

# ECM NEWS

..... SPRING 2025 .....

**CONNECTING ACROSS EUROPE P4**  
**FOCUS ON EUROPE P8**  
**CHURCH PLANT**  
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 **ecm**  
European Christian Mission

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN MISSION

Europe needs Jesus, now more than ever. A hundred years ago 70% of the world's Christians lived in Europe but it now has the **smallest number of committed Christ followers in the world.**

European Christian Mission's vision is to see the peoples of **Europe transformed in the name of Jesus Christ.** Our workers partner with local believers to **Equip, Connect and Multiply** followers of Jesus through disciple making and church planting across Europe.

Can you partner with us?  
Can you Go, Pray or Give?  
Visit [ecmnewzealand.org](http://ecmnewzealand.org).

**New Zealand**

[info@ecmnewzealand.org](mailto:info@ecmnewzealand.org)  
[www.ecmnewzealand.org](http://www.ecmnewzealand.org)  
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For information and feedback, email [info@ecmnewzealand.org](mailto:info@ecmnewzealand.org)

THE ECM BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Johanna, New Trustee**

**Can you please tell us about your missionary background?**

I was a missionary kid in Pakistan from age 9 to 19. My husband and I have made it a priority to support missions through prayer, giving, and other ways.

**How did your interest in ECM and becoming a trustee develop?**

I had some health problems last year that meant I needed to leave my job, and when seeking God's direction for the future I became interested in Serbia. This led me to contacting ECM NZ, who at the time were looking for a new trustee. I can see the hand of God in guiding me to ECM, and giving me new work to do as a trustee, which is unpaid but valuable in the kingdom of God.

**What are your interests and hobbies?**

In the last couple of years I have been doing prayer ministry training with Elijah House, which I hope to complete this year. A few years ago I started writing songs, and I enjoy being out in nature and playing board games with my family.

**Interested in playing your part in the mission to Europe?**  
Head to [ecmnewzealand.org/contact-us](http://ecmnewzealand.org/contact-us)

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

**What is the plan?**

If you are passionate about seeing Europe transformed in the name of Jesus Christ, I encourage you to sign up for our monthly emails and become a *Partner in Prayer*. These will provide you with more tangible news from the field and allow you to support our work through prayer. You will find more information about becoming a *Partner in Prayer* later in this issue.

We will continue to produce our monthly email newsletters, which will now include more stories and updates from a wider range of field workers serving across Europe with ECM. If you do not receive our monthly emails, and would like to do so, then please email us at [info@ecmnewzealand.org](mailto:info@ecmnewzealand.org).

For our church partners, we are creating some standalone brochures that will provide information about us: our history, where we serve, and how people can get involved. We will send these brochures to our partner churches over the coming months.

I want to thank all who have contributed to ECM News over the years. I encourage you to continue joining us in prayer as we work to see lives transformed in Europe in Jesus' name.

ECM New Zealand grew out of ECM Australia, and the two offices continued to work closely together, including on the *ECM News* magazine. Over the past year, the Australian office has been through some significant changes, including a new Director. Recently the Australian office decided to cease publishing the *ECM News* magazine and, as our NZ office is too small to continue this publication on our own, this will be NZ's final issue as well.

**Why is the Australian office stopping the magazine?**

Several factors led to this decision, with the major factor being finance. The costs—both financial and in terms of the time required to produce the magazine—have become exorbitant, and these resources would be better used to support ongoing work on the ground in Europe. Additionally, together we have identified more cost-effective ways to reach people interested in ECM.

Engagement is another concern. While we have received some engagement and feedback from our readers, which we have appreciated, we have not received enough to justify continuing with the magazine. With the closing of the *ECM News* magazine, we have developed a new strategy as we move forward.



**Féy Cotter  
NZ National Director**

# CONNECTING ACROSS EUROPE

We asked some of our workers to share how they are connecting with those around them.

## Chloe Wolfson Roquetas de Mar, Spain



Many Romanians live in Roquetas de Mar, Almería Spain. The majority migrated for work and as they established their lives and families in the town, they have also established Romanian churches. All those churches are Romanian speaking, and while one or two have facilities for translation into Spanish, none have specific Spanish-speaking ministries.

