

SUMMER 2022

ECM LIFE

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN MISSION IRELAND
NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL UKRAINE UPDATE

A woman with long, wavy red hair and blue eyes is holding a large white rectangular sign in front of her face. She is wearing a yellow long-sleeved top. The background is a solid orange color. The sign has the text "YOU GAVE" in large, bold, black capital letters, and "WHAT HAPPENED?" in smaller, bold, black capital letters below it.

YOU GAVE
WHAT HAPPENED?

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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YOU GAVE... WHAT HAPPENED?

DIRECTOR'S LETTER, LINDSAY MOORHEAD

In this edition of ECM Life, our focus will be on giving, thinking specifically about the generosity that has been shown to the people of Ukraine, through the Ukraine Crisis appeal, run by ECM International and to our own mission workers across Europe.

The United Nations believe that, at the date of this publication, more than 13 million people are thought to have fled their homes since Russia's invasion of Ukraine on 24th February 2022. More than six million have left for neighbouring countries, while eight million people are displaced inside the war-torn country itself. Many of those people are struggling to get employment, housing, and schooling. Many families have been separated and need not only practical support, but emotional and spiritual support as well.

So, you gave... but what happened with the money you gave?

Because you gave, ECM has been able to help in several ways:

- We have been able to resource Sasko and Ania and Szczepan and Kamila who are ECM Ireland members in Poland. They have been key in helping to accommodate and feed many of the millions of refugees that have fled to Poland. You can read more about this on Page 5 and 6. **This has been possible because of your generous giving.**
- Several buses have been filled with food, clothing and other supplies and driven to the borders of Ukraine from neighbouring countries like Poland, Slovakia and Germany. ECM Ireland member Vimal

Vimalasakaren was involved in the organisation of this and you can read more about that on Page 6. **This has been possible because of your generous giving.**

- ECM International's Crisis Management team (including ECM Ireland member Charlie Anderson) have been regularly communicating with, praying for, visiting and supporting the ECM team in Ukraine and surrounding countries since the war began. You can read more about this on Page 7. **This has been possible because of your generous giving.**

Over the next few pages, you will read some statistics about Ukraine as a nation and read many stories of ECM workers who have been directly involved in helping serve the church in Ukraine and those who have been displaced. As well as that, you will read some short articles from our missionaries serving across Europe and the impact giving has made to them and those they serve.

We also want to highlight some upcoming events on Page 14. In particular we would like to highlight the Standing Together with Ukraine event which will be taking place in Ireland on the 15th and 16th October. We would love you to join us.



Thank you,
Lindsay, Director, ECM Ireland

UKRAINE FOCUS

POPULATION

43.2 M*



13 million
refugees have
fled Ukraine

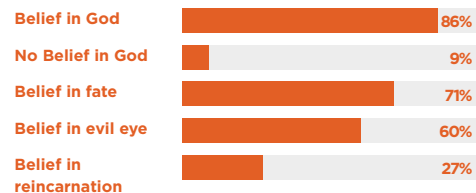
War casualties and the large numbers fleeing the country in search of safety have all contributed to a deviation in this population projection.

Population estimates based on interpolation of data from World Population Prospects.

UNREACHED PEOPLE



BELIEFS

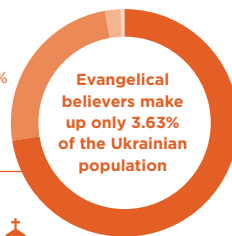


HISTORY

After 71 years, Ukraine gained independence from Soviet rule in 1991. Since then, the tensions have continued to escalate resulting with the beginning of Russia's war with Ukraine earlier this year.

RELIGIONS

Christian affiliation: 72.7%
No religion: 24.7%
Islam: 2.1%
Ethnic Religion: 0.4%



CHURCHES



Until Ukraine gained its independence, churches suffered great persecution. The faithful perseverance of the church now bears fruit with the Bible-centred churches emerging stronger. ECM desires churches in Ukraine to become strong, independent, and equipped to multiply.

ECM MINISTRY

The ECM team in Ukraine is made up entirely of Ukrainians who are mostly based in Lviv. They are involved in a wide range of ministries including church planting, youth ministries, orphan care and on-line Bible studies. During the Ukraine crisis, the team, assisted by ECM International and the wider ECM network, have actively been involved in the relief effort.



