



# Eurolink

NOVEMBER 2020

## Ireland Office - Lindsay Moorhead

Please pray and give thanks to God for our staff team.

**Give thanks for May Green**, who stepped in to cover Emily's maternity leave period. We will miss May's energy and enthusiasm in the office, but we give thanks for her time with us. We are delighted that May will continue to volunteer with us in the future.

**Give thanks for Emily Jones** who is back to work after her maternity leave period. Please pray for Emily and her family as she starts working with us again. Pray that it will be a smooth and enjoyable transition for her.

**Give thanks for Lourdes Williamson** who has been working tirelessly to get the new computer and accounting system up and running over the past few months. Praise God for the new system which is helping us to work much more efficiently than before.

**Give thanks for Stuart Rowell**. Stuart would normally be providing pastoral care and support to our members, face to face, across Europe. As travel is restricted, please pray for him as he connects and provides this care virtually.

## Charlie and Miriam Anderson ECM International

Hi Folks,

Thank you for remaining faithful in prayer and we continue to need your prayers for stamina (physical, emotional and spiritual).

- Folk are asking what we are able to do at the minute and one of the tools we will be using in the next few weeks is the Personal Development Conversation which is part of ECM's care and encouragement for our missionaries. These conversations are usually a mixture of Pastoral Care, ministry guidance, accountability and can also mean conversations about vision for the future and training. It is an opportunity to look back and assess the past year and then look forward to what might be achieved.
- On Nov 24<sup>th</sup> we will be holding an online Field Ministries Team Meeting. This is a gathering of about 25 leaders from across all the ECM ministries in Europe. At one level it is our annual business meeting and also an opportunity for consultation about current issues that affect all our ministries. It is also a chance just to be together and encourage one another. Pray for wisdom and unity as we seek to help one another in these unprecedented times.
- Miriam is also doing the Foundations Course (better late than never) which is something all our workers are required to do. Please pray that it is helpful to all the participants and also an opportunity to meet and encourage some of our newer workers who will be her online classmates. Pray for Sharon and David who are running this online for the first time, for technology to work, for understanding for the participants who will study in a second language and for all of us to feel part of the group.

- Praise God there is still much to be thankful for – there is a good spirit of prayer and praise at the weekly online ECM Prayer Meeting, many of our workers are encouraged to see God move. We have heard of quite a few prospective new workers interested in different fields and new arrivals to fields despite Covid and the missionaries we are in contact with are often being the hands and feet of Christ in their neighbourhoods helping with food parcels, getting groceries for folk and even discovering that God is opening up conversations, where people are hungry to hear of Him in the most unexpected places.

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

On 21st October, the government decided on another six-week lockdown for the Republic of Ireland. This means that David's work at the Leisure centre has ended during this time, as only essential retail outlets are allowed to open. Whilst schools are open, third level colleges are teaching online and so this has been a strange start for Sarah at home, instead of normal student life in Limerick. Our church here in Claremorris has also been getting used to being on Zoom again for our meetings. This has been a hard time of adjustment, having enjoyed about 3 months of relative normality since the last lockdown. Appeals have been made by various churches to allow religious services to continue during the pandemic and we hope that, soon, we will be allowed to meet again. Pray that we would all be able to keep well connected until the restrictions lift again.

## **Aislinn Duffy – Spain**

Here in Barcelona the cold has arrived and autumn is 100% upon us. Restrictions have been increasing and there is now a nationwide curfew, and here in Catalonia bars and restaurants are closed and university classes continue to be online. This affects the work with students as all the weekly groups are online, which works okay but it is not ideal. We have to be careful not to saturate the students as they already have many hours of being online with class and group work, and so this presents challenges for GBU and for the one-on-one discipleships with the students.

Please pray for the students in this time, that they would take time to disconnect, go for a walk, read, do something different as not to be saturated with so much “screen time”. Please pray for concentration as they attend classes online as it is a lot harder to pay attention and learn this way.

The month of October has been a challenge; it is always a busy month but this year I have noticed it more with the changing restrictions and the students’ timetables being different each week. I would appreciate prayer for energy, discernment and being able to do it all in His strength and not in mine.

