



George Brown
Director's Corner
ECMI-USA

Every year I stand amazed at what God has done in our midst and think, "Only the power and Spirit of God could have done this." As North Americans we are easily enamored by statistics and numbers, but the numbers are only as meaningful as the stories of the people behind them.

Take Maksym in Ukraine for example. His parents adopted him twelve years ago and have been praying for him since that time. On July 3, 2016, he was baptized. Praise the Lord!



From Sweden to Malta, from Portugal to Ukraine, lives are being changed. In every corner of Europe, ECMI's national and expatriate workers labor together to see the love of Christ shared and peoples' lives transformed through:

- ◆ **Communities of loving Christ followers**
- ◆ **Sharing Christ's love in word and deed**
- ◆ **Accompanying people on their journey with God**

We count it a privilege to partner with you. **Because of you, your prayers, and your financial investment the Gospel is being proclaimed and lives are transformed.**

As you read through this issue of **mission vision** rejoice with us at what God has done and what He is doing in our midst. Also, take a moment to pray for these faithful workers who long to see the 800 million people of Europe transformed in the name of Christ.

*Sharing Christ's Love in Europe
Bringing hope that makes a difference*

Our Vision: To see the peoples of Europe transformed in the name of Christ!
Our Mission: To establish reproducing churches which evangelize and disciple the peoples of Europe



Camp Changed My Life!

All across Europe this summer, men and women, boys and girls will be involved in sharing life in a camp environment. Perhaps your life was impacted significantly by a Christian camp experience. You can change a life this summer.

"I had a hard life as a child," explains Dalibor. "My father was violent to my mother and in prison some of the time. I became a violent boy and my mother gave me up to social care. I lived with some families but even they thought that I was a lost cause."

Dalibor is typical of the approximately 800 foster children living in and around Verazdin, Croatia. Most of these children and young people come from complicated backgrounds. Some have parents in prison, some have been kicked out onto the street and some have been removed from their homes by social services.

Who offers life to these vulnerable children and young people?

"The first people that gave me real friendship were from Emanuel church," continues Dalibor. "They invited me to a guitar class, a youth meeting and the summer camp. The



camp was the greatest moment because there I had a meeting with Jesus and prayed that He would write a new history for my life."

Dana Bulgar, a 40 year old Romanian shared this from her experience last year. *"After about five years of trials, sickness, disillusionment and the loss of several loved ones, I wished from all my heart to get to this wonderful camp where God worked on my soul and so to find peace and consolation. I praise God who always knows how to amaze us with His goodness and love. I have received much more than I thought I would. I experienced the love of God together with real special people. I got peace, rest, quietness, new friends. I experienced God and His joy. After the camp I felt like starting all over again in God's will, a thing I wished for such a long time. I found God again in a very natural and wonderful way. I yearned for those moments spent together and I feel overwhelmed of the way I discovered God anew each day spent in the camp."*

This summer the team in Romania is planning two family and one teen camps.

Continued on Page 3 . . .

One Life At A Time



"If a tree falls..."

Hacer leña del árbol caído: To make firewood from the fallen tree.

We've continued to meet with our neighbor for Bible studies. We're reading John and Galatians. This past week, he used the above phrase in our conversation over dinner.

On face value, it sounds like the old, "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade." In reality, the phrase is meant to convey something worse, something more akin to, "When life gives your neighbor lemons, start throwing more lemons at them." Another way to explain it: You can warm yourself by kicking a man when he's down.

Our neighbor's been having a rough month. It's to be expected. He's fighting sin. He's seeking Christ in the Word. And the enemy doesn't want that. So he's suffering — at work, in his personal life, emotionally.

And he told us over dinner that he didn't want to tell anyone, because he's afraid they'd all be keen to make firewood out of a fallen tree. Sadly, we've seen this happen here more than we'd care to recognize.

But in John's Gospel, we read of Jesus meeting the woman at the well and the sick man at the pool. He didn't kick them. He didn't make firewood out of them. He loved them. He showed them grace and mercy. And He called them to follow Him.

Join us in praying for the believers in Spain who are eager to show this same incredible grace to those who have hit the bottom. And pray with us that this grace would shine in the midst of a society that has no idea what it means.

- Dan and Anna Julian, Spain

Unconditional Love

"We welcome her questions and doubts. And in return, she receives answers and love." - Kent Morton

From anti-church to attending a Bible study in 3 months!

