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MISSION VISION

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN MISSION INTERNATIONAL — USA

WINTER 2015

111 Years



There are thousands of centenarians – those that live to be over 100 – in the world, but only a few hundred live beyond 110. How do those few reach such a great age? Research shows it is good genes and a healthy lifestyle. The Bible states that long life is a blessing of the Lord.

While none of us knows how long we will live, most of us hope to be productive for as long as possible. That is why we are proud ECMI has attained the ripe old age of 111 years and is still very active! What are the reasons for these decades of productive life? The same reasons that people live long: the blessing of the Lord; a good foundation; and good health through the dedicated and committed people God has called to share His love in Europe.

...and still sharing Christ's love!

We thank the Lord for His blessing. We thank the Lord for the good foundation, laid down by Ganz Raud, built on the love for prayer, love for the scriptures, love for the lost, and love for the church. We thank God for the men and women He has called.

As Kent Anderson, ECM-Britain Director has stated, "We also need to thank you! You prayed and God responded powerfully. You gave, enabling us to be Christ's hands. You sent friends, sons and daughters and they have loved many in His name.

Without you and the faithful saints like you since ECM's birth in 1904, we wouldn't have stories of God at work from Italy to Sweden and Ireland to Ukraine. We would not have seen Christ transform the lives of young and old. We wouldn't have seen miracles and ministry continue despite two world wars, the rise and fall of the iron curtain and other daunting challenges.

Across Europe today there is depression and family breakdown, unemployment and poverty, people trafficking and spiritual hopelessness. Christ's love is needed as much as ever. There is much to do and we hope to do it hand in hand with you."

You are vital to the health and vitality of ECMI. Thank you for partnering with us year after year.

BORDERLESS CHURCH MOVEMENTS



Ron Anderson, ECMI Church Planting Consultant, has been involved in two church planting movements that have not only crossed national borders, but have crossed oceans as well. The M4 church planting process, developed in Norway, was launched in Spain in January. The concepts have been so successful that it has been adopted by all the denominations in Norway and is averaging one new church planted every two weeks. Ten Norwegians came to help 40 Spanish church planters and leaders catch the vision and learn from their experience.

Doors opened in Central America to pursue the objectives of the Church Planting Network of the Lausanne Movement. Consultations were held in Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala to which key leaders of church planting organizations were invited. Leaders told Ron that this was very timely. "We have noticed a decline in the growth of the church in our country. We have become obsessed with our buildings and our programs instead of reaching the lost."

ECMI BELIEVES THAT CHURCH PLANTING IS THE BEST STRATEGY FOR REACHING EUROPE TODAY WITH HOPE - BY PLANTING FLOURISHING FELLOWSHIPS WHICH CAN SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH WORDS AND ACTIONS. IN THIS WAY, EUROPEANS CAN BE TRANSFORMED IN THE NAME OF JESUS.

GRANTS GRANTED

ECMI-USA is thrilled to announce that two foundations have given substantial grants for initiatives to accelerate church planting in Europe, Spain and the Balkan region of Eastern Europe. We thank God for the generosity of these foundations and other donors who are led to partner with us in these endeavors.

2014 ANNUAL REPORT



From the
Director's Desk
George Brown

"God causes the growth . . ."
1 Corinthians 3:7

Cathy and I usually take some time every year to reflect back on what God has done in our family and to the best of our ability look forward to what we see God doing in our midst and how we should respond. The missionaries, staff and board members of ECMI are doing the same thing this year as we look back on what God has done and what we see Him doing in our midst. 2015 is an important year in our 111 year old history as we review **The Way Ahead**, the 2011-2015 Strategic Plan, and prayerfully envision what God has in store for us as a mission in the next three to five years. We have set our hopes high for seeing God's Spirit move across the continent of Europe in 2015. Last year we saw:

- Expanded prayer networks
- Acceleration of church planting across Europe
- Lives being transformed by the Gospel
- Increased mobilization of national and expatriate workers worldwide
- Growing strategic partnerships
- God's faithful provision

Last year ECMI-USA launched **Operation Hope**. As a mission, we are on a journey into hope that we believe will result in thousands of people in Europe hearing about the love of Christ, coming to faith, being transformed in Him, and churches being planted in areas where there is little or no Gospel witness. Our desire is to see ECMI ministries adequately funded in 2015 to achieve the following **HOPE** goals:

Help for our US and National workers with their ministry funding needs - \$30,000

Outreach to society's forsaken through ECM ministries to single moms, addicts and prisoners - \$30,000

Preparation of our missionaries through targeted training events in church planting, discipleship and leader development - \$25,000

Expansion of our kingdom impact through partnership development and the mobilization of people called to serve in Europe - \$15,000

