

SUMMER 2023

# FOCUS

*Pray  
for Ukraine*

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN MISSION INTERNATIONAL-USA  
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Our newest missionaries are first-culture ministers serving in Turku, Finland. While most Finns identify with culturally Christian religious expression, evangelical Christians represent only 12% of the population. God is using fresh expressions of Christian community to draw new generations in Finland to Jesus.



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



ECMI-USA exists to facilitate opportunities for each new generation in Europe to interact with the Gospel. Everything we do must support this vision. To this end, we constantly endeavor to identify new missionaries and partnerships. This will enable us to reach the 98% of Europeans who may not know Jesus.

I am pleased to announce two first-culture missionary couples began their ministries with us in May. Pyry and Ani Winter are an experienced Finnish couple serving in Turku. They are ECMI-USA's first missionaries in Finland, a land of great beauty and deep spiritual needs. Jonathan and

Danijela Vukov also bring significant experience to our team. This summer, they will launch a new evangelical church in Novi Marof, Croatia, as part of our *Reaching the 98* church planning initiative. Both couples radiate love for Jesus and others, and we are delighted to join them in the vital work they are doing.

Additionally, we are in conversations with two other national couples in Eastern Europe with more possibilities on the horizon. As you pray for our mission, this is one of the most important points of emphasis. We want God to lead us to the right people for our organization, but we also want to be the right agency for those we are considering.

If you live near Dayton, Ohio, please join us for our inaugural clean comedy fundraiser on Saturday, August 12. This highly entertaining and enjoyable evening will raise awareness and resources for our work in Europe. Visit **[ecmievents.org](https://ecmievents.org)** or simply scan the QR code at the bottom of this page for more information.

My colleagues and I are continually aware of the integral role you have in our ministry through your prayers and generous giving. As you read this newsletter, I hope you sense the impact you have through your participation with us.

Thank you for your support!

**Doug Gotcher**

[doug.gotcher@ecmi.org](mailto:doug.gotcher@ecmi.org)



[ecmievents.org](https://ecmievents.org)



# ECMI'S CARE360 FUND

*Your gift to care360 enables ECMI to offset out-of-pocket healthcare expenses for our missionaries*

## OUR PURPOSE

The care360 fund provides holistic care services and resources for ECMI-USA's missionaries. Funds assist field staff in accessing providers across multiple disciplines, including medicine, counseling, and fitness. Missionary feedback confirms affordability is the primary obstacle to care, as out-of-pocket costs often limit healthcare choices. Care360 is our response to this challenge.



## OUR PRACTICE

- *Collective Benefit* – Funds may be allocated to any ECMI-USA missionary, as needed.
- *Comprehensive Scope* – Eligible out-of-pocket expenses include physician visits, prescription medications, counseling, dental services, fitness memberships, and more.
- *Collaborative Effort* – Gifts to care360 assist us in blessing our missionary family. The greater the participation, the more we can do for our field workers.

### How to Participate

- Give online at [ecmi-usa.org/give-online](https://ecmi-usa.org/give-online)
  - Please select **care360** from "Choose a Fund" options
- Mail your check payable to ECMI-USA and indicate "care360" on your gift  
European Christian Mission Int'l, P.O. Box 563, Wheaton, IL 60187
- Please note: Individuals may not direct care360 donations to specific missionaries. ECMI-USA uses care360 donations to offset approved health-related expenses on a case-by-case basis.
- Donation questions?
  - Contact [donors@ecmi-usa.org](mailto:donors@ecmi-usa.org) or 217-209-5183



## BUDA BIBLE CHURCH

*Update on our church planting initiative in Budapest*



*Adult group study of John's gospel*

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As part of ECMI-USA's church planting vision, Buda Bible Church was launched in fall 2022 to reach the Buda side of Hungary's capital city. From the start, our aim was to utilize coffee as a means of connecting with professionals and students in the community. Youth gatherings quickly outgrew the initial meeting space and a search for an adequate facility became our priority in the new year.

God provided the perfect place in a way we could never have imagined. A new café was in operation for only a short time before it closed. Tamás & Virág Győri, our church planters, noticed the space was available for rent and made an inquiry. What they did not know was the landlord knew of them through other ministries. After an initial meeting, she elected to rent to Buda Bible despite higher offers.

The café had been outfitted as if it were designed for Buda Bible Church. God saw to it the church would have new, high-end commercial coffee equipment, along with the tableware and furnishings required to operate a coffee shop on the premises. The church anticipates approval of its application to the city to operate the coffee house.