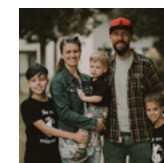
YOUR GIVING = HOPE

STORIES OF HOPE DURING HORRORS IN UKRAINE

The news has been full of horrendous reports from Ukraine — schools bombed, millions fleeing as refugees and cities devastated, but Christians there and in surrounding countries have responded with love and courage. Your donations to ECM International's Ukraine Crisis appeal have enabled many people and ministries to support and serve the country of Ukraine.

When talking about the war in Ukraine, ECM Ireland member, Szczepan Cackowski, shared this: 'This crisis, is not a marathon, it's more of a relay, where everyone has their part to play. It is a task that is way too big for any of us to do on our own, but together we can do it. Each person runs their part in the relay – some are going to the border, some are hosting refugees,

some are delivering food, some are sending finances, we each have our own part to play'.



Thank you for your part in this relay, for supporting our missionaries who are working hard to serve those displaced.

ECM IRELAND UPDATES

Here are some updates from our ECM Ireland members who have been helping with the Crisis in Ukraine in a variety of places.



Giving Shelter

By Sasko and Ania Neznamutdinov

In Krakow, it has been and still is an emotional roller-coaster where Sasko and his colleagues sway from fear and panic to a familiar feeling of having things under control.

Sasko was born in Ukraine and knows the cultural landscape and people well, and because of this knowledge, when the war began, Sasko started receiving constant, urgent phone calls and messages from both sides of the border: from frightened Ukrainians trying to cross the border, looking for help with temporary accommodation, as well as from hospitable Polish people calling, texting and emailing with lodging opportunities for people who were coming.

In this tragic humanitarian disaster, Sasko has seen Polish churches reaching out to help, and his church have been no different, caring for their neighbours in need. Sasko's church helped to set up housing shelters, to provide meals, to collect necessities for displaced people, and to run workshops for children. As well as this, they have just opened a drop-in Help Centre which is a place where people can gather for meals, Bible studies and prayer.



Giving Care

by Vimal Vimalasakaran

Vimal has been very busy driving refugees and supplies from Germany to Poland. He is thankful for all of the wonderful people on the way who supported him practically and prayerfully, especially partnering churches.

He thanks everyone for praying for an Easter Sunday service, which 120 Ukrainians attended. The Ukrainian man who was preaching, encouraged everyone to keep trusting God in this difficult situation. There were tears and there was joy as the congregation joined together to praise the Lord in their own language. Vimal reports how the atmosphere was sad, but remarks at how well the Ukrainians were taken care of. He is amazed by the hospitality of others and willingness to help – one young couple for example, took thirteen people into their home. Vimal and Louise are continuing to care for newcomers and value your prayers and encouragement.



Giving Practical Support

By Charlie and Miriam Anderson

Charlie reports how thankful he is for God's providence. ECM International had just developed a new Crisis Management Plan, as a response to the COVID-19 situation. When the war in Ukraine broke out, the team was ready to step up and support the Ukrainian team and field leader Roman, by launching an appeal, sending money, and providing an emergency satellite phone so that there was help and encouragement from day one. Praise God that He prepared the way for all these emergency provisions to take place so swiftly, and pray for ongoing wisdom, stamina and grace for all concerned in the Ukraine Crisis. Pray especially that interest and support for Ukraine will not wane as time goes on, and that God would make a way for this war to end.



Giving a Warm Welcome

By Alen and Lila Kercmar

Alen and Lila, ECM workers in Slovenia, have been working with their church to minister to Ukrainians. Their work shows how even small acts of love are powerful in God's hands. Their Sunday School collected clothes and toys for their Ukrainian counterparts and attached encouraging notes for the boys and girls who would receive them.

Their church gathered toys and necessary products and held a charity concert with over 300 people from different walks of life. The funds raised were used for the integration of Ukrainian families in the wider region. About 50 Ukrainian families come to their church services, and there is a real desire to make them feel welcome as friends and show them the love of the Lord in practice.





