

WE SEE A DIFFERENT EUROPE...



GOD
LOVED

← **NOT** →

GOD
FORSAKEN

INSIDE:

In this edition we celebrate a different vision of Europe. One which is God loved not God forsaken.

Special features:

W5 on Prayer and Bibles for Spain Appeal



OUR MISSION

ECM Ireland's aim is to glorify God through the planting and development of churches that will evangelize and disciple the peoples of Europe. It is only through worshipping, loving, communities that Europe can really experience transformational change.

WE BELIEVE

We believe that Europe needs to hear and see the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Europe has become a complex multicultural and multi religious continent full of challenges but God continues to work and His light still shines in Europe, where He continues to move forward and build His church.

WE BELIEVE

We believe that church planting is the strategy to transform Europe. God has chosen the church as His instrument to reach the whole world with His gospel of salvation. By having Jesus' love, people change, local communities change, then surrounding communities, regions, and through regions, countries are transformed and through countries the whole of Europe.

WE PRAY

*Your Kingdom come ... in Europe,
Your will be done ... in Europe.
Amen.*



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European Christian Mission Ireland is an interdenominational, evangelical, missionary organization working in Europe.

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The Director's Chair

by **Charlie Anderson**

Europe – the news is not so good! The economic crisis, the threat of terrorism, and on a spiritual front; ever increasing secularism, atheism and paganism. It could be easy to think that Europe is God forsaken.

In the world of missions, Europe has been called the ‘forgotten continent,’ but God has not forgotten the “forgotten continent”. When Jesus asked us to pray ‘Thy kingdom come, thy will be done as it is in heaven,’ He meant in Europe along with the rest of the world.

We see a different Europe than the one the news portrays. A Europe that is loved by God, whose people are precious to Him, a continent where He wants to see his kingdom come and His will done. What is ‘God loved’ can never be ‘God forsaken’.

Read a little of how Colin and Ally Holmes (and others) are sharing God’s love with those who feel forsaken on pages 4/5. Check out pages 9-12 or page 18 to find out how you can respond.

Oh by the way!

YOU are EUROPEAN – which means you too are

*Loved
NOT forsaken*

The Outside In:

Youth in Ferrybank

When God walked this earth He had a reputation. He acquired a nickname (which like all good nicknames is pretty revealing!). Jesus was known as the “Friend of Sinners”. He chose to spend time with those who were seen as lost causes. Those who were forsaken, He loved.

A few years ago in our Pulse Youth Group we spent some time exploring Luke’s portrayal of Jesus as the God of the outsider. He had come to bring the outsiders of the time into His Kingdom. Women, Children, foreigners, poor people, tax collectors: all outsiders.

Many in our group could identify with feeling like an outsider. Some come from families who didn’t grow up in Ireland, so even though they consider themselves Irish, their family are from somewhere else and are outsiders (even when they’ve never traveled outside the country!)

Others in the group are disadvantaged and vulnerable due to challenges they face at home.

Their lives can be messy and volatile and so we are committed to being there for them over the long-term and providing them with consistent, caring adults who accept them and point them to Christ. He is still God of the outsider.

I can think of one boy who came to our kids clubs at the beginning and, although not big in size, was a big character, with a big reputation. He was troubled and struggled at school, yet from the start he found a place with us. He was hungry for the stories and keen to answer. He had good days and bad days. Then there could be lengthy periods when we hadn’t seen him around as much, but in the past year he has been consistent, eager and was a real help to us in the summer.

I can think of another boy who came into church one evening and was so disruptive he had to be asked to leave. When he left the building he still caused trouble from outside. He was one of a group who were causing trouble in the community and who I was moved to pray for.

That was a few years ago now. He has been to church a few times since and this past year was able to come to youth group a few times, where he had good questions and was accepted into the group.

These lads have a long way to go yet, but then haven’t we all? It is our desire that those who are seen as trouble or bad news would be transformed to be good news in this community. That those who may feel forsaken would know that in Christ they are loved. The Outside are In.

**Colin & Ally Holmes serving in
Ferrybank, Ireland**



God Loved in Spain



AISLINN DUFFY LANDED IN SPAIN IN SEPT AFTER FINISHING UNI IN JUNE PAST TO BEGIN MINISTRY WORKING WITH STUDENTS. SHE TELLS OF THE FIRST FEW WEEKS IN SITU AND OF LESSONS GOD IS ALREADY TEACHING HER...