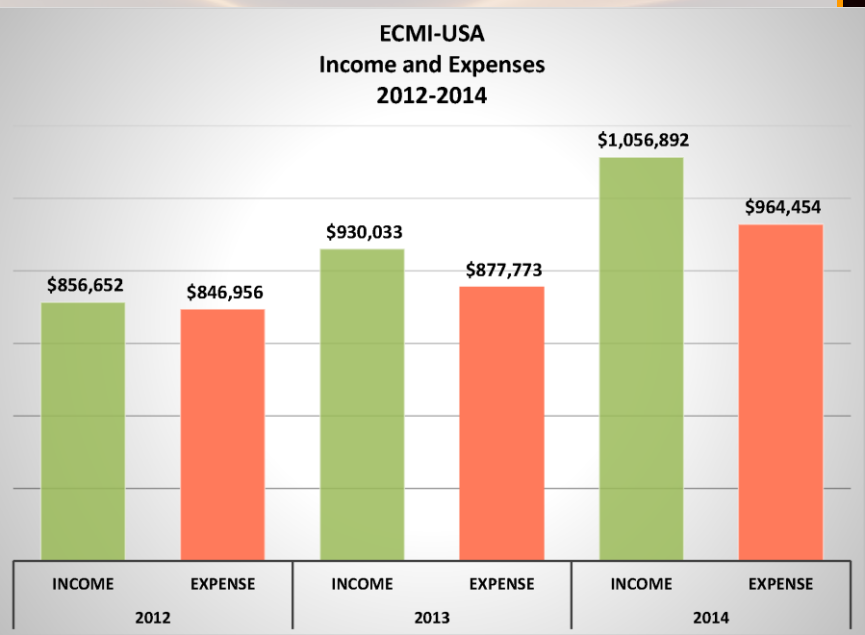
We praise the Lord that just over \$40,000 of our \$100,000 goal has been met. Most of the funding received to date has been preferred for **HELP** to our workers and **PREPARATION** in areas of training church planters. Will you pray with us that God will

provide the remaining \$60,000 over the course of this year? Will you consider investing in this Kingdom endeavor?

Statistics hardly begin to tell the story of what God is doing in our midst to transform the lives of the peoples of Europe and establish reproducing churches in the twenty-two countries of Eastern and Western Europe where ECMI works. The stories in this issue of **Mission Vision** provide a glimpse into that. But here are a few numbers for you to consider:

2014 By the numbers . . .

- ~62,000 hits to the ECMI websites
- ~14,000 people praying for and hearing the stories of ECMI ministries
- 1000s hearing and responding to the message of Christ's love
- 158 church planting projects in the last 10 years
- 80 current church planting projects
- 253 ECMI mission members and partners worldwide
- 190 national and expatriate workers
- 22 countries of Eastern and Western Europe being reached
- 26 workers appointed and raising their ministry partner teams
- 2 US missionary couples arrive on the field
- 5 US staff and candidates complete their orientation
- \$5.5 million (€4.0 million) invested by God's people worldwide for the work of ECMI, of that
- \$1.1 million invested by God's people in the USA



ECMI news of hope and life

A Long Life Lived Well



Ruby Oliphant lived to the ripe old age of 94. Born in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1920, she served as a nurse during the WWII bombing of London. Called to mission, Ruby left nursing and went to Bible College. Joining ECMI in 1948, she served at a home for orphans in France. Ruby found God's calling upon her life when Ganz Raud, founder of ECMI, asked her to pioneer a work in Australia.

Settling in Sydney, one of Ruby's main ministries was to visit migrant camps and establish Sunday Schools. To Ruby it was important that immigrants be born again and not only become witnesses to their people in Australia, but also to return to their own countries as missionaries.

Ruby left an irreplaceable legacy of faith and perseverance in reaching the lost with the grace of Jesus Christ. Because of her efforts, ECM-Australia is a viable national section of ECM International today. She was known for saying, "Just hold on to the Lord". She did so all her life and finished well.

New Candidates



David and Laura Jout have been appointed as candidates to France. Both of Jewish heritage, David, a native of France, met Laura, an American, in Israel. David is a professor of humanities and Laura serves as an interpreter for the deaf. They are the parents of two sons, Samuel and Joseph.

Doing the Right Thing

"If you knew that doing the right thing would make no difference, do you still do it?" Dan and Anna Julian posed this question to their small group of students in Cordoba, Spain. After discussion flowed for several minutes, one student responded, "You have to do the right thing."

Dan and Anna pray that through discussions such as these students might learn how to live productive lives in a fallen world, that their choices need not be driven by consequences but by a trust in the Father of the gospel who holds all the consequences in His sovereign hands, giving them a hope that the world does not have: doing the right thing does make a positive difference, God's glory is magnified by trusting obedience.



On the Way in Alcora

Early Christians were known as followers of the Way, so the small community in Alcora, Spain, have chosen to call themselves the Christian Community "On the Way" (Comunidad Cristiana En El Camino).

With believers and non-believers, the new storefront ministry center was dedicated to God's purposes on February 1st with worship, acknowledgements, a prayer of dedication, and an invitation to follow Jesus with them. It was a beautiful celebration, confirming the vision God gave for this ministry center over two years ago.

The storefront is open most days for regular office hours. In addition to weekly times of worship, Bible study, and English conversation, every Wednesday there is a time of stories, songs, games and crafts for children and parents. The very positive response is hugely significant in a culture where many view evangelicals as a cult. God is breaking down relational and spiritual walls, little by little.