The GBU group in Zaragoza is starting up again and this term it looks like there are only three students involved, Sarai, Sara and Melody. However, even though they are few, they are very keen to share their faith and are investing intentionally into the lives of their friends. Please pray for this group, for fruit to be seen and also that God would bring more students to this group to be salt and light in Zaragoza. Both Sarai and Sara will be stepping down from leadership this year, so prayer for new leaders would be very appreciated.

## **Peter and Anna Crawford - Greece**

We continue with Greek language study. Anna’s level 1 course finishes in December. Peter has just completed an intensive level 2 course and starts level 3 on Monday. Please pray for stamina and memory and understanding of the language.

We are trying to organize a cross-cultural marriage enrichment weekend retreat for 3 - 4 couples in mid-November. Please pray for the right location, the budget etc and for the programme.

Anna has been volunteering at an organization called Threads of Hope (providing skills for women who have come out of trafficking situations). She gives the devotionals every Friday and enjoys the discussions that follow her talks.

We are thankful for the greater degree of freedom we have at present to attend Greek classes, to do ministry. Please pray for safety as we use public transport (suitably masked) regularly especially during the week. We do try to be careful.

Please pray for a family visiting from England right now as they seek God's will for a possible future ministry here in Athens.

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

### **Health**

On 14 October Colin saw his neurosurgeon in Dublin for follow up on his intracranial bleed. He was happy with recovery and said recent scans were reassuringly normal. Just to be definite there is no weakness or abnormality present they hope to do another MRI and angio in Beaumont hospital, hopefully in mid to late November. Please pray this would go ahead and also for increased stamina and strength over the coming weeks. We are very thankful for how much progress has been made.

Our youngest son, Conor, has a follow up at the end of Nov after his cranial reconstruction 3 years ago. Pray for a good assessment.

### **Connecting and church**

Ireland is under the highest level of restrictions until the end of November. Schools will hopefully remain open. This has meant churches have moved online again after many returning to meet in person. Pray for those overseeing and arranging church meetings for Ferrybank. Colin and Ally have both been encouraged to connect again with church on Sundays. Many evangelical leaders have signed an open letter to the government expressing concerns over churches being advised to move online in phases 3-5 of restrictions and discouraged from meeting in person. Pray for a favourable hearing and also for continued wisdom for our leaders in this country and across Europe.

o We are thankful for being able to connect with other gospel workers for Irish Outreach Conference and to consider how to advance the Gospel in times of Covid. Colin was also able to join others on Zoom for ECM Leaders Space to be encouraged and equipped. Pray for this new venture to provide encouragement and training for many leaders in ECM.

### **Gospel advance**

Pray for Colin's blog on "Finding hope in Halloween" written mainly to connect with those who do not have faith in Jesus. As it is shared pray that some would be persuaded to consider their mortality and Jesus who is our sure hope in life and death.

<https://waitingforbrandnewday.blogspot.com/2020/10/finding-hope-in-halloween-2020.html>

Give thanks for strengthened relationships with parents, especially for Ally, some old and some new. Pray for grace and wisdom to show and share Jesus as we continue to walk alongside others. We are particularly thankful for a new park just opened in Ferrybank and the opportunity to connect with others socially.

## **Josh & Ali Reeve - Albania**

- We give thanks that Josh's mum's surgery went well on October 12. The surgeons removed the whole tumour (praise God) and fashioned a new upper jaw for her using bone from her leg. She is now in rehab and expecting to come home tomorrow (Oct 28). She will have more surgery next year to refine the new arrangements. Praise God for skilled surgeons and for his perfect timing for the operation during a period when Covid cases are extremely low in Victoria.
- Northern Ireland has entered stricter lockdown after a significant rise in Covid cases. Please pray for our family, friends and supporters as they adjust to further isolation. We are hearing of more and more family members and friends who have caught the virus. Please pray for protection and healing.
- Our church in Albania is still looking for suitable premises to meet in. A property we had been investigating is priced too high and we have ruled it out for the time being.
- Praise God that Josh's Old Testament lectures at SMBC have been going well. In the next few weeks Students will sit exams. Please pray for discipline to study and clarity of thought during the exam period.
- We are still considering our options regarding a return to Albania as soon as possible. If it becomes easier to travel in the next few weeks, we will try and head to New South Wales for a few weeks of "normal" home assignment before we head back to Albania (maybe Dec or Jan). Please pray for God's perfect timing.