

# MISSION VISION



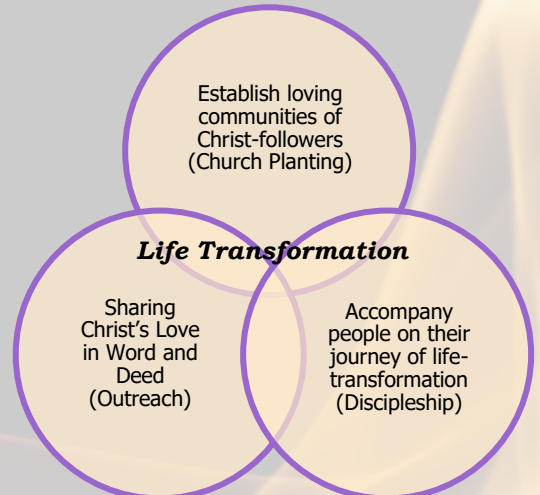
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**FALL 2016**



Last April, more than 450 members and friends of ECMI gathered in Umag, Croatia, for a time of spiritual refreshment, encouragement and strategic planning. As we contemplated a Europe in crisis, we realized again that the hope people need and want can only be found in Jesus. We reaffirmed our common commitment to see the life transforming hope of Jesus brought to the peoples of Europe. Sharing Christ's love and restoring hope is our greatest aim. But how do we do that? We believe God's program involves establishing and developing local communities of loving Christ-followers (church planting) who touch their communities in word and deed (outreach) and journey with those who have chosen to follow Christ (discipleship). At the intersection of this mission we find life transformation in Christ, the hope of glory.

At the Biennial Conference we discovered that this activity must be guided by enduring values that we have expressed in directions of UP, IN, OUT and TOGETHER.



The current crises in Europe have also caused us to reexamine our priorities or commitments which can be summarized as follows:

- ✓ Focus on discipleship and church planting in all contexts of Europe
- ✓ Raise up a new and younger generation of leaders
- ✓ Engage in partnerships because the job is too big for one ministry
- ✓ Exercise a prophetic voice in Europe proclaiming the Gospel
- ✓ Realize that the task requires we value and care for one another

This issue of Mission Vision reflects the stories of those on the front lines of sharing Christ's love and restoring hope to more than 800 million people. In traveling across Europe and the United States I am encouraged by the growing sense that the time is now and God is calling us to partner with Him to get the job done. On the back page of this issue you can discover ways that the Lord might have you get involved to PRAY, GO and/or GIVE.

Join us on this journey of a lifetime,  
*George Brown*  
 Executive Director  
 ECMI-USA

# ECMI-USA MISSIONARY NEWS

## First Time Events

### Poland Prayer Days

Doug Groth reports that in April a historical event took place – the first ever ECM Poland prayer day. Seven missionaries - Szczepan and Kamila Cackowski, Saszko Nezamutdinov, Olha Shabliy, Chris Wigram and Doug and Lila Groth - met at the Cackowski's house. A couple of meals were enjoyed together; Szczepan led in a meaningful time of worship; Chris spoke about using the wisdom of Proverbs as a bridge to sharing the gospel; and, most importantly, they prayed for each other and the ministries in which they are involved.



The ECM Poland team has grown and there are now three different ministries in three areas of southern Poland. Szczepan and Kamila are working in a church planting project in cooperation with Josiah Venture in Mikolow. Saszko and Olha are starting a new church plant in Krakow. Doug and Lila lead an established church in Rabka. Doug is also involved in a new church plant effort in Nowy Sacz and Lila has a teaching ministry to children, parents, teachers, women and seniors.

### Conference for Preacher's and Secret Priest Kids

A conference for the adult children of preachers and priests was organized by Csilla Lesko, with New Hope Hungary, this summer. The speaker was Tim Sanford, the author of "I Have to be Perfect ... and Other Parsonage Heresies". Many preacher kids (PKs) have similar experiences that are unique to PKS. Children of priests have additional problems—their parentage must remain a secret. Most of them came from a home where God's service was more important than their own family. They grew up feeling not as worthy as other church members. Although the discussions were often uncomfortable, there was relief on the faces when they left.

