

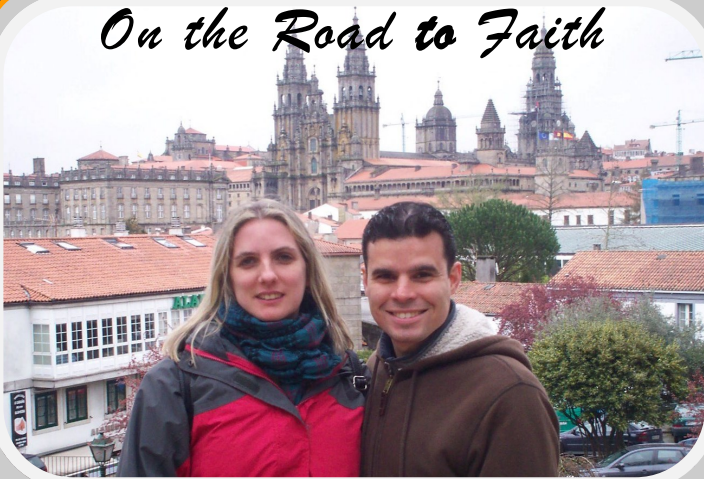
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MISSION VISION

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN MISSION INTERNATIONAL — USA

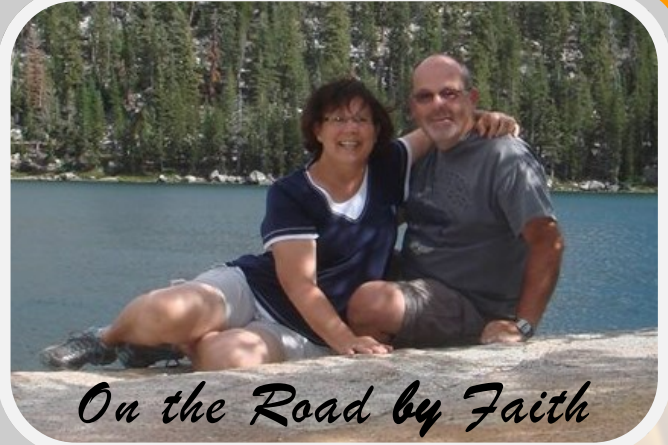
WINTER 2014

On the Road to Faith



What if seekers came to you? That's what Lemuel and Rachel Feliciano experienced when they worked at a hostel run by Agape on the pilgrimage route to Santiago, Spain. Tens of thousands hike this historic pilgrim trail each year. Lemuel and Rachel gave coffee and tea to many, icepacks to some, basic medication, creams, treatments to those that needed it and generally sought to share the gospel in a practical way and to seek opportunities to verbally share the gospel message. Here are some of the highlights:

- Many of the pilgrims that stayed watched the Jesus film (based on Luke's gospel) in the afternoon.
- A lady in her late 50s/early 60s had walked all the way from Germany to Santiago and stopped on her way back. She was very moved by the Jesus film, the testimonies and hospitality. Before leaving she said that at last she'd seen the authentic gospel again and that this was what the pilgrimage was all about. From pilgrims that arrived a few days later, it was discovered that she told everyone she met to stop off at the hostel!
- A Swiss man and an Austrian man who were injured were taken to doctors. They spent several days. On their last night when Lemuel said the purpose of the hostel was to show God's love in a practical way and to provide spiritual support, they clapped their hands and cheered.
- A Brazilian girl asked to pray with one of the team and read the Bible together. She recognized that she needed to get her life right with God.
- A recently bereaved Spanish man turned up crying and exhausted, having lost his rucksack with his belongings. He was given a towel and a new t-shirt so he could shower and change. After eating, Lemuel went with him to find his rucksack. He said that no one had ever helped him this much and that he'd really experienced God's love.



On the Road by Faith

That is how Ron and Brenda Anderson described their journey of the last few months. After attending a Chinese church worship service in California, a woman in the service told them. "I do not know who you are but the Lord has told me to tell you that he has seen your faithfulness for many years and that He is going to lead you to a place off your map. As he did with Abraham, He will take you on a road that you have not had in your plans or even thought of....." And God did.

