

SPRING 2021

FOCUS

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN MISSION INTERNATIONAL-USA
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



The Hungarian Parliament Building, located on the eastern bank of the Danube in Budapest, is one of the most recognizable buildings in Europe. ECMI-USA will place its first Hungarian church planter in this great city in 2021.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



*“Church planting
is essentially about
loving people and
being moved by the
glory of God.”*

– Steve Timmis

As we look forward to 2021, we are excited to see what God will do in and through ECMI. Our vision is to strategically plant churches in cities and communities throughout Europe to share the Gospel. Even amidst the continued effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, we have seen how God continues to move in the hearts and minds of the peoples of Europe who place their hope and trust in Him.

ECMI-USA is one of nine sending sections of the greater ECMI mission that send and support missionaries to and throughout Europe. Together with our partners, we are committed to and trusting God for spiritual growth in European churches and communities. We plan to launch our first church plant as part of the Reaching the 98 initiative in Budapest, Hungary this fall. We believe that through your partnership with us and our participation with the greater ECMI mission and beyond, we will see this initiative multiply in 2022 and beyond.

We cannot express how grateful we are for all of you who participate in sharing the Gospel by faithfully praying and giving to ECMI-USA. Together we trust the Lord to do incredible things in the coming year, to His glory.

Reaching the 98%,

Doug Gotcher

doug.gotcher@ecmi.org

*"Your kindness has often refreshed the hearts of God's people."
- Philemon 1:7*

SUPPORTING MISSIONARY CARE: ECMI'S NEW CARE360 FUND

OUR AIM

The care360 program was launched in 2020 to facilitate holistic care services for ECMI-USA's missionaries in Europe. Our objective was assisting field staff in making connections to care providers across multiple disciplines, including medicine, counseling, and fitness. We also committed a limited financial allotment to each missionary for this purpose with continuing services funded from his or her regular support account.

WHAT WE LEARNED

Feedback from our missionaries revealed affordability is the primary obstacle to pursuing ongoing care. Important healthcare choices are limited for many of our workers because of out-of-pocket costs. ECMI-USA views this as a challenge which necessitates a prompt response.

THE CARE360 FUND

We do not want finances preventing a missionary from receiving essential care. Therefore, ECMI-USA has established the care360 fund. Donations to care360 offset certain health-related expenses incurred by our European field staff, such as doctor visit co-pays, counseling fees, and more.



The Specifics:

- *Collective Benefit* – Contributions are used collectively and may be allocated to any of ECMI-USA's missionaries on a case-by-case basis.
- *Comprehensive Scope* – Eligible out-of-pocket expenses include physician visits, prescriptions, counseling, dental services, and fitness training/memberships.
- *Collaborative Effort* – ECMI donors giving to care360 assist us in blessing and encouraging our missionary family. The greater the participation, the more we can do for our field workers.

Continued on page 4

How to Participate

- Give online at 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 or 217-209-5183



QUESTIONS ABOUT CARE360?

If you have questions about the care360 fund or ECMI’s member care endeavors, please contact Brad Pellish, Vice President of Staff Care and Development, at brad.pellish@ecmi.org.

SPOTLIGHT: CROATIA

Croatia is ECMI-USA’s newest field, opening in 2021 with the placement of a Ukrainian national worker in the capital city of Zagreb. Nearly all the largest Croatian companies, media, and scientific institutions are headquartered in Zagreb, which serves as the country’s key transportation hub. Known for its high standard of living, the city’s economy is anchored by technological industry and the service sector.



Zagreb Cathedral is Croatia’s tallest building.

The Zagreb region is home to over one million people, a quarter of the country’s population. No evangelical Christian church existed in this area as recently as 2007, and evangelicals represent only 0.4% of Croatia’s people. ECMI-USA is privileged to be advancing the Kingdom of Christ in Croatia’s most influential city. A highlight of this new missionary in Zagreb will appear in a future edition of FOCUS, and we look forward to introducing you to other new field workers in 2021.

ECMI-USA identifies, prepares, and places missionaries across Europe. The map on pages 6-7 displays where ECMI-USA’s 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



Ron & Brenda Anderson

Madrid, Spain

Having been with ECMI since 1978, the Anderson's contribute widely within our mission and beyond. In addition to advising ECMI's church planting enterprises in Europe, Ron is involved in the Lausanne Movement's Church Planting Network. Brenda advocates for young girls victimized by injustice in Africa and continues discipling women in Spain. Contact Ron and Brenda about their ministry at ron.anderson@ecmi.org/brenda.anderson@ecmi.org



Diana Ovcар

Ljubljana, Slovenia

Our newest missionary serves in Slovenia's educational center and capital city. Focusing on evangelism and discipleship ministries with students and young professionals, Diana derives great joy in seeing young people follow Jesus. She recently reported the "spiritual birthdays" of two young women who are enthusiastically living their faith, and she prays for more to become followers of Christ. Connect with Diana about her work in Slovenia at diana.ovcar@ecmi.org



