

CHRISTMAS/WINTER 2020-21

# FOCUS

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN MISSION INTERNATIONAL-USA  
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



A magical Christmas forest in Malaga, Spain depicts angels, suns, and leaves through 73,000 points of light. ECMI-USA missionaries lead a ministry in this city which provides under-resourced populations with food and other essential services.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



As 2020 draws to a close, it seems Christmas is coming at just the right time. With all we have experienced in recent months, the lights of the season remind us of hope. God sent his unique, one-of-a-kind Son into the world to bring the light of eternal life to all who will believe.

*I am the light of the world.  
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness,  
but will have the light of life.*  
- John 8:12

European Christian Mission International has been sharing the good news of life and light in Christ to Europeans for more than 100 years. Your participation with us in this work, especially during the past year, is a tremendous encouragement to our missionaries and staff. At ECMI-USA, we are looking forward to 2021 and beyond with great anticipation. You can read about our newest missionary in Slovenia, Diana Ovcar, on page 3. Additionally, we are in process of adding field staff in Croatia and Hungary. We are asking God to empower us to plant thirty churches in five years, beginning in 2022. None of these efforts would be possible without your generous partnership. Thank you!

May God continue to strengthen you with hope as you enter the New Year. On behalf of the ECMI-USA family, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and yours!

**Doug Gotcher**  
doug.gotcher@ecmi.org

*“Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world.”*

– C.S. Lewis

## MEET DIANA OVCAR

### ECMI-USA's Newest Missionary in Ljubljana, Slovenia

I was born into a religiously mixed home, and my parents divorced when I was young. My childhood was filled with challenging experiences, which left me confused and hopeless. It seemed depression would be my constant companion until age 17, when I attended a Christian camp and heard the gospel for the first time. I gave my life to Jesus and began to trust Him to heal my pain and brokenness.

My interest in global missions began in my college days, and I initially pursued missionary work in Asia. However, God eventually redirected my attention to the needs of my homeland, Slovenia. I was invited by Cru (formerly Campus Crusade) to join their team in Ljubljana as a national worker and sensed God's call to serve my own people. I have spent the last two years ministering to students with Cru.

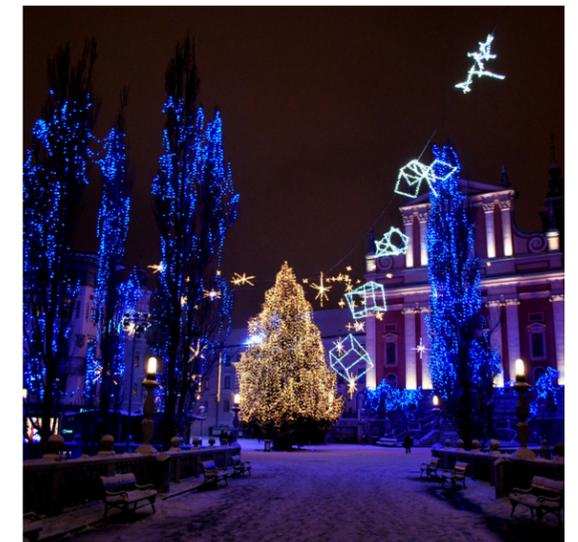
I love seeing the next generation of believers standing strong in faith, and my desire is to see them participate in building the Slovenian Church through sharing the gospel. As a national missionary with European Christian Mission in Ljubljana, I will be serving in a local church with a focus on student ministry development and evangelism. These are areas of deep passion for me, and I feel privileged to have a part in God's work in Slovenia! You can email me about my ministry at [diana.ovcar@ecmi.org](mailto:diana.ovcar@ecmi.org).



## SLOVENIA

Slovenia, located in central Europe, is home to 2 million people. Once a socialist republic of Yugoslavia, Slovenia became an independent nation in 1991. Ljubljana is the capital of this beautifully mountainous country.

While a significant percentage of Slovenes identify as culturally “Christian,” only 0.1% of the population is comprised of evangelicals. As with much of Europe, suicide is a significant social malady; Slovenia has the 13th highest global suicide rate. Please pray for Diana as she ministers to students and others in Slovenia's capital city.



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

## INCLUDE ECMI-USA IN YOUR CHRISTMAS GIVING

*“For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”*  
 - Isaiah 9:6

During this season of giving, we invite you to add European Christian Mission International to your gift list. ECMI-USA is adding new field staff in Europe. We have also embarked on our vision to plant 30 churches across Europe over 5 years, beginning in 2022. Despite the challenges of the day, God is graciously enabling us to expand our reach in Europe.

