I was looking for a mission organisation that works in Ireland and who could use a children's worker within their church planting team. I already knew many of the ECM missionaries working here in Ireland and I had worked alongside some of them when I did other schools work. There are of course other missions that just do children's work, but I wanted to work within a church planting context, so that when I came into contact with children and families, I could connect them in with a church plant and help develop new churches here in Ireland.



What reflections do you have about your time?

As I look back over my time here, things didn't look exactly like I expected them to. I didn't get to do as much children's ministry as I had hoped, but I don't believe it was a mistake that I was here and I believe God had me here at this time for a reason. It was good to be a help and support to the other missionaries and churches, both in Tramore and Ferrybank, and to be a small part of God's work here.



What has been one of the most significant things God has taught you during this time?

I had a lot of upheaval during my time here with house moves etc. but through it all, God was teaching me not to be discouraged and not to lose hope (Deut 31:8). God is still at work even if things don't seem to be working out as we hope and plan.

What are your plans for the way ahead?

I am going to move back to Cork, where I plan to help my mum out some of the time and hopefully find some ministry to be involved with for the rest of my time. I don't know exactly what this will look like, but I am trusting God to guide me. Thankfully God knows the way ahead for me even if I don't - I just need to trust and follow. Thank you for all your support and prayers over my years with ECM here in Waterford.

Praise God for Charis and her ministry in Waterford. Please pray for her as she moves into a new chapter in her life.



EARLY DAYS

UPDATE FROM JOSH AND ALI REEVE

Albania might not be the first country that springs to mind when you think of going on holiday, but it is working hard at establishing itself as a holiday destination and many well renowned hotel chains like the Marriott and Hilton are making a presence there.

Albania has one of the lowest number of evangelical Christians in all of Europe at 0.5%* and this is one of the reasons why Josh and Ali Reeve are working there.



During 2008-2011, Josh and Ali were involved in leading short-term teams to Albania to help churches reach out and support children with learning disabilities. From these trips, God created in them the desire to serve long-term in one of Europe's few Muslim majority countries.

The proclamation of the Gospel has a long history in Albania. In Romans 15:19 the apostle Paul writes, "from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the Gospel of Christ." Illyricum is the ancient Roman name for the region of Albania, so it is possible that Paul preached in Albania, and local tradition holds that he planted a church in the port city of Durres. Certainly, there were churches planted in Albania by the second or third Century A.D., but sadly, in recent history Albania has been difficult territory for the Gospel. Albania was under the rule of the Islamic Ottoman Empire for 500 years until 1912, and shortly after World War 2 Albania became a communist state under the regime of Enver Hoxha, who aggressively stamped out all religious practices. As a result, it is only since the collapse of the regime in the early 1990s that gospel proclamation and church planting have flourished.

Despite Albania's historical connections to the early church, the modern Albanian church is very young, and in much need of discipleship into maturity. There is also a great need for more churches to be planted. Josh, Ali and their family arrived in Albania in early 2018. They have been learning the language and developing an understanding of the Albanian culture with a view to getting involved in church planting.

They would love to continue developing Gospel-centred ministries to people with learning disabilities. Many Albanians who have disabilities never get the chance to attend church and hear about the Lord who made them and loves them. They have a passion to help the church reach these people with the Good News about Jesus.

JOSH & ALI WRITE...

Last year, our family joined forces with an American missionary family and a local Albanian family to plant a new church in the capital city, Tirana. It is early days, of course, but we are very encouraged by the way God has been working in us and through us. Although we are small in number (roughly ten adults and ten kids), we have seen a good number of unbelieving friends and family join us to find out more. In the warmer months we have been doing community barbecues in the local park on Saturdays, and these have been a good opportunity for making connections and building relationships. In fact, because of the distancing measures required to prevent COVID-19, our church has now vacated its premises and is meeting for worship in the open air of the park each Sunday.

Josh says 'It is a real joy to see the Gospel declared and the name of Jesus lifted up openly in a country where it was once forbidden.'

Please pray for Josh, Ali and their family as they continue to reach out to the people of Albania.



IN THE MIDST OF UNCERTAINTY

REPORT FROM OUR WORKERS IN KOSOVO



Late nights, throngs of people strolling, screams of delight from the funfair, the latest popular music competing from the crowded cafés, flashy cars of the diaspora returning for their annual visit to the homeland, their money boosting the local economy. This is what we've come to expect every summer in our town centre.

But not in 2020. It was widely believed that when summer came, COVID-19 would leave. At the beginning of June, Kosovo re-opened after three months of political upheaval and a strict lockdown. Almost all restrictions were removed with the sense that the low numbers of people testing positive for COVID-19 proved that Kosovo had been successful in the battle. However, six weeks later, new restrictions were imposed in response to the drastically rising numbers of recorded cases.

With the youngest population in Europe and one of the highest youth unemployment rates (estimated 60%), Kosovo's economy depends on the summer months. This year, with all cafés and restaurants closed at 9pm and indoor recreational activities cancelled, young people have few employment opportunities and little to do in the evenings.

In our case, summer camps and programmes were first postponed in the hope that August would be better, and then cancelled with new restrictions in place until September. There is only a tiny Christian presence in towns and villages here in the east of Kosovo and we value the special opportunities the summers bring, especially when short-term teams join us. This year's team from Northern Ireland was cancelled, and the ministry centre has been strangely quiet.

With extra time on our hands, we have been praying more often and more intentionally for our town. We are thankful that we have still been able to visit people at home, meet up for coffee at outdoor cafés, or go for walks. Groups of up to five people can gather in the park, so that has provided a meeting space of sorts. While Coronavirus and politics have dominated conversations for months, we give thanks for the opportunities to share the Gospel and the hope we have in the midst of uncertainty.



D-ECM-BER

BUY A CHRISTMAS GIFT
FOR A CHILD IN KOSOVO

In John 3:16 it says: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

This is the heart of Christmas - that God gave His son, and we commemorate this magnificent gift by giving smaller gifts to family and friends. This year, we would like to partner with our missionaries working in Kosovo as they reach out to families in their neighbourhood during this difficult time. One way of reaching out to them is to bless them with a gift and this Christmas they would like to give the children in their community a small present consisting of a book and small toy.

We realise that the Pandemic has brought about financial difficulties for many people, but if you would like to be part of this

outreach, you can buy a gift for a child in Kosovo for just £5 or €5. All you need to do is fill in the form on the next page with the amount you'd like to give and tick the box 'Christmas Appeal'. Alternatively, if you would like to donate online go to www.ecmireland.org/give just let us know it's for the 'Christmas Appeal'.

Please pray that as children and their families receive and enjoy this gift, that they, in turn, would also be open to receiving the most magnificent gift of all - Jesus.

Thank you for your support.

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 (ECM Ireland monthly prayer resource) | <input type="checkbox"/> post <input type="checkbox"/> email |

Signature: _____

SINGLE GIFT DONATION

☐ £5 ☐ £15 ☐ £30 ☐ £50 Other £ _____

☐ Euros Amount € _____

☐ For use where most needed:

☐ Towards the work of: _____

☐ Towards the Christmas Appeal

☐ 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: _____

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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:**

PRAYER



Thank God for:

- God is still at work
- Churches are reopening
- New ways are being used to proclaim the Gospel

Pray for:

- The health of field workers
- The challenges they face
- The Christmas Appeal - that it will bless many children



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