

WINTER 2022

ECM LIFE

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN MISSION IRELAND
NEWSLETTER

**“GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES
OF ALL NATIONS”
MATTHEW 28:19**



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

BY LINDSAY MOORHEAD

In the summer of 2004, I embarked on my first short term mission trip to Uganda, to work alongside the local church and schools. This mission trip might have been short in length, but it brought about long-term benefits for me personally, and for many others who were part of that team. When I made the decision to go, I was primarily going to help and bless others and to understand more of the local culture, however, I was also blessed, beyond measure, by the local believers I met and by God's goodness to us throughout that time.



Going is not for everyone as many of us are called to stay and send. However, this magazine is all about encouraging each of you to consider afresh

if the Lord is calling you to go. As you do that, here are five points to think about:

1. By going, you are obeying the Lord's command.

In Matthew 28 Jesus tells us to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you". Europe has a population of 750 million and only 2.5% are evangelical Christians. Europe is a continent that needs to hear the Good News of Jesus, and we need people, like you, to go and share that news.

2. By going, you are sharing God's desire for all nations to know Jesus

as you meet with people and share the love of Christ with them. 1 Chronicles 16:24 "Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples".

3. By going, you will be a blessing to others. You will also be blessed.

We go because we want to help and share the love of Christ with people in a particular country and community, which reflects God's heart. By doing that, we are also blessed and loved by other believers, which builds up our faith and our relationship with Him. In John 13:34 Jesus tells us to "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another".

4. By going, you will be able to pray and support missionaries better in the future.

Research shows that those who "go" are more likely to come back and be involved in praying for and giving to mission work in the future.

5. By going, you are joining with God to reach out to the continent of Europe.

Simon Marshall writes this: "God is at the centre of mission, and indeed the instigator of mission; it is his work before it is our work. It is based in God's love for the world and for his creation".

**Lindsay,
Director, ECM Ireland**

WHY GO?



SIMON MARSHALL (DIRECTOR, ECM INTERNATIONAL)

If you are reading this magazine, you may have never asked yourself the question, “Why do we need mission?” But this is a question which is raised on occasion, and we must be ready and willing to consider it; and to remind ourselves of why organisations such as ECM exist. There are lots of possible answers, but I want to just suggest one which, for me, is an overriding one - “There is only one God”.

As John Stott put it, “monotheism lies at the heart of mission”. It is:

- **because there is only one God that we, as His people, are engaged in mission.**
- **because this God is both creator and redeemer, that we, as His people, are engaged in mission.**
- **because He alone is worthy of worship that we, as His people, are engaged in mission.**

God created humanity to bring His rule to this earth (Gen 1:26-30); He chose and sent Abram so that he might be a blessing to all nations (Gen 12:1-3); Jesus sent His

followers out to make other followers in all nations (Matt 28:17-20). All of this so the reality of who God is may be known by the whole earth.

We, today, stand in this river of history which has flowed from creation and will continue to flow until the new creation. In the new heavens and the new earth there will be no need for mission because then the worship around the throne will be from people of every nation, people and language (Rev 7:9).

Until that time, we have the privilege of joining with our God in reaching out to the continent of Europe; joining in the most exciting and rewarding commission ever given.

GO WHERE?

ECM Ireland have members across Europe. Some have answered God’s call to go and serve overseas, and some have been called to serve at home. Sebastian and Gloria Forjan have been called to serve at home in Slovenia and Aislinn Duffy has been called to serve overseas in Spain.



Called to Go - At Home

By Sebastian and Gloria Forjan



Mission wasn’t new to us when we got married, as Gloria grew up with missionary parents. However, they served in their own

country and to many church members, this was odd! Weren’t missionaries supposed to leave their home to do missions? True, many did. Yet, Slovenia (2 million people) only had 1000 evangelical believers. This was a big enough reason to convince us to stay and serve at home – answering God’s call to go, while remaining at home.

We already knew the language and the culture, and in 2003, began preparing for missionary life at Belfast Bible College. After our studies, we returned to Slovenia and prayerfully considered our next step. God brought us to Gorenjska, an Alpine region with high mountains. The estimated population is 206,621. We settled into the 4th largest city, Radovljica. Since we moved there, in 2007, God has been on the move. We began working with the youth, and the church was born. We pastor a church of 30 people, organize summer outreach activities, youth and children’s camp and many more events to bring the gospel to our own people.



Called to Go - Overseas

By Aislinn Duffy

At university I studied International Business Management and Spanish, but even before then I’d always had an interest in all things Spanish- my parents used to joke that I was born in the wrong country! During my year abroad in Cádiz, I fell in love with the Spanish culture and people, and was impacted by the need for more Christian witness in the country. I felt like it made sense to go back to Spain once I had graduated, and as I was passionate about student ministry, it seemed to be the perfect fit working with students there.