Consider *Jesus Church* in Lviv, Ukraine. ECMI national field staff launched this congregation to reach the young and spiritually disenfranchised in its neighborhood. With an uplifting, grace-oriented approach, the church is reaching those not connected to other churches in the city. Through summer English improvement camps and other outreach programs, *Jesus Church* is helping people experience the Gospel like never before. We want to repeat this kind of ministry in cities across Europe.

Your year-end contribution helps us move our church planting efforts and other ministry initiatives forward. Thank you for prayerfully considering one of the following gifts:

# of Gifts	@Amounts	Total
1	\$2,500	\$2,500
5	\$1,000	\$5,000
10	\$500	\$5,000
20	\$250	\$5,000
50	\$100	\$5,000
<i>Other Individual Gifts</i>		\$2,500

*Total: \$25,000*

*Thank you for your generous support of European Christian Mission International—USA!*

### How to Participate

- Checks payable to ECMI-USA  
 European Christian Mission International  
 P.O. 563  
 Wheaton, IL 60187
- Please indicate “Christmas/Year-End Gift” on your gift
- Please note donations must be postmarked by December 31, 2020 to be acknowledged as a 2020 contribution

- Give online at [ecmi-usa.org/give-online](https://ecmi-usa.org/give-online)  
 - Please select “Christmas/Year-End Gift” from “Choose a Fund” field
- Questions?  
[donors@ecmi-usa.org](mailto:donors@ecmi-usa.org)  
 217-209-5183



## FROM THE FIELD

Brief updates from some of our workers in Europe

 **Dan & Anna Julian**  
 Valencia, Spain

Dan recently began a shared field leadership responsibility for ECM in Spain, so please pray for him and his two colleagues. The Julian’s main focus is teaching biblical and theological courses to pastors and others in the Spanish church, and Dan teaches a systematic theology course at a Bible college. Connect with Dan and Anna about their ministry at [dan.julian@ecmi.org](mailto:dan.julian@ecmi.org)/[anna.julian@ecmi.org](mailto:anna.julian@ecmi.org)

 **Jarrold & Amelia Keithley**  
 Home Assignment in Phoenix area, Arizona

Upon returning from Sweden this spring, the Keithley’s began a one-year home ministry assignment to determine next steps. Please pray for wisdom and discernment concerning future ministry opportunities, with a preference to return to Sweden. Reach out to Jarrold and Amelia at [jarrold.keithley@ecmi.org](mailto:jarrold.keithley@ecmi.org)/[amelia.keithley@ecmi.org](mailto:amelia.keithley@ecmi.org)

 **Roman & Iryna Matviyiv**  
 Lviv, Ukraine

Roman and Iryna lead the ministry of *Jesus Church*, reaching the unreached in Lviv. In late August, the church celebrated the baptism of Alex, a new follower of Jesus. Roman also provides leadership for the various ministries of New Hope Ukraine, including e-evangelism, public school outreach, Bible courses and camps, and adoptive and foster care services. Learn about *Jesus Church* and New Hope Ukraine by contacting Roman and Iryna at [roman.matviyiv@ecmi.org](mailto:roman.matviyiv@ecmi.org)/[iryna.matviyiv@ecmi.org](mailto:iryna.matviyiv@ecmi.org)

 **Kent & Angie Morton**  
 Tirana, Albania

The Morton’s serve in a local church in Albania’s capital, leveraging their experience and expertise toward the development of national leaders from within the congregation. Angie also ministers as a Member Care Facilitator to ECM missionaries in the region. You can learn more about the broader scope of Kent and Angie’s ministry in Albania at [kent.morton@ecmi.org](mailto:kent.morton@ecmi.org)/[angie.morton@ecmi.org](mailto:angie.morton@ecmi.org)

