

ECM NEWS

..... AUTUMN 2024



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**LEAVING A GIFT
THAT LASTS P10**



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?
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New Zealand

info@ecmnewzealand.org
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GETTING TO KNOW

FAITHFUL FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS



When did you first begin to give to missionaries, and why?

Even before we met more than 57 years ago, we both had a deep interest in mission, and we saw the needs and responsibilities of giving financially. Forty years ago we set up a Trust for our planned giving, and have made provision in our wills for giving to Missions.

What motivates you to keep giving to missionaries?

Matthew 28.19-20 and Jesus's instructions to 'go' to all the world and share the Good News. For us, this means supporting others God has called. Personally keeping in touch, reading mission news, and being open to the Holy Spirit's leading continues to motivate us to give.

What blessings have you encountered in your missionary giving journey?

We don't give to receive a blessing, however feeling a part of the ongoing work of missionaries, both financially and through prayer support, has been wonderful. The biggest blessing has been the life-long friendships we have made.

Interested in serving by giving?
Head to ecmnewzealand.org/give to find out more!



EDITORIAL

GIVING...THE GOSPEL

John and Joyce might have wondered what the Lord was doing when they came out of retirement to serve an interregnum in a little country village near Nelson, but their willingness to do so was integral to us serving God in Albania many years later. Through the process of getting married—it had to be in a church—John and Joyce disciplined us, and led us into a deeper, and life-giving understanding of what Jesus had done for us when he died on the cross.

I don't remember much about the church to be honest, but what I do remember was John and Joyce. I remember their kitchen and the friendly mess and warmth that greeted us whenever we visited, and I remember the bible studies they held in their lounge. As a result of their faithfulness and God's grace, firm foundations were laid, and these foundations changed the course of our lives.

Giving to mission is the focus of this edition but over the years I have become convinced that partnering with missionaries financially is so much more than handing over money. The term 'partnership' captures the beauty of the reciprocal relationship that should exist. Missionaries don't only need money, they need our prayers, our emails and messages of support, and sometimes our visits... giving in these ways takes time, thought, effort and creativity.

In this edition we'll explore what giving to mission looks like in God's word and through first-hand experience. You will also read Sam's reflections on her short-term experience in Kosovo.

Finally, be prepared to also consider how you might continue to partner with God's mission, even when you're gone.



Féy Cotter
Editor

WHY GIVE TO MISSIONS?

Sam Boog is communications and media trained and has a particular passion for the gospel needs of Europe. She lives in western NSW with her husband and four daughters.



Some give to mission by going, others go by giving.

Matthew 28:19-20

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

It's clear from scripture that the Lord commands his followers to go. This 'going' can take different forms. All of us who have had the privilege of being brought into the Kingdom of God through the revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ, want to share this blessing with others. "Missions is an extension of the church to the world."

Some are called to 'go' by giving and enabling others to go, because without the givers there are no goers. Mission requires a delicate partnership between givers and goers who both have an equally vital role to play.

There is enormous blessing to be found in giving to mission.

In 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 we see that although the Macedonian churches were poor, they were also filled with abundant joy, and this joy overflowed with rich generosity towards the believers in Jerusalem. They were blessed, and the Jerusalem church was blessed. In the same way, the generosity of those who support missionaries blesses both the giver and the receiver; both parties are blessed in enabling the Good News of Jesus to be shared with people who have not heard about him.

The blessings are numerous. Through deep and reciprocal relationships with missionaries, partners can get a virtual first-hand look at life on the field. Church members will inevitably grow in their understanding of sacrifice, service and faithfulness as they share in the experiences of the missionaries, such as navigating a new language, administrative system, road rules, eating habits and cultural norms.

May, a long-time ECM supporter, says she was taught

the importance of giving to mission at a young age, as she had an older brother and sister who were missionaries in Chad, Africa. May says her giving has taken on different forms depending on her stage in life. At one time she minded children for busy mothers and gave the money she earned to Christians in ministry; another time she did housework for those who needed it. May makes a good point that giving to missions can look different depending on your situation in life. It might look like hosting a missions prayer event in your home, showing hospitality to missionaries

while on home assignment or even lending them your car. (My husband and I were able to bless some returning missionaries with a few items of excess furniture, after they had to return unexpectedly from the mission field).

Now in a nursing home, May still gives to missions electronically, trusting that the money will be used wisely, to further the cause of Christ in the world. She says "to be given an opportunity to be a part of his work is humbling and a joy."