- Ron has been appointed to a new role within ECM as European Church Planting Consultant to provide resourcing for church planting projects within ECMI, Europe, and the World. Focusing his ministry to ECMI church planters, Ron hopes to help them pick appropriate church planting models for their respective locations and to discuss with them concepts related to being missional communities. A long-term objective is to develop a resource network where church planters can both receive and help others.
- Ron's ministry to broader Europe is with the European Leadership Forum, helping to develop a church planting track in Southern Europe. The first goal is to establish a church planting curriculum and resource network in Spanish, with the vision to equip the laity to start missional communities in Spain.
- Ron's ministry has expanded to the global community. He has been appointed to be Senior Associate for Church Planting for the Lausanne Movement. While the Lausanne Movement has 29 other senior associates representing each of its key areas, the Church Planting Senior Associate is a new role. The objective is to promote the collaboration of Church Planting Movements across the globe in order to reach the whole world with the Gospel. Ron will join other leaders at the 40th Celebration of the movement to be held in Lausanne Switzerland in May.

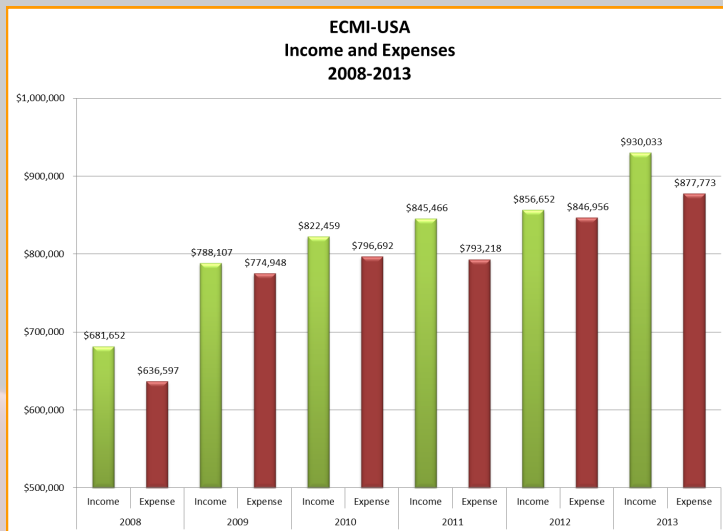


2013 ANNUAL REPORT

Director's Dialogue by George Brown

We long to see the peoples of Europe transformed in the name of Christ! That's the vision of the European Christian Mission International and our team from the United States is privileged to join hands with our European and International brothers and sisters in Christ. This issue of *Mission Vision* will give you a sample of all that God is doing across Europe. God continues to encourage us with progress in not only seeing lives transformed and churches planted, but through the mobilization of prayer, people, partnerships and financial provision.

God continues to bring growth to the US Section of ECMI. *We rejoice in what He did in 2013.* Prayer coverage has consistently expanded as new missionaries are added; the use of social media has broadened our exposure. God continues to bring us good *people* who desire to serve the Lord in Europe. The number of full time missionaries and appointees from the US has grown from 11 to 26 over the past five years! Numerous short-term missionaries, interns and teams have had effective ministry as well. ECMI-USA also helped fund 60 European missionaries! Our *partnerships* with organizations like Greater Europe Mission Canada continue to grow in ways that allow us to expand ministry with greater Kingdom effectiveness. Because we do not have an office in Canada, our partnership enabled us to send two Canadian interns to Germany and appoint our first full time missionary from Canada to Ireland. As we have focused on the fundamentals of ministry, God has *provided* the resources. Giving to ECMI-USA was up nearly 11% from 2012. Praise the Lord! The graphs and charts below illustrate God's faithfulness.