**For more information** about ECMI–USA’s missionaries, 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



**Doug & Chloe**  
United States

**Brad & Jennifer**  
United States

**Kristy & Kevin**  
United States




**Jarrold & 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



**Diana**  
Ljubljana, Slovenia



**Jesse & Krista**  
Visby, Sweden



**Lila**  
Krakow, Poland



**Roman & Iryna**  
Lviv, Ukraine



**Oksana & Peter**  
Lviv, Ukraine



**Günther & Mallory**  
Vienna, Austria



**Octavian & Eugenia**  
Timisoara, Romania

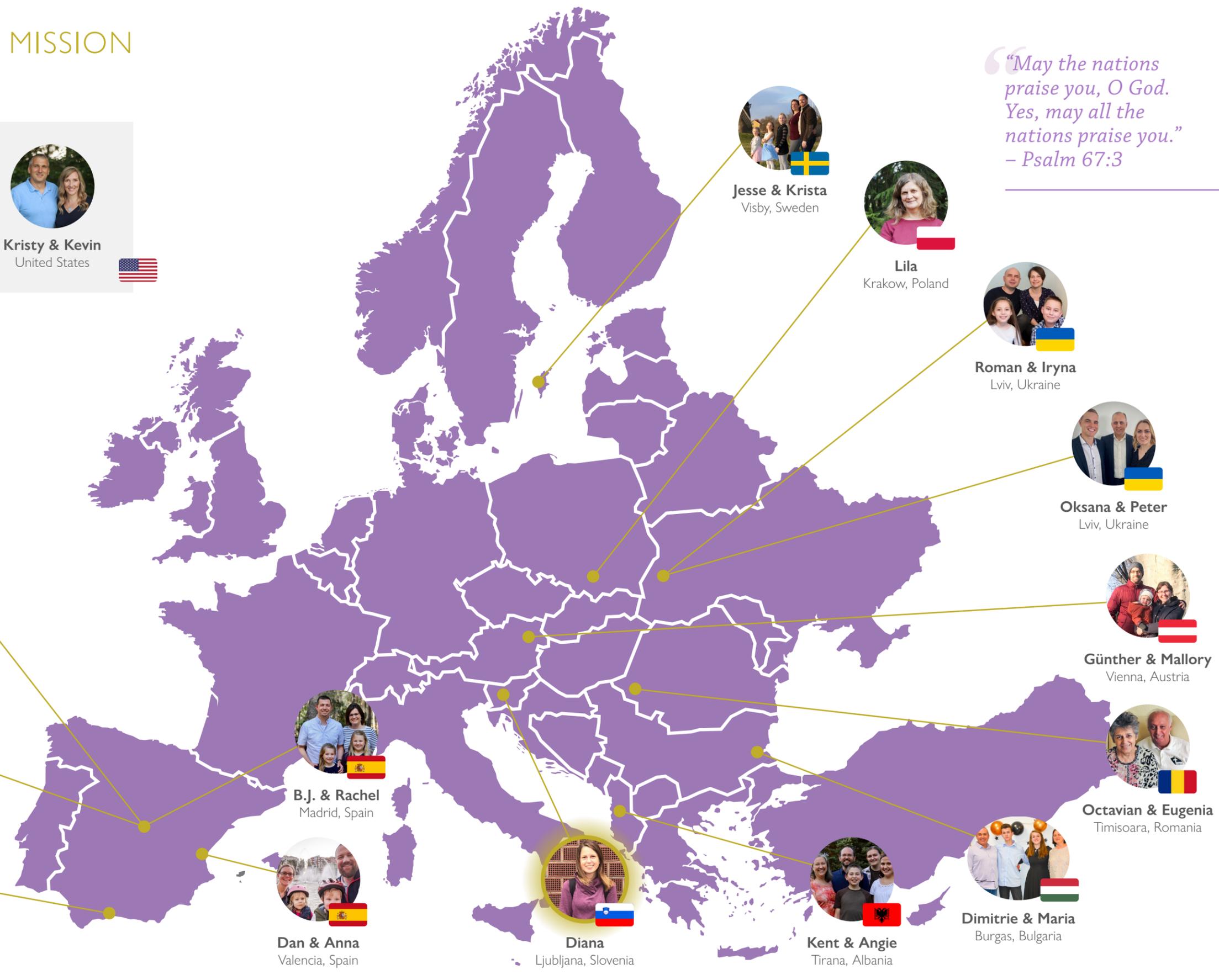


**Kent & Angie**  
Tirana, Albania



**Dimitrie & Maria**  
Burgas, Bulgaria

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



According to *Operation World*, Poland's population is 0.3% evangelical Christian.

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**Krakow, Poland**

## PARTICIPATING WITH ECMI-USA

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

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We invite you to invest in our vision of transforming Europe through the establishment of new churches across the continent. 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](https://ecmi-usa.org/give-online)
- Checks payable to ECMI-USA  
(Please note donations must be postmarked by 12/31/20 to be acknowledged as a 2020 contribution)

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

- Connect with ECMI-USA



@ecmiusa



@ecmi\_usa

- Contact Us

Donation Inquiries:  
[donors@ecmi-usa.org](mailto:donors@ecmi-usa.org)  
217-209-5183

General Questions:  
[ecmi-usa@ecmi.org](mailto:ecmi-usa@ecmi.org)  
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