

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.

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 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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ECM Biennial 2018 Calpe, Spain

Look to the Rock: Discipleship revealed



The ECM Biennial Conference
2018 will be a tremendous
opportunity for the whole
ECM family of missionaries,
partners, families, churches,
sending sections and supporters
to come together for an exciting
programme of ministry,
fellowship, training and times
of reflection about the work
to which our God has called us.

From Wednesday 11th to Wednesday 18th April 2018

Speaker: Dr. Chris Wigram has been the International Director for ECM International since 2008.

For more information please contact Charlie: charlie.anderson@ecmi.org

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

ECM Ireland is a registered charity no: 102665



The Director's Chair

Europe Post Brexit: A lost opportunity?

This is the title I have been given to discuss with some bible college students in the new year, and at the risk of letting all of my 'cats out of the bag,' I think that my answer might be. 'Yesand no.... and yes.' Let me explain.

YES – I am sure we have all missed or lost opportunities to share the good news of Jesus. Over this past number of years, the freedom of movement for workers which membership of the EU has encouraged, has brought thousands of migrants into our midst.

International unrest in Syria and beyond has also brought many refugees from inaccessible countries to Britain and Northern Ireland. These opportunities still exist but the door may be closing so as Galatians 6:10 reminds us 'while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people.'

NO - of course I have no idea how the Brexit negotiations are going to unfold but whatever happens we are still going to be geographically 'in' Europe, and there will be opportunities to be part of what God is doing in Europe.



Charlie Anderson

There are no barriers to prayer, and perhaps we will need to refocus our efforts on supporting national partners within countries, rather than sending workers overseas. Whatever happens there will be opportunities, thousands of them.

AND YES – The lost are an opportunity. Surely that is what Jesus meant us to consider, when he encouraged us to lift up our eyes to see the fields which are white unto harvest. So, whether you are thinking of Brexit or Europe, a proper biblical optimism encourages us to see opportunity and not threat.





Charlie Anderson reflects on a visit to the Austrian Teebus Ministry.

The Teebus has become an established feature of Villach's nightlife (a small city in southern Austria) and it was great to have the opportunity to see it in action on a holiday visit in August. The bus has been kitted out café style and is a comfortable version of the buffet car on a train, which provides a novel atmosphere for a cup of tea but more importantly, for a chat.

This ministry is headed up by ECM workers David and Linda James who work with a team of volunteer young people from local churches. The bus is parked in a square in the city centre and its doors open from around 8pm to 1am. While some of the team man the bus, another group go out on the streets with invitations for passers-by and a third group pray in a church meeting room nearby.

Not only is this outreach, but it is also a training ground for young Christians to

speak about Christ and defend their faith.

David explained, 'the object is not to win arguments. My hope is, that when young people leave the bus they will be thinking "God is good, and these people are ok."

Like many in Europe, Austrian young people have become increasingly secular so that if they think of God at all, He is an old-fashioned idea, hidden away in an irrelevant institutional church and certainly not interested in them. David, Linda and their team, are in town on Saturday nights, making faith relevant.

Service Opportunities in Austria

An Austrian is no longer automatically a Roman Catholic, that time has passed. More and more Austrians resign from their church membership and search for happiness in their new found wealth, different forms of 'new spirituality' and occultism. Young people, especially, are seriously searching for fulfillment in their lives.

Praying for the Teebus

- * For the young people of Villach that they would come to a life changing knowledge of Jesus
- * That God would continue to provide the people and resources necessary to keep the bus on the road
- * That the volunteers would grow in Faith, knowledge of God's word, wise boldness and humility.

Ps. I got a text from David the other day after our visit, "Bus mostly full from 22:15 with many staying a long time ... God is good and these people are ok.

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

Qualities

Basic German & English, enthusiasm, highly relational, evangelism, teamplayer, willingness to adapt to a new culture.

Contact

ECM offers you a great opportunity to discover your gifting and place within the Kingdom of God. For more information and a more detailed project description please contact:

shortterm@ecmi.org







"There are only 3 kinds of Christians when it comes to world missions; goers, senders and the disobedient."

