

CHRISTMAS/WINTER 2022-23

FOCUS

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN MISSION INTERNATIONAL-USA
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

*Pray
for Ukraine*

Due to its rich Christian history, Christmas in France is a significant celebration. Yet, behind the holiday festivities sits a deep spiritual void; only 1% of more than 65 million in this nation are Evangelical followers of Jesus. Thank you for your support as we seek to increase our presence here and throughout Europe in 2023.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



“The giving of gifts is not something man invented. God started the giving spree when He gave a gift beyond words, the unspeakable gift of His Son.”

– Robert Flatt

Christmas season is upon us, and 2022 will soon be a memory. While this year certainly brought its share of difficulties, such times also provide an occasion for God's grace to be displayed.

I have witnessed God's power at work this year on behalf of ECMI. Despite the economic headwinds we face societally, generous contributions enabled us to launch the first of what we pray is multiple church plants over the

next four years. The response to the *Ukraine Crisis Fund* has been extraordinary, allowing us to provide significant resources to those affected by war throughout Europe and beyond. Overall, the number of donors to ECMI ministries has increased substantially since January, an extremely positive marker for our organization. If you are a new giver, thank you! I also anticipate placing new missionaries and additional executive and administrative staff in the coming months. God has blessed us with growth in these key areas.

God's gracious provision in difficult times buoys our faith. This is ECMI's testimonial of 2022.

As I consider this Christmas in light of persistent challenges at home and abroad, I am struck by the significance of these familiar words:

*“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those
on whom his favor rests.”*
– Luke 2:14

May you and your loved ones experience renewed peace as you celebrate this season. May those in our lives who have yet to meet Jesus find peace in him this Christmas. May there soon be peace in Europe.

I remain deeply grateful for your partnership as we share the Good News of Jesus with the peoples of Europe. *Thank you for your support!*

Doug Gotcher

doug.gotcher@ecmi.org

INCLUDE ECMI-USA IN YOUR YEAR-END GIVING

This year has been extremely challenging in Europe. Financial instability has been magnified by a seemingly endless war in Ukraine. It is estimated 7.7 million have been displaced by the conflict, with the number continuing to rise. Hope has often felt like an elusive luxury in 2022.

Amidst the chaos, ECMI offered practical aid and the hope of the Gospel to countless refugees throughout Europe and beyond. Some of our efforts to serve relocated persons continue indefinitely. Our church planting strategy is also designed to bring hope to the nearly 98% of Europeans who do not identify as Evangelical Christian. This year, we launched a church plant in Budapest, Hungary, and we are pursuing new church-focused partnerships with first-culture ministers in Croatia, Finland, and Ireland. Additionally, we are pursuing placement of long and short-term North American field staff in yet-to-be determined locations in 2023. Serving alongside established ECMI missionaries, they will provide much-needed support for ministries in these places.



Join us in taking the Gospel to Europe's next generations through a year-end gift.

God's unshakable Kingdom purposes for the peoples of Europe gives us hope!

Our current efforts and future goals are possible because of your generous financial support. Thank you for prayerfully considering a year-end gift of \$100, \$250, \$500, \$1,000 or more.

May God continue to strengthen you with hope as you celebrate the birth of Jesus and anticipate God's continued faithfulness in the coming year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

How to Participate

- Give online at ecmi-usa.org/year-end-gift
- Scan QR code at right with your mobile device
- Checks payable to ECMI-USA
- Gifts by mail must be postmarked by Dec. 31 to be acknowledged as a 2022 donation
- Questions? donors@ecmi-usa.org
217-209-5183

European Christian Mission International
P.O. Box 563
Wheaton, IL 60187
(Please indicate "Year-End Gift")



Scan with
your phone
to donate!

ORDINARY PLACES

Jennifer Pellish



Brad and Jennifer Pellish served in local church-based ministry for nearly 30 years before joining ECMI-USA in 2020. Brad serves as ECMI-USA's Vice President of Staff Care and Development. Jennifer is an English Instructor at Grand Canyon University, located in Phoenix, Arizona, where they live.

As a young girl visiting my grandparents in their small home in Kettering, Ohio, I was often entertained by my resourceful grandfather. A game he liked to play required me to leave the living room for about a minute while he hid a nickel somewhere in the room. When he was ready, he would call me back into the room, and if I was successful in finding the nickel, I could keep it. I would look high and low for that coin, and it kept me busy far longer than it should have. When I tired of looking, I would beg him to tell me where it was, and he would just laugh. At some point, I realized the coins were never actually hidden; rather, they were in obvious, conspicuous places always within my reach.

I failed to see obvious things in ordinary places because my expectations led me to look in grander, remote locations.

This Christmas, it is my prayer that we see Jesus and experience him in the ordinary places. After all, his birth took place in the most ordinary of places. He lived and walked among ordinary people. He was not nor ever will be hidden or remote. He is obvious and conspicuous, if only we have eyes to see him.

“She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel,
which means ‘God with us.’”
– Matthew 1:23

CHANGING TIMES, UNCHANGING VISION

Reaching each new generation in Europe with the Good News of Jesus

God is continually active in bringing people everywhere to faith. His love for the world is unyielding, as evidenced by the incarnation and sacrifice of Christ. While pervasive secularization presents a complex environment for our missionary endeavors, God's redemptive purposes for the peoples of Europe remain steadfast. As such, we are undeterred in our vision.

Our vision is each new generation of Europeans interacting with the Gospel.



Our team in Budapest, Hungary employs a podcast to reach the community with topics of spiritual interest.

