



George Brown
Director's Corner
ECMI-USA

Looking Back - Moving Forward

2018 brought many encouragements along with some challenges. We praise the Lord for His faithfulness in the lives of our mission family who demonstrate and proclaim the Gospel to the peoples of Europe every day. I was deeply touched by the loss of our dear brother, **Doug Groth**, who went to be with the Lord on December 17, 2018. He was one of the first ECMI missionaries I met. I loved his heart for people and evangelism. He was a pioneer missionary to Poland in the early 80s, smuggling Bibles, sharing the Gospel and planting churches. His life and family exemplify such service and sacrifice. The Lord impressed on my heart that we needed to raise up more workers like him and his wife Lila. We will miss Doug on this earth, but he has left a great legacy and example to friends and family of what it means to trust God in all circumstances.

Our vision is to see the peoples of Europe transformed by the power of the Gospel. Doug's life bore witness to this

*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

as do the articles that follow. When Cathy and I joined ECMI in 2008, there were 120 workers in 18 countries. Today, more than 230 ECMI workers serve in 25 countries of Eastern and Western Europe. The Lord of the Harvest has been answering your prayers! *What if we were to trust God together to place and resource more workers in all 55 countries and territories of Europe? What if we could do that by 2030? 300 more workers in 30 more countries by 2030! Let's pray for more workers like Doug and Lila and the resources to make this happen!* Thank you for your partnership with us.



Europe Focus - Global Impact



Little did I know the impact that our recent trip to Africa would have on a Christian leader in London, reengaging his life in saturation church planting. Brenda and I traveled to Tanzania in November to conduct a 5 nation East Africa consultation for church planting. As the catalyst for the Lausanne Movement's Church Planting Network, I planned this consultation to launch the ministry in Africa but was dependent on others to recommend key African influencers who should attend. One of those was Ngwiza, native of Botswana, living in London and starting a new church amongst African immigrants. (The fastest growing group of churches in England are amongst the African Immigrants). Given his connection with church planting and having been the CEO of the "Disciple a Whole Nation" (DAWN) network in 130 countries, I asked Ngwiza to help me lead the consultation in Tanzania. As a native African leader, he readily gained the respect of every participant. Unbeknownst to me was that God was working in his heart through the event. Ngwiza's tears led me to believe that God was healing a deep ministerial wound and clarifying his calling on his life. At the end of the event he agreed to chair the continuation committee for the region and stated that God had renewed his heart and vision for promoting saturation church planting movements across Africa and Britain.



- Ron Anderson, Church Planting Consultant for ECMI and the Lausanne Congress

Albania - Transformation through Sports



Stephen Bell (Croatia) recently had an opportunity to take a football (soccer) team with Ambassadors Football to Albania. Steven, after serving in Albania for many years before moving to Croatia, was excited to be back.

“I was so thrilled to receive a phone call from America inviting me to visit Albania together with Goran, a former Serbian pro-footballer who has a vision to train Christian football coaches with a view to lead footballers to Christ. His mission, “Ambassadors Football,”

ministers in Europe, North and South America, and Africa. I translated Goran’s sessions and also gave a message each morning. It was such a thrill to preach to Albanians again. They are so open to the Gospel! Pray for Goran’s wonderful ministry, for the kids and coaches. If there had been this training 30+ years ago, I would have been twice the player I was!”



Austria - “You came and visited me”

“I think I just need to go sit over there for a while on my own,” Ray* would say. Week after week, he would say something like this before he left our life group circle to sit on the other side of the room. And week after week, we encouraged and challenged him to stay with us for the discussion; not just physically, but also socially. Slowly, after several months of prayer and patience, Ray, who experiences Asperger’s syndrome, became an active part of our conversations and fully present. Life group wasn’t the same without him! At the start of 2018, his thoughts and ideas suddenly took an unusual turn, eventually causing concern among those of us close to him. One day, we got a call that he was admitted to a hospital specializing in mental health.