The 15 attendees have started a PK Google Group to keep in touch and to support one another. Tim Sanford offered to answer public questions on the group each month and to make his conference notes available online.



### National Pastors Conference in Bulgaria

In August, Pastors David Wilson and Jeff Oakes spoke to 50 Bulgarian pastors and their wives at a conference organized by Dimitrie Todorov with New Hope Bulgaria. Pastors were encouraged, inspired and challenged to seek God more than ever, and to pray and seek the lost. In September, a new program will be launched to further equip ministers.

## Camp News

### New Hope Ukraine

In June one of the most anticipated events in the year for the New Hope team and all the families in Orphan Care Program took place. More than 100 children and parents from several regions were united in one big family during a week at the Orphan Care Camp.



The children had Bible lessons about God and the Christian life. New Hope volunteers involved them in team games and competitions.

Parents were blessed by David Little and his wife Collin, who led the training seminars and shared their own experience of raising adopted children. It was a time of active discussions and sharing both difficult and happy experiences of raising children in foster and adoptive families.

Following is feedback from one family: "Dear Friends, we thank so much everyone who made this camp possible. Here we had interesting conversations, useful seminars, made new friends, enjoyed delicious food and wonderful rest. Thank you very much! May God bless you!"

### Pozoblanco, Spain

Frances and Natalie Arjona (ECM Iberoamerica) and Delyth Sutton (ECM Britain) again hosted a group of eight soccer coaches from the "Coaches for Christ" organization in Northern Ireland. The coaches taught at soccer camps in Pozoblanco in the morning and in El Viso in the afternoon. In addition to training the children, in each session they shared biblical values based on the English word, "TEAM."



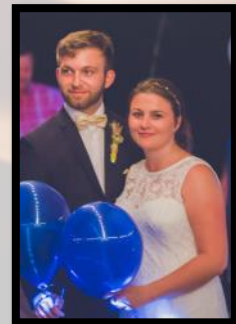
In both towns, leaders of the local soccer clubs received the Irish team very well. Both the Pozoblanco sports director and the mayor of El Viso were present and congratulated the group for their work with the youth.

The camps were so successful that plans are already being made for next year.

Congratulations to Samantha Hemphill, ECMI-USA mis-

## Wedding News

sonary, serving with the Hungarian Baptist Union and Norbert Lakatos on their marriage June 24, 2016. They will be living in Hungary where Samantha will continue her teaching English responsibilities in the schools and Norbert will look for a job which will utilize his qualifications in the welding trade. They plan to resume their ministry with students, coworkers, and the Roma (gypsy) community.



# ECMI-USA MISSIONARY NEWS

## Summer Events

### New Hope Bulgaria

In June, New Hope Bulgaria joined hands with Hope for the Balkans Mission Network and a US team to reach families and children in the poor Gypsy communities of Bulgaria. 250 children were reached and 50 families participated in the seminars. A summer camp for 120 children and youth was held the end of July. With a team from Alabama and Tennessee, the Scottish Children's Mission, and Russian volunteers, the Bulgarian team worked to reach and disciple many who had never heard the Gospel before. The testimony about Jesus was so powerful that there are many pastors and churches asking for training for their workers now.



### New Hope Ukraine



In July in Lviv, seven young people who came to the weekly meetings of the *Crossroad* Youth Club in one of the local churches were baptized. What joy to see how God changed the hearts of young people during the previous year!

One of the girls who recently made a decision for Christ shared a short testimony about what brought her the decision to follow God. *"If your goal was to show me God, His love for me, you made it. You were not only telling me about God, but trying to reflect Him. When I came the first time, I was impressed by the atmosphere of family and easiness. During the year of our friendship and time spent with you in such a friendly atmosphere, I was changing and my life was changing, too. I started to understand God much better. Many things in my life have changed. You've become my family!"*

### Krakow, Poland

A variety of events occurred this summer. Public services at the church took place. A weekly meeting was added for evening prayers in English, because many English-speaking guests visited the church. Seminary students from the Netherlands and two groups of missionaries from Northern Ireland participated in events: English club: cooking lessons and breakfasts with the Irish; Japanese, Dutch and Irish nights at the VoxBox English club; an acoustic evening in one of the cafes in which ECMI-USA missionary Olya Shabliy sang with the Irish; and a street survey of Catholic youth on their attitudes towards spiritual issues.



