



Newsletter of European Christian Mission Ireland

Winter, 2018

# Europe ... Full of Jesus?



a  
POUND  
& a  
PRAYER  
inside

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

## OUR MISSION

ECM Ireland's aim is to glorify God through the planting and development of churches that will evangelise and disciple the peoples of Europe.

## 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. His Gospel brings the love of Christ to people's lives, and when people accept this, they are transformed. They then spread the Good News to local communities, and onwards to surrounding communities, regions, countries and continents.'

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.**

## WAYS TO STAY IN TOUCH

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# The Director's Letter:

**“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a pathway in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”**

**Isaiah 43:19**

God is in the business of doing new things and, this year, He has brought about many changes within the ECM Ireland office. Charlie has moved into a new role within ECM International, taking on more field leadership responsibilities and developing the South East Europe Network; Miriam is now our Assistant Director and I have been ECM Ireland Director since June.

Throughout this issue, we will also read that God is doing new things with the people of Europe too. God is creating “pathways in the wilderness” and “rivers in the (spiritual) desert” in Europe, opening up new opportunities and situations by which we can share the Gospel.

Change brings refreshment and excitement, but it also brings with it some uncertainties and adjustments. Please pray for us all at ECM Ireland, that we would adjust to the changes well, and that our staff team, our missionaries, our partners and you - our supporters, would continue to work well together for God's glory.

**Lindsay Moorhead**  
**ECM Ireland**

Lindsay



### Jesus & Sport by Stephen and Kamila



This summer in Mikolow Poland, we hosted a team from USA (Georgia, Colorado and Alabama). Together we reached out to five primary schools where we offered basketball, American football and volleyball, as well as music and English classes. On top of that, as part of JORDAN BASKET+ we worked daily with over 100 kids aged 7-12, teaching them how to play basketball. It was well received, kids and teachers were really blessed and doors for further ministry were opened.

Then in August we hosted 19 people from Antrim. Together we worked in the poorest neighbourhood of our town, building a communal area, where residents will be able to sit around a red brick barbecue, eat, have fun, and share lives together. We were also able to help renovate an apartment for a 10-year-old girl fighting cancer.

It was a very busy summer, but we were able to bring the bright light of the gospel both through word and actions, to many people.

### Bugojno English Camp by Miriam Anderson



A fledgling group in Bugojno, Bosnia had never run activities for children, but were keen to run an English Camp and Kids Club for 5 days. God had his own plans and a team of just 3 arrived from Northern Ireland with a plan for Miriam and Keti (from nearby Novi Travnik) to teach English, Charlie and Jane (our daughter) to do interactive games, and Marianna and Vladimir (CEF workers in Bosnia) to share God's word.

Around 20 children aged from 7 to 16 attended daily for English fun and the Kids Club after. The idea was to get people talking together, and simply to leave the aroma of Christ, as well as the seed of His Word. How wonderful that among the Muslim Mosques, Minarets, and Arabic calls to prayer, in one small space God's living Word was going out. Radovan (retired) who works in the area shared God's word with about 45 people at the closing ceremony on the Friday evening. Praise God for a room full of people and the hope that one day they will be full of Jesus.



# From Bethany to Kosovo

by Heather MacCorkell

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On 12th July 2018, 11 people from Bethany Church at Finaghy travelled to Pristina through Frankfurt to visit Dan and Primrose Avila who live in Kamenica, a small town in the east of Kosova. Two other Bethany members living in Perth, Australia also travelled to meet us.

We had an amazing time, running kids' clubs for children, teen girls' clubs and football camp for the boys. One of our team a qualified coach, used his skills while others took half time team talks based on the story of David and introduced God as our coach. There were dramas, games, choruses and memory verses, craft and Zumba, and we held a community afternoon on our last day and invited parents along.

There were many highlights: seeing some of Primrose's English students join the team as translators and make real friendships with the team. Coming from Muslim backgrounds, they were all a little apprehensive about translating Bible stories,

but they did a great job and many discussions about what Christians believe were a natural result.

Please do pray that these conversations will continue and that the young people will seek God.

Another highlight was spending Sunday "church time" in the home of a family of new believers. It was a great community time as one of the team shared a message and we had bilingual praise as well as the traditional Flie dish! The only Christians this couple really know are Dan and Primrose, and they had never met so many Christians in one place before. It made us reflect on how we can take our Christian friendships for granted.

What really encouraged us was how amazing Dan and Primrose's work in Kamenica is, and how many children and young people turned up to the camps and activities. We pray seeds have been sown through this week.