For some it was difficult to visit Ray, but we were an encouragement to his father and him. After several weeks, he was released and enthusiastically returned to our life group. He now attends church weekly and is always on the lookout for ways he can help others. Ray, who would retreat from conversations, now pursues them. Our friend always loved Jesus and other people deeply; but now, we get to hear how he’s expressing that love every time he calls or visits.

*Ray is not his real name

- Günther and Mallory Fugger

Transformed at Camp

My name is Annie. I have lived with much personal disappointment: I didn't like myself or my appearance, my heart was drifting from the Lord, and I had no true friends. Inside I felt so empty and alone even though I took a summer job leaving little free time. In July, my parents and I had a terrible argument right before my birthday! Their smiley-faced girl was now a grumpy, depressed teenager refusing to share anything with anybody. "Nobody cares for me," I thought. "Why bother to share how I felt?" I fell to my knees praying for days, "God, give me real Christian friends and let me go to a Christian teen camp!" I knew some teens on Facebook from a local church, but not well.



Out of the blue one said, "You really need to come to this teen camp!" Amazing! My life began to change! Jesus began healing and restoring me, giving me true friends and a camp experience with many surprises. I felt loved in God's eyes and cared for by the team's testimonies of transformation, deliverance, and victory in Jesus Christ!

Today, we grow together in our faith, minister to others in the city, and meet weekly for fellowship and Bible Study. I thank God for New Hope Bulgaria and Young Life for demonstrating genuine love and honest faith that profoundly touched me!

- *Dimitrie and Maria Todorov*

Croatia

United We Stand

How exciting to see believers from Croatia, Brazil, and Ukraine come together to establish Christ's church in Croatia! 14 Evangelical churches in Zagreb joined together in December 2018 to plan a series of evangelistic endeavors. The team is a catalyst to invite leaders to engage and present the Gospel to more than 600 people.



"Raising up the next generation of leaders in the church is our key objective. It is such a joy for us to drive to the 5 regions of Croatia to establish groups of leaders and younger believers from various church backgrounds. We instructed these believers in evangelism and discipleship. Each one prepared a testimony and shared it with 3 friends."



Stephen & Tabita Bell, Emanuel & Francine Santos, Kostya & Ira Bakanov, Juan & Fatima

- *Stephen and Tabita Bell*

France - Living Stones!

Because buildings can impede who and what we are, our 2019 theme is: "Soyons des pierres vivantes!" Let us be living stones! The result is people letting God speak through them what He is working in them. A family lost their premature son last April. Through this painful experience, they shared their heart with those around them. And God has been speaking powerfully, deepening relationships and bringing people to eternal life. Others are repenting and being reconciled in their families like Mayi and her father. Some are listening and asking questions when deadly disease stalks their homes such as Jean-Jacques.



How beautiful when people discover Jesus. How wonderful when people accept God's guidance in their lives! There are many challenges. There are many frustrations and tears. But God is building His Church as He transforms and brings us to greater maturity in Christ. And there is fruit - the sending forth of our first missionary last summer!

- *Marc and Jody van Eijden*

Germany

Every Tongue and Tribe!

Diaspora (refugee populations living "away from an established or ancestral homeland") Mission impact is alive and well. The Iranian gathering at the Community Cafe grew in October 2018 from 40 to 50 people, all desiring discipleship training.



During Summer Sports Camp, 2013, Cyrus*, a trained Iranian wrestler, was contacted by Vimal and our teams, who subsequently led him to faith in Jesus Christ.

Two years later Cyrus began Bible College training while continuing to witness to fellow Iranians in Karlsruhe Evangelical Migrant Centre Community Cafes and yearly Sports Camps.

Through these contacts, Cyrus led several families to the Lord. These families were invited to the Equip Course Vimal initiated (Cyrus translating) with Professors from South Korea's Hahdong University to encourage refugees to



study God's Word.

One of the Korean professors, working for Wycliffe Bible Translators for 25 years in Iran, recounted doing Bible translation for an Iranian tribe with 20 known Christian believers. Cyrus, shocked and excited, exclaimed that he was from that tribe and along with a family of 4 he led to Christ raised it to 25!! An amazing story of Diaspora Mission for His glory!