### New Hope Romania

The team is embarking on a huge project translating, correcting, and preparing a series of exegetical commentaries on the New Testament from Zondervan Publishers to meet the need to provide some excellent tools for the new generation of pastors and teachers in Romanian churches.

## Changes in Assignment

### Hans and Jennifer Anderson

In addition to their focus on The Bridge church plant at the University in Castellón, Spain, Hans and Jennifer, together with ECM-Australia missionary Chloe Wolfson, have formed the Short-term Coordination Team (SCT). They will be taking over from Kees Postma who has taken on a pastorate and needs to relinquish this responsibility. The SCT will field inquiries from national sections to match short term candidates with opportunities across Europe, both for teams and individuals from a week up to two years.



### Jesse and Krista Ashmen



After serving the Lord in Sweden for more than 9 years, Jesse will no longer be ministering as church pastor on the island of Gotland. Both he and Krista will be active as lay persons, encouraging the church through teaching and practice to show the love of Christ to the large immigrant community in the area. In addition, both of them are working bi-vocationally with part time jobs in the school system teaching English.

### Francisco and Shirley Gross (ECM Iberoamerica)

Francisco has accepted an appointment to be the Guatemalan ambassador to Sweden for the next four years. He and Shirley have left Spain (and ECM) for Stockholm. The embassy in Sweden serves as the embassy for the whole Nordic region and Baltic nations -Norway, Denmark, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. Although the process happened quickly, Francisco and Shirley felt God opening doors for them, recognizing this would bring great change to them as a family, to the ministry, and to the ECM family. It was a very difficult decision, but they rested upon God's guidance and control of details, trusting Him to keep and continue with what He has been doing in Benicassim and the other ministries. At the moment they view this as something temporary, returning to ministry as God leads.



## Home Assignments

A number of ECMI-USA missionaries were on home assignment this summer, meeting with individuals and churches who support them in prayer and finances, and spending time with families and friends. These included: Ron and Brenda Anderson; BJ and Rachel Whitaker and their girls, Miriam and Laura; Dan and Anna Julian, and son Calvin; Kent and Angie Morton, and their children, Emily, Grace, and Ethan; and Sharon Graves.

## ECMI-USA NEWS

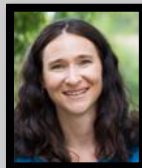
## Team ECMI-USA

### ECMI-USA Welcomes New Board Members

*Becky Cooke*, the daughter of missionaries, has served as a legal secretary, an educational consultant to homeschool families, and on a number of boards. She has been involved with local, state, and national political campaigns. Retiring from Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) has provided flexibility to participate in a Bible study, mentor international students, be a prayer intercessor, and provide editing services for two local ministries. She and her husband, Jim, reside in McLean, VA, and have two sons, a daughter, son-in-law, and two granddaughters.



*Bonnie Cherry* was raised in a family active in full-time ministry in churches and missions and has a passion for the global body of Christ. Graduating with a Bachelors in Bible and a Masters in Organizational Leadership, she worked at Reach Beyond in strategic planning and board governance until transitioning to a full-time mom. Serving on the ministry team for MOPS, she co-leads the team Bible study. Bonnie and her husband, Kirk, serve together on the team for God Questions, a coffee shop ministry addressing questions of faith in a conversational format. They have two boys.



**Board Members Retire**  
*Dennis Burkholder*, International Trustee, and *Rebekah Burkholder*, ECMI-



USA Board Member, retired from their prospective boards in April. Both continue to serve ECMI-USA in various volunteer capacities.

### Friends of ECMI Welcome New Family Members

*Justin and Corinne Bellars* welcomed another daughter, Georgia Violet Bronwen, on June 27<sup>th</sup> who joins her sisters, Joanna and Brigitta.



