

FALL 2021

FOCUS

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN MISSION INTERNATIONAL-USA
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



The world has come to Frankfurt! The majority of the city's nearly 800,000 residents have at least partial non-German background. ECMI-USA is exploring Frankfurt as part of our vision to plant 20 congregations across Europe by 2026.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



“Though Europe’s soil today might appear arid and unyielding, the seed of the Kingdom is being sown and will produce fruit. Our task is to sow. Our motivation is our love of God and of His world. Our field is Europe.”

– Jim Memory

As we head into the fall, we are both encouraged and challenged by the changes we see around the world and throughout Europe. In July, we were able to take our first ministry trip to Europe since the start of the pandemic. We travelled to Germany, Croatia, and Hungary, where we met with prospective national missionaries and church planters.

In Croatia, we were able to meet in person with our newest ECMI-USA missionaries, Kostya & Iryna Bakanov. It was encouraging to see a glimpse of what God is doing in and through them in greater Zagreb. You can read more about the Bakanov’s ministry on page 4.

We were also able to meet local ministry leaders in Budapest, Hungary. They are the first prospective partners in our *Reaching the 98* initiative to plant twenty churches in Europe over the next five years. We ask you to join us in prayer as we continue exploring a partnership with this gifted and godly team.

We are grateful for all of you who participate in the gospel by faithfully praying and giving to ECMI-USA. Thank you and God bless you.

Reaching the 98%,

Doug Gotcher

doug.gotcher@ecmi.org

PROFILES OF EUROPE

Significant Needs & Great Opportunities

ECMI exists to see the peoples of Europe transformed. We believe spiritual transformation is fostered within healthy local churches, and our vision is to plant 20 congregations across Europe by 2026. As you read these profiles of prospective nations for our church planting efforts, please pray with us for divine guidance and provision.

GERMANY

With 84 million people, Germany is the second-most populous country in Europe (after Russia) and the largest member of the EU. Germany enjoys Europe's largest economy, as well as a top-five global rank, leading to the fourth lowest unemployment rate in the EU.

Spiritually, the country has been in decline. Those claiming "no religion" are growing. Evangelical Christians comprise just 2.1% of the population, slightly under Europe's average of 2.5%.

Despite these statistics, there are new prospects for evangelism. A massive flow of migrant peoples and the world's third-highest population of international students are among the unique missional openings for German believers. Pray for new and existing churches to rise to meet these opportunities.



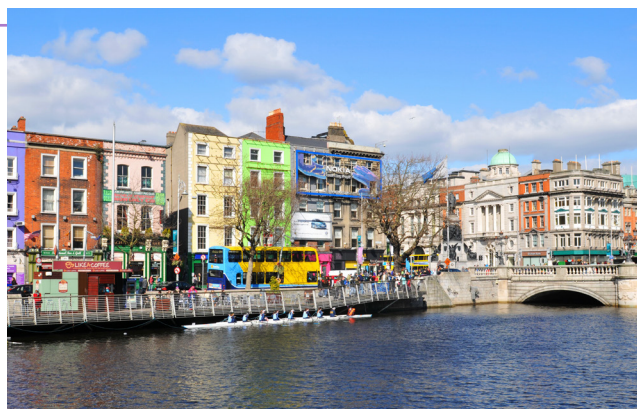
Supported by its passionate fans, Germany won the World Cup in 2014.

IRELAND

Ireland is a nation of just under 5 million and occupies 80% of the island known by the same name. More than 1 million people reside in greater Dublin, its largest city. EU membership and foreign investment has led to dramatic transformation over the last three decades, including a bolstered economy. Among European nations, Ireland has the fifth lowest percentage of population below the poverty line.

Despite its strong cultural connection to Christianity, only 1.5% of Ireland's inhabitants are evangelicals.

There are more non-religious Irish than ever before, but there are also signs of renewal. Pray for people to interact with the gospel and respond in faith to its message.



Ireland's capital, Dublin, is divided in two by the River Liffey.

Thank you for participating with ECMI to reach the nations of Europe!