# Meet the Gilkinsons

## New missionaries to Spain

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**ECM Ireland is delighted to welcome David and Samantha Gilkinson to our missionary family. In this article they introduce themselves and tell of their journey so far.**

David, has been involved in full-time youth ministry in Northern Ireland for the last 10 years while Samantha is a midwife who has loved being involved in various aspects of ministry on a volunteer basis. They've been married for 8 years and have a 2 year old daughter called Maria. Recently accepted as candidates for ministry in Spain, they can't wait to serve there together as a family. David tells their story.

*"Sharing testimonies in a Spanish plaza, in the summer evening sun, surrounded by hundreds of people, some listening many ignoring the message, while sipping their coffee or beer; that's how we were first introduced to ministry in Spain.*

*Through these opportunities God gave us a heart for Spain, as we saw the spiritual need and made friends with young Spanish Christians. We got to see their love for Jesus but also their struggles, their feelings of isolation as believers, and the lack of support and encouragement in their faith.*

*We've had many wonderful experiences and insights into the church and mission in Spain, and into friendship and ministry cross culturally, as we served on these mission trips over the past 10 years. During all of that time however, we knew God might be preparing us to go long term.*

*Three months after our daughter was born we were in Spain as a family, I (David) was working for Exodus, and training youth leaders in the area. In a short space of time we felt God prompting us to pray and consider a move to Spain.*

## Introducing new families

Over the following two weeks of prayer, fasting and seeking wise counsel from church leaders, we could see that God was clearly calling us to go.

***As we looked at everything that had happened, over that trip, and all the experiences over the years, we realised it would be disobedient not to say 'yes' to God and go.***

*We have so appreciated the wisdom, encouragement and support that ECM have given us in this preparation stage and we're delighted to have started support raising in the last few months with the hope of moving to Spain in early 2019."*

If you would like to be kept informed about the Gilkinsons preparations to go, and ministry in Spain, or you would like to support them in some way please get in touch via their emails: [dwgilk@gmail.com](mailto:dwgilk@gmail.com) or [sagilkinson@gmail.com](mailto:sagilkinson@gmail.com)

# Meet the Baridos

**New missionary family in N. Ireland**

**Brazil to Portugal  
via Tandragee?  
It's all in the plan!**



**ECM Brazil missionaries Marcus and Andressa Barido on short-term service for a year in 'Table' Tandragee introduce themselves.**

We are Marcus, Andressa, Álvaro and Laura Barido from Rio de Janeiro - Brazil. Our country has been a common missionary destination, but God has called us from Brazil to mission abroad.

I (Marcus) received Jesus as Saviour at 17 and was the first evangelical Christian in a very catholic family.

**The same night God called me to Portugal**, the land of my grandparents, to preach the gospel. I had worked as a P.E. teacher, and a Life and Business Coach, before becoming a missionary.

# Introducing new families

Andressa my wife was raised in an evangelical family and her father was a pastor. She was saved at the age of 7 and is a journalist and events manager.

## How did you come to live in Tandragee?

We were preparing to go to Portugal at the end of 2018 but at the ECM Biennial this year, we were challenged to spend a year in N.Ireland learning from and helping in an ongoing church plant in Tandragee. After praying and talking to our leadership, it became clear that this was God's plan.

## What do you hope to do in Tandragee and how will this experience be useful?

**We want to have first-hand experience of transcultural ministry and to learn from the churches' experience of sending missionaries into Europe. We want to help mobilise people to become involved in reaching Europe for Christ.**

We're already involved, in Bible studies with both English and Portuguese speakers, Sports Ministry, and outreach to young people and we are taking some theology classes at the Irish Baptist College.

I am preparing to start an MA in Theology, and Andressa is studying English which is very strategic for the work throughout Europe.

## What do you plan to do after your time in N. Ireland?

Portugal has 44 cities today with no evangelical witness and of the Portuguese population only 0.4% are Christians, so we plan to move to Portugal to church plant.

## What can we pray for you?

- for the kids to adapt to the cold weather!!
- for Andressa to become fluent in English
- for our family back in Brazil;
- for "Table Church" and the Portuguese speaking community in the Portadown area;
- That God may use all we are to make a difference in Europe for His kingdom.