Giving Shelter

This is a story of Tanya, a young Ukrainian lady in Slovenia, and how God used ECM to help her in her time of need.

Shortly after the war in Ukraine started, a young Ukrainian lady named Tanya came to Ljubljana, in Slovenia, with her baby daughter Sasha. Tanya is a Christian woman who was disappointed to leave her husband in central Ukraine, where he was mobilised in the army. As he is also a Christian, he has become a 'Chaplain' and has been witnessing for Jesus among Ukrainian soldiers.

Tanya and Sasha were looking for a church to go to and on her first Sunday, arrived at a church where Diana Ovcar (ECM Slovenia) attends. Tanya doesn't speak English or Slovene, but despite this, she faithfully attended the church for two months, and tried to communicate in whatever way she could. Google Translate was a good way to communicate and Diana remarked about the joy evident in Tanya's life, even in the very difficult situation she had found herself

in. This was a real inspiration for those who met her.

Tanya decided to return to Ukraine at the end of May, as her city wasn't being bombed anymore. Diana wanted to help ease their journey and she provided essential supplies. As well as that, ECM generously provided them with food, childcare products, clothes and tickets to Ukraine.

Diana remarks how "when this financial burden was taken off Tanya's shoulders, she cried out in gratitude. Her expression of thankfulness is something that will stay with me forever!".

The contribution made through the ECM emergency appeal was able to help Tanya and Sasha. Remember them in prayer as they are in Ukraine – to continue to be witnesses for Jesus, for protection and provision.



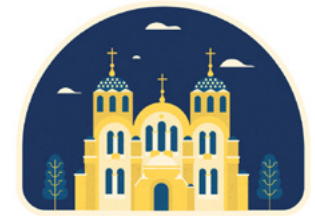
Giving Thanks

Roman Matviyiv, ECM field leader in Ukraine:

"With the help of God, we quickly mobilised all of our inner resources and started doing everything we could. We realised that there was so much strength inside us. We felt fierce and courageous, yet, of course, at times we were totally heartbroken. We cried and we wept, a lot of us still do, but even so, we won't give up. We will mourn the loved ones we lost. We will grieve. We will learn to live with the pain, and with God's help, maybe we will even heal, but we will never forget.

We will never forget what was done to us. We will never forget those whom the enemy has taken from us. We will never forget the price of our freedom. We will hold on to it and we will hold on to the feeling of pride and love. Love for our country. Love for our people. Love and gratitude for you, our international friends and partners, who support us in so many ways. Love for God who leads us and helps us in millions of miraculous ways."

**PRAY FOR
UKRAINE**



Prayer points

Please pray for those impacted by the crisis, as they adjust with the upheaval of life they once knew. Pray for perseverance for the church, as they love and serve those impacted as they seek to rebuild their lives.

Remember those who are displaced, and still looking for a new home. Give thanks for how others have come to the need of those fleeing their homes and for all the practical help provided.

Pray that lives would be won for Christ, as people are experiencing God's love and are being directed to Him.

GIVING IN TOUGH TIMES



BY LIAM RUTHERFORD

Liam Rutherford is the minister of Ballydown Presbyterian Church, Banbridge. Liam recently took a month's sabbatical and during that time attended the Pastor to Pastors Conference in Slovenia and travelled across Eastern Europe, with Stuart Rowell, to visit several ECM members who are working there.

Paul knew all about tough times and his young church plants did too. We get a flavour of this in 2 Corinthians 8:1-3:

“And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability.”

These words challenge us at a time when the price of everything is going up. We are in a perfect storm of inflation due to Brexit, Ukraine and COVID, and so it is easy to give way to fear and hold on to what we have. But Paul reminds us that grace has been given to us — and such grace — “Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!” (2 Cor 9:15).

It was this grace that caused the Macedonian churches to give in a way that doesn't make sense. Look at the words Paul uses — severe trials and overflowing joy — extreme poverty and rich generosity. How these things can all be true at once staggers us. We are still on average five to ten times wealthier than the populations of Eastern Europe. In some countries the contrast is stark, especially Bosnia, due to the ravages of one war. Paul wrote like this to the Corinthians because he feared that the Macedonians would put them to shame (2 Cor 9:3-4) and I can't help wondering what he would have to say to us?