One thing that I wasn’t prepared for was the culture shock of living in Spain. I thought that since I had lived in Cádiz, it would be an easy adaptation. However, Barcelona is very different, as was the change from being a student to working with students. My first year was quite bumpy, with many mixed emotions, however knowing that people back at home were supporting me and were behind me in prayer, helped me through the first months of adjusting. I learnt what it meant to truly rest in God’s grace and to be gracious to myself.

GETTING STARTED ON GOING

It's important that you start by asking God what he has planned for your life. Then talk to a few trusted people who can help you reflect on your initial thoughts. As you take the first few steps below, see if God confirms them.

- Attend a mission conference, like Bangor Worldwide, which can help you discover more about mission work.
- As soon as you are seriously considering mission work somewhere in Europe, please contact us for an exploratory conversation. We will ask you to tell us something about your motivation and to send us your CV.
- If we agree together that there appear to be opportunities for you within ECM, you will become a candidate. This includes:
 - Completing questionnaires and asking others to complete references about you.
 - Conversations with ECM workers, the ECM board, your church leaders, and the team leader of your potential ECM team. Usually, we recommend that you also visit the ECM team you're hoping to join.
 - Possibly (additional) theological/missiological education or more experience with work in your church.
 - Building your support group in terms of prayer and finance. We will help and advise you, and your church and friends will play an important part. It isn't always easy, but we have seen that God provides with everything necessary when he calls you to serve him.
 - Europe needs more people to share Jesus' love by planting and developing his church so that we can reach those yearning for meaning and purpose in their lives. Do you have a burden to see Europe transformed by the gospel?



Serve with ECM Ireland

There are different service opportunities short and long term. Visit our website to see our full range, but here are some to get you pondering about. Remember, God uses all of us – whatever our age, whatever our skill and whatever our location!

LONG TERM OPPORTUNITIES	SHORT TERM OPPORTUNITIES
Student Ministry and Church Plant Worker in Portugal.	Short-term experience in Kamenica, Kosovo, in the Community Education Centre.
Youth Worker and Musician in Katowice, Poland.	Media Intern in South East Ireland (Co. Waterford).
Maintenance Worker at Rehabilitation Centre (South West Spain).	Serve God and people in Tours, France.
Admin and Communications Worker at MCE-France Office.	Church planting in North East Germany (Schwerin).
Children and Youth Worker and Trainer in Romania.	Be a part of a pioneer church plant among Spaniards and migrants (Roquetas de Mar).

SHORT TERM REFLECTIONS



Jonny Dodds Short term mission in Greece

Having never experienced cross-cultural mission before, I was unsure of what to expect when heading to Athens. However, it was incredible to see throughout my time there how God is working through His people in the city's relatively small evangelical community.

My time was spent working primarily at the Petalouda Centre, which is an educational centre ran by Hellenic Ministries for the Roma community in Ano Liosia. It was great to witness relationships that have been built between the team at Petalouda and the Roma community, and to assist with the pre-school program.

I was also involved in refugee ministries, which was a new experience for me. Meeting people from all over the world



made me realise that despite many cultural differences, all people have that same basic need for Christ. It was amazing to see how the believers in Athens understand that in their ministry among different people groups.

Throughout my time in Athens, I was greatly encouraged and feel much more equipped to support and pray for the believers there, and I couldn't recommend a short-term mission trip strongly enough!



Kate Campbell Short term mission in Spain

As part of my university course, I was able to spend nine months serving in Roquetas de Mar on the south coast of Spain. Its port is often used as a way into Europe for people coming from North and West Africa, which means about a third of Roquetas' population is made up of immigrants. I served in a small church, Iglesia Evangélica de Vúcar, where I was involved in various ministries that seek to share the gospel with people from a variety of different communities, many of whom from a Muslim background.

A typical week saw me helping at a drop-in centre which provides second-hand clothing, free coffee, and pastoral support for local Moroccan women. I taught English to Moroccan children and basic Spanish classes to both Moroccan and Nigerian women. At the weekend, I helped at a Christian kid's club, with a surprising majority of children attending from Muslim homes. I helped with my church's youth fellowship and played the piano in worship. During this past year, God has blessed me with a range of experiences as I served short-term. He has taught me about building relationships with people from all nations, especially Muslims, which has been new for me. He has been teaching me that even when it seems like progress is slow and time feels "wasted," He is always working, in ways that we don't often see. He is, undoubtedly, working out His purposes and doing a work much greater than we can ever imagine.



