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MISSION VISION

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN MISSION INTERNATIONAL — USA



ECMI-USA & NHI Growing Together

In 1971 an organization named New Hope International (NHI) began supporting Christian leaders behind the iron curtain. After the fall of Communism they began to focus on equipping local churches within Eastern Europe for ministry. Today they are integrating into ECMI-USA.

“NHI has had an exciting history of serving the Lord in Eastern Europe,” says George Brown, Director of ECMI-USA. “Their desire to collaboratively strengthen and establish local churches as they take the love of Christ into their neighborhoods and nations, and to reach the next generation for Christ makes them a perfect match for ECM.”



George Brown

Much work has been done to ensure that the missions and visions of the two mission agencies are compatible. Once the integration of NHI into ECMI-USA is complete, European Christian Mission International will grow by 10%.

Currently NHI focuses on ministries in Bulgaria, Ukraine, Romania and Hungary. Its largest work is in Ukraine where nearly two-thirds of its 900 volunteers live. They offer pre-marital and family ministry, public school outreach initiatives, youth work, a large orphan and foster care program, and they had more than 19,000 people enrolled in their Bible Correspondence Course in 2014. One of ECM’s missionaries to Poland, Saško Nezamutdinov, came through this very program.



Saško Nezamutdinov

These initiatives were recognized by Rev. Vyacheslav Nesteruk, head of the Baptist Union of Ukraine from 2006-2014, when he wrote: “You seek to be ‘on the front line,’ addressing the most difficult social and spiritual problems of Ukrainian society.

You have led the way in demonstrating that a vital relationship with Jesus Christ is the only way a person can be truly forgiven and whole... By modeling and by your excellent presentations in public schools and universities, as well as through your Bible correspondence courses, our partnership with you is giving the members of our 2,800 local churches throughout Ukraine the understanding that we can reach out into our society to share the love of Christ with those who might never otherwise attend a church service of any kind.”

One such example is Sasha Pavelchuk. By the time he was in fifth grade he was already smoking, skipping classes and drinking. In high school he began taking drugs and was soon addicted. Then he met a man, an NHI worker who said he had also been addicted to drugs -- until he met Jesus. Sasha began attending a weekly meeting this worker led. Eventually Sasha prayed to God to take away his desire for drugs. Sasha recalls, “God started working right away. I felt miserable after each use. It wasn’t long before I asked Jesus to forgive my sins, and He gave me freedom from the drug addiction without any medicine, rehabilitation, or withdrawal!” Today Sasha is leading NHI’s ministry in a university city, pastoring a church, ministering to local gypsy communities and reaching out to teenagers and young adults.



Roland Smith

British missionary Roland Smith is coordinating NHI’s integration with ECM at the field level. “Each time I meet another NHI worker I get more excited,” he says. “They’re dedicated and experienced men and women who understand their own cultures and local contexts, and desperately want people to come to Jesus. Plus, they love the church just like we do in ECM. Perfect!”



Director's Dialogue
by
George Brown

Refugees: Crisis or Opportunity

"Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."
Romans 15:7 ESVUK

Reports of the refugee crisis in Europe continue to dominate the news. There are estimates that 4.1 million registered Syrian refugees live in places like Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt (CNN). Many of those refugees have more recently been flooding the entry points of Europe through Turkey and Greece. But what is tearing at the hearts of those around the world are images of young children, mothers and the elderly who in their attempts to find their way to places of peace and prosperity in Europe, end their lifeless journeys washed up on the beaches of some foreign soil.

The story of the refugee is not a new one. ECMI missionary Vimal Vimalasekaran has been working among refugees in Germany for several decades now. As Vimal likes to say, **"Jesus was himself a refugee!"** Vimal himself came to Christ in a refugee camp. He and his wife Louise have a real heart for those displaced by war, pestilence and poverty. While the rest of Europe struggles to know what to do with this new wave of refugees, Germany is prepared to receive nearly 500,000 this year alone (The Guardian). Vimal and Louise are strategically positioned to minister to these refugees whose initial entry point is the refugee center in Karlsruhe.

However, countries like Greece and Hungary are struggling to know how to deal with this current surge. ECMI missionaries are on the ground assessing the situation and exploring ways to take advantage of this opportunity where people are open to the message of hope that the Gospel of Jesus Christ offers.

Today is the day to respond. Hundreds of Muslims are coming to Christ in places like Germany (CBN). ECMI is uniquely positioned to help and assist the churches of Eastern and Western Europe minister to this new influx of refugees and believers. You can be part of this through your prayers and gifts. Would you ask the Lord how He wants you to be involved? *You can respond on the insert and send it back to us.*

Thank you for partnering with us in the Gospel. You are making a difference!