Giving in tough times requires that we understand God's grace — the indescribable gift of his Son. The rest flows from that.

THE IMPACT OF GIVING

ECM's work is not only being done by missionaries. The support of the people who stand alongside our missionaries are just as important. Here are some reflections from some of our ECM Ireland members, as they give thanks for the giving of others.



Giving Faithfully

By Colin and Ally Holmes

As we celebrate ten years of church in Ferrybank, we are encouraged by signs of fresh growth. We have new families joining us with an eagerness to serve. There are new leaders being established and progress with friends stepping closer to Jesus, as well as a fresh confidence as a church in connecting with others.

Such growth is only possible by being a faithful presence with people over the years; being available as a consistent companion on life's way.

Our experience is not uncommon. It has been noted it can take 25 years for a church to be planted in Ireland.

We are so grateful for the team of faithful financial supporters who make it possible for us to be this faithful presence. Without their generous and sustained giving we could not walk graciously and consistently with others towards Jesus.

Giving Prayerfully

By Shane McGloin

Since I began my short-term placement with ECM Ireland in September 2022, I have been most encouraged by the support I have received through prayer. Many people, connected with ECM and outside ECM, have faithfully given their time and their energy to pray for me as I have been serving in Portugal. People often let me know that they are praying for me, and others repeatedly ask for specific prayer points, so they know how to be praying well for the work here. This has been a continued encouragement since the beginning of my ministry here. I am glad to be surrounded by so many people who are committed to praying and who understand the importance in the advancement of God's Kingdom.

I have also been deeply heartened by the financial support I have received during this time. Not only does giving towards missions demonstrate obedience to the Lord, but it also demonstrates great love and concern for the person who is receiving. Although the Lord Himself said that it is more blessed to give than to receive, every financial donation towards this work has been a great benefit and a rich encouragement to me.

Giving our home

By Carlos, Ana, Salomé, Daniel and Maria Freitas.

When the pandemic started, we thought about changing our outerwear every time we entered the house. It worked for the first few weeks but then as we got to know more about COVID, we gradually adjusted to a less demanding cleaning routine. Of course, the fear was bringing the virus into our home.

Like most churches, we had to make some changes to our services and one of the things we did was to separate older Christians from younger, less COVID-rules abiding people, I mean the children! We wanted to protect our older brothers and sisters, so Sunday School moved in with us, into our converted loft. Every Sunday, church, parents would bring their children to our house where they would take off their shoes and use hand sanitiser and, after the church service, they would pick them up from our house. It meant the children had more time for the Bible lesson, it had a more familiar feel, and we had a few more children from non-Christian parents attending because it was less threatening. It meant we had to clean the house every Saturday and clean with bleach every Sunday after Sunday School.

Giving is hard; giving our house was difficult and at times exhausting but we had to remember that everything we have comes from the Lord. We are just stewards, and sometimes tentative stewards until we remember God's amazing gift to us, His son Jesus, the Son that secures an eternal home for us.

Giving (and receiving) Cheerfully

By David and Samantha Gilkinson

One of the big hurdles for us on starting our support raising journey in September 2018 was our own attitude towards giving and receiving. Samantha, in particular, felt the burden of having to steward what we had been given: every time she would pay for something, necessity or not, she would feel the burden of the fact that someone had sacrificed this for the Lord's work. Another factor that fed into our misconception of support raising was the fact that many churches fall into extremes when it comes to teaching about money: thankfully the Bible doesn't fall into these categories: it teaches plainly and unashamedly about money, integrity, tithing and our attitudes without making it the headline act.

A timely gift from God just a few weeks before we began our support raising was a training day held by Myles Wilson (Funding the Family Business) which helped me to see the act of asking people to partner with missionaries in giving is not an act of holding a begging hand out, but rather a personal invitation into Kingdom partnership. Giving opportunity to the lay believer to participate on front line, Great Commission-fulfilling, pioneer work. When someone can't go to the full-time mission field, what a privilege it is to provide the means to enable them to meaningfully collaborate with those who are going.