*Stephanie Shackelford Cervantes*, former ECM missionary, and her husband Martin welcomed a daughter into the family, Aveline Marie, born July 12.

### Short Term Mission News

*Rebekah (Bekah) Bosler* has left for the UK to work for a year with One Church in Brighton in their programs for youth and children.



### New Website

We are pleased to announce the development of our new ECMI-USA Website that is not only computer, but mobile device friendly. Go online to [www.ecmi-usa.org](http://www.ecmi-usa.org) and discover how you can PRAY, GO and GIVE.



### USA Section Field Missionaries

- Ron/Brenda Anderson** - Church Planting Consultant (living in Spain)
- Hans/Jennifer Anderson** - Spain
- Jesse and Krista Ashmen** - Sweden
- Bekah Bosler** - UK
- Sharon Graves** - Training Consultant
- Doug/Lila Groth** - Poland
- Dan/Anna Julian** - Spain
- Samantha Lakatos** - Hungary
- Tinu Leontiu** - Romania
- Csilla Lesko** - Hungary
- Roman/Iryna Matviyiv** - Ukraine
- Oksana/Peter Savka** - Ukraine
- Olya Shabliy** - Poland
- Dimitrie/Maria Todorov** - Bulgaria
- Tavi Verlan** - Romania
- BJ/Rachel Whitaker** - Spain

### Approved Candidates

- Allison Everson** - Austria
- David/Laura Jouv** - France

### Staff and Volunteers

- George Brown** - Executive Director
- Rebekah Burkholder** - Communications and Personnel
- Frank Koleszar** - Mobilization
- Lynn Leitzel** - Member Care
- Lynea Brown** - Administration Coordinator
- Bob Walter** - Mobilization

### Board of Directors

- Kevin Guttman** - Chair
- Thomas Dunn** - Vice Chair
- Jerry Parsons** - Secretary
- Dale Larson** - Treasurer
- Jay Butler**
- Bonnie Cherry**
- Becky Cooke**
- Eric Curtiss**
- Dick Hamilton**
- Kristy Steiner**



**Office Address:**  
5550 Tech Center Dr Ste 307  
Colorado Springs, CO 80919-2308

**Donations Address:**  
P.O. Box 2217  
Monument, CO 80132-2279

**Phone toll free:** 877-874-3264  
**E-mail:** [ecmi.usa@ecmi.org](mailto:ecmi.usa@ecmi.org)  
**On the web:** [www.ecmi-usa.org](http://www.ecmi-usa.org)

You can help:	Establish Communities of loving Christ Followers	Meeting the spiritual and physical needs of others	Accompanying others in their spiritual journey
Pray	Subscribe to the Monthly Prayer Diary <a href="http://www.ecmi-usa.org/pray">www.ecmi-usa.org/pray</a>		
Go	Long and short-term opportunities are available in many countries <a href="http://www.ecmi-usa.org/serve">www.ecmi-usa.org/serve</a>		
Give	<b>Sponsor an orphan</b> \$1.15/day, \$35/mo., \$420/yr.	<b>Care for one refugee</b> \$1/day, \$30/mo., \$360/yr.	<b>Counseling for 50</b> \$1.65/day, \$50/mo., \$600/yr.
	<b>10 camp scholarships</b> \$2/day, \$60/mo., \$720/yr.	<b>Care for unwed mothers</b> \$3/day, \$90/mo., \$1080/yr.	<b>Study materials for 100</b> \$2.35/day, \$70/mo., \$840/yr.
	<b>Your Missionary Support</b> \$3.30/day, \$100/mo., \$1200/yr.	<b>Addiction Recovery Aid</b> \$5/day, \$150/mo., \$1800/yr.	<b>Bible Courses for 1000</b> \$12/day, \$360/mo., \$4320/yr.
	<b>National worker support</b> \$15/day, \$450/mo., \$5400/yr.		

Learn more about how you can invest in the Kingdom of God  
[www.ecmi-usa.org/give](http://www.ecmi-usa.org/give)



