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Director's
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ECMI-USA

*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

This past summer has certainly provided our missionaries opportunity to sow seeds of the Gospel and see the harvest come in. I wish I could report on everyone of our 200 plus workers, but this edition of *Mission Vision* only allows coverage for 8 of the 25 countries where we work, sharing astounding results. I counted 29 baptisms, 11 new professions of faith, 13,000 touched through various means of outreach, more than 400 campers and at least 75 who have undergone some form of discipleship training. Praise the Lord that this impact is multiplied 5 to 10-fold across ECMI ministries! Dimitrie Todorov in Bulgaria reminded me that summer is the time of

harvest in the natural realm, but it has also been the time of harvest for the Gospel. *You have been instrumental in lives being changed and churches established.* Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel in Europe!



Albania

Baptisms in the Sea



What a joy to see new believers declaring their faith in baptism! Two weeks ago our church chartered a bus and drove to the shoreline of the Adriatic Sea where we worshiped, heard testimonies, and baptized three people. The two men that were baptized, Genti and Visi, are brothers of Flori, who was baptized last summer at our church

camp. It is so encouraging to see Flori praying for his brothers and sharing Christ with them! Aurela was also baptized after years of being in our church. All three shared powerful testimony of God changing their hearts! Afterwards we had a barbecue and hung out together before heading back to town. Praise the Lord for the fruit that the church is experiencing and to see people choosing to honor God with their lives and declare their faith in the presence of others.

— Kent and Angie Morton



Bulgaria

Harvest Time!



As August comes to a close, I somehow always hear this warning from the words of Jeremiah, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." Pretty discouraging, isn't it? I fall to my knees and say, "Lord Jesus, did we do well this harvest season?" Did we bring more souls of men and women into your church? Have we empowered more people - young and old - to make disciples of you Lord Jesus? We praise God for every soul that decided to follow Jesus and join the local church!

Among them are Ali Suhel in the picture, who was baptized in front of 100 beach goers in Burgas. Another 20 people did the same that day! The following day we sponsored Ali and his friends to form a soccer team. Our partner,

Pastor Vesko and his church, are making disciples out of these young men from Syria and Iraq. God is moving among the refugees in Bulgaria!

We also sponsored a camp with Young Life Bulgaria. Many unchurched teenagers from broken and dysfunctional families came to have fun and play together. They heard the Gospel and realized that they are special in the eyes of God. We have no greater joy than to see young men and women give their hearts to Jesus.

Because of your partnership with us in Bulgaria God's kingdom is growing every day! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

— *Dimitrie and Maria Todorov and Team*



England

Short-term Service, Long-term Impact



My two-year, short-term mission experience in Brighton is coming to a close, and I finish it with mixed emotions. England now feels like a second home. The people at One Church accepted me with an unconditional welcome. There were plenty of meals in people's homes and chats over coffee and tea in Brighton's cafes - a testament to their generous hospitality.

I have so many highlights to reflect on. Community and belonging were fostered whether at a parent and toddler drop-in, a girls' group meeting exploring their fears and excitement about going to secondary school, or at a youth club seeing young people explore new ways

of connecting with God and welcoming new young people into the group. Other highlights include coming alongside people one-on-one, such as journeying with a young woman making the transition to single motherhood, or helping a woman with English as a second language fill out forms and find employment.

Through this experience, I've learned a great deal about myself and that all people are worthy of Jesus' love - without condition. — *Bekah Bosler*



Germany

mission vision

FALL2018

A Beautiful Patchwork



A team of 8 students from Biola University met up this summer for three weeks with our ECMI team led by Christiaan Kooiman and his wife, Kseniya, in Schwerin, Germany. The Lord worked in many challenging and exciting ways through the Patchwork Center ministry. The team was able to help this ministry where there is a significant community of refugees and high unemployment.



Construction projects, children's activities and music provided a means to share the love of Christ among those who "have forgotten that they've forgotten God!" Even difficult people like Klaus began to smile again, and Marco, unlike anyone else, asked for prayer from the group.

