



# **Eurolink**

**DECEMBER 2020**

## **Ireland Office - Lindsay Moorhead**

### **ECM Ireland Office**

In these challenging times **give thanks** that people continue to give generously and sacrificially to the work of ECM. We are continually surprised and amazed by God's provision.

**Please pray** for our missionaries who are seeking to raise more financial support. Pray that as they make the need known, that God would put it on people's hearts to give and to support them in this way.

## **Charlie and Miriam Anderson ECM International**

It has been encouraging to see some of the people we work with come through very difficult situations related to covid. Some have been ill themselves and are feeling better, others have managed to return home and meet with family members who are ill and who are facing their last months in this world. Others have been close to burn out and we are encouraging them to seek rest and helping them think through plans for making that happen. Pray for compassion and the Spirit's leading as we work together and try to be a Godly support.

We praise God that He allows us not only to meet and pray but often to be able to help in small ways like doing bible study (when someone just feels unable to get there alone,) or being bridges between one group and another in the mission to make sure issues are being dealt with and not slipping between the cracks.

Please pray for us also as we work on policies and with those who have influence in areas like 'vision and strategy ' and ' Member Care' and how those ideas work out practically in real life ECM. These can seem mundane or boring when you are writing and revising but when they are used in practical situations and work because they have been well thought through there is blessing in unity, grace and kindness, and clarity of action so duplication is avoided etc. We need wisdom, insight and sometimes motivation (!) to give the time and effort required.

Finally please pray for financial support for our missionaries as we are starting to hear in some of our conversations that there are concerns that giving has dropped and what that might mean for families dependent on other parts of the body of Christ for finances.



**We thank you for standing with us throughout these months of many changes and trust that you will be blessed over the Christmas period. Perhaps this year we will find it easier to simply celebrate the amazing joy of Christmas: the Saviour when He first took on**

**human form and came to our world.**



## **The Cifers (currently in Australia) based Maribor, Slovenia**

Praise God for all we have learned over this past year in Australia and ask Him to help us know how to translate these learnings into our Slovenian situation.

Pray that God will connect us with new mission partners in Australia during December who will stand with us as we prepare for return to Slovenia in January.

Pray that interest will grow not only in us but in the people, places and opportunities where the Lord gives us ministry.

Pray for our church in Maribor and our student ministry. Pray for protection of the believers and that they can be light and salt in these uncertain and difficult times.

## **The Kercmars, Ljutomer, Slovenia**

1. Since Slovenia is in lockdown again (as most European countries) the church services are filmed and posted on Facebook (between 600 and 900 views) and YouTube. We were very encouraged as over the last couple of months our regional television is also broadcasting all of the church services from the Lutheran church in Murska Sobota. Please pray for the people that listen to the services; may the Lord open their hearts and minds for the truth of the Word of God.
2. Slovenian national television is also filming and broadcasting a church service from the Lutheran church in Murska Sobota once a month and this gives opportunity to share the Gospel with a wider population. Pray that this would bring glory to the Lord and eternal fruit in the lives of people.
3. Please pray for the use of the video material Lila is putting together for children and is posted online. There is a possibility the local television would also use this material as part of their programme.
4. We are thankful for permissions granted to re-shape and re-film Christianity Explored video material into shorter and more culturally appropriate material for use here in Slovenia. We hope to have this project ready for local television to broadcast in the beginning of 2021. Pray for wisdom in sharing the Gospel in this way. Pray also for the practical outworking of this project and most importantly for open hearts and minds of those that will watch and listen to its content.
5. Pray for the young people from the catechism class and others with whom we are in contact through Zoom as we seek to disciple them and offer pastoral support.

## **Sebastian & Gloria Forjan - Radoviljica, Slovenia**

Praise God for a recent convert. Pray for protection and growth in the Lord.

Pray for our family as we try to navigate during the lockdowns how to function family life, work and school from home, etc. Sometimes it is challenging. Pray for Gloria that she will have energy as she works with our boys for school.

Pray for Sebastian as he continues to serve the local church as a shepherd for wisdom and guidance by the Holy Spirit. Also, that he will use time well during the lockdown for personal and ministry growth.

Pray for our church during pandemic that they will grow in God's word and in prayer. Also, that we will stay connected as we meet through internet.

## **Jonathan and Nicola McCracken, Claremorris**

### ***Praise***

- We give thanks that there will be some easing of restrictions at the start of December.
- We are thankful that we have all kept well and safe during the lockdown.
- We are thankful for the use of zoom for church on Sundays and for prayer on Wednesday nights. It's not the same as meeting up in person but does keep us connected during these days.
- We give thanks for God's goodness to us over this past year.

### ***Prayer***

- As the country starts to open up again, we ask for safety and that we will soon be able to meet up as a church.
- Many things and events that we usually have this time of year have been cancelled. Pray for wisdom for the church as we know how best to reach out to those around us. It would be great to be able to hold a Carol Service.
- Pray that we would be able to witness to our neighbours as we meet them this Christmas time.
- Pray for safety that we would be able to travel North to see family without any restrictions.