This is why we do the activities that we do. This is exactly why we go early and set up chairs, pick up some refreshments and turn on the heaters to warm the church. It is precisely why sometimes we put energy into "non-churchy" events. It is to build relationships in a non-threatening environment. English class is one way for people to have a chance to spend time with our church members who otherwise would not interact with believers.



Meet Gerta (not her real name). She was excited about coming to English class, but when she saw that it was at a church, she hesitated and didn't even want to come inside. Fortunately, she decided to come in with one of her friends that goes to our church.

Fast forward 3 months of investing relationally with this college student. Letting her see who we are and how we treat each other. Letting her experience the love of Christ in us. In three short months she began attending a Bible study of our church on a Friday night. Praise the Lord!

There is still much that she does not understand, but she knows two things. First, she is welcome to come, and second, we will not judge her. We welcome her questions and doubts. And in return, she receives answers and love.

- Kent and Angie Morton,
Albania



Is Sam a Person of Peace?

"If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you." Luke 10:6

It's Friday afternoon; we have just picked up Jack and Ellee at the gate of their elementary school. I have decided that we will grab sandwiches at a café, and picnic in the local park where we can feed the fish and birds. This is something we used to do when the kids were a bit smaller. Well, as it turns out, Jack and Ellee would rather go home and eat leftovers. But we go to the cafe anyway. Fran is behind the counter as I approach, but too busy to take my order immediately.

As I wait, I turn to my right and recognize a young man, "Sam," from N. Africa, whom I have spoken with several times at The Bridge outreach events. I say hello and he smiles from ear to ear, saying, "I am so glad to see you here, as it is my first time in this café." He invites me to have coffee. I agree. He then insists on buying our sandwiches and that we must come to his apartment to eat sometime. A generous act of hospitality.

Our young friend "Sam" does not know we had been asked less than a week ago to pray for him by Anna and Fabrizio, friends from our church who are worried about him.

Would you please join us in praying for "Sam"?

- Hans and Jennifer Anderson,
Spain

Life, Death and Balloons



Each August for more than 10 years, David and Linda James, and Jacqueline Stolk have been taking teams of (mostly) young people on mission trips to the seaside resort of Umag in Croatia. Over the last two years they have had contact with Maurizio - and his story is unbelievably moving.

In 2015 we arrived in Umag with a young international team and the teabus, ready to help the local church share the love of Christ with local people and holiday makers. On the first evening team members got into discussion with Maurizio who was selling balloons along the promenade. On the surface seeming larger than life, at times a little drunk, the "Balloon man" appeared on the promenade during the next two evenings, but on the fourth evening he was nowhere to be seen.

Maurizio was at home, contemplating suicide. At one point he even had a noose around his neck. Maurizio was an alcoholic and suffered from various other health issues and had had enough. But something in him told him not to end his life, but to go to talk to the people at the teabus once again. Pastor Josip Cukic had a long discussion with him and invited both Maurizio and his wife Ruza to meet with him and his wife Sofija regularly - to read the Bible and to pray.



A number of weeks later Maurizio trusted Jesus with his life.

One year later as we arrived on the promenade in Umag again, Maurizio came straight over to David and said, "Thanks to you and your team coming to Umag with this bus last year I have received new life". Maurizio had spent much of his life in the local bars and now he was witnessing to everyone who knew him. In fact he was the first local person, born and raised in Umag, who had become a Christian in the Umag church - so a very special person in the eyes of Pastor Cukic.

A month after our mission trip in 2016, the Umag church held another evangelistic event and during the course of this, on 8th October, Ruza also gave her life to the Lord. Maurizio's heart simply overflowed with joy. One week later, on 15th October, Maurizio died suddenly, at age 42.

Everyone was in shock. Pastor Cukic especially so as he had hoped that this was the start of a breakthrough for the church. The locally born natural evangelist was gone. Pastor Cukic continues:

"To our surprise Ruza decided she wanted our church to conduct the funeral - even though her conversion was only a week earlier and Maurizio's family were all Roman Catholic. So we took on this responsibility. Umag had never seen

an event like it. I was able to preach to hundreds of local people. Sofija and I could speak to his mother and many others about the hope that Maurizio had. They were especially struck by a photo I had taken of Maurizio immediately after his conversion. Everyone who looked at this photo said they had never known Maurizio like that.