John Piper

ECM Ireland wants to help you be the 'right kind' of christian and we have come up with four categories before we get to 'disobedient.' Like a set of cogs each is dependent on the other and no matter which category you fall into, as long as you are turning another 'cog' you are 'working together' in mission.

We often focus on those who go 'GOERS' and certainly Europe needs people with a variety of gifts and talents from Evangelism and Bible teaching, to administrators, football coaches and English teachers. Have you ever thought about going?

We have many short, medium and long-term opportunities. Just get in touch and we will help you figure out what is possible.

But for the Goers to go, we need 'GIVERS' to give. We often speak to gifted people who want to serve, who believe God has called them to go, but finances are lacking and we wonder is that because those who are 'GIVERS' are disobedient, and the resources God has given them are still in their pockets.

Has God called you to give? Are you the one? We can help you work out how.





In any system of cogs, there is usually one that provides the power and I would suggest for mission, it is the 'PRAY-ERS.' Praying is a command, and none of our mission partners would dream of doing mission without it. Anyone can pray, any time, anywhere and we believe we have a God who hears and answers.

Are you the one to pray? Contact us and we can send you information or check out the 'We pray for Europe' Facebook page and get those 'cogs' moving.

All goers, need MENTORS/
ADVOCATES. These are people who get alongside, listen, help, visit, and advise those involved at all levels of mission and in all varieties of ministry. They are spiritually mature folk who can share their experiences of life and God, to bless and encourage those, on the frontline. All 'cogs' run more smoothly when they are cared for and oiled a little. Mission Partners need our love and fellowship to keep on keeping on. Are you the one to mentor? Get in touch to find out possibilities.

"Mentoring is sharing life's experiences and God's faithfulness." Janet Thompson

Like a set of cogs each is dependent on the other and no matter which category you fall into, as long as you are turning another 'cog' you are 'working together' in mission.

ECM Ireland is passionate about mobilizing all kinds of Christians, who want to see Europe full of churches, full of people, full of Jesus.

GO, GIVE, PRAY, MENTOR. Which one are you? Or are you disobedient (if so, let us help you change).

We have produced a series of cards related to this challenge (and a sample has been included with your magazine.) These are available from the office, just ask.

Get involved:

Receive prayer letters specific to ministries that interest you.

Start a Prayer Group

Get a group together to pray. We have some good ideas. (Get in touch with us)

We pray for Europe

Go to facebook.com/weprayforeurope



A story from Saszko in Krakow'

Karina is from Kazakhstan and lives in Krakow. She is from a nominal Muslim family and knew very little about Christianity but she found out about the 'Christ the Saviour' church plant in Krakow, on the internet. Since we met her in May, she has been coming regularly to church and also attending Catechism study classes.

One day Karina did something that utterly astonished the rest of the group. She came to Catechism study class holding a large Russian Bible which had a barcode on it. That caught everyone's attention and of course folk wanted to know where the bible had come from. Imagine our delight to discover that Karina had borrowed the Bible from a public library!!!

Although every house in Eastern Europe usually has a Bible (even if no one ever reads it), none of the group had ever seen a 'library' Bible before. This showed just how serious Karina was to find out more about Christianity.

At the beginning when she first came to the Bible studies the group was overwhelmed by Karina's eagerness to learn.
This in turn challenged each one to be more careful about how we teach and discuss the Bible and its principles.

If Moses was mentioned, we were conscious of the need to stop and explain who Moses was. If the Law was mentioned, we had to stop, rewind and explain the concept. Then there was vocabulary with words like: Pharisee, Passover, justification, redemption.



It was difficult, but very exciting, for the whole church-planting team to have to beaware of, and consider, Karina's need for support and help as she learned.

■ Karina

>>>>

Because of Karina's zeal we decided to order her a Russian Bible from Ukraine so she that she could have her own bible, and return the borrowed one to the library. We know Karina has been reading God's word because each week she arrives to the Bible studies and services, with questions.

