

SUMMER 2021

FOCUS

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN MISSION INTERNATIONAL-USA
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Croatia, a nation of more than 4 million people, boasts 24 people groups and 22 languages. ECMI is exploring new ministry opportunities in this beautiful but spiritually needy country, where only 0.4% identify as evangelical Christian.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



“Change is in the air. The structures and methods of how the global church undertakes global mission are in great transition. But our commitment to the message of the gospel remains the same.”

– Paul Borthwick

It is hard to believe the summer is already upon us. We pray the vaccine rollout will enable us to resume international travel. Face to face interactions with our field staff, ECM International partners, and their European churches and communities is essential.

With this hope, ECMI-USA is preparing to launch one of the most aggressive church planting strategies in the history of our organization. Our goal with the Reaching the 98 initiative is to plant twenty churches over the next five years, beginning with our first church plant in Budapest, Hungary this fall. We believe the best way to reach the lost is through local churches meeting people's needs and sharing the hope found only in Christ. We are trusting God for the increase in both funds and qualified field staff, and we pray He will be glorified in and through all we do in this process.

We are grateful for all of you who participate in the gospel by faithfully praying and giving to ECMI-USA. We cannot do this alone, and it takes faithful partners like you to help us fulfil the Great Commission. Thank you and God bless you.

Reaching the 98%,

Doug Gotcher

doug.gotcher@ecmi.org

THANK YOU

Recognizing field workers transitioning from European Christian Mission International-USA

Jesse & Krista Ashmen

Jesse and Krista Ashmen arrived in Sweden in 2007, joined ECMI-USA in 2012, and have served on the island of Gotland since that time. One of Sweden's least church areas, the island desperately needed pastors, teachers, and leaders. Partnering with churches to provide pastoral and young adult resources, the Ashmen's launched the only youth ministry for the island's thousands of young people and students. They pastored a local church, led confirmation camps, hosted Bible studies and home groups, and saw converts baptized. In the process, they raised their young family.



Jesse and Krista conclude their ministry in Sweden early this summer before moving to Texas to assume leadership of a camping ministry. Jesse will serve as Camp Director, while Krista's role involves Human Resources and organizational management. Please pray for Jesse, Krista, and their three girls in this transition.

We are deeply grateful for the Ashmen's time with ECMI-USA. Not only have Jesse and Krista been used by God to advance the church in Sweden, but they greatly enriched our organization in the process.



Jarrod & Amelia Keithley

Jarrod and Amelia served in Sweden for 3 years before leaving in 2020 to begin a one-year home assignment in the U.S. to discern next steps in God's purposes for their lives. While they desire to return to Sweden or serve elsewhere in the Nordic region someday, their immediate focus is the continuation of their graduate studies. Their ministry with ECMI-USA concludes with the culmination of their Home Assignment at the end of May.

One of this couple's obvious strengths is their great love for young people, as evidenced by their impact on the students they worked with during their years in Olofström. We invite you to pray for Jarrod and Amelia as they seek God for their future. We are thankful to have had the Keithley's as part of our missionary family and look forward to seeing God's continued leading and blessing in their lives.

PROFILES OF EUROPE

Significant Needs & Great Opportunities

ECMI exists to see the peoples of Europe transformed. We believe such transformation occurs within healthy local churches and our vision is to plant several congregations across Europe by 2026. As you read the profiles of potential locations for our church planting efforts, please pray with us for divine guidance and enablement.

POLAND

Located in Central Europe, Poland is the fifth most populous state of the European Union. Sixteen UNESCO World Heritage Sites contribute to a prosperous tourism industry. The country has enjoyed relative economic strength and stability, being the only European economy to avoid the 2008 recession.

Poland is one of Europe's most religious states, making it difficult to separate its Catholic heritage and national identity. Evangelicals are a very small minority (0.3%) of Poland's 38.5 million population and 90% of the country's municipalities have no evangelical church. With an urban population of 60%, Warsaw, Kraków, and other large cities are strategic areas for church planting.



Sculpture of Christ outside Holy Cross Church in Warsaw

CROATIA

Croatia, home to 4 million people and 22 languages, sits at the intersection of Central and Southeast Europe on the Adriatic Sea. The official language is Croatian, which is closely related to Serbian but written in Latin rather than Cyrillic script. Tourism accounts for up to 20% of the country's Gross domestic product, with Croatia ranking as a perennial favorite of global tourists.



Traditional folk costumes

Although 9 in 10 Croats identify with some expression of Christianity, only 0.4% of the population consider themselves evangelicals. The effects of historic and more recent conflict among Croat, Serb, and Bosnian peoples are far reaching. Pray for reconciliation, as many suffer deep psychological and emotional trauma from the conflicts. Churches with a vision to serve the broken could have tremendous ministry impact.

