

**No. 102 - May 2020**

## **Office - Lindsay Moorhead**

We give thanks:

- For your continued support and prayers for ECM.
- That we can continue to connect with and support our missions family remotely.
- For our newest members, Luciana and George, who are working with young people and with the Roma Community in Athens, Greece.
- That we now have an opportunity to be part of each other's church services remotely.
- For the learning and the fellowship we received at our virtual Biennial.

## **Charis Tully**

As you know I had been discussing and praying about my future plans with my sending church, ECM, with other church leaders and friends.

After all these discussions and taking advice from different people and asking God to make things clear to me I have decided that it is time to take a step back from ministry and mission work, for now, and also to step down from European Christian Mission (ECM). I have not come to this decision easily or lightly and because I feel God has called me into ministry /mission and because I still see the great need all around us I do not think I will be stepping back for good but just for now.

Thanks so, so much for your all your love, care, prayers and support over my years with ECM here in Waterford. I could have done it without God's help and your support and prayers, thanks.

### **Prayer and Praise:**

# Praise God for sustaining me over my years here in Waterford and for all He has taught me and helped me to do while I have been here

# My landlord offered me more time here in my house ( up until the end July) which was a relief as I can't move at the moment with all that is happening

# My mum has been cocooning for the last few weeks as she has very bad asthma ( among other things) she has a good network of people bringing her groceries etc which is great but it is hard staying away from her

# Prayer for God to continue to supply all my needs - especially as my time in Waterford is being prolonged

I recently sent out my last newsletter from Waterford with more information re future plans etc if you would like a copy please email me at [charis.tully@ecmi.org](mailto:charis.tully@ecmi.org)

## **George & Luciana Christoforides Athens, Greece**

We praise the Lord for Greek officials enforcing preventive measures regarding Covid-19. Please pray for the vulnerable groups that we minister to: the Roma people and the refugees. They lack basic conditions such as safe housing, sanitation and nutrition. It has been particularly difficult for us as we are in lockdown and we are not allowed to commute and check on them. We ask for God's protection on those vulnerable groups.

## **Peter and Anna Crawford, Lisbon**

We are thankful that we continue to keep well and that our family, in the London area, are well too.

We have a new field leader for Portugal, Alex, and Peter is working with him through this transition period which is good.

Anna continues with member care because the person who was due to take over some of the responsibility has not been able to return from the UK as planned.

Alta Crista - Peter is leading the Bible studies on Wednesdays for the church plant for the next few weeks.

'Sarah' - we continue to have Bible Studies with her on a regular basis and see her growing. Pray that the word may take root deep down in her life.

Farhat - ( our Pakistani friends) is experiencing some tough days as some of the clients in the care home where she works and some of the care workers have become infected. Farhat is the only breadwinner in her family.

A big blessing is that we are able to engage a bit more with our home church, 1st Coleraine, 'attending' the Sunday service and participating in the weekly Prayer and Bible study time.

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

We **praise** God for continued togetherness as a church in difficult times and for new opportunities which have opened up with people during these days. We have had a couple more people join us on zoom as we meet up each week for church on Sunday and for prayer during the week. Pray for those with significant concerns about their families.

**Pray** for continued efforts of government and front-line staff as they lead and help us all through this crisis.

The government will come together again on 5th May to determine a way forward and to look at the restrictions that are in place.

The Leaving Cert Exams have been pushed back to the end of July/start of August. Pray for the students to keep focused and to keep going through the summer. Sarah is doing fine but would have preferred these exams to have been sooner!

Pray, like many that we would trust God in the days ahead. We have been able to meet neighbours more regularly when out for walks etc. Pray for these times that we may be able to encourage each other. Pray for those who live alone or are cocooned at this anxious time.