Reiterating the words of the 17th Century Moravian German believers' prayer: *the Lamb that was slain would receive the reward of His sufferings. Praise the Lord we are privileged to see people from all tribes, tongues and nations being joined to the ever-increasing throng who on that Great*

Day of the Lord's appearing, will be singing, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, to receive honor and riches and glory and blessings to Him that sits upon the throne." (Revelation 5:12) What a day that will be!!!

*name changed for security purposes

-Vimal and Louise Vimalasekaran

Netherlands



After moving to Breda, in the post-catholic South of the Netherlands, I was registered as 'pastoral social worker'. Because of that title, a man in our neighborhood called me for help in financial and social needs. He told his life story: divorce, living on the street, having a wife and daughter in Thailand, trying to work and failing, and ending up in a miserable state in Holland. He cursed and smelled of tobacco and old clothes - not an easy person to love. He realized we loved him as Christ loved us and became interested in God and the Bible. After many Bible studies he came to faith and was baptized in a small river in our

neighborhood. Today he is still the most faithful person in our community. He still has difficulties but is in love with the Bible! He is a reminder to us that God's power can transform anybody!

--Jacob and Janneke van den Bogerd

Portugal



We are so encouraged by the way the Lord is building a community in Alta de Lisboa. Sofia was recently baptized. The whole group photo makes us realize how far we've come. There's been growth in commitment and hunger for the Word. The Wednesday night Bible study in Acts is the focal point of the life of this community. People gladly volunteer to serve and have a deep concern to share about Jesus in the neighborhood. We're thankful for our

team leader Rui Ribeiro and for recent financial provision for him from N. Ireland and the USA.

- Peter and Anna Crawford

Serbia



Praise the Lord for His presence and protection at the opening day of the Church in Zaječar. Many believers, unbelievers, and special guests came to celebrate with us. We seek to be a light in our town of 50,000 that has no other Gospel preaching church.

We share the joy of spiritual fruit coming from the church building. Two young men, Mile and Jane, showed an interest in spiritual truths and are reading the Bible and asking questions. They are beginning to understand the difference of their present lives and a life built on Jesus. We are grateful for your prayers because of the blessings that have been experienced.

- Branko and Rada T

Snapshots from Spain



Our friends, Albert and Sonia, visited us last summer. We've been friends for three years, but this was the first time we talked about Jesus openly with Albert (an atheist). At the end of the conversation, with a broken voice he thanked us for all the prayers and example of faith. Thank you for your prayer support!

- **Mauricio and Karina Aldano**



On the first week of December, the Camp "7 Robles" (7 Oaks) in Navarra (north of Spain), invited us to help in their winter camp. Abigail and I were counselors and led such activities as wide games and zip lines. We had an incredible week ministering alongside our brothers and sisters in the north of Spain.

- **Dan and Abigail Androver**

According to the latest UN statistics, last year Spain received over 58,000 refugees and immigrants - an increase of 37,000 over the previous year! Hans and Jennifer Anderson jumped at the opportunity to work with a food bank in downtown Malaga for the few months before it closed. But God was at work. After much prayer and understanding that the reopening process could take about two years, the group saw everything approved in three weeks! The Diez42 ministry center was again up and running. Serving mainly the North African immigrant population, the Andersons are praising God for the light of Christ and sense of community Diez42 brings to the neighborhood. Diez42 provides



food, classes in Spanish and English, and support activities. Pray for Diez42 (from Matthew 10:42) to be salt and light for Jesus in Malaga, Spain.

- **Hans and Jennifer Anderson**



We did not expect the chance to share the gospel with Spaniards during our Home Ministry Assignment,

but God arranged in December for us to have lunch with a Spanish foreign exchange student. "M" comes from the Balearic Islands off the coast of Valencia. We enjoyed chatting in Spanish about her experience in America and ours in Spain. After about an hour, she asked, "You're married, so what do you teach? It's not normal for you to be married and a religious teacher, right?" We praise God for the chance to share the gospel with a Spaniard in the US and to give her contact information for a solid evangelical church just 20 minutes from her home. Pray she seeks the Lord!