ORPHAN CARE CAMP

Ukraine "We were ready to give up and send the boy we had fostered for three years back to the orphanage," reported one parent. "However, during these several days we spent in the camp, God worked in our hearts and we changed our minds. We really felt an atmosphere of care and love. The lectures and workshops for parents and fellowship with other adoptive/foster parents really helped us to see that the difficult situations that we face with our little one were not unique and not as bad as we thought. Thank you, New Hope, for this camp. You really gave us new **hope!**" This feedback was one of the many that was received by Roman Matviyiv, Director of NHI Ukraine, from families after the camp.

The Orphan Care Camp brings together the families who have adopted or are fostering orphans. For two weeks they study together and participate in program activities. The goal is to create a warm and family atmosphere for the children as well as for parents.

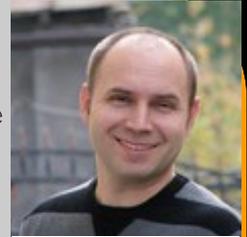
When families gathered on the first day of camp, they hugged each other in greeting and cried, because they had been looking forward to seeing each other again after the good experience of previous years. New families that joined the Orphan Care program were surprised to see so many other Christian foster families.

The children were involved in various activities, games, competitions, and performances presented and prepared by the team of New Hope volunteers. They had Bible lessons where they were told about God and the Christian life.

Parents were blessed by the training seminars, led by David Little from the USA. These were a time of active discussions and sharing both difficult and happy upbringing experiences in foster families. Morning Bible class groups discussed the message from the previous evening.

Every camp day ended with the evening program. The kids shared what they had done during the day and there was a message from the Gospel.

The Orphan Care Camp has become the time and place to make new friends, find answers to many questions, and simply enjoy the time together in the family called New Hope. It is no wonder that the Orphan Care Camp is one of the most anticipated events every year for the NHI Ukraine team and the more than 100 families that participate. *Learn more about how you can sponsor an orphan by indicating your desire to do so on the response device.*



Roman Matviyiv



Vimal (L) with refugees

CONFIRMATION CAMP



Jesse & Krista Ashmen & girls

Gottlund, Sweden

The church in Sweden is a state church. Confirmation is a sacrament in which historically all teenagers have participated as a

witness of God's grace and good will in their lives. Participants confirm their infant baptism as the bishop lays on his hands, conferring spiritual strength and wisdom.

Since the 1970's, however, fewer and fewer youth have decided to be confirmed, and those that do have a very nominal connection to Christianity. In much of Sweden, the process has become a party-centered rite of passage into adulthood.

The church in which the Ashmens minister piggy-backs on the cultural tradition and hosts a two-week Bible camp. Over thirty youth attended this year's camp. Jesse taught 27 hours of Bible to the young adults. Instead of following the suggested lectures on the significance of candles, symbols, and clothing found in the church, he began with the assumption that none of the youth had a Theistic worldview. Together with summer intern, Amelia Seefeldt, Jesse packed those hours with outdoor initiatives, orienteering challenges, and apologetic lectures.



Amelia Seefeldt

Some lectures came across better than others. Teaching about sexual purity was still an uphill battle, for instance. Jesse's and Krista's testimony about sexual integrity and marital commitment came across like a plea to embrace a flat-earth. Even other pastors were dumbfounded.

By the end of the two weeks, however, the response was fruitful: Salvations, baptisms, and continued discipleship.



MK CAMP -

a camp for Third Culture Kids

BJ and Rachel Whitaker with the MKs



Camarma, Spain

The children of missionaries, missionary kids (MKs) have a unique childhood. They grow up in a culture to which they do not belong, yet they do not feel like they belong in their own culture either. They are a unique cultural blend, with a sense of rootlessness; they are Third Culture Kids (TCK).

Rachel Whitaker knows what it is like to struggle as a TCK.



As the daughter of ECM missionaries Ron and Brenda Anderson, she grew up in Spain. Now as a missionary herself with ECM, she and husband BJ care for the missionary kids of ECMI as part of their job.

One of the ways that they have done this is to organize a retreat for the teenagers. So for a week this summer they had a blast with 11 MKs together. It was an intense week with daily worship and Bible study times, lots of food, several outings including a zipline circuit and a water park.



Jesus worked in several young people in different ways. But the thing heard most was how significant it was for them to spend time together as friends and MKs, because of their deep sense of belonging to each other.