**Please pray for the Baridos. and why not invite them to your church or youth group? Contact the ECM Ireland office on 028 92666044**

**We would love to come and share with your church about what God is doing across Europe. To check availability please contact us at [ecm.ni@ecmi.org](mailto:ecm.ni@ecmi.org).**



## a POUND & a PRAYER



**Advent is a time of preparation, as we count down the days towards Christmas and celebrate the truth of Emmanuel once again. It can also be a time of focus and thanksgiving, as we reflect on the fact that the journey Jesus began in Bethlehem and concluded at Calvary, all happened for us.**

**We in ECM Ireland are asking you to join us during Advent, as we focus on God's goodness and give thanks for what He has been doing among us this year.**

**With this in mind we are launching our 'A Pound and a Prayer' campaign. Will you set aside a pound (or more!) every day in Advent to sustain the work of a Mission Centre for Refugees co-ordinated by our missionaries Vimal and Louise Vimalasekaran, in SW Germany? We want to assist the centre which will support and help migrants integrate into society and give them an opportunity to hear the gospel.**

### **£1 per day**

Take a jar and place a £1 coin in daily until 25th December 2018.





# THE CHRISTMAS PROJECT

**Day 13 - Ireland:** Pray for Jonathan and Nicola McCracken who are serving in Calvary Church Claremorris. Pray for more workers to serve alongside the McCrackens in Claremorris, and throughout Ireland.

**Day 14 - Slovenia:** Pray for Sebastian and Gloria Forjan who are serving Jesus in Slovenia. They want to see Slovene people find the true hope in the Gospel of Jesus Christ so that they will follow him, as his true disciples, who make disciples.

**Day 15 - Portugal:** Pray for Carlos and Ana Freitas who are currently serving the Lord in Portugal. They are involved in church planting in the university city of Coimbra with special emphasis on student ministry.

**Day 16 - Ireland:** Pray for Charis Tully who is part of the Ferrybank Church Plant in Waterford and is involved in schools and children's ministry.

**Day 17 - Across Europe:** Pray for Charlie Anderson who is taking up more field leadership responsibilities across Europe and as he develops the SEE (South East Europe) Network which aims to provide better care and support to our missionaries and partners in that area.

**Day 18 - Reflect:** Luke 2:12-14 "And there will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger. And suddenly, there was an angel, a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased". Father, thank you for sending us Jesus, the Messiah, the Anointed One, and thank you that this same Jesus is with us today, rescuing, redeeming and restoring His broken world.

**Day 19 - Poland:** Pray for Sasko and Ania Nezamutdinov in Krakow, Poland. Sasko is involved with a team who are church planting and reaching out to young adults disillusioned with the Church, through an English club, art ministry and photography ministry.

**Day 20 - Albania:** Pray for Josh and Ali Reeve who are missionaries with ECM Australia in Albania and are supported by ECM Ireland. They arrived in Albania in early 2018. They are learning the language and developing an understanding of the Albanian culture with a view to getting involved in church planting.

**Day 21 - Northern Ireland:** Pray for Marcus and Andressa Barido who have been sent from ECM Brazil to Northern Ireland for one year. They are working at a church plant in Tandragee called 'Table'. Pray that they would adjust well to the Northern Ireland culture, and that it would be a year of fruitfulness both for them and for God's Kingdom.

**Day 22 - Poland:** Szczepan and Kamila Cackowski. As well as church-planting, Szczepan runs a basketball project called Jordanó+ that aims at developing relationships with kids aged 5 to 10 and their parents in Poland.

**Day 23 - Spain:** Pray for Charlie and Tania Deering. Their main role is to maintain and run the ECM Centre in Spain. The centre is used for the training and equipping of ECM missionaries, as a guest house, as well as being used by other missions and local churches.

**Day 24 - ECM Ireland Volunteers and Supporters.** Give thanks for all the volunteers who help with ECM Ireland in a variety of ways. We are thankful for their time and expertise. Give thanks for the many people who support the work of ECM Ireland and give faithfully to build God's Kingdom across Europe.

**Day 25 - Reflect:** Isaiah 9:6 "For onto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Thank you Jesus, that through the power of the Holy Spirit, you give to your chosen ones, counsel, direction and peace. We praise the wonderful and mighty name of Jesus. Amen.



# Less Churches, but more Jesus in Maribor!

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## **Bostjan Cifer explains what being ‘full of Jesus’ has meant in Maribor, Slovenia**

### **We want to see ‘Europe full of churches’**

In Maribor 2 local churches (ours and a Brethren Fellowship) were using the same building at different times each week for many years. Over a few summers, as folk went on holiday and numbers were small we began to join with each other and of course friendship and fellowship grew among our members.