- **Dan and Anna Julian**

Many have prayed for decades to share the Gospel with our local Catholic parish. In 2018, God began to open doors through a question from my friend, Pepe, the local Catholic priest asked, "One of the challenges I know you must face as Evangelical Protestant Christians in a small town in Spain is prejudice based on ignorance; the average person here doesn't know much about church history like we do, so would you be willing to give a talk about Evangelical Christianity in the parish hall sometime?" On November 22nd, I shared the Gospel, my testimony, a bit of Church history and the invitation



to know Jesus with a group of about 30 people.

Another priest who was at the talk invited our church to organize a worship service in the Alcora Catholic church during their annual January week of prayer for Christian unity - another opportunity to share Christ, worshiping Him and preaching the transforming power of His Word and presence inside the Catholic church.

Truly, God hears our prayers and responds in His time, because He deeply loves everyone. Join us in praying that the seeds we've planted would grow into the fruit of eternal life?

- **BJ and Rachel Whitaker**



Our church is seeing God's power and mercy at work. In the women's Bible study group, one of the mothers' baby (only a few months old) was diagnosed with leukemia. She asked the church to pray with her for God to heal little David. God answered our prayers by completely healing David. Also, two Moroccan Muslim women were learning Spanish through a course the church offers the immigrant Moroccan community. They have now made decisions for Christ! May the glory go to God. - **Isabel Brandon**

Sweden



A Cup of Coffee in Jesus Name . . .

Mission in Europe can be exceedingly slow, and mission in Sweden is no exception. But sometimes there are exceptions. In a country known for extreme social exclusivity and individuality, the normal process of “reaching out” is itself drawn out over the course of years. So what a refreshing bolt from the blue it was when a young person,

someone who has sat observantly in an English class, approached me with a very exceptional-yet-desirous question: “I’ve gathered that you’re not only a Christian, but you’re also a Christian who actually believes Christian stuff. Can we please meet for coffee sometime so you can explain to me the rationale and justification of your faith?” Wow! While this question was not representative of mission in Sweden at all, it does show the hunger for truth and the longing for depth among the youth of this country. The coffee was okay by the way, but the conversation was much better. - Jesse and Krista Ashmen

Reaching the Refugee

In early 2018 a young man wandered into our church who was a refugee from a Middle Eastern country and attended the local high school. He started coming to our youth group and found friendship even though he was adamant about maintaining his Muslim faith. He also had a lot of questions and was searching for answers that addressed his trauma and anger. We saw the

effects of PTSD on this young man and had no idea how to best communicate with and help him. In November he was able to



travel and attend a church service in his own language. He left saying that becoming a Christian was just too dangerous for him. Later that evening he called one of our church elders and said that he wanted to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior. Just two days before Christmas, he was baptized and we celebrated the wonderful transformation that God had done in his life! He is still processing the pain that life has brought him, he is no longer controlled by anger and anxiety. He has truly been transformed by the love of Christ. We are so thankful to have been part of his story!

- Jarrod and Amelia Kiethley



Testimonies from Ukraine

Meet Lilia. Last year she graduated from one of the secondary public schools in Rivne city. She came to Christ through Public school ministry of New Hope Ukraine. She attended the prevention classes (AIDS, alcohol, drugs, premarital sex prevention lectures) done by New Hope volunteers in her school. The teaching made her look at many things in her life in a different way. But most of all she was surprised and amazed by the way the volunteers treated the students and their views on life. She later went to a Christian camp and met other Christians. Then she started to come to home Bible study groups and church. It was very difficult for Lilia to make a decision for Christ, but God enlightened her heart and she made a decision to follow Christ. On Christmas Eve 2018 she shared her testimony at the church meeting in our newly planted church in Lviv.