One of the team leaders reported, "People saw God. They may not have fully understood that it was God, but they could see Him through ECMI's team and our Biola team. Since we left, more people have begun asking for prayer for the first time in their lives. The team even held a communion service at the

Patchwork center and they hope to have more events that will reach the community that they love so much." Contact ECMI-USA to find out more about how you might get involved.

Romania

Families in the Making

For 26 years I have had the privilege of leading family camps for New Hope Romania. I have just returned from such a camp.

Family camp is an opportunity for family members family members and singles over 25, Christians from different churches, denominations and cities to meet. We get to build a real family that belongs to Christ in the 10 days of camping. It is fun to watch the formation of new families. Last year we had two couples that eventually married.



This year we have another whose marriage is around the corner.

We have been invited to the wedding of Timothy, one of the long time volunteers with New Hope, and Gabriela, who attended several camps. What is even more exciting is that the wedding will take place at one of New Hope's locations in the Romanian mountains. The ceremony will be held in the big tent that we use for the camps. I and another pastor will lead the service.

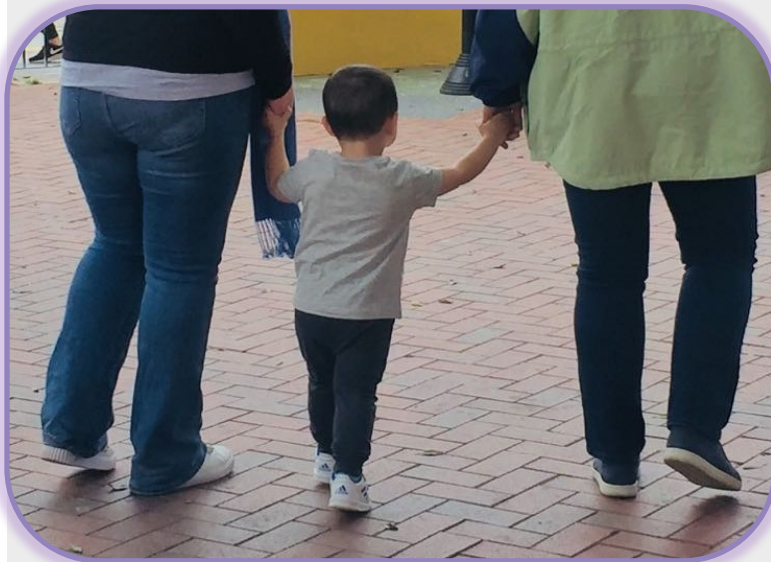
I thank God for all the young Christian families born through the camp ministry. Thank you for being a part of what God is doing!

— Tinu Leontiu



Spain

Lydia's Journey of Faith



Unbeknownst to me, “Lydia” and I had a mutual friend who had left the country for several weeks but had prayed that “Lydia” would make another believing friend. I met her at the park across from the kids’ school, her head carefully covered - a good Muslim wife. As we got to know each other over the next several weeks, she shared many painful details from her life, and we became good friends. In time, I began offering to pray for her and shared Scripture with her. Toward the end of the school year, she secretly began studying the Bible with another of our friends, and recently prayed to receive Christ. Her

life is far from perfect; and she fears what her devout husband might do when he finds out, but “Lydia” says for the first time in her life, she feels a joy and hope that she has never had. Please keep praying for “Lydia.”

— Hans and Jennifer Anderson, Spain

Entrusting to others . . .

“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.”
2 Timothy 2:2

Dan spends his Tuesdays at the University of Murcia, a few hours south of Valencia, teaching a course to some students from the area. He’s been teaching the same course to a couple of students in the Canary Islands via Skype.



- **Alejandra** is a new believer, just back from a year of study in England, where she heard the gospel and trusted in Christ. She’s joined the course as a next step in her discipleship.

- **Lidia and Dámaris** have been in the church for most of their lives, but want to have a better grasp of Scripture so they can serve more fully.

- **Jorge** has started the classes to fulfill a requirement for his student ministry training - he’s already actively preaching and teaching.