Romans 10:14-15: "But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe

in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!" (NLT)

God has established this symbiotic relationship to be a blessing to both parties involved. For the missionary, it is often a vital step of confirmation and a test of faith as they trust in the Lord to provide. Having to ask for money is difficult for most



"to be given an opportunity to be a part of his work is humbling and a joy."

We know that the Lord is winning the world to himself through the work of missions, and he will always provide

missionaries, as expressed by ECM missionary in Spain, James Webb:

"It's quite awkward asking people for finances...it's a very humbling process having to be reliant on people. However, it's amazing to see how generous people are, especially when it's from unexpected givers. There is a little old lady from my home church in England who prays for us regularly and gives abundantly and it is so humbling to know she's providing for us here. We always try to remind people that they're partnering with us through their prayers and their giving...they're just as involved with mission work as we are because we couldn't be there otherwise."

Through prayer and financial support, God's people at home can vicariously experience and share in the life of missionaries, tangibly affecting the outcome and productivity of their labours through intercession.

Giving to mission must also be continually renewed in light of 2 Corinthians 8:7...

"But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving."

Over time our circumstances and needs change and we need to always assess our giving levels in light of our financial circumstances and the needs we are confronted with. Sometimes missionaries on the field may need extra money for practical needs such as a house or car. We need to be prepared at times to give above and beyond what we give regularly so that we can be able to help when those times arise.

Most of all however, we must remember that we worship a God who is all sufficient and doesn't need us to build his Kingdom. In fact, when Paul rejoiced in the Philippians' generosity towards him, he didn't want them to think he was rejoicing because they had met his need, "I am not saying this because I am in need" Phil 4:11. He wanted them to know that he had learned contentment in every

circumstance, whether living in plenty or in want. He trusted that the Lord would meet his needs. The blessing of giving is primarily for the giver. We know that the Lord is winning the world to himself through the work of missions, and he will always provide. The Psalmist says "I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread." Psalm 37:25. The question is not 'Will God provide?' but 'Will I get involved? Will I be one of the hands used as part of his provision?'



PLEASE PRAY

- That God's people would give generously to mission work throughout Europe that the gospel might go out where there is less access and fewer resources.
- Please pray that the Lord would meet the financial needs of ECM missionaries.
- Please pray that the Lord would open the eyes of his people so that they may know the grace of giving for God's glory.

Pray for GERMANY



Boasting the fifth largest economy in the world, Germany is a country of significant wealth and influence.

During the largest refugee crisis in years Germany displayed its humanitarian heart by opening its doors to roughly one million asylum seekers, which has contributed to a large migrant population. This multicultural community brings with it both challenges and opportunities for the spread of the gospel.



PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for a second reformation to make the Church culturally relevant and Biblically sound
- Pray for a spiritual awakening among the predominantly lost youth.



KEY OPPORTUNITIES

- ECM is seeking long term workers (single or family) for primarily church-based ministry. You will be serving in a relatively new bilingual German/English church in Wedding, Berlin. Wedding is a very high migrant neighbourhood with very few active churches.



POPULATION

83.28M*



2053 births per day



2609 deaths per day



425 migrations per day

Millions of immigrants, guest workers, students, and refugees have come to Germany since 1989 resulting in a melting pot of cultures and beliefs with great spiritual need and opportunity.

**Population estimates based on interpolation of data from World Population Prospects.*

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

It is the birthplace of Martin Luther, Albert Einstein and Beethoven as well as the home of the reformation, the printing press and the automobile. With a tainted history of the Holocaust and two world wars it is a country that has rebounded from devastation and defeat.

UNREACHED PEOPLE

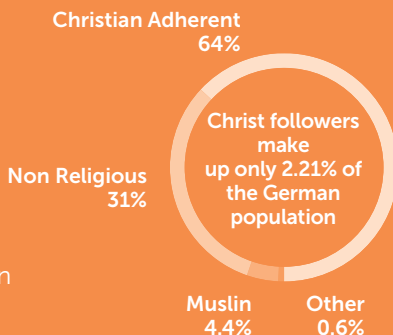
5,090,000 (6.1%)

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



Berlin

RELIGION



CHURCHES



While 64% of Germany claims to have Christian beliefs, church attendance for all denominations is low, and many churches have shut down. Only 14% of Germans actually attend church, and only about 2% claim Jesus as Saviour. There is however, a growth in grassroots prayer movements, house churches, and other initiatives that seek to make Jesus known to those that don't know him yet.

BELIEFS IN GERMANY

Believe in God as describe in the Bible 28%

Believe in a higher power or spiritual force 41%

Do not believe in any higher power 25%

ECM MINISTRY

ECM works with several teams, particularly in the eastern German provinces, and in the southwest of the country. ECM Australia has Rich & Ali church planting in Berlin, and Caren plans to return to Germany once her study is finished.