The McCracken family

KIDS' CLUB

Claremorris, Ireland

Hosted by ECM Ireland missionaries Jonathan and Nicola McCracken and their children, a team from Walnut Community Bible Church in Walnut, IL came to assist in summer outreach.

For two days the team went door to door giving out *4you.ie Magazine*, featuring articles by Christian authors.

An invitation to 3 afternoons of Kid's Club was delivered with the magazines.

Rain had poured down the first morning, but stopped at exactly the time of the meeting. The next two days were dry and each day more children attended. The children who came were involved in games, songs, Bible stories and memory verses.



Back row: Laura and Nathan Richey, Jonathan McCracken, John Foss. Front row: Noelle and Natalie Richey.

Terri Barker, one of the team members, stated that "It was eye-opening to see what a diverse land Ireland has become when children from India, Poland, Lithuania, Germany, and Ireland showed up from just one apartment complex! It was such a blessing to hear the children sing and recite God's Word!" She prays that the seeds planted will take root in their hearts and in those of their families.

New ECMI-USA Team Member



Dan and Ann Julian welcomed a new team member, Calvin David Julian, on March 20, 2015. The team has moved to a new location in Benicassim, Castellon, Spain, and will be working with

Francisco and Shirley Gross in the church plant there.

Team ECMI-USA

USA Section Field Missionaries

- Ron/Brenda Anderson** - European Church Planting Consultant
- Daniel/Mariana Cocar** - Romania
- Sharon Graves** - Training Consultant
- Doug/Lila Groth** - Poland
- Samantha Hemphill** - Hungary
- Dan /Anna Julian** - Spain
- Kent/Angie Morton** - Albania
- Stephanie Shackelford** - Belgium
- BJ/Rachel Whitaker** - Spain
- Hans/Jennifer Anderson** - Spain

Staff and Volunteers

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

Approved Candidates

- Justin and Corinne Bellars** - Directors of Mobilization
- David/Laura Jouf** - France
- Lonnie/Michelle Quigley-Chapman** - Ireland
- Bekah Bosler** - England
- Olya Shabliy** - Poland

Board of Directors

- Jay Butler** - Chair
- Thomas Dunn** - Vice Chair
- Rebekah Burkholder** - Secretary
- Dale Larson** - Treasurer
- Eric Curtiss**
- Kevin Guttman**
- Kristy Steiner**

MEET NEW FACES

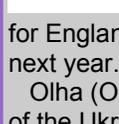
APPOINTEES



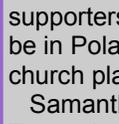
Amelia Seefeldt



Rebekah Bosler



Olya Shabliy



Samantha Hemphill



The Quigley-Chapmans

ECMI-USA has been delighted to accept three young ladies for short terms and one couple for long term service, as well as one summer intern.

Amelia Seefeldt, a student at Biola University, has completed her summer internship in Sweden with the Ashmens.

Bekah Bosler, a resident of Ohio, is planning to go to Brighton, England, to work with a church in their outreach programs. She plans to leave

for England around the first of next year.

Olya (Olya) Shabliy is a native of the Ukraine with a number of supporters in the USA. She will be in Poland assisting with a church plant in Krakow.

Samantha Hemphill is from Texas, but has been studying in Hungary for the past several years. She is working with the Hungarian Baptist Union as a teacher of English.

Lonnie and Michelle Quigley-Chapman have been appointed for long term service in Ireland. They are investigating placement options, before beginning to seek support partners.

BOARD MEMBERS

The ECMI-USA Board of Directors has two new faces that bring fresh experiences and a more youthful viewpoint to the vision of the mission.



Eric Curtiss and family

Eric Curtiss grew up in Austria, the child of missionaries. An entrepreneur, Eric comes to the board with a business perspective and fundraising expertise. He is currently The Chief

Operations Officer for Christian Associates International. He and his wife Nicole live in Colorado.

Kristy Steiner, while trained as a chemical engineer, now works as a full time mother, homemaker and volunteer. The Steiners lived in France for 4 years where her husband Kevin worked for Caterpillar. Her experience of lay ministry while living in a cross-cultural environment brings a unique perspective to the board. The Steiners live in Illinois.



Kristy Steiner and family

The board is missing one "old" face. John Wick has retired from the ECMI-USA board after many years of faithful and fruitful service. Active in ECMI-USA since 1997, John was instrumental in guiding the mission in its reorganization.



John Wick



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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 160 missionaries working in 20 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.

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.



MY FAITH PROMISE

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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This is not a legally binding promise to give. Any unused portion of your gift may be directed to other ministry opportunities. **All gifts to ECMI-USA are tax-deductible and will be issued a receipt. Make contributions payable to:**

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