



Eurolink

No. 101 April 2020

Office

We are thankful, in the midst of COVID-19, that our missionaries and national workers are continuing to be salt and light to their friends and communities - virtually. Praise God for the provision of technology and the various means in which we can communicate to those around us. Some of our workers have been self-isolating for a few weeks now. Please pray that God would help them and protect them.

Please pray for those who are working on the virtual Biennial, particularly for Dirk-Bart and Tobias as they oversee the technical aspects of that. Pray that it will be a blessing to our workers.

As you pray for the work of ECM, we are also praying God would strengthen and uplift you in this time of crisis.

Peter and Anna Crawford, Lisbon

This is our second week of lockdown (which will most likely be extended) and we are grateful to the Lord for his grace and mercy. We are keeping well and trying to keep regularly connected with our family in London and Richmond. Our move to Athens, Greece has been delayed until June for obvious reasons. We were due to leave in early May and had temporary accommodation lined up in Athens. We will assess the situation in May and meanwhile we are thankful that our landlord has said that we could stay on in our flat for as long as is necessary.

Our Portuguese field votes for a new field director in mid-April. Please pray for God to guide for the right person to replace Peter. We have also identified two people who will take on the member care responsibilities.

Pray for "Sarah" our Iranian friend as we begin Bible Studies with her in English to help her understand the Bible. She is in the kingdom of God but lacks understanding. This is an enormous and unexpected privilege that we have to guide her. She has received a Bible in Farsi and Peter can guide her a bit with his little knowledge of the Farsi language.

Pray for Farhat and Azhar. Last Sunday we led a devotional with them (via WhatsApp) in Urdu and it was good to encourage them. Farhat, at present, is the only breadwinner and works in a care home, so there is obvious anxiety and concern (Azhar's Uber driving has come to a standstill).

Pray for Rebeca, who is on the frontline, as a doctor. Last week she called me (Anna) and asked if I could be her counsellor and prayer partner during this stressful period for her.

Pray for Sagar and Shraddha, our Nepali friends, who have both lost their jobs, that God would provide out of the resources of heaven for their needs. The majority of the Nepali community are part of the gig economy here. We are part of a 24 hour prayer chain the Nepali church has organised for three days in a week. What a privilege it is to be part of this great movement of prayer warriors. Meanwhile we continue with our online services and Bible Study group at Alta Crista

Collin & Ally Holmes – Ferrybank

We give thanks for God's help in adjusting to the new arrangements in place to limit the spread of Coronavirus, particularly as we all find our feet living, working and schooling under the same roof!

- We are thankful for a good first church meeting on Zoom and for God's protection of our church family and for how people are trusting God in this.

- Give thanks for many churches becoming more comfortable in streaming and sharing their content on social media and online over this time and for those tuning in who don't yet know Jesus.

- Please pray for continuation of church ministry over computers and mobiles on Zoom and What's app. Pray we would be able to really connect with one another and that God would be forming faith and cultivating community over this time.

- Pray we would not only care for one another in church, but we might be attentive and available to love our neighbours and those we see around us in need. May we not only love in word or speech but with actions and in truth- 1 John 3.18

- Pray for Colin as he continues to work in the pharmacy on Mondays- that he might bring peace and minister to others with grace and love in a busy and challenging time for pharmacies.

Jonathan and Nicola McCracken, Claremorris

Praise

- Give thanks for the Women's Conference in Castlebar last month. It was great to meet together and have a time of worship and sharing and learning together.
- Give thanks for the use of technology and being able to connect up with other church family in these uncertain times.
- Pray for the mini conference that ECM are able to have online from 1st April to 3rd April. Pray for the technology to work and even though we do not meet face to face pray that the teaching and ministry will be helpful and encouraging. We are grateful to those who put this together.
- We are thankful that Sarah has been able to study at home these days and we are thankful for the teachers who have been able to send material online.

Prayer

- We would ask you to remember some of our special Easter events with the church and wisdom at this time. Like many we have had to adjust with church meetings. Pray that we will be able to connect with each other and pray especially for those who aren't used to meeting up in this way.
- Nicola has been able to share some WhatsApp messages with her hairdresser online who has been asking for God to bless her and her friends. Pray that they would find the truth of God's love and protection in the message of Jesus.
- We value prayer for Sarah's studies at this time and wise decisions that are taken towards the real exams in June. Pray also for accommodation choices that have to be made for the different colleges for September.

Aislinn Duffy Spain

As many of you are aware Spain has been really badly affected by the coronavirus and the numbers of those infected and deaths is increasing daily. Part of the problem is that there is not enough material and protective gear for those caring for the infected. Please pray specifically for this, that the necessary material would be available for doctors and nurses and that God would change the tide of the virus here in Spain.

Please pray for my flatmate Mireia who is a nurse in the intensive care unit. She is on the front line of battle and would really value prayer for her at this time. Please pray for Lidia (my other flatmate) and I as we try to support her the best that we can during this.

Praise God for how the students are quickly adapting to this whole situation and are looking for creative ways to reach out to their friends and classmates who don't know Christ. Please pray for these efforts and that people's hearts will be receptive to the hope that we have to share.

Prayer for wisdom, creativity and also emotional strength would be very much appreciated for me and the other GBU staff workers as we focus on looking after the students, now at a distance, and as we encourage them to continue to share the gospel message with those around them. The mission of sharing the gospel with students hasn't changed, simply the context in which we now do it!

Alen & Lila Slovenia

We hope this letter finds you well and knowing Lord's peace in these uncertain and troubling times, when the world seems to have stopped due to the coronavirus disease

Life in Slovenia is unrecognizable and has not been like this ever since 1991 when the country was fighting a war for independence.

Churches are closed until further notice with all the planned outreach events postponed until further notice. We were very disappointed to also have to postpone the family trip to Vienna and Bratislava with 43 people signed up (mostly the youth group and their parents + some families with younger children). We hope to still be able to go, perhaps in September. This will be another great opportunity to build relationships and encourage the families to walk in faith and be involved more in the church life. During this time we have streamed the church service via Facebook, post sermons for people to read and try to keep up with people over the phone.

The Christian community in Slovenia is forming different initiatives for prayer and encouragement.

Most of the children's summer outreach activities and camps that have been in preparation for the summer of 2020 will probably not happen) or will be very different) as some of the teams were already cancelled for this year.

The situation has brought a lot of fear and anxiety for many people which only increases with the uncertainty of times and will leave an effect even after the danger will be over. Pray with us that we will be wise in walking alongside people and encouraging them to look for hope and strength from the Lord who is our Rock.