We will never forget the first weekend of our support raising journey. After a couple of years in the making we finally launched out with a weekend of a support raising. It was a huge first step of letting go, of communicating the vision God had placed on

our hearts but most of all it was a weekend of inviting others to partner with us in this new ministry. We realised that weekend how receiving is truly humbling, encouraging and affirming. While God calls all believers to be cheerful givers I believe as missionaries we have the task of being cheerful and humble receivers as we build bridges for Kingdom partnerships along the way.



Giving over time

By Jonathan and Nicola McCracken

Recently, at our ECM Ireland Prayer Retreat in West Cork, we were surprised with a celebration of cake and balloons to mark our 25 years with ECM.

Over the years, we have often been encouraged and strengthened by people who supported us through their giving in prayer or with practical support for our ministry. Philippians 1 v 3 comes to mind, "I thank my God every time I remember you..." Verse 5 of this same chapter goes on to talk about partnership in the gospel. We can think of many people who have been with us through our times in Carlow and Waterford and are still encouraging us in Mayo.

To everyone, we say a sincere thankyou and trust that we will all continue to know the blessing of God together as we see His loving plans worked out....

"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful."

Hebrews 10 v 23



Giving through Partnership

By Andressa and Marcus Barido

We received Bibles and evangelistic material for children in Portugal.

Last Easter, we had the opportunity to reach 75 kids with the message of the gospel. Our Religious Education* students offered to host a special Easter presentation at the school library, during which they presented the gospel and sang two evangelistic songs. For this activity, "Ágape Portugal" donated "The Four" bracelets and cards, and Portimão Baptist Church donated Bibles. These donations made this activity possible, and we are grateful to God for our brothers and sisters in Christ who participated in this outreach to these children. In a traditionally Catholic country like Portugal, having this open door in schools is what we can call a miracle. Every week when we enter school to teach, we feel that this opportunity won't last long, so we need to take advantage of every second to glorify God and bring Jesus to these little ones. We dream of expanding this teaching to families by offering a Bible to every family in the city.

** In Portugal, some public schools offer a special Evangelical Religious Education class, but to attend, parents need to enrol their children every year. We have Christian and non-Christian students attending the class. Some of them have never entered an evangelical church, and this is their only contact with the teaching of the Scriptures.*

You're invited

Lunch with
Bostjan and
Lidija Cifer

7 September
2022, Trinity
Methodist
1230pm




Please email lorna.moore@ecmi.org to confirm
your attendance.

You're invited

Lunch with Sasko
and Ania
Nezamutdinov

19 September 2022,
Trinity Methodist
1230pm




Please email lorna.moore@ecmi.org to confirm
your attendance.

You're invited

Saturday coffee,
morning with
Shane McGloin

24 September
2022, Trinity
Methodist
10am-12noon




Please email lorna.moore@ecmi.org to confirm
your attendance.

You're invited

Lunch with
Alen and Lila
Kercmar

26 October
2022, Trinity
Methodist
1230pm




Please email lorna.moore@ecmi.org to confirm
your attendance.

STANDING TOGETHER

Come, be informed and inspired by ECM workers
Kostya and Viktoria, who have been directly
involved with the refugee response efforts both
inside and outside Ukraine.

Hear first-hand stories of God at work and personal
insights of life within war-torn Ukraine and turn the
pictures on the news into faces you've seen for yourself.

Saturday 15 October, 7:30pm: Ballydown
Presbyterian Church (Banbridge, Co. Down)

Sunday 16th October, 11:30am: Knockconny Baptist
Church (Ballygawley, Co Tyrone)

Please email Lorna for more information -
lorna.moore@ecmi.org

*This is
a free
event - all
welcome!*

*'If one member
suffers, all
suffer together;
if one member
is honoured all
rejoice together.'*
**1 Corinthians
12:26**



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:

☐ 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:**

giftaid it

PRAYER



Thank God for:

- A summer filled with Holiday Clubs/Camps across Europe, and the opportunity to share the gospel.
- How He is working all over Europe in so many ways.
- Interest in ECM Ireland and potentially new workers across our continent.

Pray for:

- Our ECM Ireland workers who are in Northern Ireland/Ireland this Autumn.
- Ongoing Ukrainian Crisis Appeal and work with refugees across Europe.
- Various events we are hosting (page 14).



ECM Ireland

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