Sources: ecmi.org, joshuaproject.net, pewresearch.org, worldpopulationreview.com, cia.gov, operationworld.org.

TO FIND OUT MORE, HEAD TO ECMNEWZEALAND.ORG/GERMANY



GIVE A GIFT THAT LASTS



LEAVE A GIFT TO ECM IN YOUR WILL

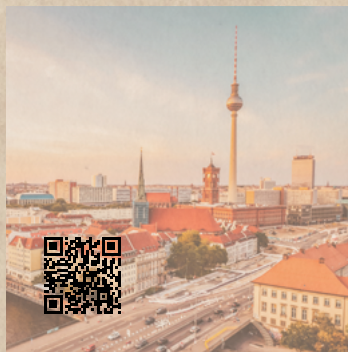


Including ECM in your will has life-changing and eternal impacts. Your gift will be so much more than a financial donation—it will leave a legacy of love and make a lasting impact. It will be used with wisdom and integrity to continue the work of making Jesus known in Europe. To receive information about leaving ECM in your will, head to ecmnewzealand.org/bequests.

MISSION OPS



DO YOU SEEK TO SERVE THE GOSPEL NEEDS OF EUROPE?



MINISTRY WORKER | LONG TERM BERLIN, GERMANY

ECM is looking for a trained preacher/pastor to serve in church based ministry in Wedding, Berlin, with particular focus on single mothers, children's ministry and outreach to Muslims. Ideally long term but could accommodate short term workers beginning at 6 months. Long term workers (single or married) will be required to undertake German language study. If you are passionate about serving in this European city where barely 2% know Jesus, then please contact us!

ecmnewzealand.org/ministry-worker-germany



GUESTHOUSE OVERSEER | LONG TERM MADRID, SPAIN

ECM is looking for someone to manage a multi-purpose building in Camarma. The building is used to host meetings, retreats, church activities, and provides temporary accommodation for missionaries or migrants. The manager would oversee bookings, answer enquiries and ensure the general upkeep of the facility. Ideally the position is long term but short term applicants are also welcome. If you have administrative skills and a passion for hospitality and social outreach then please contact us.

ecmnewzealand.org/guesthouse-overseer-spain



CHURCH PLANTER | LONG TERM WATERFORD, IRELAND

Ferrybank Christian Community Church is looking for people to join their church planting team. If you're interested in relational discipleship and outreach in a post-Catholic and secular society, have a good understanding of the Bible and can work as part of a team, please contact us! The role is flexible and will be shaped around the candidate, accounting for age and experience, including the possibility of being tailored as an internship.

ecmnewzealand.org/church-planting-ireland

To find out more about any of these opportunities, please email us at serve@ecmnewzealand.org



**ALEX AND LIZ
PREOTESEA-WAGNER**
CANDIDATES FOR ROMANIA

We are planning to leave for Romania on March 9th—if our support levels are sufficient by then! We are so thankful to God for the prayer and financial partnerships we have already established.

Please pray:

- **For the right connections and a lift in our support levels and we continue the support-raising process.**
- **For our whole family to settle into new routines during this busy transition time.**
- **For guidance and understanding as we begin our homeschooling adventure with Te Kura (the NZ Correspondence School).**
- **God's protection and guidance over our travel around NZ, and then to Romania.**



**ROSS AND SHONA
MCGAUGHRAN**
CANDIDATES FOR AUSTRIA

Praise God, we have clarity around Kezi's hips, and they are both good. The doctors would like one more confirmatory X-ray at the start of April before giving the all clear. This makes our journey to Austria in 2024 much clearer.

We plan to head to Austria at the end of April for three months of intensive language learning. This will give us the correct qualification to apply for, and get, a visa later this year. We aim to get back to Austria long-term around early December.

Please pray:

- **Praise God for Kezi's hips being healthy, and for God's guidance as we plan out 2024.**
- **Pray for our travels to Austria and for God's blessing as we learn German.**





CAREN L PREPARING TO RETURN TO GERMANY

The path back to the mission field still remains unclear and discouraging. Specifically, I hope to find a good team with a vision for bi-vocational colleagues. Meanwhile, I am trying to be faithful by finishing a medical specialty that will be recognised in Europe, as well as starting some Bible College training.