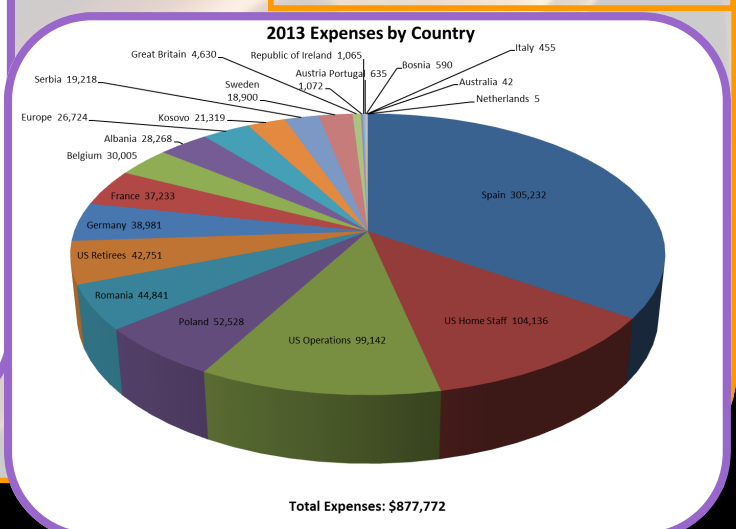
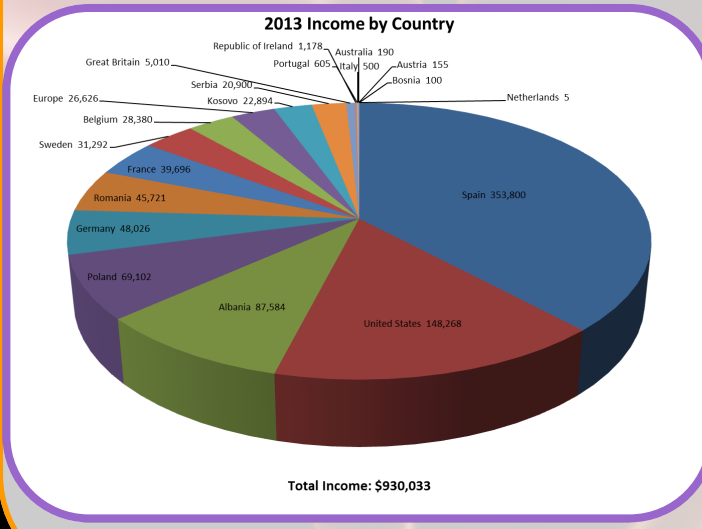
Our Mission and strategy are to plant and develop churches throughout Europe. It is only through loving communities that Europe can really experience transformational change. In the last 10 years, ECM has been involved in 158 church planting projects. ECM is currently working in 80 projects.

Negative trends in Europe

- The rate of decline within the church is accelerating.
- Traditional values are being dismantled not just culturally, but also legally, resulting in moral disintegration.
- Prevalent secular values regard Christian absolutes with intolerance.
- Immigrants continue to flow into Europe, both legally and illegally.
- Criminal exploitation of immigrants occurs, most of them women to be used in the sex trade.
- Islam is growing through immigration and a higher birth rate.

Positive news in Europe

- Evangelicals are growing in strength, confidence and impact.
- Emerging church movements have flourished, resulting in thousands of fellowships among young people.
- New prayer movements have proliferated.
- Immigrant believers have had a positive impact in European countries.
- Religious freedom in former Communist areas has resulted in new expressions of Christian faith in Central and Eastern Europe.



Brazil + Balkans = ?

There's a Balkan saying that translates as "Stretch your legs as far as your carpet extends". God stretched a carpet across half a world from Brazil to Croatia. Here are the stories of two couples whose feet walked that carpet as told by ECM-Br Trustee Mike Wilson and his wife Daveen.



Emanoel and Family

The request was for young, single Brazilians to go for two years to work alongside local Baptist pastors in Croatia, enabling them to fulfill their vision for church planting. Emanoel, a pastor in Salvador, NE Brazil had a dream that God told him to go to Croatia. He woke up and wondered who Croatia was. The dream stayed with him all day, so he researched, discovering that Croatia was a country in Europe. "Why would God want me to go to a country that claimed to be Christian?" he wondered. (Croatia is said to be 95%



Catholic, Orthodox or other 'Christian' allegiance. Less than 0.5% of the population is evangelical.) The conviction persisted. Finding that ECM was recruiting Brazilians, he got in touch with Leonidas Duarte, Director of ECM Brazil. But Leo was not keen: not only was Emanoel married; he had three small children; and being black he would be entering an entirely white culture. But Emanoel persisted – God had TOLD him to go, so Leonidas flew up to Salvador, and by the end of a long lunch, Emanoel and Francine had been accepted for Croatia. It was hard moving from a laid-back vibrant seaside city in Brazil with a huge church family to a freezing, suspicious, rural village in Croatia with practically no Christians. But, after being in Dugo Selo for four months, they have twenty people meeting weekly in their home, and plans are well on the way to planting a church. Emanoel is laying aside his preferences and his skin color is not a problem. Apparently, everyone thinks he's related to the American president.

Romil and Eliane

Romil and Elaine went to a meeting of several thousand people in Brazil, where Stephen Bell and some Balkan pastors were speaking. One of these was Radovan Trajkovski from Travnik, Bosnia. When Radovan saw Romil he picked him out from the crowd and told the translator to tell him, "God wants you in Bosnia". Romil felt God was calling them to Portugal and he promptly put the incident out of his mind. One year ago he went with a group planning to visit the Balkans and then Portugal. As Romil got out of the car in Travnik, Radovan rushed up to him, tears streaming down, "I KNEW you'd come." Romil's heart was captured. He told Leonidas, "No need to look at Portugal; I'm coming here." He went home to kiss his parents good-bye and collect Elaine. After five months in Travnik he said, "We thought we were coming to help Pastor Radovan, but instead, in him and his wife, we have found our spiritual parents." Travnik is almost 100% Muslim and almost every building is war-damaged – the suffering was terrible. But Radovan has a vision to plant a church here, and now he has an Elisha to help him.