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Later Karina professed her faith in Jesus and after praying with some of the fellowship's members, she was deeply moved and said:

"I don't deserve this." To which one of the speakers replied, 'You are right. You don't. Not one of us does!'

Please pray for Karina as she grows in her faith, that the Lord would move her towards joining his Church and getting baptised.



Church plant team member

(Spain)

Type: Long term | Duration: Open Location: Castellón

We are a pioneering church plant in a university district aiming to encourage people towards a personal living relationship with Jesus through sharing our lives with them.

We long for more, like-minded, people to join our team.

Oualities we are looking for:

- * flexible and outward-looking,
- * have completed a suitable theological education
- * can work in trans-cultural teams
- * speak Spanish or are willing to learn to speak the language
- * are currently an active member of your church



Musicianary (Portugal)

If music is your passion and worship is your life, we need you. We are looking for people willing to play music in churches. Piano and guitar players are most important, but whole bands can come and serve as well. Experience necessary.

Duration: 6 month – 2 years

Location: Lisbon Coimbra, Alentejo

Costs: Personal support

Requirements: musical experience,

Age: 18+ years

Let's plan together: email shortterm@ecmi.org or go to ecmireland.org



Sharing the gospel with friends and classmates, opportunity not a threat! Aislinn (Spain) tells the story of Ana Portillo (a student).

GBU Spain's vision is to give every student the opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel of Jesus. How? By encouraging Christian students to take the gospel into university campuses and talk to their classmates about Jesus. Essentially that is what I (Aislinn Duffy) do here, I encourage and inspire students to go, and we equip them through providing training and other resources.

Personal evangelism is key in this – showing those around us who Jesus is by the way we live, and by bringing Him into our everyday life. One resource that GBU uses is called 'Uncover.' This gospel of Luke along with six 'seeker' Bible studies, allows students to study the Bible with their non-Christian friends: opening up a gospel account and letting their friends discover who Jesus is.

"She created a
Whatsapp Group
with a Catholic
girl from her
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another girl."

This is Ana's story.

Ana, a third-year biochemistry student took up the challenge to use 'Uncover' with her classmates. Some of them had shown interest in learning more about Christianity and Ana asked if they wanted to study an account of Jesus' life, Uncover Luke.



She created a Whatsapp Group with a Catholic girl from her class, a Jewish Christian and another girl. That afternoon as they were about to start studying, another opportunity presented itself, two of Ana's friends messaged her asking if she was around uni as they didn't want to eat lunch alone. Ana explained how she had organised this Bible study and asked them if they wanted to join...and they said yes! In the end there was a good group of students studying the Bible for the first time on the university campus!

Ana described how she felt: "I remember leaving the first meeting feeling, 'this is what I was created for'. I think we sometimes live in a bubble of 'day to day' stress and we forget what our purpose is, why we are here, and what we have to do as God's people... When I left the second study, I had this feeling again, and prayed 'God, thank you because you have shown me in a very clear way that this is what I have to do with my life.' It is great that I am studying X, that I want to become X but at the end of the day what matters is sowing the seed."

"I think we sometimes live in a bubble of 'day to day' stress and we forget what our purpose is, why we are here, and what we have to do as God's people."

Aislinn comments: What an encouragement! This is what it is all about, students reaching students with the gospel, stepping out bravely and inviting their friends to read about Jesus for themselves.

This summer we have just launched 'Uncover John' in Spanish, so let's see what God has planned for this new resource across GBU Spain!



A network for praying more and praying better.

They say Europe is a continent where citizens from diverse nations and cultures are constantly struggling to understand who they are and what their identity should be. Once Christians travelled to the ends of world as missionaries of God's Gospel, but today, Europe has become a continent with a lost story.

Wherever you go extreme populism and the lack of faith have led many to be in a state of darkness and oppression. Ignoring the voices of hope which seek to turn this wasteland into what God has already promised it to be, results in utter depression. It is a land where His Gospel brings light to those who walk in fear, oppression and darkness.