"The next Sunday six of Maurizio's friends came to our Sunday service. Ruza is experiencing a comfort that many can only describe as supernatural. His mother insisted that the name of our church should be included in the obituary. Such an opportunity for the church to present itself in this way could only come from our faithful Lord.

"Despite the sadness, we are encouraged. Pray for Ruza and Maurizio's friends and relatives - who now know where to find hope."

Camps Change Lives (continued)

In Ukraine, camps are held each year for Christian families who have welcomed foster children into their homes. Last year more than 100 parents and children attended. The team is praying that they will be able to hold two camps, but there have been scheduling problems with the site they had chosen. Pray that this gets resolved.



One mother's testimony of one foster child, Lisa, sums up the impact that camp can have on a life.

"This past summer the girls attended a Christian camp on the Black Sea for a week. It was the first time the twins were away from us for that long. It was there Lisa decided to give her life to God. This made us very happy as she is usually a very shy person."

Will you help make a life changing camp experience for someone this summer?

\$10 will sponsor one camper for a day.

\$70 will sponsor someone for a week.

\$350 will sponsor 5 campers to attend.

If you want to help, follow the instructions on the enclosed card. You can give online or return a check with the enclosed card.

Lives on the Move



"Just like Queen Esther who served as a tool in the hands of God..."

We can say with confidence that we live in a time like this to serve God and bring hope and deliverance from fear through sharing the Gospel with refugees from Syria, Iran and Afghanistan.

Recently a team from ECM (above) came to witness the fruit of our refugee outreach firsthand. They



were able to meet the men in the picture with me. I am in the middle of two Iranian believers – Ahmad and Sami (Samir). I was humbled to hear their stories of how they had to flee Iran with their wives after receiving twice 70 lashes each for sharing the Gospel in Iran. Like Paul, they showed us the marks of Christ on their backs.

New Hope Bulgaria supports them in their ministry with the church. Our support provides for logistics, nutritious food and medicine. They transport new believers from among the refugees who come to church every Sunday and worship with the other believers and study the Bible.

We prayed with the refugees and our church partners, and left the camp deeply moved by the power of God's love manifested through the Body of Christ in Bulgaria. Like John, I can say that I have no greater joy than to see how the children of God walk in Jesus' love. Pray and give for our refugee outreach so we can bring hope to many like Ahmad and Sami.

- Dimitrie Todorov, Bulgaria

"I love being an accelerator of church planting!"



I love facilitating and seeing ECM and the Lausanne Committee develop interdenominational, nationwide church planting platforms. In Spain, this platform is called "La Plaza del Plantador." God uses the personal relationships that are forged across denominational lines to increase church planting synergy and enable the sharing of resources in training and methodology. In Croatia, the same concept was launched when ECM missionaries Stephen Bell, Carla Lima and Emanoel Santos gathered Christian leaders from 5 areas of the country. The outcome was a commitment to a united vision to reach all of Croatia. Planning is now underway to provide training. This past year the Lausanne church planting network has promoted the best principles in church planting to over 1500 leaders from Jakarta to Latin America, USA and Europe. To God be the glory. - Ron Anderson

SUCCESS LEADS TO SUCCESS!

Yet ANOTHER church plant in France

In past issues of mission vision we have told you about how the church in Veneux-les-Sablons, headed up by Stephen and Rosemary Cox, had outgrown its building. And how this had led to a church plant down the road in Donnemarie. Well, the story continues...

"The church plant in Donnemarie continues to amaze us," Stephen explained early in September. "The prayers of some of the teenagers at a recent meeting were remarkable in their simple sincerity, their freshness and their faith. There was such life in them. One of the lads invited Christ into his life last weekend. As from

September we will be holding weekly Sunday services in Donnemarie."

Later in September Stephen wrote, "Since the 11th they have been holding weekly Sunday services in a well-adapted modern building that they rent for the weekends. The 18th saw their first baptism, Nicole. Another is planned for October. Regular attendance is about 50. The monthly Café-croissant-Bible studies are continuing."

A church needs a leader and the couple behind this new church plant are members of Stephen and Rosemary's church, Philippe and Joanne Mayhew. They are an



experienced missionary couple who have worked with Child Evangelism in France (CEF) for 20 years. They have just joined ECM in order to focus on church planting.

The new church plant belongs to the French Baptist Association, the same church movement as the Veneux church. It is great to welcome another couple to ECM's team in France, especially as they are already well on their way to success!