As of this spring, both adult and student groups are meeting regularly. A core of committed followers of Jesus are lending a hand to this effort, but Buda Bible is also attracting some spiritually curious individuals from the community. We believe this is the first Bible Church to be started in Hungary, and we pray it will be a place where new generations of Hungarians will find new life as they interact with the Gospel of Jesus.

***Want to know more about Buda Bible Church? Contact Tamás & Virág Győri at [tamas.gyori@ecmi.org](mailto:tamas.gyori@ecmi.org) and [virag.gyori@ecmi.org](mailto:virag.gyori@ecmi.org)***

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*“May your ways be known throughout the earth, your saving power among people everywhere.”  
– Psalm 67:2*



## FOCUS ON FINLAND

### *Reaching new generations with the Good News of Jesus*

ECMI-USA is delighted to announce our partnership with Pyy and Ani Winter, Finnish nationals in Turku. This marks our entry into Finland, part of an overall vision to increase European Christian Mission's presence in Scandinavia.

Recognizing the next generations were not finding God in the established church, Pyy and Ani began focusing on disciple-making to inspire believers to share Jesus everywhere within their social spheres. Connections are based on shared interests or "affinities," and people are coming to Jesus. New believers are welcomed into the discipling process, where they experience love and acceptance in these smaller expressions of God's Kingdom. The Winters not only have a deep love for their homeland but also for the whole of Europe. God is expanding their vision as they train other leaders throughout Europe and beyond.



*New missionary partners, Pyy and Ani Winter*

We invite you to pray for Pyy, Ani, and their ministry colleagues, as they live and articulate the Kingdom ethic of Jesus so others may come to follow Him.

*Our vision is each new Finnish generation interacting with the Gospel.*

## FINLAND

### Statistics:

- Finland is home to 5.5 million people
- Third-lowest population density in Europe behind Norway and Iceland
- Finland's immigrant population is growing (8.5% of total population as of 2021)
- Joined European Union in 1995 and NATO on April 4, 2023

### For Prayer:

- For affinity groups in greater Turku as they connect with those who are spiritually curious
- Connections with young people for the sake of new generations of believers in Finland
- For people to see beyond cultural religion to the reality of following Jesus
- Financial and prayer support for the Winter's work in Turku and beyond

**Questions about ECMI's work in Finland?**  
**Contact Brad Pellish at [brad.pellish@ecmi.org](mailto:brad.pellish@ecmi.org)**

*"You have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ."  
 – Philippians 1:5*

# EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN MISSION INTERNATIONAL-USA

## Executive Team



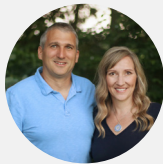
**Doug & Chloe**  
United States



**Keith & Julie**  
United States



**Brad & Jennifer**  
United States



**Kristy & Kevin**  
United States



**Sharon**  
Home Assignment  
United States



**Dan & Anna**  
On Secondment  
United States



**Kent & Angie**  
Home Assignment  
United States



**Marc & Jody**  
Tours, France



**B.J. & Rachel**  
Madrid, Spain



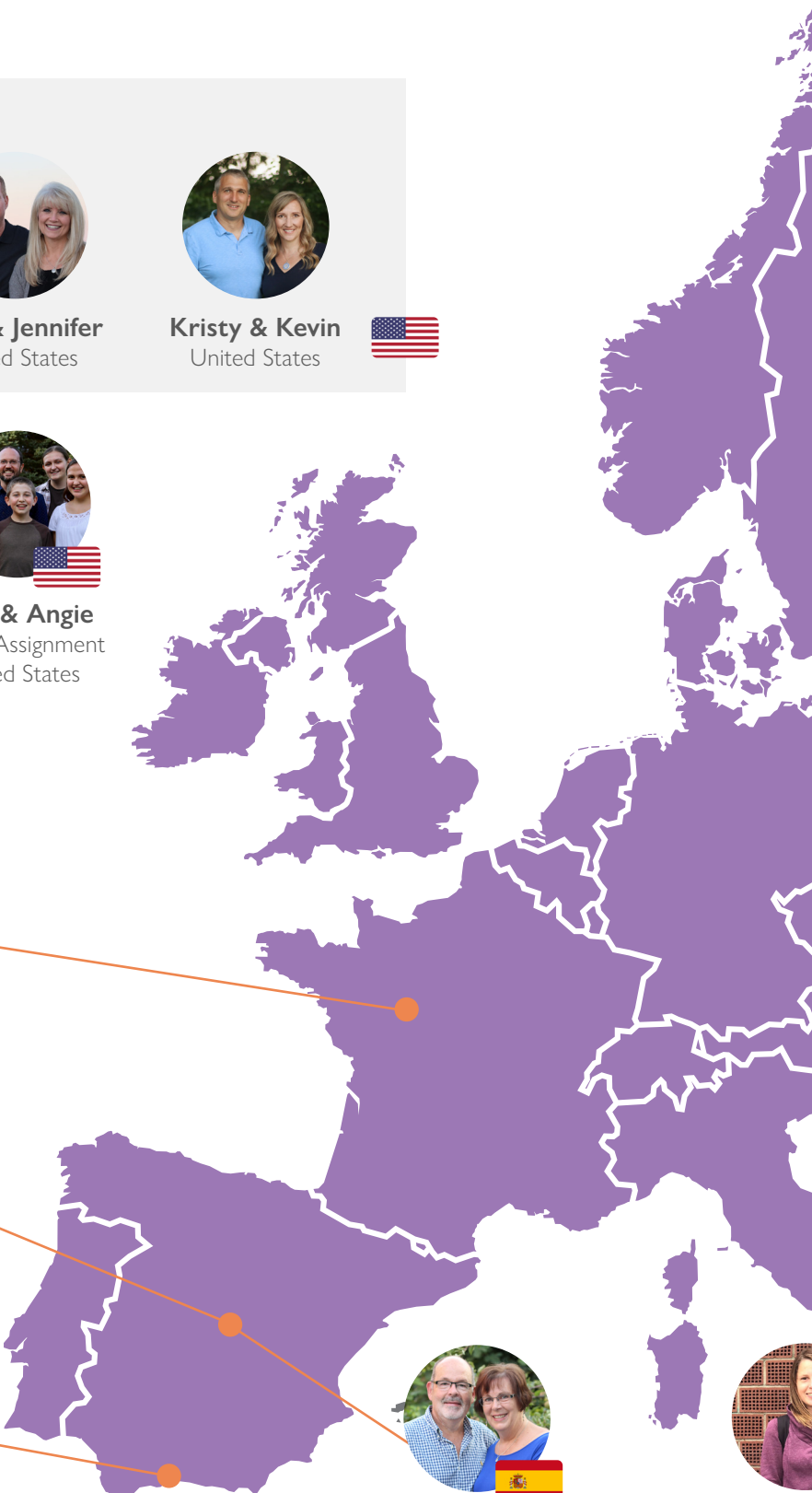
**Hans & Jennifer**  
Malaga, Spain



**Ron & Brenda**  
Madrid, Spain



**Dia**  
Ljubljana,





“May the nations praise you, O God.  
Yes, may all the nations praise you.”  
– Psalm 67:3

## Pray for Ukraine



**Pyry & Ani**  
Turku, Finland



**Günther & Mallory**  
Vienna, Austria



**Lila**  
Krakow, Poland



**Roman & Iryna**  
Lviv, Ukraine



**Tamás & Virág**  
Budapest, Hungary



**Octavian & Eugenia**  
Timisoara, Romania



**Dimitrie & Maria**  
Burgas, Bulgaria



**Diana**  
Ljubljana, Slovenia



**M & J**  
Šibenik, Croatia



**Kostya & Iryna**  
Zagreb, Croatia



**Jonathan & Danijela**  
Novi Marof, Croatia



📍 Zagreb, Croatia

*Thank you for participating with ECMI-USA  
to impact Europe with the Gospel.*

## PARTICIPATING WITH ECMI-USA

*European Christian Mission International is an interdenominational,  
Evangelical missionary organization planting churches in Europe.*

We invite you to invest in our vision of each new European generation interacting with the Gospel. Unless otherwise indicated, all donations to ECMI-USA are tax deductible. ECMI-USA is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.

*Thank you for your generous participation in the work of ECMI-USA!*



**Ukraine  
Crisis Fund**

[ecmi-usa.org/ukrainecrisis](https://ecmi-usa.org/ukrainecrisis)

- Give online at [ecmi-usa.org/give-online](https://ecmi-usa.org/give-online)

- Checks payable to ECMI-USA

European Christian Mission Int'l  
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Wheaton, IL 60187

- Connect with ECMI-USA

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 @ecmi\_usa

*Some images obtained via Shutterstock*

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