So I am finally here, in Barcelona, ready to start work with GBU, the Spanish Christian Union. This summer has been such a learning experience, waiting on God to provide the necessary finances for me to go in September and seeing His hand in bringing everything together in His perfect timing!

In preparation for starting with GBU in September during the last two weeks of July I was able to go GBU's summer training camp for GBU students and student leaders from across Spain. This was such a blessing, being able to spend 10 days with 100 or so students from all over the country. There were some challenging moments, (including a few impromptu interviews with no previous warning!),

and so during my time there God taught me to completely rely on Him and His strength and not to try to do it on my own, as this simply will not work.

During the camp we studied the books of Ruth and Revelation. The main theme from Ruth was how God has taken our sins and has thrown them to the bottom of the sea, "el fondo del mar". As we then moved on to study Revelation, we learnt how God is in complete control and that His timing is sovereign. After a few days of trying not to get stuck in the small details of Revelation, it was a joy to end with how one day Jesus will return and put all things right again.

I am sure many of you already know how Spain has been really affected by the



financial crisis and is still recovering in a sense. Youth unemployment is around 40% and the political situation in Spain is a real concern as they have gone without a government for more than 250 days, and this is looking unlikely to change before Christmas. However, in the midst of all of this, it was beautiful to see the 100 odd students from across Spain coming together learn from the Bible and how to best share the message of hope that we have in their universities and campuses. Although it may seem like this is a generation with very little hope for the future, it was plain to see that God has not forsaken the students of Spain and that He has some amazing plans for this generation!



Main photo: GBU Summer training camp

Above: Aislinn putting her interview skills to good use



The small group in Claremorris met for their first meeting in the new venue at the Town Hall on Sept 4th.

Praise God and pray for growth and encouragement.

Sebastian and Gloria report encouraging numbers at summer camps and seeing God's hand. "45 children came to enjoy Bible stories, games, and other great activities. Because we work closely with the mayor's office and youth, God opened the door and they paid for all the kids to come to camp for free. Our God is BIG! Many children didn't want to go home when their parents came to pick them up afterwards."



A Vision Trip to Poland took place from 29th Sept to 4th Oct where a team of Northern Ireland Pastors and others visited ECM works in Krakow and Mikolow. Pray that contacts made would grow into solid links with small fellowships who need encouragement and prayer.



EUROLINK

Prayer Info – Are you getting enough fodder for your prayers? Why not request our monthly Eurolink which give up to date requests from all our ECMers. It can be emailed or posted – Just ask us to send it to you!!

A big thank you to the Northern Ireland Coaching4Christ team who led football camps alongside the ECM team in Pozoblanco, Spain, at the end of August.

IT'S TIME TO

PRAY



WHY SHOULD I PRAY?

Europe needs help. Think of the challenges facing Europe today. Refugees in Greece, economic problems in Spain, terrorism in Belgium, questions about the future of the EU, aging populations... And that's before you even get to Europe's spiritual problems!

Europe is simply not the continent God wants it to be. And Jesus instructed us to pray that the Father's will would be done on earth as it is in heaven. So that means we need to be praying for Europe to be changed - to be transformed into a place of love, hope and peace.

But knowing how to pray can be a challenge. That's why one-eleven.org is so exciting. It's a new online prayer tool that makes praying for Europe so easy that you can do it during your lunch break.


*"Call to
me and I
will answer
you"*

JEREMIAH 33:3 (NIV)



**one
eleven**
Change Europe
this lunchtime!


We see a different Europe



“And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him”

1 JOHN 5:14 (NLT)

Prayer at your fingertips. Because Europe has so many needs it can be hard to know which ones to pray for first. With one-eleven.org you'll always have three requests ready to inform and inspire your prayers. There will be one about a person, one concerning a topical issue and one based on a European location.

WHAT SHOULD I PRAY?

“The end of the world is coming soon. Therefore, be earnest and disciplined in your prayers”

1 PETER 4:7 (NLT)

We suggest 1.11pm during your lunch, partly because you hopefully get to stop for lunch and could work a few minutes praying into your break. But also because it is easy to forget to pray. If you pick a standard time and set an alarm to remind you, you are much more likely to pray regularly. And turning prayer into a daily habit can only be a good thing - for both you and Europe!

But 1.11pm is just a suggestion. Because one-eleven.org is a web-based tool you can access it 24/7. So if you want to pray at 1.11am, go ahead! Or 10.36am, or 7.13pm, or anytime – we don't care! Please just pray.

WHEN SHOULD I PRAY?