MEET KOSTYA & IRYNA BAKANOV

ECMI-USA's Newest Missionaries in Zagreb, Croatia



Kostya and Iryna Bakanov are Ukrainian nationals serving in Croatia's capital city of Zagreb. While ministry in Croatia is nothing new to the Bakanovs, doing so as representatives of ECMI-USA is a brand-new arrangement. We are delighted to welcome Kostya and Iryna to our team of field workers in Europe.

Kostya and Iryna are committed to seeing Croatians experience transformed lives in the power of Jesus. As healthy churches provide an ideal setting for such transformation to occur, Kostya focuses his efforts in pastoring a Croatian church plant and assisting another planted congregation. He also mentors a group of national pastors and hosts a gospel radio program which reaches throughout Croatia.

Zagreb is home to over one-quarter of Croatia's people. We invite you to pray for Kostya and Iryna as they serve in the strategic population center of this beautiful nation.

CROATIA

Statistics:

- Croatia is home to 4 million people
- 22 languages are spoken, with Croatian as the official language
- Zagreb, its capital city, is home to one-quarter of the country's population
- Tourism is central to Croatia's economy, accounting for 20% of its gross domestic product (GDP)
- 90% of Croats identify with some form of Christian religious expression, but only 0.4% classify themselves as evangelicals

For Prayer:

- For those the Bakanov's connect with to see beyond cultural Christianity to the reality of the gospel of Jesus
- Pray for wisdom, creativity, and perseverance for Kostya as he ministers in the two church plant locations near Zagreb
- For full personal support funding for Kostya & Iryna

If you are interested in participating with Kostya & Iryna in their ministry, contact Brad Pellish at brad.pellish@ecmi.org for more information.

ECMI-USA identifies, prepares, and places missionaries across Europe. The map on pages 6-7 displays where our field workers currently serve.

Thank you for participating with ECMI's missionaries through your prayers and generous financial support!

FROM THE FIELD

Brief updates from some of our workers in Europe



Sharon Graves

Madrid, Spain

Sharon returns to Spain in September after working remotely from the U.S. for an extended period. She contributes significantly to ECM's development through her leadership of coaching training, member care initiatives, and team building exercises. Connect with Sharon at sharon.graves@ecmi.org



Lila Groth

Skomielna Biala, Poland

A Polish native, Lila is uniquely able to reach children in the Krakow area through Child Evangelism Fellowship and her teaching role at a local Christian school. She recently ministered at two summer camps where about 60 (including sponsors) attended the first week for students, and approximately 130 attended children's camp the following week. You can reach Lila at lilagroth62@gmail.com



Dan & Anna Julian

Malaga, Spain

Dan and Anna recently relocated from Valencia to Malaga, where Dan will continue his teaching ministry and shared leadership of ECM Spain. Contact Dan and Anna at dan.julian@ecmi.org/
anna.julian@ecmi.org



Octavian & Eugenia Verlan

Timisoara, Romania

"Tavi" requests prayer for expansion of New Hope Romania's publishing reach. Recently, an exegetical commentary on *the Epistles of John* was released. The next project in the series is translation of the *Romans* commentary. Questions about New Hope Romania can be directed to Tavi at tavi.verlan@ecmi.org

For more information about ECMI-USA's missionaries, contact Brad Pellish at brad.pellish@ecmi.org