Our town is also home to a large number of migrants from North and West Africa. Many come from Muslim countries and have had limited contact with Christianity or opportunities to hear the gospel. As a team, we are excited to take advantage of God bringing these families to Spain where we have the freedom to share about Jesus.

A couple of years ago, we wanted to start a kids club for the many

**'Working together, we accomplished something we could not have done alone.'**

children we had met while running summer activities. It also served as a fun opportunity to invite local churches to reach out to those in their neighbourhood. One of the Romanian churches, alongside a particularly marginalised neighbour, accepted the invitation and formed a team from their church. Some of the Romanian young people, born in Spain, had never prayed in Spanish in public. Over the next two years, we had the opportunity to come alongside Romanian Christians and use their church space to run a weekly Kids club for kids from countries including Senegal, Morocco and Guinea Bissau. From Genesis to Jesus we were able to share the story of God's unfolding plan for salvation. Working together, we were able to do something we had not been able to do on our own.

## James & Carolynn Webb Zalla, Spain



Here in Spain we are part of the *Soy el Camino* network, a group of Christians doing different ministries along the Camino de Santiago. Some have Christian hostels like ours, others have food trucks with coffee and conversation, others offer free resting spots for pilgrims. Some people walk the Camino with the intention of sharing the gospel with others. *Soy el Camino* means "I am the way", from the words of Jesus in John 14:6, and we are all aiming to point pilgrims to Jesus the true and living Way.

Last year we saw firsthand how this network has borne fruit through a French pilgrim called Sebastian. As he walked into our guesthouse in Zalla, he looked every bit the bohemian traveller with dreadlocks, bandanna, face tattoos and accompanying dog. It was easy to assume he was an alternative seeker, perhaps New Age.

As we started talking it turned out that he was in fact a Christian who had come to follow Jesus while walking the French Camino with his brother the year before. At the time, he was involved in New Age spirituality and ended up staying at

*Fuente de Peregrino*, a Christian hostel in Galicia which is part of the *Soy el Camino* network. It was there that he had a personal encounter with Jesus and gave his life to him. The Christians there prayed for his brother who was struggling with poor mental health and almost immediately he was liberated from disturbing internal voices.

Sebastian was super encouraged to hear that we were also a Christian hostel and that we knew the team at *Fuente de Peregrino*. Later he brought us a tray of fruit from the market to share. For us it was a lesson that God can touch anyone's heart and transform lives.

For pilgrims interested in knowing more about Jesus, we can recommend other Christian hostels on the Camino to stay at. We also direct them to an evangelistic devotional app called "Who is St James", developed by a friend who is an Australian journalist. It contains Bible readings, reflections and questions about the person of Jesus that pilgrims can read each day from their phones.

Being part of the *Soy el Camino* network helps us to share resources, connect and follow up with pilgrims, and mutually encourage each other in our ministries as we work together sharing the love of Jesus with pilgrims walking the Camino.

[www.soyelcamino.com](http://www.soyelcamino.com)

# PARTNERS IN PRAYER

*An expression of our unity in Christ and our connection & partnership in the mission to Europe.*

## Why we pray for the mission to Europe

Our *Partners in Prayer* are crucial for supporting the work of our ECM Office and our field workers in Europe. We need people who will stand in the gap, people who long to see the impact of prayer spread throughout the world as God moves in response to the cries of his people. Prayer is a powerful way to participate in God's redemptive plan for the lost in Europe and a vital complement to financial and practical support.

*"Prayer is an invaluable way to support our ECM workers, the teams, and their projects. We would love for you to join us in prayer and lift all of those who God has called to the mission field in Europe, and those who work tirelessly to support and enable them"*

*-Shaun, ECM Trustee*



## What does being a Partner in Prayer look like?



### PRAYER FUEL

Receive monthly prayer points from ECM field workers and staff.



### PRAYER MEETINGS

Be invited to join together online to hear from and pray for ECM's workers in Europe.