*“So let us
come boldly to
the throne of
our gracious
God”*

HEBREWS 4:16 (NLT)

WHERE SHOULD I PRAY?

Anywhere! That’s the joy of a web-based prayer tool. Anywhere that you have internet access and your smartphone, computer or tablet you can open up one-eleven.org and access the latest prayer updates. That means you can pray for Europe in your kitchen, at your desk, on the bus, in the park... anywhere! After all, God’s already there waiting to hear from you.

WHO SHOULD I PRAY?

Everyone! God wants to hear from you. Whoever you are, God loves you and wants to talk with you. Jesus has made it possible for you to come before the Father. Don’t miss the opportunity to join in asking for Europe to change, and seeing God answer your prayers!

“The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results” JAMES 5:16 (NLT)





“Pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done” PHILIPPIANS 4.6 (NLT)

HOW SHOULD I PRAY?

However you want! We expect that most people will pray on their own. But if you'd rather, pray with a friend - you're more likely to keep going if you encourage one another. If you want to use one-eleven.org as a source for prayers to share with your small group or church, please do that too. How you pray doesn't matter – what matters is that you DO.



**one
eleven**
Change Europe
this lunchtime!

You can also find one-eleven on facebook and twitter. If you like it, share it with your friends!





Short term Opportunities

HELP WITH PLANTING A CHURCH IN SLOVENIA (SII003ST)

Type: Short term in Slovenia, Duration: Minimum of 2 years.

The Balkan Project is currently looking for quality young people (20's/30's) willing to serve for a short-term (2 year) period assisting with church planting in Slovenia

RAISING THE PROFILE OF THE CHURCH, BY SERVING GOD AND PEOPLE IN FRANCE (FRI003ST)

Type: Short term in Tours, France.

We are looking for servants who are willing to live their lives in the community of Tours for a minimum period of two months.

TEACH ENGLISH IN RABKA, POLAND (PLI002ST)

Type: Short term in Rabka, Poland.

The English Point Language Centre was started by the Rabka Baptist Church. Currently we have around 40 students from various ages, ranging from 5-65 years old. We would love you to join our team and see what God is doing through this ministry.

INTERNSHIPS FOR CHURCHPLANTS IN AUSTRIA (ATI001ST) IN VILLACH, DORNBIRN, LINZ, KLAGENFURT

Type: Short term in Villach, Dornbirn, Linz, Klagenfurt.

We offer placements for one year minimum in the towns of Villach, Dornbirn, Linz, Klagenfurt. We are looking for enthusiastic people who are highly relational. Basic German is required. There is a wide variety of ministries within and outside the church that you can be involved in.

PRACTICAL MONITOR/EDUCATOR FOR THE GOOD SAMARITAN REHABILITATION CENTRE SPAIN (ESI002ST)

Type: Short term in Pozoblanco, Spain.

The work of the monitor/educator includes a labour of a spiritual nature with people in the process of rehabilitation from drugs (cocaine, alcohol, tobacco and all kinds of pills) Duration: minimum of two years.

FOR MORE INFO: CHECK OUT WWW.ECMIRELAND.ORG OR CONTACT CHARLIE ON CHARLIE.ANDERSON@ECMI.ORG

God's Love in Slovenia

Bostjan and Lidija moved to Maribor- Slovenia's second city, two and half years ago taking over pastoring a small baptist church and starting a work among university students with IFES Slovenia. They update us on their ministry..

The first year was quite challenging, but God encouraged us through sincere, loving, relationships with our church folk and students. We became a family!

For the past year and a half together with the elders, we have been developing core values and vision for the church, praying and working to see people become more involved in ministry. Our emphasis currently, is on discipleship, as we seek to equip believers for this work. Week after week we can see fruit for our efforts as God changes the lives of believers both at church and among the students.

God has also blessed the students' work. Over just two years, a group of 9 Slovene christian students who regularly attend our Bible studies in Maribor, has come together. This is a major step forward for student ministry, as we are not allowed by law to hold any type of religious meetings within the university grounds. Reaching the students is done through 'friendship' evangelism and we can hardly believe how these 9 are growing in maturity and in their desire to reach others for Christ.




URSKA, TOLD US

I met the Lord two years ago. The group in Maribor with Bostjan and Lidija, is a place where I have grown constantly in the past two years of my University life, and I have learned so much about the Lord and His Word. My desire is to serve the Lord in Slovenia. Because so many people are struggling mentally and spiritually, I would like to combine knowledge gained from my Psychology studies with my knowledge of Scripture, to serve people as a counsellor.

