

European Christian Mission



Prayer Diary May 2023

The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. *Deuteronomy 31:8*

If you use the Prayermate app, you can get a daily feed of this Prayer Diary by clicking.



A quick word of apology that we got the details wrong for last month's entry for 21st April. We asked for prayer for Branko and Rada Tihoevic in Serbia when the actual prayer request was for Radovan and Blazenka Trajkovski in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Apologies for any confusion caused!

MONDAY 1

ECMI: Biennial Conference 2023

Praise the Lord that the Biennial was able to inspire, encourage and develop people and give space for relaxation and refreshment. The ECM family atmosphere was there again. The theme "... but God" pervaded the whole conference – the morning Bible teaching, the seminars, the counselling and prayer ministry. The focus on Ukraine was also a precious time with encouraging stories of what God was doing in the midst of war. The kids had a blessed time and enjoyed being together with others with whom they could identify. There is so much to praise God for.

TUESDAY 2

ROMANIA: Gary and Ioana Stoll in Piatra Neamt

Please pray for Gary as he has his final theology exam of the year today, 2 May. Also, please pray for our weekend away from 12-14 May with a group of teenagers. We will be staying in a remote place in the country to enjoy time together and hear God's word. Pray that the Spirit would be at work in opening up our hearts to see Christ in all his magnificence.

WEDNESDAY 3

ECM IRELAND: Geoff Donaldson, Director

The Mayhews (Philippe and Joanne) and Bartletts (Noah and Suzi) will be sharing about their work and vision at a lunch gathering in the ECM Ireland Office today, May 3. A good opportunity to link with ECM Ireland Staff, Supporters and Council Members. Also, from May 17-22, we have our Pastors to Pastors. This gathering provides a great opportunity to connect our missionaries in South East Europe with Church leaders for encouragement, ministry updates and training.

THURSDAY 4

CROATIA: Frank and Angelika Bosch in Umag

Tomorrow, May 5 we will have the first women's breakfast in Umag. Please pray for our small team of ladies from the Poreč and Umag church and specially for a lot of ladies from Umag and the surrounding area coming this day and for open hearts.

FRIDAY 5

ECMI: Chris Wigram, former International Director

I am speaking at a Missions Conference in Leeds organised by some of the ethnic churches in the UK from today, 5-7 May. Pray for two sessions: one is on World Mission and the other is about the importance of integrity and financial accountability in world mission. This conference is an indication of how many of these churches are wanting to take the challenge of world mission more seriously. Pray for a prophetic challenge!

SATURDAY 6

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: Radovan and Blaženka Trajkovski in Novi Travnik

Thank you for your prayer for the Alpha course. We had a few new people who came for further conversation. Please pray for the town of Bugojno.

SUNDAY 7

GERMANY: Vimal and Louise Vimalasekaran in Karlsruhe

We want to give praise to the Lord for the Tamil Church Easter Celebration. There were about 40 people that attended, some of whom are believers and some friends that remain unbelievers. Our Iranian friend gave her testimony which was translated into Tamil and so please pray that it will be used to touch the hearts of those still not trusting in the Saviour as well as an encouragement to believers.

MONDAY 8

SPAIN: Edgar and Jane Álvarez in Madrid

Give thanks for the opportunity for Edgar to connect with other ECM members during the Biennial and strengthen links with new missionaries to Spain. Pray for Edgar in his new role as director of the executive team of 3 for ECM Spain. Continue to pray for wisdom as parents to our children and for opportunities to share Christ at Jane's school.

TUESDAY 9

PORTUGAL: Mike and Daveen Wilson in Mourão

Please pray for an audience we are hoping to have with the archbishop of our area: that it happens and that we listen well to each other, and that it leads to good things.

WEDNESDAY 10

GERMANY: Christiaan and Kseniya Kooiman in Schwerin

Thank God for Dominik de Bruijne, a short-term Missionary who was a big help for us in Schwerin. He now found his calling as a Pastor in a church plant in Ribnitz-Damgarten. Please pray that God would bless him there and that His name will be glorified through Dominik.

THURSDAY 11

GREECE: Giorgos and Luciana Christoforides in Athens

Please pray for Giorgos who is leading the Easter teen Camp and 68 teenagers from different nationalities are attending this camp and learning how they can be disciples of Christ. We appreciate your prayers. Luciana was invited to receive training and to learn more about a recycling project in Spain which can help her develop something similar with the Roma community in Athens. This can tackle the ongoing issue of improper waste disposal in the settlement. Please pray for all the logistics involved in this project.

FRIDAY 12

UKRAINE: Lviv and Irpin teams

Please ask the Lord for wisdom as we make decisions about using the resources available to us, to sustain our ministries in Lviv and Irpin for at least the next two years. We will have to concentrate on paying salaries and rents for the new volunteer centre/church ministries. This means drastically reducing or stopping the

house building programme. We will search for partners who may be willing to fund the production of the bread that is distributed by the volunteer centres.

SATURDAY 13

AUSTRIA: David and Linda James in Villach

Please pray that we would be able to support our team members in the best possible way going forward. Mission candidates Lars Falk and Pascal and Claudia Friedli were all able to be at the Biennial, which gave them a great insight into the mission. Please pray as we accompany them on this journey into what could be a lifetime in mission.

SUNDAY 14

KOSOVO: Gani and Adile Smolica in Peja

Praise God for the excellent Easter Service. The room was full and we had 10 new people attending. Pray for them to continue having interest in Jesus. Today, 14 May, we will have 5 new believers getting baptised. Pray for their families and friends to attend and be a part of these people's life with Jesus.