Leah Houston Short term in Ireland

As part of my theology degree at Belfast Bible College, I completed a four-week placement in Ferrybank, Waterford, alongside Colin and Ally Holmes. During my month's stay I was able to experience what living for Jesus looked like in a different culture, learn how to relate to people in an approach that is perhaps slightly different to what I am used to, and just overall experience church in such a loving, welcoming and open environment. ECM and all the lovely staff made it an extremely easy process, so for anyone thinking of serving on mission, I would highly recommend doing so with the ECM team. Not only are they incredibly helpful with all the admin, zoom calls and training, but they also value you as a person and what you bring as a follower of Christ, so much so, that you feel like you have gained a new family! My time in Waterford, Ireland was incredible, a true life changing experience, and has, alongside the help of the Holy Spirit, planted a seed in my heart for Ireland!

THE MAN WHO WENT



Celebrating the life of Peter Crawford (7 September 1953 -19 August 2022)

Peter, our dearly loved friend, and colleague went to be with the Lord on the 19th of August 2022. A thanksgiving service to celebrate Peter's life was held on the 25th of August 2022 at his home church, First Coleraine Presbyterian. Several of Peter's friends and family members paid tribute to Peter, and what shone through was his clear vision, his deep love, and his unwavering commitment to the Lord.

Peter was born on 7th September 1953 to parents Gordon and Francis. Peter grew up in Coleraine with his brother John and sister Anne. After finishing school Peter went to Imperial College in London to study Math's and Civil Engineering. After he finished university, he went on a mission trip to Iran and that trip changed the trajectory of his life. After that trip, he went to the Bible Training Institute in Glasgow and that's where he met Anna and, shortly after their wedding in 1980, they became missionaries with SIM in Pakistan for around 18 years.

Peter held the role of Field Director for Pakistan for around 10 years, utilising that clear vision in supporting and leading missionaries, churches, and ministries

across the breadth of the country. Whilst Peter and Anna were in Pakistan, God blessed them with three beautiful children Judith, Sharon, and Colin.

In 1999, Peter and Anna decided to come back to Northern Ireland and Peter got a job with European Christian Mission as Ireland Director, which he did for seven years, until he and Anna felt called by God to go and work with ECM in Portugal.

In Portugal, Peter and Anna were involved in church planting, discipleship ministries, providing hospitality, and member-care to many missionaries serving across Europe. As well as that, Peter was asked to take on the field leadership for Portugal as well



as wider roles within ECM internationally. Peter took on all these roles and ministries with great enthusiasm and vision.

After twelve years in Portugal, Peter and Anna then felt God leading and calling them to Greece to start and develop an ECM team and to provide pastoral care and support to Christian workers there. Under their leadership, the team in Greece continued to grow, thanks to their vision for the people there, and of course to the Lord for his leading and guidance.

It was not long after they arrived in Greece though, that Peter found out that he was unwell, and he and Anna would have to return to Northern Ireland whilst he underwent treatment.

The past year has been an incredibly challenging year for Peter, Anna, and the family as they have had to come to terms with leaving friends and loved ones in Greece, to set up home in Coleraine again. Despite that, Peter's clear vision, his deep love and unwavering



commitment to his calling did not diminish – he continued to minister to, pray for and lead the team in Greece and, he was continuing to learn Greek right up until the weeks before his death.

Even in the most difficult of times, Peter's clear vision saw God at work – his deep love for Anna, for his children, children in law, grandchildren and his wider family and friends was evident – as was his unwavering commitment to his calling and to the Lord.

In our sorrow we also celebrate – we celebrate the opportunity to have known Peter, to have worked alongside him and to have loved him. And, most of all, we celebrate the God that Peter loved and so faithfully served, celebrating the hope that only He can bring, even in the most difficult of days.

*To view Peter's blog, his artwork, and to leave a note for Peter's family go to www.snoworanges.com

INTRODUCING NEW ECM IRELAND STAFF



Lorna Moore

Communications and
Supporter Relations Manager

Lorna has been working as an Administrator (maternity cover) with ECM Ireland for one year and she has, just recently, moved into a new role as ECM Ireland's Communications and Supporter Relations Manager.

Lorna is married to Scott, who is the minister of 1st Dromara Presbyterian Church. Lorna grew up in Glengormley before studying English Literature and History at the University of Edinburgh and then an MSc in Teaching English as a Foreign Language at Queens University. She spent four years working as a Staff Worker with Christian Unions Ireland in the North West of Ireland, Belfast and Dundalk, and now, alongside ECM Ireland, she works part time with IFES Europe as Regional Administrator and Personal Assistant to the European Director. Lorna's love for Europe started as a child through many holidays on the continent and has since had opportunities to serve on mission in Eastern Europe and on the island of Ireland. Lorna has a very loved sausage dog called Dora, and enjoys tea, caramel lattes, cake, time spent with friends, sewing, travelling and reading.