NEW LIFE, IN SO MANY WAYS!

Szczepan Cackowski carries out Polish outreach in Northern Ireland. He tells about a couple, Waldek and Aga, being transformed by the gospel:

When we first met them their relationships were in a mess. Waldek was four when he was in a car accident. His mother was killed. He had half of his face burned and suffered difficulty walking.

Aga's father died when she was 7 months old. For years she'd wake up every night at exactly 3 am. 'This is the hour of the devil', her mother, a practicing witch, told her. At age 18 she was told by a fortune teller that she'd only have one child. So, pregnant for the second time, she was convinced she'd miscarry again. During a scan the doctor told her the baby's heart was not beating and that it was dead. She flew to Poland to have a womb cleansing procedure. Although not born again, she prayed to a God she didn't know for help. In Poland a surprised doctor said the baby was in great shape! Today Gabi is a beautiful and intelligent 4 year old.

Waldek and Aga were quiet at first at the Bible study in Portadown, but devoured every word about God. Within one year they both gave total control of their lives over to Jesus. Their relationships are straightening out. For the first time in years Aga sleeps through the night. In July they started fostering a deaf, mute relative – a half orphan and half abandoned girl. Their passion for Jesus is beautiful.



BUILDING HOPE

The Mizpah project in Timisoara, Romania, seeks to provide a safe home for women and their babies who need protection from abusive situations, are homeless, or have been pressured to abort their babies.

A gift from ECM-Britain provided enough for rent, utilities, food, medicine and diapers for 6 months. But ECM missionaries Mariana Cocar and Alexia Coleman were unable to find a decent house in their price range. In June a young mother contacted them. She was desperate, with no resources and alone with her one-year-old child. What a frustration they felt to see so many women in similar situations without being able to help them! In November God answered prayer with a house to rent. This month Mariana Cocar resigned her position from the Esther Foundation (pregnancy center) to focus on developing the ministry of Mizpah House. Although it was a difficult decision, Mariana continues as an arm of that ministry. In working for Mizpah House she will be meeting the urgent needs of women, including clients of the Esther Foundation.





BREAKING NEWS: UKRAINE IN CRISIS

As we prepare to publish this edition of *Mission Vision*, the news is plastered with headlines of turmoil in Ukraine and Russian invasion. ECM has a long history of working in Ukraine with brothers and sisters in Christ. We were also one of the founding partners of BEE (Biblical Education by Extension) Ukraine. **PRAY FOR UKRAINE.** Our brother and friend Kostya writes: "Prayer is much needed for families of those who lost their loved ones. May the Lord protect their

hearts, mind and soul from hatred and aggressive decisions. Much prayer is needed to protect Ukraine as a nation from division and war – for a better future of the country, free from domination of corruption and dictatorship. God has blessed Ukraine with a heritage of strong Christian influence on all areas of people's lives. The last 22 years of freedom from an atheistic Soviet regime gave birth to a strong church planting movement, missionary movement, nations without orphans movement and outreach to the elderly. A younger generation of leaders, covered by the support of their spiritual fathers, became very active in a Godly transformation of Ukraine. We cannot allow division between pastors and other leaders based on their active or passive participation in political reforms. A spirit of humility and patience is much needed. Please pray for the unity of His Body in the nation as well as in the Eurasian region. Prayer is a privilege and responsibility of the whole Church. Ukraine needs to be covered by the intercession of fasting and prayer." If you feel led to help financially, please designate your gift for the Ukraine Church Fund. We will make sure the funds are used to strengthen and encourage the church in Ukraine.



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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 150 missionaries working in 19 different countries in Europe, using creative and innovative mission initiatives. Missionaries come to ECMI from Europe, Australia and New Zealand, Korea, Africa, and North, Central and South America.



US Missionaries and Appointees: Hans and Jennifer Anderson—Spain, Ron and Brenda Anderson—Europe, Jesse and Krista Ashmen—Sweden, Justin and Corinne Bellars—Germany, George and Cathy Brown—US, Daniel and Marianna Cocar—Romania, Doug and Lila Groth—Poland, Sharon Graves—Europe, Don and Birdie Harms—France, David and Laura Jouf—France, Dan and Anna Julian—Spain, Kent and Angie Morton—Albania, Stephanie Shackelford—Europe, Joel and Pam Weber—France, B.J. and Rachel Whitaker—Spain, Bob and Helen Walter—US

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