MONDAY 15

GREECE: Anna Crawford in Athens

I will be going to Samos, the Greek island nearer to Turkey than Greece, for the month of May to fill in for a couple who do member care for the Eurorelief volunteers who help out in the refugee camp. Pray for wisdom and understanding in challenging situations.

TUESDAY 16

GERMANY: R and A in Berlin

We thank God for what He is doing in and amongst our church in Berlin. The church continues to have visitors every week and sometimes they stay for longer than a once-off visit. For example, please pray for our neighbour from an atheist background who came to church for the first-time. It seemed to be a very positive experience for her. Please pray the Lord works powerfully in her heart!

WEDNESDAY 17

CROATIA: Stephen and Tabita Bell in Varaždin

Please pray Tabita and I may encourage and train 70-100 church members in Lisbon for Christian life and service at a Portugal Conference with former colleagues Emanoel and Francine Santos from today, May 17-21. Pray for Joshua and Benjamin as they take university exams in Germany and for Sheona and Jason as they both serve full time in Alliance Church, Calgary.

THURSDAY 18

ITALY: Richard and Pinuccia Wilson in Rovereto

At the end of March, the church at Rovereto organised a public meeting at Ala, the next town down the valley with about 15,000 residents. It was better attended than we expected, with some good conversations with the visitors afterwards. Pray for wisdom for the church as it reflects on how to continue and grow the witness there and that one day there will be an evangelical church planted there.

FRIDAY 19

FRANCE: Marc and Jody van Eijden in Tours

Please pray for J. who has just been refused asylum in France. He hopes now to apply for refuge in the USA. Our church helped him during this process here. Now we can only recommend him to contacts in the States. He will need a guarantor. He has a wife and two young boys who are still in his country of origin, an impoverished country where violence is rampant.

SATURDAY 20

ITALY: Erwin and Almut Buschlen in Montichiari

From today, 20-28 May, we are planning to have an exposition in the city park in Montichiari on the topic "inner freedom" with interactive elements and crafts for children. Please pray that people will be touched by God's Holy Spirit.

SUNDAY 21

AUSTRIA: Tobias and Esther Giersch in Arriach

Today, 21 May our baby is due. We are very thankful that the pregnancy went perfectly well so far. Please pray for a good birth, that Esther and the little one will be well and for a good start for us as a family. Please also pray for us to cope well with any emotions that might arise looking back at Kaleb our son who went to be with the Lord shortly after his birth two years ago.

MONDAY 22

PORTUGAL: Ebersson and Madalena David in Alentejo

Thank God for our participation at the Biennial Conference in Croatia with missionaries from 40 nationalities serving in Europe. It was a time of God's provision for our family. Also pray for the ministerial doors that opened in Portugal. Please pray for our church in Brazil and thank God for all our financial support.

TUESDAY 23

AUSTRIA: Rachel Fuchs in Graz

Please pray for the ÖSM student group in Linz, that they would continue to pray for and have evangelistic conversations with their fellow students after the recent on-campus mission week and this would bear fruit.

WEDNESDAY 24

BULGARIA: Dimitrie and Maria Todorov in Burgas

Pray for a successful outreach with Food for the Hungry, Hope for Eternity, a partnership between Convoy of Hope and New Hope Bulgaria. The program just started last week. Pray for Victoria's state-sponsored Internship at the English Language Schools in our capital Sofia and for George to find the right place for him for a seasonal summer job.

THURSDAY 25

FRANCE: Jack and Sarah Winterburn in Tours

Praise God for an encouraging mission trip of 7 young adults from the UK in April. At the start of May is a youth weekend away organised by the Perspectives denomination churches of the region (the first of its kind), with some other churches also sending their youth groups. Do pray for unity and protection for the team and for the young people to encounter Jesus, be transformed by the gospel and have lots of fun.

FRIDAY 26

NEW ZEALAND: Féy Cotter, National Director

Please continue to pray for all the NZ candidates as they develop partnerships and seek to raise their support so they can move to Europe to begin language study/ministry.

SATURDAY 27

GERMANY: Sebastian and Fabiana Braun in Schwerin

Please pray for health: for our family, especially the girls, as they have had a different virus to fight since January, which is very exhausting for us! We are also thankful for the 5 years Patchwork Centre celebration!

SUNDAY 28**ITALY: Susanne Stoehr in Macherio**

Thanks to God that Eleisa's son Noah is making progress in working through the loss of his father. Continue to pray for a personal encounter with Jesus. Pray for Leandra who is severely ill. Pray that Jesus may touch and save her.

MONDAY 29**PORTUGAL: Shane McGloin in Vila Real**

Please pray for the preparation of our summer ministry in July and August. We are trying to find a suitable centre to do our camps, so please pray that something will come up soon.

TUESDAY 30**REPUBLIC OF IRELAND: Jonathan and Nicola McCracken in Claremorris**

We give thanks for the Easter events last month. Recently we have had at least four Brazilian families join us on Sunday mornings. Pray for wisdom as we get to know these families. Pray too for a more suitable place to meet with numbers increasing. The ladies monthly meeting is going well, so thank you for your prayers for this.

WEDNESDAY 31**SPAIN: David and Samantha Gilkinson in Salou**

We are praising God for some more mothers coming to the Mum and Baby Club. Please pray that more mothers who come to the food and clothing bank will come and feel welcomed in the church through this club. Please pray too that many families will sign up for our holiday Bible club this month, especially those from outside the church and through invites to parents of school friends.