Oksana & Peter Savka

Lviv, Ukraine

Oksana directs adoptive and foster care programs for ECMI's New Hope Ukraine ministry. COVID has significantly impacted Lviv and the surrounding region, and your prayers for Oksana and those serving with her are greatly appreciated. It is unknown at present how COVID will affect orphan camps and other summer ministries, but Oksana and her team are hopeful conditions will improve and restrictions will be lifted. Learn more about New Hope Ukraine's orphan care efforts by contacting Oksana at oksana.savka@ecmi.org



B.J. & Rachel Whitaker

Madrid, Spain

Having relocated to Mecó late in 2020, the Whitaker's assist in church planting ventures there. Additionally, B.J. is developing men's ministry for the local church, and Rachel is involved in "Third Culture Kid" projects for ECMI. Interact with B.J. and Rachel about their ministry vision at bj.whitaker@ecmi.org/rachel.whitaker@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



Jarrod & Amelia
Home Assignment
Arizona, United States



Ron & Brenda
Madrid, Spain



Sharon
Madrid, Spain



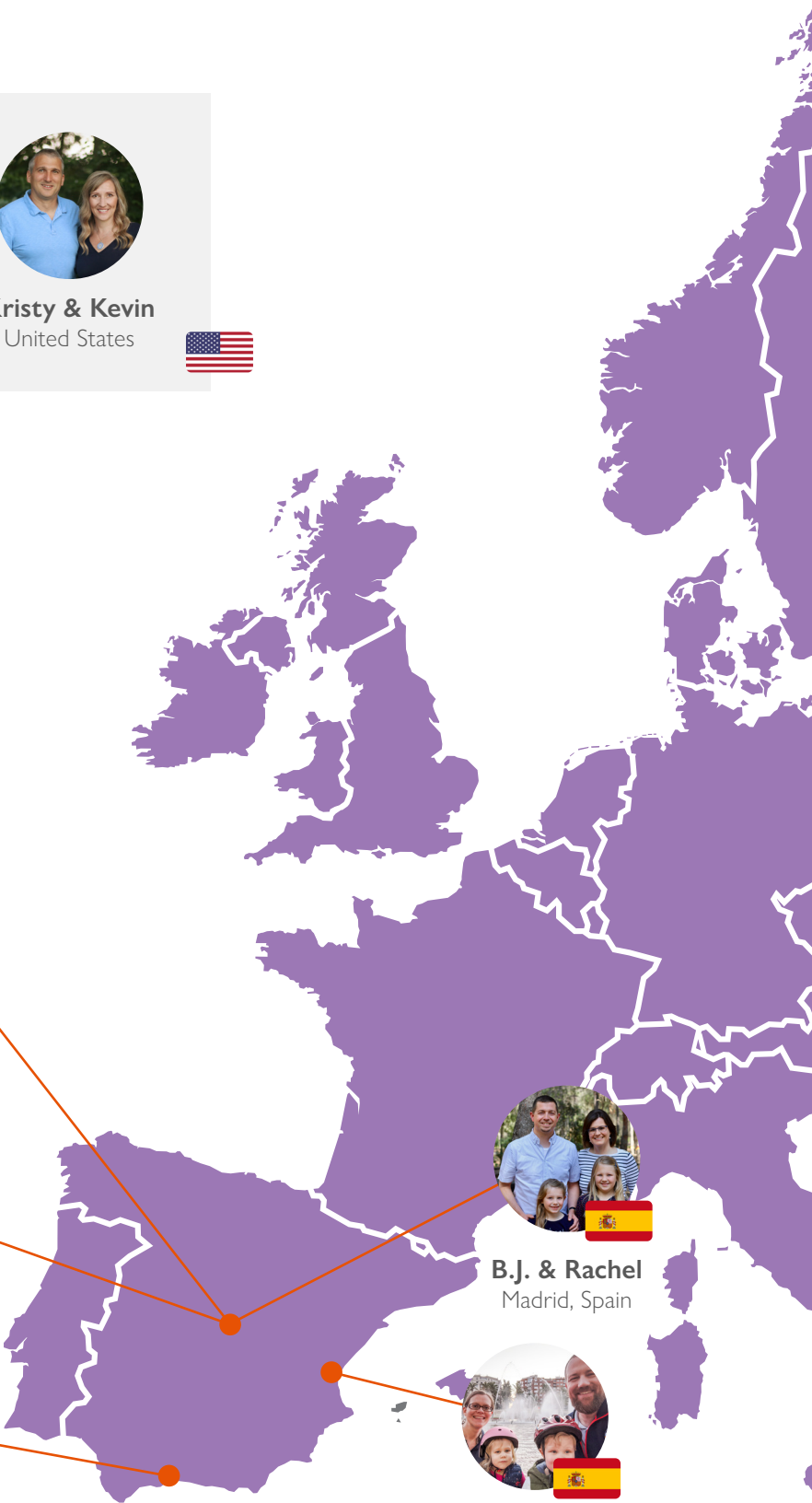
Hans & Jennifer
Malaga, Spain

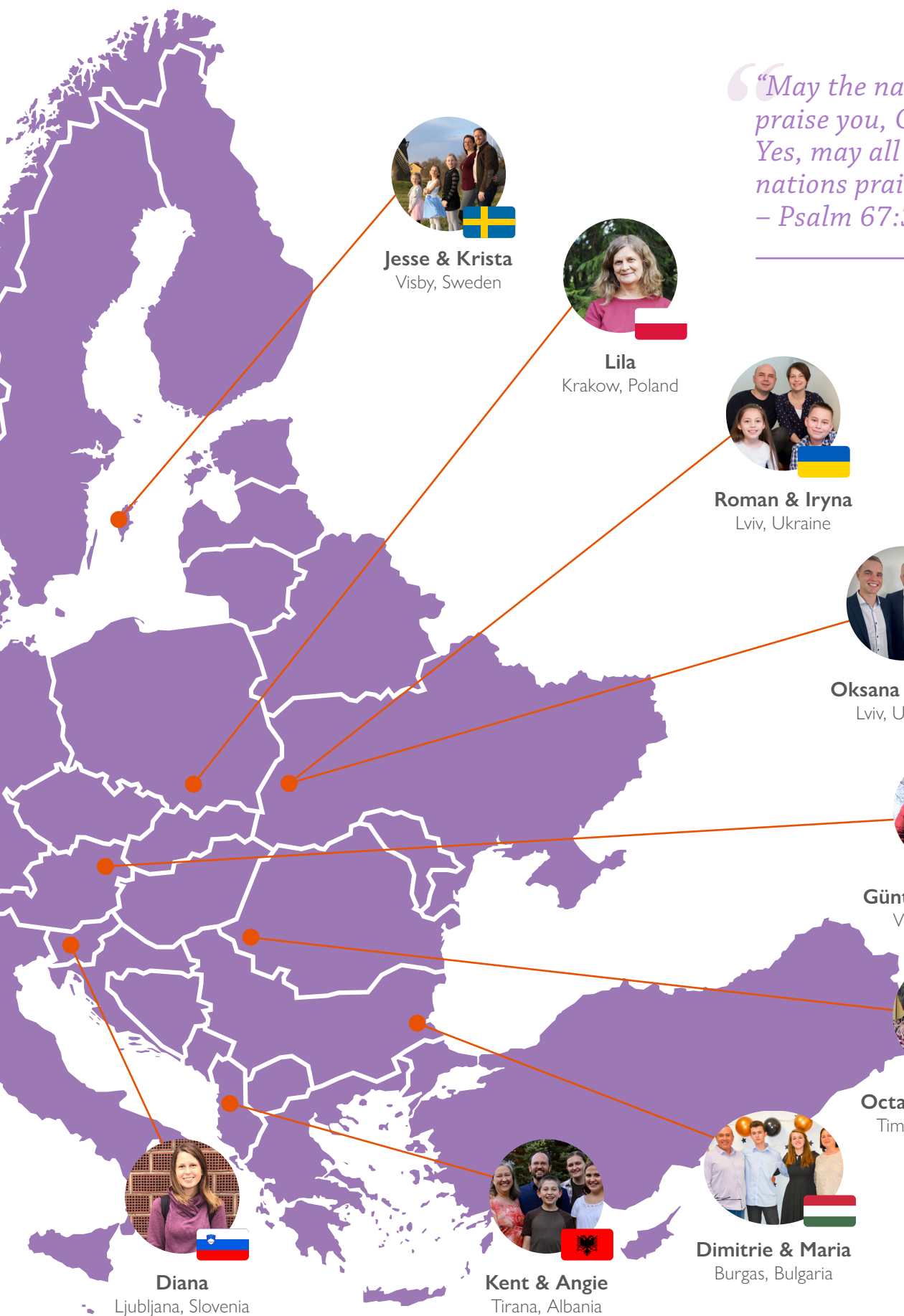


B.J. & Rachel
Madrid, Spain



Dan & Anna
Valencia, Spain





Jesse & Krista
Visby, Sweden

Lila
Krakow, Poland

Roman & Iryna
Lviv, Ukraine

Oksana & Peter
Lviv, Ukraine

Günther & Mallory
Vienna, Austria

Octavian & Eugenia
Timisoara, Romania

Dimitrie & Maria
Burgas, Bulgaria

Kent & Angie
Tirana, Albania

Diana
Ljubljana, Slovenia

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

According to *Operation World*, only 5.4% of Romania's population is evangelical Christian.



Timisoara, Romania

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

European Christian Mission Int'l.
P.O. Box 563
Wheaton, IL 60187

- Connect with ECMI-USA



- Contact Us

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