Iryna is the first person from the left in the first row of this picture. For years she had friendships with Christians because of the Public school ministry, camps and home Bible study groups. Iryna was raised in a decent family and it was very difficult for her to realize that everyone, even “decent” and “good” people need Jesus, too. Over the years she communicated a great deal with New Hope volunteers and spent time with her Christian friends. She asked good questions and started discussions. Soon after that, she invited Jesus into her heart. Iryna shared about her decision with the young people from the church and soon after that was baptized. Iryna's mother is an associate director of the Department of Education in Rivne. They now often read and meditate on God's word together. God is working in the heart of Iryna's mother. In an interview for a local Internet news agency Kateryna, the mother, answered the question about her life creed with this, “When God is in the first place all other things are in the right places”.

New Hope Ukraine continues to have a dynamic and impactful ministry of reaching children, teens and adults through a number of ministry initiatives that include church planting, Bible Correspondence Courses, Internet Evangelism, Family Ministry and Orphan Care. Here are some highlights from 2018.

And this does not include all that God is doing in the local church plant started this past year.



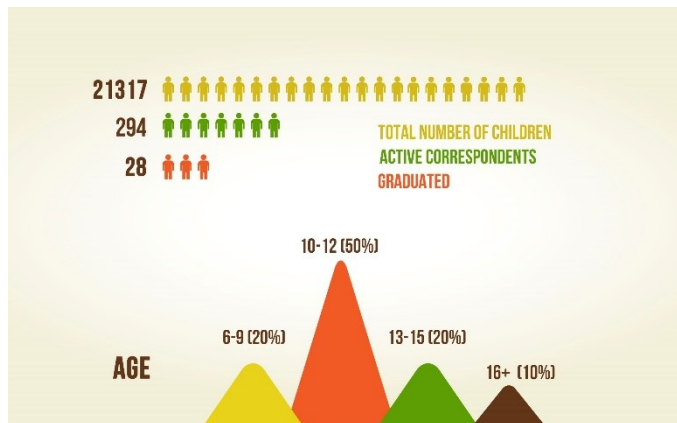
Or the two Orphan Camps where more than 200 parents and children were touched by precious times of teaching and encouragement.



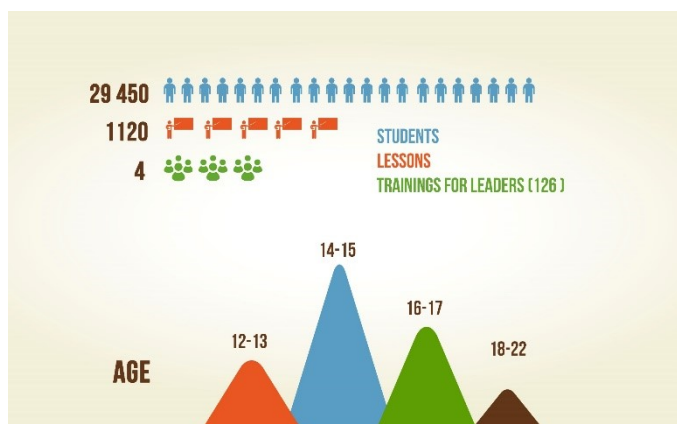
Praise God with us for the lives that have been touched!



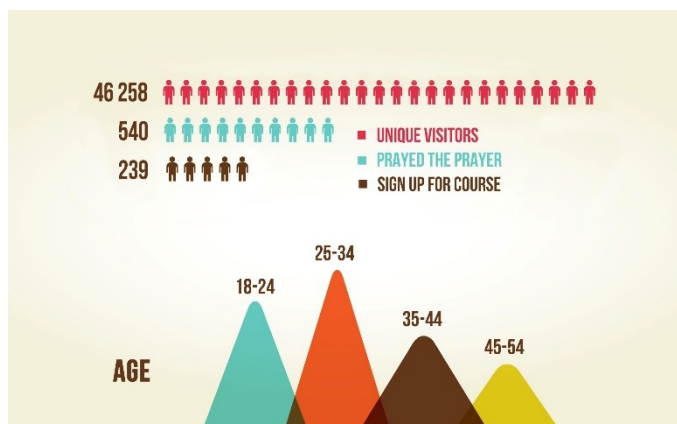
Bible Correspondence Courses



Public School Values Based Ministry



“Why Jesus” Internet Ministry



2018 Annual Report

Looking Back . . . Moving Forward

In 2008

120 Workers in 18 Countries

In 2018

230 worker in 25 Countries

What if in 2030?