- **Susana** is part of a re-planting effort and wants to be better equipped for the tough task of reaching the lost.

God is at work to redeem us from our sins. One way He’s doing that is through these young Spanish men and women. These are the lines of impact--students who are receiving training, and who



will go out and minister as well. It’s a joy to be a part of it. Thank you all for being a part of it with your prayers and partnership.

— Dan and Anna Julian

Finding Treasure in Alcora



On August 27, the church in Alcora sponsored a treasure hunt called the **Alcora Express**. By all indications it was a big success in bringing the community together and exposing people to the truth of the Gospel, all while having a

great time.

Rachel has discovered a treasure of another sort. She meets weekly with a young woman who seems quite hungry to know Jesus personally. They're reading through the Gospel of John together, and this gal is reading ahead, as well as checking out other parts of the Bible. She's not yet made a decision to follow Jesus, but she is on her way. So please pray that Jesus will continue His work in her, and that the enemy will not thwart His good purposes.

New "gems" have been participating in the church community and seem to be hungry for real fellowship and spiritual growth. Please pray that we would be able to help them continue to grow and mature in their relationships with Christ.

— BJ and Rachel Whitaker

Open for Business!



The "open" sign is hanging over Catalonia. Catalonia is a region in northeast Spain that has experienced a great deal of political division and unrest. Guillem Correa, the general secretary of the Evangelical Council of Catalonia, has put out a general appeal to the world. *"Catalonia is at a critical moment in which the planting of new communities of believers is part of the solution for offering the peace of Christ. The challenge that the Lord gives us is for the whole Church to take the whole Gospel to all of Catalonia. We are the Body of Christ and we proclaim his peace."*

The Evangelical Council invited the national church planting platform for Spain, La Plaza, to lead a one-day consultation with 40 church planting leaders. These individuals represented denominations, missions and agencies. Ron Anderson coordinated and facilitated this consultation in Barcelona on May 9th. The outcome was a clarified common vision and goals for the next stage of church planting in Catalonia. The region currently has 800 evangelical churches. It is estimated that 5000 more are needed. **The goal is to plant 200 more by 2020!** Come over and help us!

— Ron and Brenda Anderson



Sweden

Summertime Fun!



In Sweden, summer is a beautiful time of year. We not only get to experience actual 'seasons' for the first time in our lives, we also get to experience the extreme differences in sunlight. We are enjoying *the land of the midnight sun*.

Relationships are an important part of ministry here. Recently we have

enjoyed getting to know Alexandra and Anton when they both began attending the Friday evening youth group. This is Alexandra's first involvement with church. This spring we had both of them over for dinner to share the joys of American hamburgers.

We have a running joke with them about games we play sometimes at youth group. The day after Alexandra came to our church for the first time,



she told her friends at school about this game and they all thought she was a little bit crazy that church could be fun! We are thankful for the opportunity to get to know these two and the fun they bring to the group! Pray for them.

— Jarrod and Amelia Keithley

Ukraine

Care for the Orphan . . . James 1:27

New Hope Ukraine launched its 10th Annual Orphan Care Family Camps this past summer. They were able to conduct two camps from July 15-21 and from July 21-27 with more than 200 attendees.

Oksana Savka reports, "My heart is full of gratitude to God for great blessings that He poured on us during the Camps."

Sixteen volunteers from Ukraine and friends from the United States, Kristopher Lowry and Cheryl Anthonis, led seminars and worked personally with each family. Christopher Ferkel, and Steven and Ashley Stone worked with the children. They led sport games and brought presents for the two camps. The children had opportunity to earn points and in the last day they could exchange their points for any of the presents. I cannot begin to tell you how excited the children were.



David and Coleen Little, who have been coming since 2009, presented helpful lectures on communication. As always, children had their Bible hour, different games, and crafts. Families gathered around the campfire, sang songs and shared how God is blessing them and their children.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and financial support for these camps, and special gratitude to Missouri Baptist Children's Home, Sports Crusaders, Imago Hearts and Christ Church Lake Forest for their cooperation and financial help. Because of you, so many lives have been transformed.