## **Aislinn Duffy – Spain**

Here with the students of Catalonia, Aragon and Balearic Islands in our monthly EQUIP meeting we explored the topic of “Dreaming Big in times of Covid” and we focused on the opportunities that we do have in this current situation. Praise God for this time we had together to dream big about how to share the Good News that we have with our friends and that some of these ideas would be put into practice over the next few weeks.

This year I am with four student groups – Zaragoza, Huesca and two in Barcelona, Bellvitge and UPF. The group in Bellvitge is traditionally a small group and this year there are four students, with two new first year students coming along. Although we have not actually met each other in person as everything has been online, there is a real sense of community and being a mission team on campus. It is a joy to meet with them each week and to see them go deeper in God’s word together. Please pray for Darius (student leader), Ruth, Loida and Rubén as they seek to share their faith with their classmates.

In contrast, my other group in Barcelona, UPF, is finding it hard to meet up each week due to constant timetable changes. They are few students and this is a bit demotivating as the student leaders here (Emma and Lucas) try to motivate the others to come along. Please pray for this group, for perseverance, flexibility and also vision for those who don’t understand the importance of their university years as their mission field.

Over the past two weeks various students have been commenting on how tired they are, how they are lacking energy and finding it hard to concentrate. This is due to having all classes online, which is very draining, as well as not having space to disconnect or get a change of scene. Please pray for the students, for energy and focus as exams come up soon and for rest over the Christmas period. Please pray that they would have grace and patience with themselves, and for wisdom for us as staff to know how best to encourage and support them.

## **Peter and Anna Crawford – Athens Greece**

I (Anna) am thankful and amazed that I am coming to the end of my Level 1 Greek language study in mid-December. We both can start Level 2 (for me) and Level 3 (Peter) in January, but we are reluctant to continue with online classes if the lockdown continues. Pray for wisdom for us in this area.

After a long haul (Anna) I submitted the last of my assignments for the TEFL course I have been doing for the past 6 months or so. Please pray for the right opportunities to open up where this can be used as a tool to reach out to others.

Please pray for 'Sarah' in Lisbon who has been growing in the Lord and now wants to be baptised and has asked us for guidance as to what is best for her. At some point after she has completed her Phd, she will have to return to her home country and it could endanger her life if she were to make a public declaration of her faith.

Like many missionaries we face a Christmas without being with family. Pray for all who are on the fields, especially the singles for whom this is even more difficult.

## **Colin & Ally Holmes- Ferrybank, Waterford**

o We are thankful that Colin continues to improve, and his energy levels have been more consistent over the past month. He hopes to have an MRI and angio repeated in Beaumont Hospital Dublin as an inpatient from 8-9 December to confirm there are no abnormalities or weaknesses. Please pray a bed would be available.

o Both Colin and Ally will return to ministry with church in December. Please pray for Colin as he seeks to recover ministry gently and gradually over the coming months. He will be no more than 50% for now at most.

o We are thankful for relationships strengthened by joining other churches in Zoom over the past while- in Tramore and Claremorris.

o Pray for good listening to one another as we have more space to hear from one another as church and share what God has been teaching us in our lives.

o Pray for Colin as he prepares and shares a Christmas message that connects the incarnation with how people are feeling in the midst of COVID-19.

Pray for Ally as she seeks to increase ministry contributions by connecting with children and families by reading on Facebook.

o Please join us in asking big for God to provide for our financial support. Colin's pharmacy work was making up 25% of our support. He is unlikely to return to this again in the near future. Give thanks for how this need has been met over the past 5 months and the confidence this gives as we seek His provision for the future.

## **David, Samantha, Maria & Luca Gilkinson (Salou, Spain)**

Praise God for this first term of youth ministry in Salou Evangelical Church. Despite the challenges of rules & restrictions changing & the frustration of a lot of Zoom ministry, the young people have engaged in the program. They have been working through the E100 Bible readings series & discussing the overview of the Bible together. Pray for continued discipleship of the 30 young people, that they might deepen their relationship with God & expand their knowledge & find their hope in the Gospel. Pray to for deepening healthy relationships between the young people, that strong Christian friendships will be a key support to them as they live out their faith in their schools as very much the minority. Pray too for wisdom & passion for David & the leaders.

Praise God too for a good start for Maria (age 4) in her new school. She has connected well with a few other children & helpfully, they also speak English. But Maria's Spanish & Catalan is coming along too. Pray that she continues to thrive there & settle into life here in Spain. Pray too for Samantha's connections with some of the school Mums, that she can build good relationships & share the Gospel with them.

Praise God that we can continue to improve our Spanish through classes with our tutor & through conversations with others from the church via Zoom. Please pray that we will continue to improve, and quickly. That we would have the mind to learn, the energy & patience for studying & for the confidence to use it.

We will be staying in Spain this Christmas. Pray for the children especially as they miss family & friends in NI. And pray that we can enjoy time as a family, build relationships here over the season & be a blessing to others.

Merry Christmas to you all as well & despite so many challenges this year, may you know great joy through Jesus this season.