Christians are called to be witnesses of Christ, urged to pray and seek to be a visible reality of the Gospel of Christ. European Christian Mission believes that prayer is a vital tool that should be used daily to bring the people of Europe back to Christ.

This means that every Christian across Europe should want to pray for the people of Europe. We are all part of God's story and mission to this very part of the world.

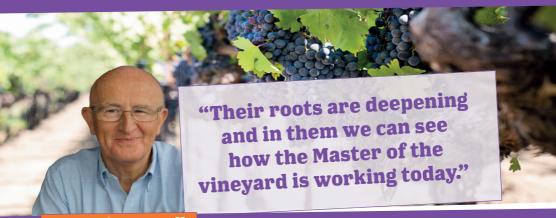


We would like to invite you to pray with us for Europe.

If you are on Facebook, you can join our campaign:

WE PRAY FOR EUROPE on: Facebook.com/weprayforeurope





By Desi Maxwell

Milan is a master vintner. His family have been tending their vineyards in Slovenia for many generations. As it is with any master of his trade, it is a joy to listen to the man share his wisdom with passion. He is proud of the accolades his family wines have won because they are so sweet and unusually low in sulphur.

As he shares his family heritage in a quiet gracious way you can't help but sense the depth of the man's experience. In particular one thing struck me. Over the years he has kept close scrutiny on the roots of his vines. It became evident that even the strongest roots eventually started to turn upwards again reaching for nutrients either from natural or artificial fertilizers. He decided to adopt a brave new policy. He committed to using absolutely no fertilizers thereby forcing every vine to force its roots as deep as was necessary to tap into the natural water table. The patience and endurance was rewarded with the sweetest of wines.

Throughout Eastern Europe today Stuart Rowell has been nurturing young men and women whose roots are going deeper by the day.

Last June a group of them from Bosnia, Slovenia and Croatia spent a week with me driving their roots even deeper into Scripture. I felt heartened. These folks are committed to working in God's vineyard and, as with Milan, it is just thrilling to see their vital link to the true vine.

Their roots are deepening and in them we can see how the Master of the vineyard is working today. Whether it's in Milan's or the Master's vineyard the work demands wisdom and patient endurance.

The prospect of a great harvest gives us heart as the Lord is raising up a group of totally committed workers.

Watch the video interview with Desi Maxwell online at ecmireland.org



Stephen Cackowski (Poland) reflects on opportunity and threat in ministry.

Two people wanted to buy a house. On inspecting the property, the first noticed damp on one of the walls and decided to walk away. The second also noticed the dampness but used it to get a big discount on the purchase price.

The first man was scared of the problem, the second used it as an opportunity to make an investment. Buying a cheap house with a damp problem, can be a brilliant buy, or a huge mistake.

As we live from day to day, we face this dilemma all the time. On the one hand we do not like challenges and difficulties. On the other, without some level of threat in our lives, we do not develop, and sit content in a situation making little or no progress.

Issues can motivate a new owner to work on his house making it a better; but too much threat can discourage us, and if we decide to tackle it anyway, could break us. It is smart to walk away from some damp places, but it is not smart to miss a big opportunity, especially if we understand how to deal with the challenges. Sometimes dampness is an easy fix, at others it can only be removed by demolishing the whole house to start again from scratch.

In our missionary work we are surrounded with people who carry in them damp places. As we get to know them better, we begin to see the dark places, unhealthy issues and sinful behaviours. The easiest way is to concentrate on the 'bright side' of the house and ignore the mould, or decide to walk away altogether, in search of a nice clean house, that we can unashamedly call 'the proper church.'

Jesus wasn't like that. He wasn't threatened by the mould of people's hearts. In fact, he hung out with them so much that he was called the friend of the 'damp junkies'. No, he did not enjoy or condone the sin, but neither did he reject those who asked him for restoration. To them he brought the light and warmth of his presence and love. He saw opportunity where others saw threat. He rebuilt people's lives. Often it involved demolishing their entire structure and re-establishing them on the right kind of foundation, teaching them to be covered with the presence of the Holy Spirit, who would insulate them from further sin.