NEJC, WHO HAS BEEN SAVED FOR 3 YEARS, DESCRIBES HIS VISION

I think, that the best way to fulfill the mission of 'making disciples of Jesus' in Slovenia, is through personal mentoring and small groups. My vision is to see the Body of Christ in Slovenia built up through small groups who have a special focus on seeking unity just as Jesus prayed in John 17:20-22. 'I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me' – We want to be 'one' together in Christ.



PLEASE PRAY FOR SLOVENIA, WE NEED GOD'S HELP AND YOUR HELP, MORE WORKERS AND LEADERS, WHO CAN SPREAD THE KINGDOM IN THE BEST POSSIBLE WAY!



Sharing God's Love in Kosovo!

**CLAIRE, REBECCA, RACHEL AND LOIS, 4
QUEEN'S DENTAL STUDENTS, TELL OF THEIR
TEAM VISIT TO KAMENICA.**

This August we had the privilege of spending just over two weeks in the rural town of Kamenica, Kosova. Working alongside Dan and Primrose Avila who are missionaries supported by ECM.

We worked primarily with the Albanian community the majority of whom are Muslim. Highlights of our trip included a holiday bible club for children, a sports' camp for teenagers, various women's ministry events and a dental hygiene workshop.

We were delighted to have roughly 35 children attending each day at the HBC, which was a fantastic opportunity to teach the children about God's amazing love through the story of Daniel. It was a joy to watch the amazement on their faces as they heard about how God rescued Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from the fiery furnace. We had Deuteronomy 31:6 as our memory verse for the week, "*Be strong and courageous do not be afraid of them for the Lord goes with you, he will not leave you or forsake you.*" We sent the memory verse home as part of our craft one day and were slightly concerned that it would affect our numbers for the rest of the week, but God was faithful and even more children returned. So not only is this memory verse engrained in these children's minds, but it is hanging on their walls at home, for all to see.

Roughly 20 teenagers attended the sports camp, were we taught them some new sports like tag rugby - however we also played a lot of football, a firm Kosovar favourite! The teenagers all had good English (most of them attended Primrose's English classes!) so we managed the majority of the time without translation, except when controversial decisions were made by the referee (Dan) at which point all conversation switched to passionate Albanian, and the four of us became very lost! We finished off sports camp with an epilogue where we able to share with these young people how God has changed our lives.



Our stand alone events included a beauty night for the teenage girls, a craft morning for the ladies, a baking afternoon where we had a recipe exchange with some of the Albanian ladies, a youth club picnic in the mountains, a dental hygiene morning for families and we ended our time in Kamenica with an Irish party.

We were welcomed so warmly by everyone we met and it was amazing to see the contacts that Dan and Primrose have built up over the past few years carving true friendships with their Albanian neighbours and sharing life alongside them.

Please continue to pray for Dan and Primrose as they work to further God's Kingdom in Kamenica.

Christmas Appeal

Spaniards are God loved NOT God forsaken

Give them a Bible
and let them
know

To celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017, Spanish churches want to give one million people in Spain a copy of the Bible. During the Reformation the Bible influenced every aspect of European culture; morality, ethics, arts, social

relationships and government. The Bible has the same power today as it did yesterday, to transform people's hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Each Bible costs just €3 (£2.60), a small price to let someone know that they are not God-forsaken.

ECM's Francis Arjona explains how this will be done in the province of Cordoba

"ECM has been working for more than 38 years in the province of Cordoba, and all this time we have worked in cooperation with churches of various denominations. Now the leaders of these evangelical churches want to come together to join this project spearheaded by the Spanish Bible Society, which will last until the end of 2017 desiring to:

- Do our part in reaching all of the province of Cordoba by distributing 5000 Bibles in every place where the church is present and also where we want to plant new churches.
- Proclaim God's word, give greater visibility to his church and lead more people to the Lord.
- Ensure the broadest possible exposure, we will also carry out cultural and sporting events, movie showings, Bible expositions and lectures during which the Bibles will be distributed."





ECM's Francis Arjona

“We want to get a Bible into the hands of Cordoba’s political authorities, mayor, legislative leaders, councillors and judges etc. Each pastor will do this in his own town, also visiting hospitals, schools, and military bases where we are developing ministries using evangelical chaplains.



i want to see a

DIFFERENT EUROPE

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We see a different Europe

full of

CHURCHES



full of

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Thank you for your gift!!

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