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

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN MISSION INTERNATIONAL-USA



Doug & Chloe
United States



Brad & Jennifer
United States



Kristy & Kevin
United States



Ron & Brenda
Madrid, Spain



Sharon
Madrid, Spain



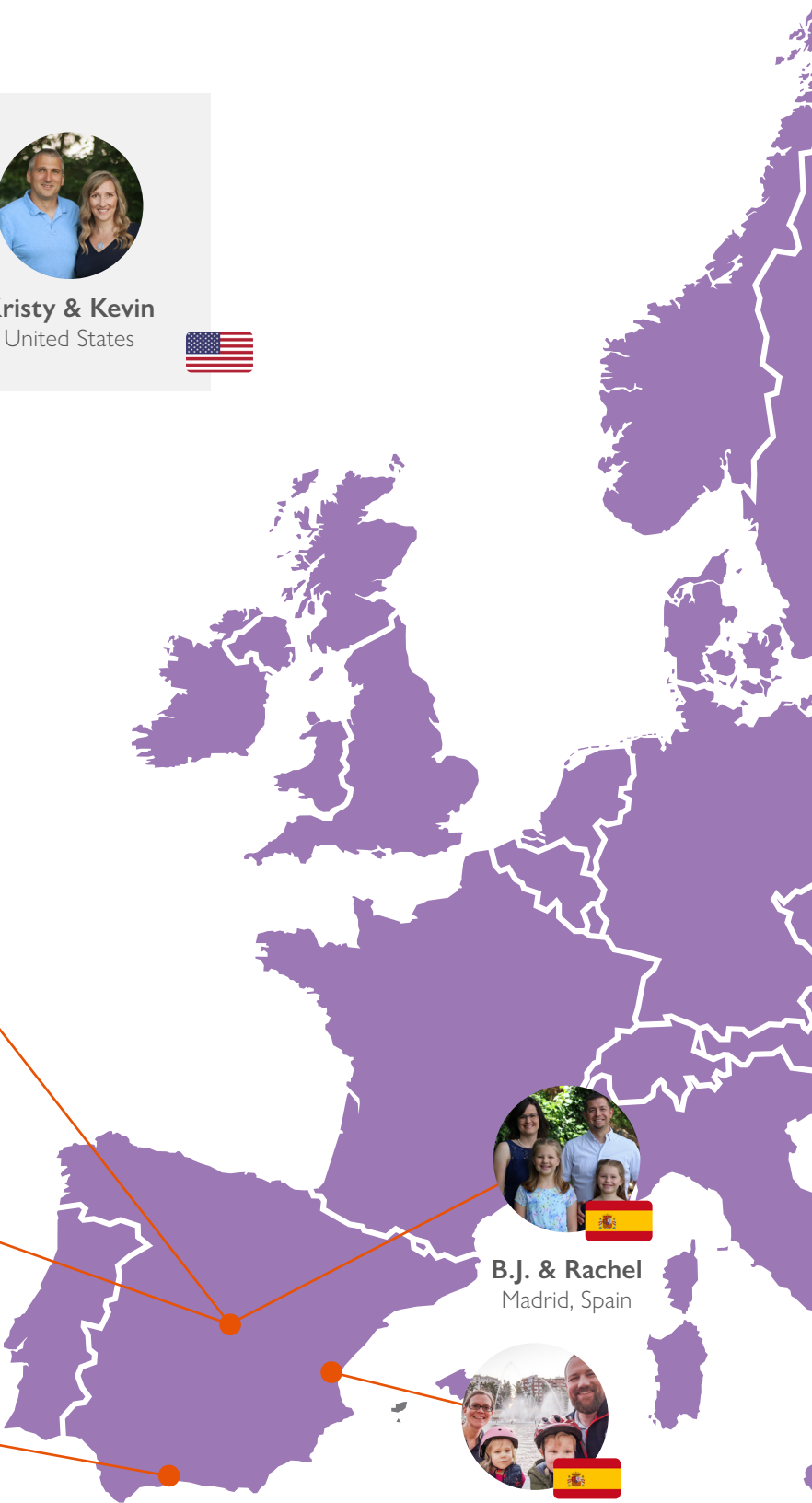
Hans & Jennifer
Malaga, Spain



B.J. & Rachel
Madrid, Spain



Dan & Anna
Valencia, Spain



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



Lila
Krakow, Poland



Roman & Iryna
Lviv, Ukraine



Oksana & Peter
Lviv, Ukraine



Günther & Mallory
Vienna, Austria



Octavian & Eugenia
Timisoara, Romania



Dimitrie & Maria
Burgas, Bulgaria



Diana
Ljubljana, Slovenia



Kent & Angie
Tirana, Albania



Kostya & Iryna
Zagreb, Croatia

Despite periodic revival in the post-Communist era, evangelical Christians remain only 3.8% of Ukraine's more than 43 million people (*Operation World*).

PARTICIPATING WITH ECMI-USA

European Christian Mission is an interdenominational, evangelical missionary organization planting churches in Europe.

We invite you to invest in our vision of transforming Europe through the establishment of new churches. 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!

- Give online at ecmi-usa.org/give-online

- Checks payable to ECMI-USA

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Wheaton, IL 60187

- Connect with ECMI-USA



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