— Oksana Savka



Internet Evangelism

The Internet Evangelism project "Why Jesus?" reaches out to those who are searching for God and helps others who are not able to have fellowship in their communities.

Natalia, 57 years old, writes: "It is difficult for me to talk to someone about faith because there are no close people around to me to talk. But I am happy. Thanks to you I have come to faith. My faith became stronger. What I like about this course the most is that everything is said in very simple and clear words that I can easily understand. Thank you!"

— Nadiya Fil, Ukraine

Bible Correspondence Courses

In June, 29 new students joined the program and 10 children made decisions for Christ. Here is one testimony of what God is doing!

"My name is Lesia. I am 11 years old. I want to thank you for your lessons. I have learned from them that God gave His only Son for me, that He is here to help me in every moment of my life. I started to pray to God. I have never done it before. Thank you!"

— Olya Senkiv, Ukraine

English Camps

We held three camps for three age groups with nearly 100 participants. The atmosphere was just great. Ukrainians and Americans came together to get the job done and we do not have enough words to thank the team from Arizona!

About 70 children happily came every day to the camp and brought their friends. Our international team served more than 25 teens and adults in evening English classes for 5 days. We made many new acquaintances with adults and made new friends among children. They all are looking forward to next year's English camp!

— Nazar Ilkiv, Ukraine

God's Growing Church

I am blessed to inform you that on August 12th, in our newly planted church, 5 people were baptized and joined as members! God is good! Dina and Roman, our neighbors, were baptized as well. We are very happy for them. They are very special to us because we were eyewitnesses of every step they made toward God. We are even more blessed to see them serving others today and reflecting God's love for them!

— Roman Matviyiv, Ukraine

ECMI-USA NEWS

New Staff



We are pleased to welcome Monique James to the US Team. She joined the staff as our Administration Coordinator. She, her husband Steve, and their two adult children, Steven Jr. and Kayndis, made Colorado Springs their home in 2001. Steve is retired from the US Air Force which took them to Germany for seven consecutive years. They are also active members at Church for All Nations. During her husband's deployments, Monique held several civilian administrative roles with the government.

Retirements

It is with mixed emotion that we announce the retirements of Lynn and Lucy Leitzel, and Frank and Gisela Koleszar.

Lynn Leitzel officially retired on June

30, 2018. We want to take a moment to thank them both for their many years of service with ECMI-USA and the larger ECM family. They came to us in 2005 to serve in areas of personnel and member care. Their servant hearts and love for the Lord's work have encouraged us all.

Frank and Gisela Koleszar have likewise graced and blessed us with their involvement since 2008, first as short-termers in Rostock, Germany, then in helping us in areas of mobilizing new workers for the Field. He has helped advance our mobilization efforts in significant ways. Frank has announced his retirement effective December 31, 2018.

Both couples leave quite a legacy and hole. Their impact will be felt for eternity. What a joy it was to celebrate their service with family



and friends this past August.

New Board Member



Cindy Mefford joined the ECMI-USA board this past June after attending the Biennial Conference in Calpe, Spain. She and her husband, Ray, live in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and are the operators of a Chick-fil-A restaurant.

Before that, Cindy held several positions in education, as well as office manager and CFO for New Hope International for five years. Her husband, Ray, was in pastoral ministry before making the career change.

They have two married children who are in full-time ministry. Their son and his family serve as missionaries in Central Asia. They have a deep love for missions and are very active in their local church.

Current Board Members

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Thomas Dunn, Vice Chair
Cindy Arnoldbik, Secretary
Eric Curtiss, Treasurer
George Brown, CEO
Becky Cooke, Director
Cindy Mefford, Director
Suzanne Manningham, Director
Jerry Parsons, Director
Mark Sherer, Director
Kristy Steiner, Director

What will your legacy be?



You can make a difference today and well into the future through strategic planned giving!

Will it be said that . . .

You loved God, and
You loved your neighbor?



Help raise up the next generation for impact!

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Learn More . . .

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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.