500 workers in 55 Countries

300 more workers in 30 more countries

In 2018

25 church planting projects

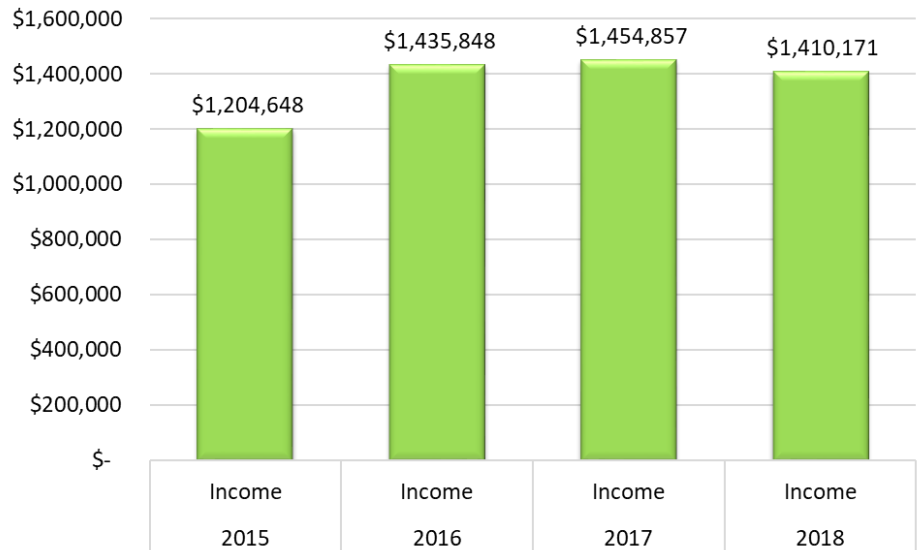
36 church development projects

21 church development ministries

8 social ministries

4 dedicated refugee ministries

US Income 2015-2018



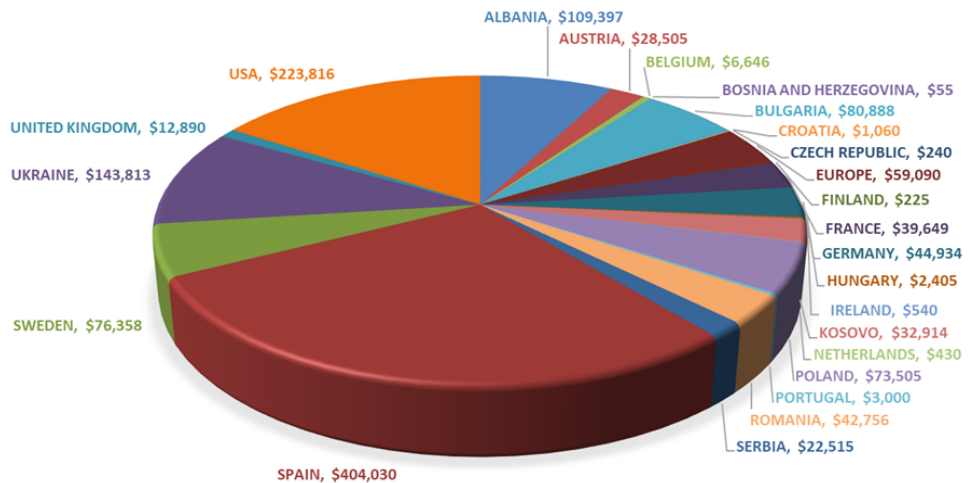
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ECMI longs to see the peoples of Europe filled with hope through the life-transforming power of Christ. Since 1904, our more than 230 workers in 25 countries of Eastern and Western Europe bring hope to the peoples of Europe by establishing loving communities 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.