By the way, back at Veneux Stephen says, "We have moved to having two identical church services every Sunday in an effort to ensure that the growth of the church is not hindered by lack of space. We are still in the trial period; we haven't yet resolved all the difficulties, but we're working on it."

Too Excited to Sleep!

It's almost midnight. I should go to bed because I have to preach tomorrow, but I'm sure I won't sleep. The experience tonight was too powerful. What happened?

In 2011 three Brazilians visited Croatia, where they heard God's calling. The next year all three returned for a two-year project supporting local pastors: a young man and woman in their early 20's and a lady of 40, named Carla. Within three years 16 people had come to faith in Christ through the ministry of this small team!



Tonight we (a group of 22 Brazilians, two Ukrainians, and a few people from Western Europe) are visiting Varaždin for an evening of testimonies. Jonathan Vukov, the local Croatian pastor, compared the spiritual poverty in his country to spiritual blessings in Brazil. In Croatia 0.2% of the population confesses to knowing Jesus, while in Brazil that number is over 40%.

Next Carla spoke. And then it happened. She called five Croatian young people forward who came to know the Lord in these last few years. Many others have become Christians, but these five are all in training for the ministry! They shared how God had called them and then some of the Brazilians prayed for them, one by one.

But the evening did not stop there. This was followed by a call: "Who wants to stand up and be available to follow the example of these five? To go wherever it might be that God calls you to serve, but to consider the Balkans?" There was personal prayer for each who came forward in that small church.

The rest of us were asked to pray for them at the same time. It was a noisy, happy time with a lot of tears, pure emotion, some regret of passed things or a delay in a calling, and some expectation of what God might still have in mind.

Now I sit here and the emotions are slowly ebbing away. I want to share this with you and say from the bottom of my heart: "Thank you for praying for the efforts in the Balkans!" The result is so rewarding that one of the partakers from England said, "Is this the beginning of revival in the Balkans?" - Johan Lukasse, October

New ECMI-USA Team Members

Welcome our latest missionary appointees to ECMI-USA!



After several years of working in South East Asia with Operation Mobilization, Günther and Mallory Fugger are returning to Günther's homeland of Austria to help work with refugees and the local church in a country where less than 1% of the population consider themselves Christ followers.



Allie Everson's energy is infectious. After graduating from Moody Bible Institute, she discerned through a variety of experiences in Europe and in South America, that God was calling her to Austria. She hopes to join David and Linda James in the city of Villach by August 2017.



Having spent a summer in Sweden on a short-term ministry assignment, Jarrod and Amelia Keithley have a heart for one of the most secular countries on the planet. Both are graduates of Biola University and eager to start work with a local church by the fall of 2017.

New Family Member



Dan and Anna Julian (Spain) proudly announced the arrival of Lucy Ruth on March 4, 2017. Dan reports that they made it to the hospital with 10 minutes to spare. Lucy weighed in at 6 lbs. 10 oz. and measured 19 inches long. Mom and baby are adjusting well. Dan says that he and big brother, Calvin, are adjusting to the new routine at home.

New Board Member

Suzanne Manningham was born in Akron, Ohio, to Serbian immigrants. When she was older, her family moved back to Europe and lived in Sweden. God brought them back to the States in 1984.



She attended Columbia International University, and Florida Atlantic University. She and her husband, Micah, met while he served as a pilot for the US Navy. He is now a pilot for Southwest. They have three children, Janie (15), Annabel (12) and Judson (8), and live in Tremont, Illinois. Suzanne is in charge of her church's children's program writing Sunday school curriculum and teaching different age groups. She also leads a women's Bible study.

Her hobbies include teaching, reading, and playing Pickleball with retired folks. Her family is very involved in helping fund Bible translation and distribution.

She writes, "I'm excited and thankful to be part of the ECM family and look forward to meeting many of you."