The Whitaker and Kampjes families thank those who have given generously to make this vision a reality. They ask for continued prayer for the small community of believers "On the Way", that more will join them.

Park of the Nations, a community sharing God's love

Ten years ago, the Park of the Nations church plant in Lisbon, Portugal, was more of a dream than a reality. Now it has become a community of God's hope and love. Peter and Anna Crawford, ECM-Ireland missionaries in Lisbon, reported this story.



When Mario (not his real name) was 8, his mother abandoned him. He never saw her again. He lived in institutions until he walked out one day to live on the streets by his wits.

Hearing of an organization providing weekly dinners for the homeless, he went. He was so impressed by the team that he volunteered to help. There he met a member of the Park of the Nations. She took him under her wing, eventually bringing him into her home. He came to church, attended the Alpha course, became a Christian, was trained, discipled, and given responsibility in the church.

While in the Young Offender's Center to complete a sentence for something done in the past and where he was the only believer, members of the church community took turns to visit him. Upon his release on his 21st birthday, the church held a welcome home party for Mario. He wore a smile and a tee shirt with the words "God First". Mario says again and again that this Christian community is his family now.

New National Section

Within ECMI, a new national section has been organized. Francisco Gross, originally from Guatemala, has been appointed as director for ECM-IberoAmerica. This national section will be responsible for the recruitment and placement of missionaries from Latin America. Already ECM-IberoAmerica has placed Nicolas Matus from Mexico to intern with the team in Rostock, Germany, and has a couple, Mauricio & Karina Aldana, from Guatemala, raising support to go long term to Spain.



Team ECMI-USA

USA Section Field Missionaries

- Hans/Jennifer Anderson** - Spain
- Ron/Brenda Anderson** - Church Planting consultant (living in Spain)
- Jesse/Krista Ashmen** - Sweden
- Daniel/Mariana Cocar** - Romania
- Sharon Graves** - Training Consultant (living in Spain)
- Doug/Lila Groth** - Poland
- Dan/Anna Julian** - Spain
- Kent/Angie Morton** - Albania
- Stephanie Shackelford** - Belgium
- BJ/Rachel Whitaker** - Spain

Staff and Volunteers

- George Brown** - Executive Director
- Loren/Helen Anderson** - Prayer Ministries and Communications
- Justin/Corinne Bellars** - Director/Associate Director of Mobilization
- Rebekah Burkholder** - Director Communications and Personnel
- Ben Fergus** - Director of Operations
- Frank Koleszar** - Mobilization Associate
- Lynn Leitzel** - Candidate Coordinator
- Bob/Helen Walter** - Mobilization Associates

Approved Candidates

- David/Laura Jouf** - France
- Don/Birdie Harms** - France

Board of Directors

- Jay Butler** - Chair
- Thomas Dunn** - Vice Chair
- Rebekah Burkholder** - Secretary
- Dale Larson** - Treasurer
- Kevin Guttman**
- John Wick**

ECMI-USA News



CHANGE OF STATUS

Justin and Corinne Bellars were appointed as missionary candidates to Germany in October 2012. They have been actively working toward that goal. Along the way they have been joined by two lovely little girls, Joanna in June 2013 and Brigitta in December 2014.

As they sought the Lord's guidance, they became increasingly aware that service in Germany at this time did not appear to be the direction the Lord was taking them.

As ECMI-USA has grown, the need for additional staff has grown, especially in the area of mobilization of missionaries.

Justin and Corinne felt the Lord leading them to consider missionary service with ECMI-USA as home staff.

We are delighted to announce that as of January 2015 Justin and Corinne have been appointed as ECMI-USA staff, serving fulltime as Director of Mobilization and Associate Director of Mobilization, respectively. The addition of the Bellars to our Mobilization department will greatly enhance our ability to recruit both long term and short term missionaries and to facilitate the application and candidate processes.

Currently the Bellars are continuing to raise their support and are learning about their new jobs. Once they are fully funded, they will begin their responsibilities. Having Justin and Corinne on staff is a great joy. We are excited to see how God will use them to introduce many to the needs of Europe in the near future.

ECMI-USA CANDIDATE TRAINING PROGRAM

Last October a Candidate Training course was held in Colorado Springs CO for new staff and missionary candidates. Successfully completing the course were David and Laura Jouf, candidates for France, Corinne and Justin Bellars, Directors of Mobilization, and Ben Fergus, Director of Operations. The training was presented by Rebekah Burkholder, Director of Personnel, and George Brown, Executive Director of ECMI-USA.



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ECMI is an international agency whose mission is to establish and develop reproducing churches that evangelize and disciple the peoples of Europe; its vision is to see Europeans transformed in the name of Jesus Christ. ECM International has more than 190 missionaries working in 22 different countries in Europe, using creative and innovative mission initiatives. Missionaries come to ECMI from Europe, Australia and New Zealand, Africa, and North, Central and South America.

ECMI-USA values your interest and prayers for Europe. However, if for any reason you do not wish to continue to receive mailings from ECMI-USA, please contact us by phone, postal service, or email. Thank you.