Please pray:

- **Pray for a strong team in Germany that would like a bi-vocational colleague.**
- **Pray for my new role in a new hospital this year, my ongoing medical training, and for encouragement within it.**
- **Pray for healing of a nerve injury in my elbow which has given me a lot of grief.**

FÉY COTTER NATIONAL DIRECTOR

In December, Murray and I rented out our house, and moved permanently into a large caravan. We travelled to the North Island in January, with the intention of running a mission's booth for ECM at Festival One, but COVID adjusted our plans. We are now based in the Bay of Plenty region until the end of March. I am looking forward to more opportunities to share about the needs in Europe, and to make ECM known in NZ.

Please pray:

- **Safe travel as we move our caravan around the country.**
- **A sense of where God is working, so that I can join him in what he is doing.**
- **Wisdom and guidance as I implement ECM's strategic plan in NZ.**





WHAT'S ON HANNAH'S MIND?

Looking ahead to the coming year, I've been reflecting on what a new season of hospitality might look like. As a family, we've spent the past year emerging from the fog and fatigue of life with the littlest of little ones. Round-the-clock naps, breastfeeding, starting solids, learning to walk—they bring their joys, but also limitations in terms of hosting meals and accepting invitations.

But with our youngest approaching two and our options broadening, I've been thinking about the nature of hospitality, and its purpose. At times it can feel like another form of entertainment—a way to break up the week or an excuse to indulge in good food and wine.

Yet as I've pondered this and been guided by the thoughts of those wiser and more experienced in the ways of Jesus, I've become more persuaded that hospitality is a key way to participate in the Kingdom of God that is both now, and not yet.

The pastor at the church we gather with in Tauranga has (somewhat helpfully!) been

“hospitality is a key way to participate in the Kingdom of God that is both now, and not yet.”

speaking about hospitality in his most recent teaching series. He highlighted that just as we see Jesus regularly sharing in meals before his death (Luke 7:34: The Son of Man came eating and drinking...) so we see him hosting meals after his resurrection. In John 21, Jesus prepares a meal for his disciples on the beach. Our pastor suggested this might tell us something about the nature of the post-resurrection life: that Jesus' eagerness to prepare food and eat with his friends indicates both the value he places on it, and the continuity of shared meals as part of the "Resurrection Life". To put it another way, when we engage with hospitality in this age, we embrace something of the age to come.

With a house move on our horizon, I've been challenged about my mindset about what it means to be hospitable. We look forward to having room for people to stay and for our local community to be able to more easily visit for meals and playdates with children.

While it may be tempting to think that more space is all we need to be better hosts and facilitate deeper relationships, I'm reminded that true hospitality is much more about the atmosphere you create than the space itself. It goes beyond the quality of the food or comfort of the furnishings to the feeling or spirit in a home—one of love, peace, patience and kindness towards not only those who are visiting, but between those who share in the hosting, spouses and children alike!



HANNAH REVELL
Copy Editor

QUICK SNIPPETS



■ SAM'S VISION TRIP

Sam is from Waikato, where she lives in a rural dairy farming community. She is a youth worker in the local high school, while working other jobs to support herself.

Sam recently went on a vision trip to Europe and Asia to explore what global missions may look like full-time and long-term in the future. She spent time with ECM missionaries in Kosovo, Albania, and Bulgaria.

Sam's Reflections on Kosovo

Kamenica is a beautiful town of 7000 people. I spent nearly four weeks accompanying the local workers in their daily activities, including English classes with children, visiting homes, going out for coffee and to the playground with kids.

I found it awesome to be immersed in the everyday patterns and rhythms of life in Kamenica. I enjoyed meeting new people, and appreciated seeing how similar and yet also how different life in Kosovo is (culturally, practically, and religiously) compared to New Zealand.

As someone exploring what life on the mission field looks like long-term, it was a privilege to be invited into the home of the workers. To sit and listen to some of their stories and experiences, and simply to witness how they live faithfully for God.



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State: _____ Postcode: _____

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Receive **news and updates** from ECM:

Email Post

Become a **Partner in Prayer** and receive monthly prayer fuel by email

Receive information about **including ECM in my will**

Talk to a **mobiliser** about serving in Europe

Support by **financially** giving \$ _____

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Specific worker/project: _____

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Name on card: _____

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Expiry: / CVV:

I authorise ECM to debit my nominated credit card for the above amount and frequency.

Signature: _____

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT

ecm

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



Pray for
AUSTRIA



Tuesday 12th March
8PM NZDT
→ ecmnewzealand.org/pray-for-Austria



Pray for
MALTA



Tuesday 16th April
8PM NZST
→ ecmnewzealand.org/pray-for-Malta



Pray for
ROMANIA



Tuesday 14th May
8PM NZST
→ ecmnewzealand.org/pray-for-Romania

For more information please head to ecmnewzealand.org
or contact us on 022 303 9667