### **There are many ways to see Europe ‘full of churches, full of people...’**

The idea of joining together permanently, came up almost 4 years ago and after much thought, careful prayers and discussions we amalgamated,

and in mid-July 2018 moved to a bigger space that another evangelical church in Maribor is renting. We are very grateful that this group opened their hearts and doors to us and were willing to share their space.

Our joint worship services now take place on Sunday mornings instead of the afternoons and there are currently, around 50 people gathered and it's so encouraging to see a new face almost every Sunday since we moved to this new space.

### **But we want to be ‘full of people, full of Jesus.’**

We are slowly developing our common identity, building unity and hope to start officially functioning as a new body at the beginning of the next year (January 2019).

## Less Churches, but more ...

There are many steps ahead of us in the development of elders, presentation of values and a vision of the church, as well as other areas of organisation.

Being 'full of Jesus' means it will also be necessary to develop new ministries through which our believers will be able to get involved, meeting their own spiritual needs and those of others.

We are aware that a church is a living organism and that we are here to make everyone fully mature in Christ (Colossians 1:28).

Praise God that the new elders get on very well and cooperate together because we all have the same goal: to place Christ and his word at the centre of our life and work.



This is reflected in our first value:

**»We are aware that God has to be at the centre of everything we do as a church, as well as in the life of every member. We will therefore strive to seek God's will in every situation through God's word and prayer. We act like this to honour our Lord, who is in everything worthy of all glory, praise and honour.«** '

As God's word states:  
'How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!' (Ps. 133:1)

Please pray for this new venture and as the church grows and reaches out.



**We post other stories online.**  
**Join us on [facebook.com/ecmireland](https://www.facebook.com/ecmireland)**



## Students dreaming big in Barcelona

by Aislinn Duffy

**As we hold Mission Week (5th -7th of November) in the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) we want to see Barcelona full of Jesus!**

GBU's vision (Grupos Biblicos Universitarios) is for every student in Spain to have the opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel of Jesus. Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus in the student world. How? Through personal evangelism, one on one reading of His Word and through larger events like 'Mission Week.'

Every year evangelists from across Europe come together for a conference called FEURE (the

Fellowship of Evangelists in the Universities in Europe). **These are people committed to seeing the Good News of Jesus proclaimed publicly in universities in Europe.**

In November, the conference will be held near Barcelona and we were offered the chance for some of the evangelists to help out at 'Mission Week.' Our students jumped at the opportunity to work with those from the Fellowship of Evangelists in the Universities in Europe proclaiming the gospel on campus.

## Students dreaming big ...

In the UAB there are around 37,000 students and the GBU student group has roughly ten students attending regularly. This is the reality of the setting in which we are seeking to reach Spanish students with the gospel message.

The theme for the week is **Rethink** and we want to encourage the students to rethink the big questions in life. We will be holding three talks a day with speakers like John Lennox, Vaughan Roberts and Andy Wickham talking on a variety of topics like:

**Rethink science Stephen Hawking:** "God is unnecessary". Have you ever thought about it?

**Rethink suffering:** A God that doesn't love us?

**Rethink hope:** Is the Christian faith a crutch for the weak?

As well as the main afternoon meetings, we are planning more cultural type events to accompany the evening talks including a concert, open-mic night with 'tapas' and a ceilidh (an Irish dance in partners or groups) too.

# UAB

Universitat Autònoma  
de Barcelona

**This Mission Week is unlike anything we have planned in Barcelona before. The students are stepping out in faith and hiring a tent for the main university square in which we will hold all the talks and events. They are dreaming big as we seek to preach the gospel and demonstrate the love of Jesus in a practical and attractive way; biblically presenting, persuasively addressing and creatively communicating the truth about Jesus.**

### What do we want to see?

- A tent filled with people, those seeking Jesus and those who are curious to know what this is all about.
- Students impacted by the gospel to sign up to read the Bible with a GBU member after the Mission Week.
- We want to see the universities of Barcelona full of Jesus. Please pray for us as we seek to proclaim Jesus that He would be lifted high as He transforms the lives of students across Barcelona and Spain.





# The God who comes down

by **Stuart Rowell**

**The efforts of a few for the blessing of many. Exciting new initiative for helping slovene believers grow.**

Like many significant projects, the idea of filming 'The God who comes down - the Big Story of the Bible' was conceived in obscurity but finally birthed in grandeur. Last year at a church BBQ after a joint service of five churches held in Maribor, where Desi Maxwell ([www.xplorations.org](http://www.xplorations.org)) preached, a few of us began discussing what would become a major project over the next year.