# 60+



## PARTNERS IN PRAYER

ACROSS ECM NEW ZEALAND

## How do I become one?

Head to [ecmnewzealand.org/pray](https://ecmnewzealand.org/pray) and click **SIGN UP**



*OR Scan me to sign up.*



# Pray for

# EUROPE



Europe is distinguished by its rich history and diverse cultures, making significant contributions to art and philosophy. Its stunning landscapes and iconic landmarks captivate visitors, while its varied cuisines please the palate. Additionally, Europe plays a vital role in global politics and economics.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Give thanks for the way God is working across Europe.
- Please pray for workers in the field as they persevere in being salt and light.
- Pray for the church in Europe that it would be strengthened by the Holy Spirit and continue to grow.
- Pray for both first culture and cross culture workers to be raised up for the harvest in Europe.

## KEY OPPORTUNITIES

- There are opportunities to serve right across Europe. To find out how and where, head to [ecmnewzealand.org/serve](http://ecmnewzealand.org/serve)



## POPULATION

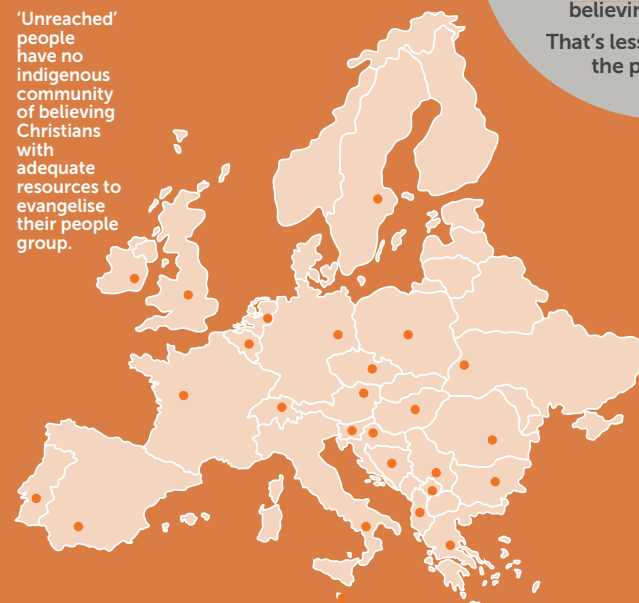
# 744M

"Globally, the ten countries with the fastest shrinking populations are all in Europe: Bulgaria, Latvia, Moldova, Ukraine, Croatia, Lithuania, Romania, Serbia, Poland, and Hungary. Migration is one reason for these collapsing populations, but another is the low birth-rate across Europe."

## UNREACHED PEOPLE

28,884,000 (4.8%)

'Unreached' people have no indigenous community of believing Christians with adequate resources to evangelise their people group.



## SPIRITUAL LANDSCAPE

"In many ways, Christianity is what made Europe, Europe. No other continent has been exposed to Christianity for such a prolonged period and in such an extensive way. Yet just as Europe was the first continent to be Christianised, it was also the first to be de-Christianised."

The country in Europe that is considered to have the smallest number of Bible believing Christians today is Bosnia-Herzegovina. Of the 3.15 million Bosnians there are fewer than 600 Bible believing Christians. That's less than 0.02% of the population!

## CHURCHES



"Alongside church planting, we have seen the emergence of new forms of Christian community that do not always look like conventional churches. They may be called "Fresh Expressions", missional communities, or they may resist classification altogether, but the innovation of new communities of Jesus followers that reach those who might never engage with "conventional" churches, is one of the ways the Holy Spirit is renewing and growing the church in Europe."

## ECM MINISTRY

ECM is active in 26 nations (see map) in Europe with a variety of ministries, and we are praying to see new mission fields opening in three more nations.

Sources: [ecmi.org](http://ecmi.org), [joshuaproject.net](http://joshuaproject.net), [pewresearch.org](http://pewresearch.org), [worldpopulationreview.com](http://worldpopulationreview.com), [cia.gov](http://cia.gov), [operationworld.org](http://operationworld.org), *Europe 2021: A Missiological Report, Memory.*

TO FIND OUT MORE HEAD TO [ECMNEWZEALAND.ORG/WHERE-WE-WORK](http://ECMNEWZEALAND.ORG/WHERE-WE-WORK)



# A GROWING CHURCH PLANT



Engaging a community that needs salvation in Coimbra, Portugal

"We are Comunidade da Graça Coimbra, a young church plant launched in 2023 in Coimbra, Portugal. Known as the "city of knowledge" and boasting one of Europe's oldest universities, Coimbra is home to a vibrant, multicultural community that we want to reach with the gospel of Jesus. Last year, we rented a centrally located space near the university and football field, where we are engaging a community that needs salvation. Since then, the church is growing in unexpected ways!"