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

FROM THE FIELD

Brief updates from some of our workers in Europe



Hans & Jennifer Anderson

Malaga, Spain

The Anderson's remain involved at the Diez42 Centre, which serves the under-resourced with food and other necessities. Hans has seen increased opportunities to preach and teach of late, which he greatly enjoys. Contact Hans and Jennifer concerning their work in Malaga at hans.anderson@ecmi.org/
jennifer.anderson@ecmi.org



Dimitrie & Maria Todorov

Burgas, Bulgaria

New Hope Bulgaria provides resources for pastors and those ministering to children and students. **Lead Today** is a new initiative designed to train young people for leadership based on biblical principles. Created in partnership with John Maxwell and OneHope International, New Hope seeks to facilitate this training throughout Bulgaria in the next 7 years. Learn more by contacting Dimitrie at dimitrie.todorov@ecmi.org



Günther & Mallory Függer


Vienna, Austria

Günther still ministers in the international church and will soon begin part-time work in senior at-home care. Mallory co-leads ECM seminars for those seeking to better understand and serve the LGBTQ+ community and she is also creating a small group resource on biblical sexuality for Austrian young people. Interact with Günther and Mallory about their vision for Austria at guenther.fugger@ecmi.org/mallory.fugger@ecmi.org

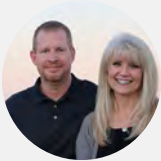
For more information about ECMI–USA's missionaries, contact Brad Pellish at brad.pellish@ecmi.org

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

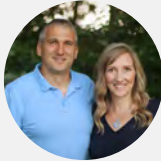
EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN MISSION
INTERNATIONAL-USA




Doug & Chloe
United States



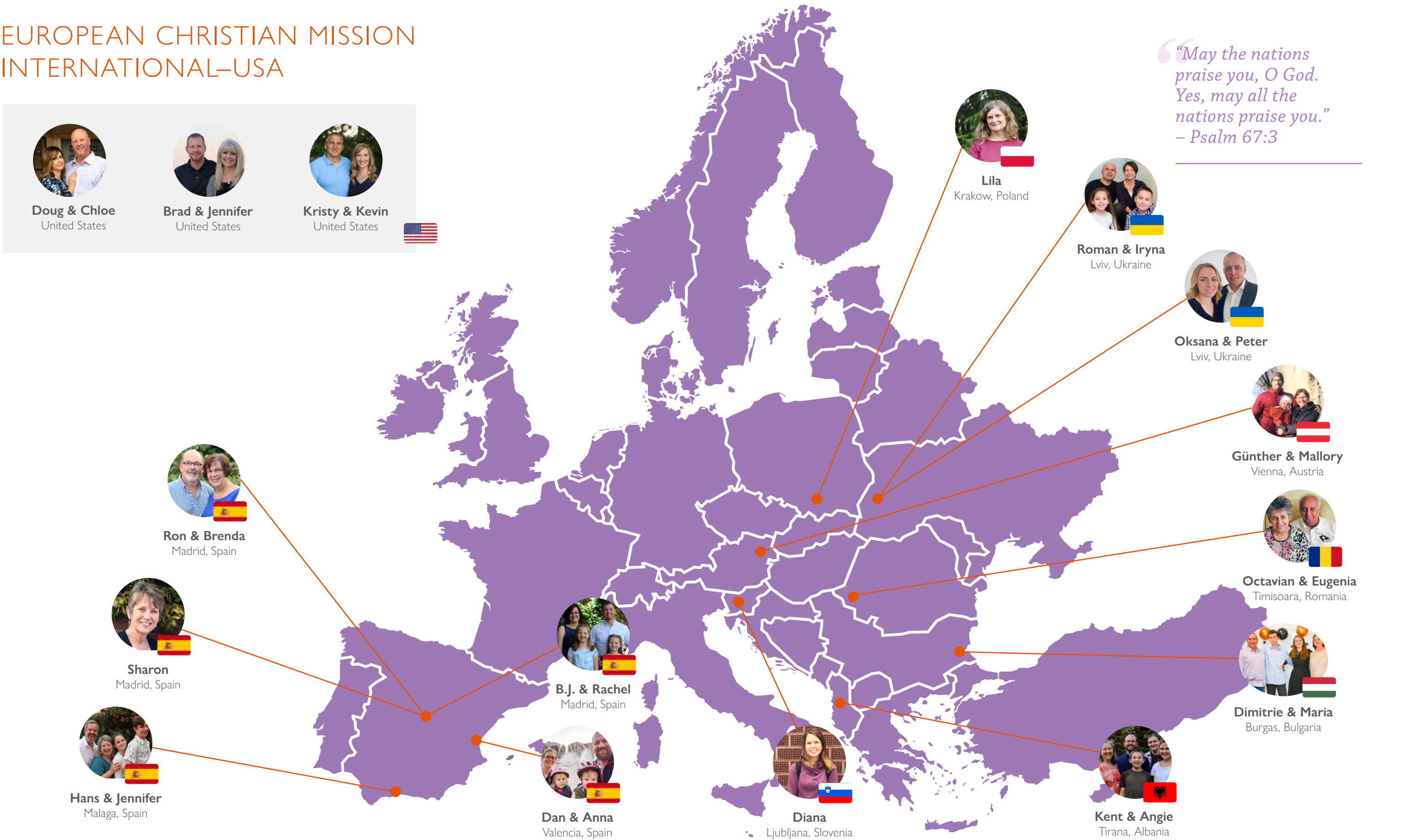
Brad & Jennifer
United States



Kristy & Kevin
United States



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



Operation World reports evangelical Christians comprise only 1.9% of Bulgaria's nearly 7 million inhabitants.



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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