Initially the idea was a translation of (Desi's book) 'Where on Earth is God now?' into Slovene. Fifteen months later however, it became twelve 30 minutes sessions of biblical theology taught by Desi (in his own unique style.)

Each lesson is illustrated by a flow of power point graphics to help tell the redemption story from Genesis to Revelation.

A 16th century castle in Murska Sobota with an impressive courtyard and beautifully ornate baroque salon, that now houses the local museum, was the venue chosen by the team in Slovenia. 'Murska' as it is locally known, is in the north east of Slovenia, in the 'chicken's head' (see a map of the country!) It is also where Bostjan Cifer, and Alen and Lila Kerckmar grew up, so they knew the castle from childhood.

Obtaining permission to rent space in such grand premises (normally reserved for cultural events) was quite a coup but over the first week of September the filming (done by a very talented Christian couple who are friends of the Kerckmars) went flawlessly.

## The God who comes down

Juggled between the setting up of cameras, lighting, sound and editing equipment one weekend, with the pressure of finishing before a stage company came in to set up the courtyard for a big concert the next, everything was finished by Thursday lunchtime including shooting a "trailer".

Our vision is that this video series "The God Who Comes Down", filmed in a castle in Slovenia with an invited audience, will bring biblical theology into living rooms, classrooms and church halls.

Our hope is that it will equip a new generation of leaders in Central Europe and other countries to understand more of God's big story.

The first edition of videos in Slovene should be ready to launch at an event for church leaders next autumn and then copies with English sub-titles will be available to be given out in other countries for translation into those languages as well.



The hard, unseen work of editing the video and typing up the transcript of Desi's teaching, will be done over the next few months.

Much of the credit for this major project is however down to the passion of Mel and Patty Davis, American missionaries with World Venture, who live in Murska Sobota. Their dedication has driven the concept forward to its birth. It is also significant that behind the teacher, the organisers and the film crew, there has been an army of equally dedicated people from many countries who have applied themselves to the task of prayer.

We are all looking to the future, trusting that God will multiply the efforts of a few, for the blessing of the many.

Perhaps this exciting venture could be just the first of many film projects, shot on location in Central Europe and elsewhere.



On Friday 13th July 2018 a large group of people from many different countries and backgrounds joined together in the beautiful setting of St. Martin's Lutheran Church Krakow to witness the marriage of Sasko Nezamutdinov to Ania Pyzia.



**Congratulations  
Sasko and Ania.  
Every blessing for  
your married life  
ahead!!**



# Praying in Portugal

by **Lindsay Moorhead**

**ECM Portugal Retiro - 22-25 Aug 2018**

**“Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.”**

***2 Timothy 1:13-14***

The ECM Portugal Team meet four times each year for prayer and fellowship, and my family and I had the privilege of joining them in August.

The focus of the Bible Teaching over the course of the Retreat was based on 2 Timothy – Paul’s ‘farewell’ letter to his friend. Second Timothy is a bold, clear call for perseverance in the Gospel in spite of suffering. Paul calls on Timothy to continue the fight of faith, to be bold, to persevere and to hold tight to Scripture. As always these letters are words not only for them, but for us as readers today.

As well as Bible Teaching there were a couple of seminars (led by myself and my husband) and dedicated

times of prayer for each ministry the missionaries represented. It was a privilege to hear first-hand of the passion and calling that God has placed in their hearts.

I particularly valued the fellowship that we had over meal times. It was a joy to get to know the missionaries better and the hospitality of the Retreat Centre was fantastic. We were served an array of Portuguese delicacies such as the Francesinha (a Portuguese sandwich filled with wet-cured ham, linguiça, sausage, roasted meat and covered with melted cheese and a hot thick tomato and beer sauce) and their famous Pastéis de nata (custard tarts).

It was especially good to spend time with some missionaries and partners of the ECM Ireland family, namely Peter and Anna Crawford, Carlos and Ana Freitas and, of course, Marcus and Andressa Barido from ECM Brazil, who stopped in Portugal on the way to Northern Ireland.

# Stay connected with us

We love connecting with you, and one way we do this is through the ECM Life magazine. Do you know you can now receive 'ECM Life' via email rather than post? More and more people are signing up to receive ECM Life digitally rather than as a hard copy, which is more convenient for you, and is better for the environment. If you would like to start receiving ECM Life digitally, then please send us your email address to [ecm.ni@ecmi.org](mailto:ecm.ni@ecmi.org), or complete this form and post it to ECM Ireland using the address below.

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## We see a different Europe



## full of churches



## full of people



## full of Jesus

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

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