Stephen Megrath

In 2013 Stephen was a founding director of Transformation Centre (TC) which developed from Mount Zion Community Church in Lisburn, Co. Antrim. Stephen is committed to the TC mission 'to transform the hearts of people in Ireland by church planting through the power of the gospel'. While

travelling in Europe as a sales executive, Stephen has seen the need for Jesus in the lives of those he had encountered. Joining the ECM Ireland team in August 2022 is the realisation of a promise from God and a commitment to follow where God leads. Stephen is a keen amateur saxophonist and photographer, he is married to Allison, they have three rescue cats, two children, Adam and Erin, and one grandchild, Amber. Erin is currently studying for her A levels.



Give thanks for Lorna and Stephen and let's pray for them as they settle into their new roles.

OVERCOMING SPIRITUAL RAMPARTS



PHILIPPE MAYHEW
(NEW ECM IRELAND MEMBER IN FRANCE)

Outside Paris, rises Provins, a spectacular medieval city listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. It is one the most visited towns in France and located in a rural area of 36,000 inhabitants called the Provinois. Unfortunately, the entire region has no established evangelical church. Several church groups have tried to plant a church in Provins but have failed due to strong resistance by local authorities and historical inhabitants. The city seems to be surrounded by spiritual ramparts difficult to conquer.

In Acts 18, the apostle Paul faced opposition as he preached the Gospel in Corinth, but the Lord encouraged him saying, 'Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you... I have many people in this city' (Acts 18:9-10). Several Christians already live in Provins and long for a local Church. The Lord has certainly prepared many others! May the Gospel penetrate this city and change lives for His glory.

Philippe and Joanne have been serving the Lord in France for many years, first with Child Evangelism Fellowship and later with the French Baptist Union as Church Plant Coordinators, and latterly with Acts29 as Assessment Coordinators. They invested several years in launching the Baptist church of Donnemarie-Dontilly (south-east of Paris), and in 2021, Philippe passed on his role to a new pastor.



Let us pray for them as they now take a huge step forward and start a new church plant in Provins. They need wisdom to find the best means of reaching this impressive historical city and the thirty-nine rural villages of the Provinois, and to lay solid foundations for a Gospel centred Church. We can pray for:

1. their church plant team.
2. monthly services that will be held in a village outside Provins from November.
3. the group of thirty adults and children already gathering around God's Word.
4. finding church premises in Provins itself in the coming months.



CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2022

Suzi and Noah Bartlett are new ECM Ireland missionaries from Northern Ireland serving Afghan and Iranian refugees with Helping Hands in Athens, Greece. They have been in Greece for 3.5 years. Their long-term hopes are to continue working with refugees in Northern Ireland and France combining it with church planting and pastoring. Their dream is to see the local church fully embrace refugee communities and become a united and diverse family.

Please consider supporting their work with Helping Hands, through our 2022 Appeal.



At Helping Hands Refugee Centre in Athens every day of the year, but especially at our Christmas parties, it is clear to the 300+ people who walk through our door that we are all about Jesus, telling them about Him and showing His care and love, through giving food, clothes and other essential items. Each year, God uses these Christmas parties to bring suffering people from war-torn Afghanistan and corrupt Iran into His Kingdom of Peace.

'I don't know what the right way is...but I don't think it's Islam' said one of our guests in tears after our Christmas party as the message of Christ's love for us had spoken to her so deeply. 'I believe...' said another guest we had known for years, who had

shown no desire to follow Jesus, yet that night at the Christmas party her life was changed...

One of the ways we show love to our guests is by giving each one, oldest to youngest, a Christmas gift. **Would you consider partnering with us in this, as we seek to point people towards the ultimate gift of Jesus?**

For 3€/£2.60 you can provide a gift for one of our guests.

For 15€/£13.00 you can provide gifts for a whole family.

For 450€/£395 you can provide gifts for a whole party.

For 900€/£785 you can provide gifts for all our Christmas parties.

If you would like to donate, please go to www.ecmireland.org/give or fill in the donation form on the next page.

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

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:

- Philippe and Joanne Mayhew, Noah and Suzi Barlett and Diane Nicholls who have all recently joined the ECM Ireland missions' family.
- Supporter lunch time events with ECM Ireland members as they visited Northern Ireland.
- Lorna Moore and Stephen Megrath who have recently joined the ECM Ireland staff team.

Pray for:

- Lindsay Moorhead as she steps down as the ECM Ireland Director and for the Lord to raise up the right person to lead ECM Ireland in the future.
- Our Council as they volunteer with ECM Ireland and as they help guide and advise.
- God to continue to transform lives all over Europe.



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