Church plant, Coimbra

To partner with our brothers and sisters in Coimbra or to find out more, head to [ecmnewzealand.org/church-plant-coimbra](http://ecmnewzealand.org/church-plant-coimbra)



Scan me to watch a video about this project or to give.



'We have \$2300 left of our \$9000 target to raise. So far, we've been able to purchase air conditioning (see photo), 20 extra chairs, a second hand piano and Bibles. We're in the process of ordering trays for the Lord's supper, a pulpit and Sunday school materials and a few other things.'

Carlos, Coimbra, Portugal

# MISSION OPS

WAYS THAT YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN GOD'S MISSION TO EUROPE

We can all be playing our part in God's mission to Europe with what God has given us. The privilege of prayer, finances to support the work in Europe or unique skills and abilities can be used by God to see the peoples of Europe transformed by Jesus Christ.

How is God calling you to use what he has blessed you with?



## PARTNERS IN PRAYER

Prayer powers God's mission to Europe. Become a *Partner in Prayer* & receive monthly prayer points from our Australian and New Zealand field workers and office staff and be invited to join our monthly online prayer gatherings.

[ecmnewzealand.org/pray](http://ecmnewzealand.org/pray)



## GIVE TO ECM

Giving sacrificially out of what God has blessed you with enables the work of raising up, sending and supporting the sharing of the gospel amongst the peoples of Europe.

[ecmnewzealand.org/give](http://ecmnewzealand.org/give)



## GO SERVE IN EUROPE

With the smallest number of Bible believing Christians in the world, Europe needs workers from all walks of life. How has God gifted you and where is he calling you? Chat with us today!

[ecmnewzealand.org/serve](http://ecmnewzealand.org/serve)





**ROSS & SHONA  
MCGAUGHNAN**  
DORNBIERN, AUSTRIA

Rest has been a high priority for us over summer, which means there has been a lot of settling. We've been settling into relationships as we share meals with people on our balcony, and as we join people for various summer activities. We've been settling into the place as we visit the surrounding cities and get a better picture of broader Vorarlberg (and the many different pools as the kids learn to swim). We are looking forward to the start of the European year as Ross kicks off language in September, and as we prepare to welcome our third baby near the end of October.

**Please pray:**

- **Praise God for an increasing sense of home as we live and learn here.**
- **Please pray for the next two months as we balance learning German with parenting and preparing for baby number three.**



**ANNA TOVEY**  
CANDIDATE FOR ROMANIA

Having stepped back to concentrate on my health and wellbeing for a time, I restarted fundraising and working on my partnership development in mid-July. I am thankful to God for all those who have made some form of commitment to me and have caught the vision God has placed in my heart to serve in Romania again. As well as seeking individuals to partner with me, I would also like to find some more churches, other than my amazing home church, who will take me under their wing, to pray for me and potentially financially support me.

**Please pray:**

- **For wisdom to know which churches to approach to ask to partner with me as I prepare for ministry in Romania.**
- **For energy, enduring good health and encouragement as I continue fundraising alongside my work, church and wellbeing commitments.**



**ALEX AND LIZ  
PREOTESEA-WAGNER**  
CERNAVODA, ROMANIA

This summer has been busy with many opportunities to reach out to our community. Some of these opportunities include: English Family Camp, Youth Camp, Holiday Programmes, Youth Group and more! We are grateful for feeling more connected here, meeting more people and the way that God is at work here. We are praying for God's provision, and we are excited for the next steps towards establishing a social enterprise that will use woodwork and other creative opportunities to welcome, work with and walk alongside the young people in our local community, sharing God's love and helping to prevent human trafficking.

**Please pray:**

- **Pray for the children and young people who are impacted by the outreach and children's programmes that we are part of at our church. Pray they would know God's love in their lives and choose to walk closer to Him.**
- **Pray for more faithful financial partners to help us reach full monthly support by the end of September.**



**ANDREW JONES**  
CANDIDATE FOR CZECH  
REPUBLIC

It's winter in New Zealand and I am busy making my old house truck more livable, getting rid of leaks, mice, draughts etc and generally getting it into a condition worthy of using for hospitality while I will be away overseas. I am also working at raising my support so that I can move to Europe when the time comes.