As we encounter broken people, we are tempted to fix them ourselves. That is a threat. If we try to do the Spirit's work, we attempt to replace the saviour's work with ours. This never works long term. It is like putting nice, fresh paint, on something that is mouldy underneath.

Under the influence of different 'saviours' people can change their behaviour, but they remain untransformed inside. Using 'mould resistant' paint does not fix or eliminate the source of damp, a proper restoration must take place. And that can be done only by the author of life, who brings light and separates us from sin, when we call to him from our dark, damp places. Our privilege is to jump into the opportunity of showing others that there is an answer to their problem and assisting them on their journey.

Jesus wasn't like that. He wasn't threatened by the mould of people's hearts. In fact, he hung out with them so much that he was called the friend of the 'damp junkies'.



Stephen was born to a Christian family in northwest Poland. His journey with youth ministry started at age 15 when he began co-leading his church's youth group. For many years, he served and discipled young people, as well as led camps and other outreach events in Poland. In 2005, he moved to the United Kingdom where he planted a church for Polish immigrants with his wife Kamila and two friends. Stephen was one of the main leaders of the church for eight years, and he also started a nonprofit with his friend Przemek, focused on raising awareness about human trafficking. In 2015, Stephen and his family returned to Poland to join a church planting team in Mikołów, where he is responsible for leading worship, outreach work, building and maintaining relationships with towns' officials, and, occasional preaching.



WANTED: INVESTORS

NEEDED: A SEED FUND (POUNDS and Pence, EUROS and cents!!)

WHY? Because Countries like Bosnia, Slovenia and Montenegro have lower percentages of Christians than Iraq and Syria (Operation World), and are on a par with Somalia and Afganistan. South East Europe needs Jesus.

Like the new testament says, a 'Sower went out to sow...'His name was Alen Kercmar, Bostjan Cifer, or Sebastian Forjan and they were all out sowing the seed of the gospel in one of the most spiritually desolate regions of the world.

ECM Ireland invites you to invest in the lives of these labourers. To reap a harvest, one must invest in the sowers, we already have the good seed. The SEED Fund is a starter fund designed to help with the costs of setting up ministries, training and mentoring sowers, and their member care.

We want you to help the SEE network sowers to grow, by sending your gifts so that we can link Sowers with:

- EACH OTHER for fellowship in conferences and training events
- EXPERIENCED PASTORS who can help with pastoral care, teaching and mentoring
- ESTABLISHED CHURCHES who can provide prayerful and financial support, fellowship and encouragement.
- **PRAYER NETWORK** so people can uphold them in prayer

>>> SEED FUND APPEAL

We also hope to find new people and offer them the possibility of being linked to the network.



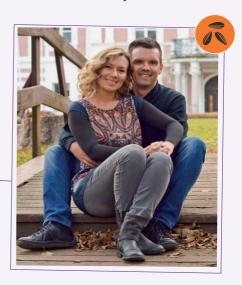
SEEing Results: Bostjan and Lidija's story

ECM Ireland invited Pastors from N. Ireland churches to visit Slovenia, and participate in a conference for Partners working in the Balkan countries. The Ireland Pastors taught and spent time with the workers for 3 days hearing their stories, then traveled home together with partners for an overnight stay and opportunity to experience ministry first hand.

A young married couple came to the conference and shared how they had recently begun to pastor a church and work with students from a university in Maribor. They were struggling financially and tried to set up a photography business (as a tentmaking operation) but it proved very difficult.

At the conference they met a Pastor who visited their ministry, getting to know them and their student friends. Something 'clicked' and the Pastor invited the couple to come and visit for 6 weeks in Northern Ireland experiencing church life, and building up contacts.

The church people loved them and invited them out to their homes, and the young couple were amazed at the fellowship of a mature, well-established church and were refreshed and blessed by the Christian love they experienced. As they got to know people, God moved in hearts, so that the family of God gave and have enabled some of the pressure to be taken off this couple as they continue in ministry.