## **Charlie and Miriam (ECM International)**

### **Charlie**

What a difference a couple of months makes! When we last contributed to Eurolink, I was planning to go to Ukraine, Poland and the Biennial Conference and as you read this, my plan was to be in Bosnia with a team from Ballydown Pres. Church. Obviously, none of that happened but please keep praying for all of these situations:

**Ukraine** – The ministry in Ukraine which reaches thousands of children and young people depends a lot on funding from the USA. Please **pray that donors will be able to give and continue giving for the support of correspondence courses, school visits, fostering ministries among others.**

**Bosnia** – We had hoped to do literature distribution alongside a couple who work for 'Every Home for Christ.' Bosnia is also in shutdown so this ministry has currently stopped. **Pray for the word of God that has been distributed, and the online opportunities to interact with people searching for answers.**

**Poland-** We **give thanks that online services have been well attended but pray especially for a young German/French family who are still reasonably new to their ministry which makes life a bit more stressful than normal.**

### **Miriam**

As you know from previous Eurolinks we were working towards the completion of the Biennial when everything changed and suddenly, we had about 3 weeks to get organised for a virtual version.

From the beginning our prayer team wanted the Biennial to be a refuge and a feast for our workers to spend time replenishing spiritual strength to be able to go back into the 'battlefield' of ministry fortified with renewed vigour. **Praise God that in a different way He has used the studies, seminars, worship and prayer times to encourage and bless in a time where isolation has made many feel lonely, concerned and disheartened. Please continue to pray for mental health, family unity, and ways to connect with the lonely as time goes on.**

Easter was a blessing to us which brought the hope and joy of the resurrected Christ to our minds and we **thank God for the beautiful weather and time to rest.**

Please **pray as we get back into different modes of working that God will guide us as to how to do our work well at a distance and also that we may be able to bring useful, beneficial Member Care to those with whom we have contact.**

God bless, keep, and encourage you in these strange days and thank you for partnering with us in prayer.

### **Charlie and Tania Deering Madrid.**

- Thank God for the time we can dedicate to extra reading and study. May it be good equipping and preparation for what lies ahead.
- We are thankful that Naomi submitted her PHD thesis so that eases the pressure a bit. Now she waits for a date to "defend it", probably virtually given the circumstances we live in.
- We are thankful for the many videos we get of our grandson, wee Luke. Lovely to see him growing strong and healthy. Mark and Nicole also doing well.
- Praise the Lord for new opportunities of the ECM team in getting to know neighbours better as a direct result of confinement to homes. Pray for open hearts and minds.
- Pray for our families back in N.I. That they make wise decisions regarding the best care for ageing parents.
- Our church has been able to have Sunday services together online but keeping personal contact with youth and teenagers has been more of a challenge. Pray for Jonathan and Julia as they coordinate this.

## **Sebastian and Gloria Forjan**

Church is doing well in lockdown. Every Sunday we connect through Zoom video app so we can pray, study First Peter and have opportunity to share about our lives. It is good to hear that some people are growing in the Lord. God is good.

Join us in prayer for Andy who is struggling with old habits of sins that he will be empowered by the Holy Spirit to reject them and draw nearer to Christ.

Also pray for Pat our first disciple as she is still struggling with some sort of depression. She had some good days but also many bad. Let's pray for her that God will touch her heart to know the beauty of Christ and her love for her, to be healed of this depression and lived out her new identity in Christ.

Pray for our summer outreach activities since we will have to re-adjust to the corona situation. For wisdom, guidance and people of volunteers.

Thank you so much for standing with us.

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

Thank you for your prayers for us as we finalised our moving plans to Salou. House hunting was tricky but God led us to rent a home from a couple from the church in Salou.

Despite lockdown continuing here in Spain we are moving next Thursday (30th April) (with police permission). We are very sad to be leaving Castellón in this way, not able to enjoy our last days here or to say any goodbyes. We are also sad to leave our great Spanish tutor behind.

The impending move coupled with lockdown has been really hard for our daughter Maria & we would appreciate prayer. Particularly that she would settle well in these next months. We would also appreciate prayer for the logistics next week as we finish packing & make the move 2 hours north, now without any help.

We also want to give thanks for this last season of preparation & ask for prayer as we start this new season of life & ministry. Pray too for the church as they adapt their children's & youth programs & in particular their summer ministry plans.