**Please pray:**

- **For my support level to increase. It is at just 27%, and this is my biggest challenge right now.**
- **Pray that I will communicate well with what I intend to do in Europe, which means I need clarity now on what I will be doing then.**



There is a silver bullet to building gospel connections! However, it's not good conversation starters, or a particular evangelism method. No, the real key is to know that God is already at work.

From the beginning of time until Jesus returns, God's mission has always been to seek and to save the lost. There are countless examples through the cycles of the Old Testament. God called the patriarchs, God saved the Israelites out of Egypt, God called out time and time again throughout Israel's history through his prophets, and God brought his people back from exile. All (and more) before God himself came and lived among us in the person of Jesus, seeking and saving through his ministry, his death and resurrection.

In the parable of the lost sheep we read "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?" So, the

## 'Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?'

question becomes not, "How exactly should I connect with people" instead, "How is God already seeking and finding His sheep around me, and how can I join him in that?".

If you're looking for a silver bullet... Pray! "Lord, keep seeking and saving! Show me how you are already at work, help me be your light and please use my faulty efforts to call people home."

We've been in Austria seven months now, simply living, learning and meeting people, and yet God has given us good conversations and relationships with people hungry to know God, and who (whether they

know it or not) long for Him. So please pray that God would keep seeking and saving here in Austria, there in NZ, everywhere really... because every day God continues adding sheep to His flock one by one.



**ROSS MCGAUGHNAN**  
DORNBIRN, AUSTRIA

## QUICK SNIPPETS

### ■ OUR FINAL EDITION

A reminder that this is our last edition of ECM News and in 2026, we will focus on digital options to share stories from the wider ECM international community. Please ensure we have your updated email address so we can keep you informed. If you are not sure whether we have your email address, please contact us on 022 303 9667

If you are passionate about seeing Europe transformed in the name of Jesus Christ, we also encourage you to consider becoming a Partner in Prayer.

### ■ ECM OUT & ABOUT


In August, Féy (National Director) spoke at four churches in Waihi and Auckland, and the Mission's Month at Laidlaw College and made connections with supporters of ECM. Please continue to pray for more opportunities to connect with those considering serving in Europe, and that they will hear the Father's clear leading. Pray that many more will be raised up for the harvest in Europe.

### ■ OUR NEW ECM BROCHURES



If you would like some copies for encouraging others in partnership in God's mission to Europe, please contact us at [info@ecmnewzealand.org](mailto:info@ecmnewzealand.org).

Digital versions can be viewed at [ecmnewzealand.org/resources](http://ecmnewzealand.org/resources).

 **YES, I want to be part of changing EUROPE**

**Head to the link (or scan the QR code that best fits with how you want to respond)**



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[ecmnewzealand.org/serve](http://ecmnewzealand.org/serve)



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**I want to find out more!**  
[ecmnewzealand.org/contact-us](http://ecmnewzealand.org/contact-us)



**I want to give!**  
[ecmnewzealand.org/give](http://ecmnewzealand.org/give)

### Give by Direct Deposit:

European Christian Mission  
New Zealand: 01-0288-0005475-00

*Please include your initial, surname and the name of the missionary/project you are donating to*

Then email [giving@ecmnewzealand.org](mailto:giving@ecmnewzealand.org) or call **0223 039 667** to advise us of your details and the details of your giving.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT

# ecm

Here are some ways you  
can partner with us in  
Christ's mission  
in Europe!



Prayer for  
**BULGARIA & EUROPE**

Tuesday 16th September  
8PM NZDT  
[ecmnewzealand.org/pray-for-bulgaria-europe](http://ecmnewzealand.org/pray-for-bulgaria-europe)

PRAY

QR code



Prayer for  
**SPAIN**

Tuesday 18th November  
8PM NZDT  
[ecmnewzealand.org/pray-for-spain](http://ecmnewzealand.org/pray-for-spain)

PRAY

QR code



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To give, head to  
[ecmnewzealand.org/give](http://ecmnewzealand.org/give)

GIVE

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For more information please head to [ecmnewzealand.org](http://ecmnewzealand.org)  
or contact us on 022 303 9667