The Pastor has also visited again, and currently provides pastoral care, help and advice so that the young couple continue to grow in knowledge, and are blessed and refreshed by good fellowship and much prayerful interest. The church is excited to have invested in God's ministry in Maribor, Slovenia.

(This is the story of Bostjan and Lidija Cifer and Omagh Baptist Church.)





A SEED Fund REQUEST Story

Bugojno, a town in the centre of Bosnia with a population of 35,000 people, is now predominantly Muslim since the civil war years, and its people need to hear about Jesus

Radovan is a mature pastor who spent years distributing christian literature across Bosnia. He planted a small church in Nove Travnic where his son is now the pastor. So shouldn't he be retired perhaps tending his farm and taking it easier for a while?

Well he doesn't think so!



Radovan is so burdened for the people of Bugojno that he makes the 60 mile round trip twice a week to meet with a small group (of about 6 people) doing Bible study and for Sunday worship. The rent for the meeting place and his costs are covered from his own retirement income.

We would love to encourage the Bugonjo believers and this servant of God by sending them help,(or more accurately money from the SEED FUND to make it easier for Radovan to share the Gospel in Bugojno.)



£20 would cover a week's expenses for Radovan to visit Bugonjo



PARTNER WITH US by:

PRAYING – Get in touch for information and get praying for specific sowers and specific areas of ground.

VISITING – Get into the harvest field yourself and let God show you what he is doing through our partners.

INVITING – ask your church to invite a partner to come and talk about their work. Get to know the 'Sower' Who knows where this seed will grow!

SPONSORING - our partners work in very small fellowships that need outside help to allow them to dedicate their time to 'sowing.'

What will your part be?

Practical ways to financially support the SEED FUND:

£20 a week's expenses for Radovan to visit Bugonjo.

£50 subsidize a Mission Partner to attend a training conference

£100 buy airplane tickets for a Mission Partner to visit N. Ireland

£1000 so much could be donewe will send you a breakdown.



Will you help us to invest in the SEED FUND?

Name:
Address:
Postcode:
Telephone:
Email:
Please send me: ☐ This magazine regularly ☐ ECM prayer info by ☐ post ☐ email
I agree for ECM Ireland to contact me about various ministries across Europe, funding needs, events and other opportunities to be involved by the means ticked below. □ Post □ Mail □ Email □ Social Network
SEED FUND GIFT
Enclosed is my gift of
I enclose a cheque/ charity voucher made payable to European Christian Mission Ireland
Signature:
Date: / /
You can donate online at



ecmireland.org/donate

Please specify SEED FUND.

Regular Giving



Standing Order Details:
BANK NAME
ACCOUNT HOLDER
ACCOUNT NUMBER
SORT CODE
BANK ADDRESS
DOSTOODS
POSTCODE
PLEASE DEDUCT (amount in words) Pounds
FROM MY ACCOUNT ON (date) / / AND THEN EACH
☐ MONTH ☐ QUARTER ☐ YEAR
Please tick one box UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
This standing order replaces / does not replace an existing standing order to ECM (delete as applicable)
PAY THIS SUM TO: ECM IRLEAND Sort Code: 98-09-60 Account No: 40615008 Address Bank: Ulster Bank, Bow Street, Lisburn, BT28 1BN
Signature: Date: /
FOR BANK USE ONLY: Paying bank please ensure that all backdated payments are made and the following reference number is quoted with all payments:

GIFT AID IT FORM

I wish European Christian Mission to reclaim tax on any gift I have given in the last 4 years from this date __/__/__. 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 or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give or have given in the last four years.

Signature:	Date:	/	/	/	



ECM ON TOUR

We see a different Europe.

We would love you to invite us to visit your church, so that we can meet you and talk about what God is doing across Europe.



A similar presenta on 'Bringing Europe to Life' has been well received in over 40 churches in the past 4 years. The full presentation lasts 75 minutes, but can be shortened as necessary.

This multmedia presentation includes:

- videos
- missionary interviews
- prayer challenge
- short message

If you would like to invite us to speak at your church, please contact us at:

2 028 92 666 044

ecm.ni@ecmi.org

ecmireland.org

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