Our hope for Europe leads to a renewed commitment to the following:

- *We continue pursuing our vision for 12 new churches by 2026* – We see biblically based, evangelistically dedicated, and holistically focused congregations as key to transforming the spiritual climate in Europe. The first of these efforts launched this fall, and our hope is to begin 2-3 more by the end of 2023.
- *We remain focused on partnerships with first-culture ministers* – We believe it often makes sense to employ Europeans to reach Europe. Therefore, we will engage like-minded, appropriately equipped, fully committed individuals to partner with us for the task at hand.
- *We place skilled North American workers in key cross-cultural settings* – We also believe North Americans can contribute significantly to this vision. We will find those with a clear calling and obvious capabilities to join European-led ministry teams.
- *We leverage our relationships throughout Europe for greater effectiveness* – We are privileged to collaborate with others in Europe to identify the best people and opportunities for us to invest resources in.
- *We will regularly invite you to participate in our vision* – If you share our vision for a transformed Europe, please join us by praying and giving.

Questions about ECMI's work in Europe? 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



Sharon
Home Assignment



Ron & Brenda
Madrid, Spain



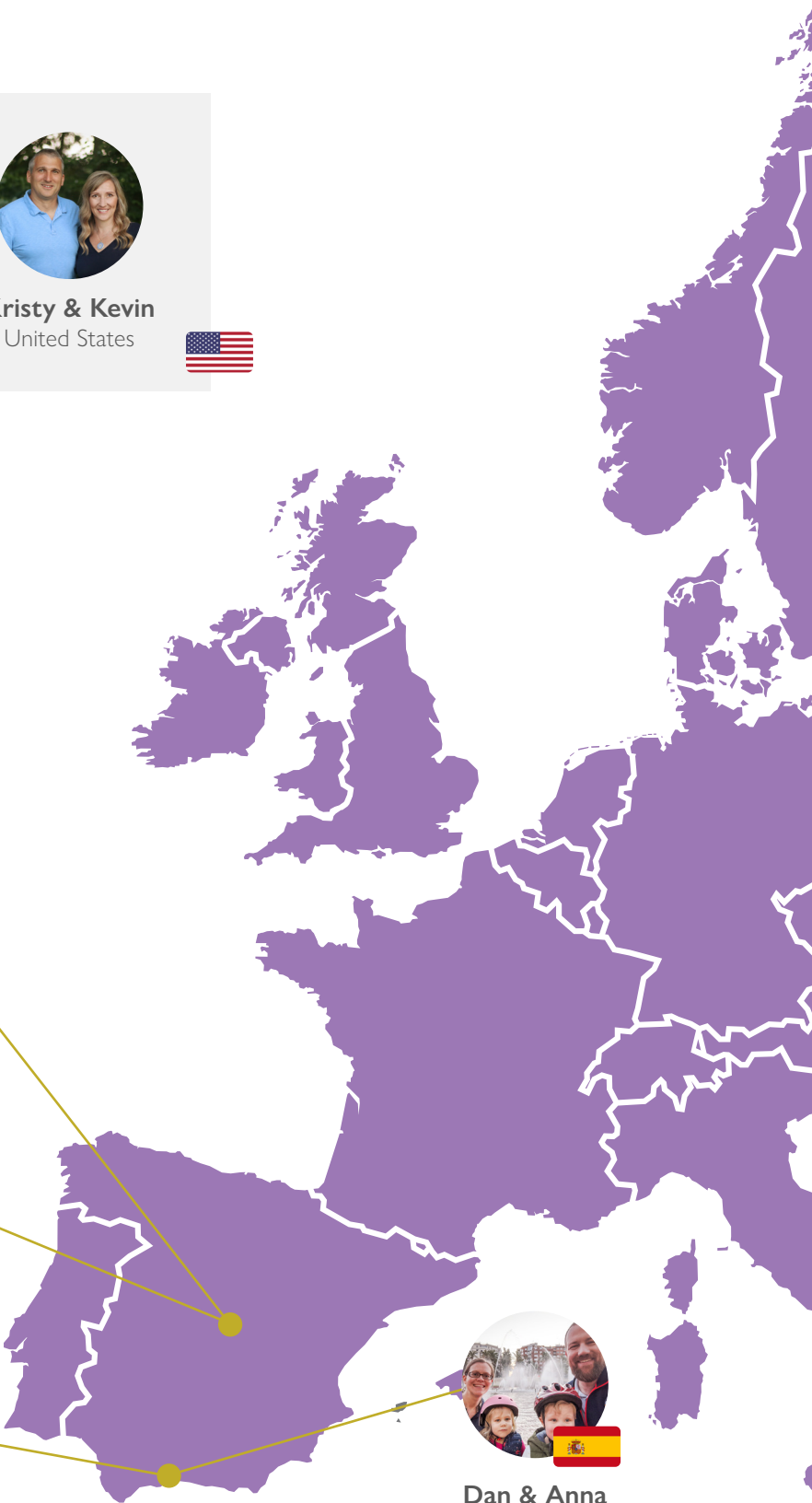
B.J. & Rachel
Madrid, Spain



Hans & Jennifer
Malaga, Spain



Dan & Anna
Malaga, Spain



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

Pray for Ukraine



Günther & Mallory
Vienna, Austria



Lila
Krakow, Poland



Roman & Iryna
Lviv, Ukraine



Tamás & Virág
Budapest, Hungary



Octavian & Eugenia
Timisoara, Romania



Dimitrie & Maria
Burgas, Bulgaria



Diana
Ljubljana, Slovenia



Kent & Angie
Tirana, Albania



Kostya & Iryna
Zagreb, Croatia

Dubrovnik, Croatia

*On average, only 2.5% across Europe identify as Evangelical Christian.
Your gifts accelerate our efforts to reach the remaining 98%!*

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 each new European generation interacting with the Gospel. 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!



Ukraine Crisis Fund

ecmi-usa.org/ukrainecrisis

- 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



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- Contact Us

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