2016 Annual Report

At A Glance*

215 National and Expatriate Workers
 51 Workers sponsored by the USA Section
 5 New US appointees to Europe
 25 Countries where ministry happened
 10s of thousands of refugees reached
 30 Ongoing Church Plants
 11 New Church Plants
 2 New fields opening - Greece and Malta
 +1,500 Leaders in church planter training
 30,000 students reached in Ukraine
 765 New children in Bible Correspondence Courses
 336 Orphans Sponsored
 100s Reached through camping ministries

**Numbers only tell part of the story. It's the stories you read in this newsletter of transformed lives that really count - to the Glory of God!*

Filter: Where we work Service opportunities

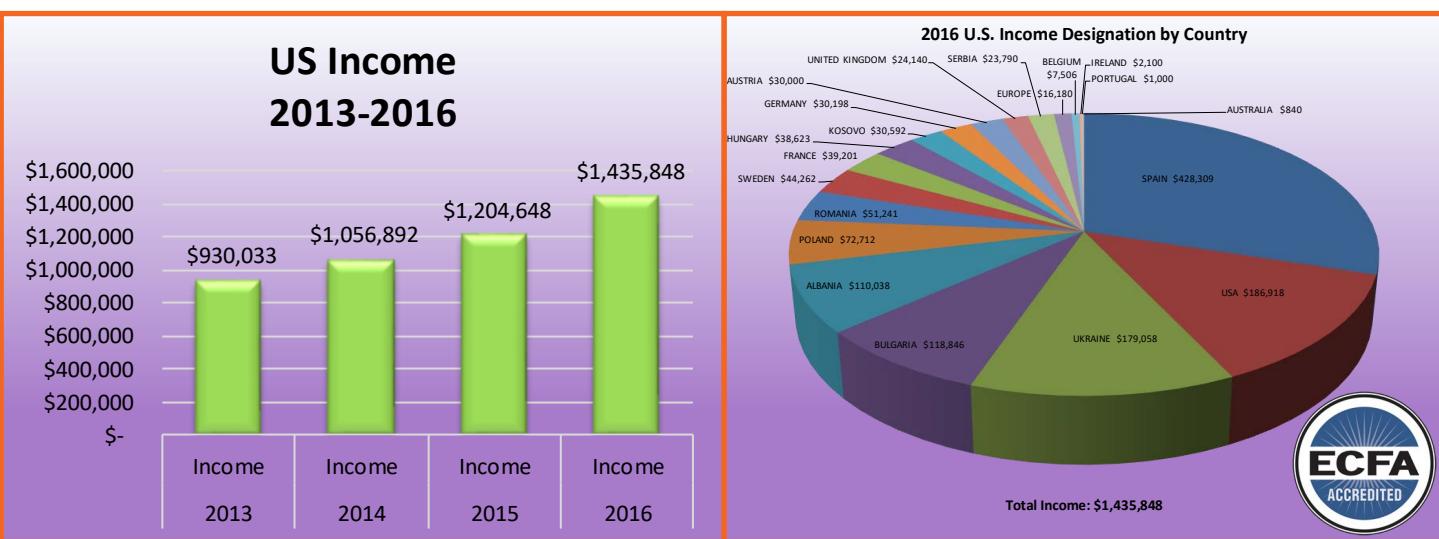


Our Strategic Priorities

- ◆ Focus on discipleship and church planting for all of today's Europeans
- ◆ Make the most of partnerships at every level
- ◆ Mobilize, train, empower and mentor younger leaders
- ◆ Speak prophetically into our European contexts

Our Values

- UP** - A Godly Life - courageous faith, prayer, and the Bible
- IN** - Loving Relationships - integrity and mutual respect, love and care for one another
- OUT** - A Missional Life - contextual, holistic and creative
- TOGETHER** - Working With Others - teamworking across the mission and partnership with others



Main Office
ECMI-USA
5550 Tech Center Dr Suite 307
Colorado Springs, CO 80919-2308

Phone Toll Free
(877) 874-3264
Email:
ecmi.usa@ecmi.org
Website and Online Giving
www.ecmi-usa.org

Financial Office
ECMI-USA
P.O. Box 2217
Monument, CO 80132-2279

ECMI longs to see the peoples of Europe filled with hope through the life-transforming power of Christ. Since 1904, our more than 215 workers in 25 countries of Eastern and Western Europe bring hope to the peoples of Europe by establishing loving communities of Christ-followers (Church Planting), by sharing the love of Christ in word and deed (Outreach), and by walking with individuals in their journey of life-transformation in Christ (Discipleship). Our missionaries and workers come to us from all over Europe, North, Central and South America, Australia, New Zealand, Africa, and South Korea.



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By God's grace, I will partner with the European Christian Mission International (ECMI) through prayer and financial participation. **See the reverse side for EFT and Credit Card options.**

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