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MISSION VISION

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN MISSION INTERNATIONAL — USA

The Gospel Centered Church

Jesus said to them, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Mat 28:19-20 ESV

SUMMER 2014



Director's
Dialogue by
George Brown

I love ECMI's Biennial Conference. Why? Because it feels a bit like heaven, I suppose, when I hear the prayers, testimonies, and singing of people from more than 30 different nationalities declaring the glory of God and worshipping the same Savior who died and rose again from the dead for their sins and mine. It's like a scene out of Revelation 7 when I read "there

before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: 'Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.'"

What a privilege to be on mission with God in reaching Europe once again with the Gospel of Jesus Christ that transforms hearts and lives. God has and continues to raise up faithful servants for the harvest that yet remains in Europe. **Because of you this is happening!** There is plenty of work yet to be done with only 2% or less of the peoples of this continent following Christ. Yet there are glimmers of hope and the moving of God's Spirit everywhere in Europe. Your partnership with us and the missionaries of ECMI is helping us in the power of the Holy Spirit to get the job done. Thank you.

Please enjoy stories in this issue from some of our US Section missionaries and appointees. Praise the Lord with us for what He is doing in their midst. These missionaries also face many challenges with health, financial support, opposition from the community, and physical dangers. Please do not forget to pray for them or to give as God leads and enables you.



Daniel and Mariana Cocar serve in Timisoara, Romania. Please pray for Mariana who is undergoing chemotherapy for cancer.



View of the Alps from the Hotel Sol Umag



Ian Stackhouse, Senior Pastor of Guildford Baptist, Speaker

UMAG, CROATIA

ECM International held its biennial conference in April. The theme was *The Gospel Centered Church*. Over 360 missionaries and their families, international trustees and staff, national section board members and staff, and invited guests gathered together in a hotel along the eastern Adriatic Sea for a time of teaching, worship, discussion, recreation, and fellowship. Many of those who attended said it was one of the best conferences ECMI has had. Some of the highlights of the conference were the encouraging Bible teaching, the inspirational worship in several languages, the informative seminars, and the warmth of fellowship as people renewed old friendships and made new ones. Several ECMI-USA Board Members went to Biennial for the first time. They unanimously expressed what a joy and blessing it was to meet with the missionaries, some of whom they were meeting for the first time. The Biennial Conference encourages the connectedness of the mission in all of its different parts. It has the feel of a great big family reunion.



Ron and Brenda Anderson being honored for their many years of service by Tim Lewis, chair of the International Board of Trustees



Rachel Whitaker teaching a seminar on Third Culture Kids (Missionary Kids)

Glimpses of God at Work in Europe



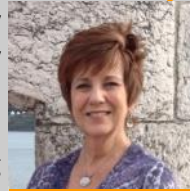
Krista and Jesse Ashmen
Evangeline, Adalyn and Eleri

GOTLAND, SWEDEN *by Krista Ashmen*

This summer Jesse led a "Lasa Mer" ("learn more") Camp for those who had attended Confirmation Camp last year. In one of Jesse's sessions he asked all the kids who believed that the Bible was true to sit on one side of the room, while those who believed that the Bible was a good book but full of errors to sit on the other. To his surprise, everyone in the room sat on the side saying the Bible was full of errors, including his co-leaders! When asked to define the errors they believed to be in the Bible, the reply was that there are so many different translations of the Bible it couldn't be trusted, that errors were motivated by power hungry selfish men. When asked to name five, two, then only one such error, they had no solid evidence. Tom is one who attended Confirmation Camp and chose to attend the "Lasa Mer" camp. Jesse connected with Tom quite a bit last year and they had some significant conversations about the authority and legitimacy of the Bible. After this year's session Tom stayed and asked many questions. He realized he may be wrong about the authenticity of the Bible. This is exactly why we are here! We wish that we had more time to dig deeper with these kids. Tom lives in north Sweden so we don't get enough time with him. But we are thankful that he returned (with 23 others!) to "learn more!"

ALCALA de HENERES, SPAIN *by Sharon Graves*

An amazing number of Spaniards are determined to learn the English language. I was introduced to two lovely ladies, Rosa and Encarne, through conversation classes organized by ECM Britain missionary Charlie Deering. It gave me an opportunity to practice speaking Spanish and them to practice English. We met



Sharon Graves

every Friday morning for coffee. Once while discussing some of the problems in Spain and how they have caused Spaniards to view life negatively, all of a sudden Encarne said, "Sharon, I would like to be more like you. You seem to be full of joy and are so happy when we see you." Then Rosa chimed in, "Yes, we really want to be more like you!" I was surprised, then said, "Would you like to know what makes me joyful? It is my faith in Jesus. I have put all of my faith and trust in Him so I don't worry about the future. I know He will take care of me." Encarne looked at me and said, "Yes, I can tell." I added that this doesn't mean that I haven't had tragedy in my life, it just means that, as a disciple of Jesus, my joy comes from Him. Walking back to my apartment, I knew God had been at work, using me to work in their lives. They saw a glimpse of the character of Christ in me and wanted to know what it was.

TIRANA, ALBANIA *by Kent Morton*

While we were raising support, we came to Albania for a training event with our ECM team. In our team we work most closely with Murray and Féy Cotter. During our training I shared about our vision for church planting and our hope for the future of the church. Murray also shared their vision: a church that is sustainable and reproducing. As he said those words, my heart skipped a beat. It was one of those moments in which God confirmed outwardly what the Holy Spirit placed in our hearts. They had not seen our

prayer cards where we give two terms as cornerstones for building our ministry: sustainable and reproducing - the exact two terms that Murray and Féy have been using to



Kent and
Angie Morton
Emily, Grace, and
Ethan

describe their vision for the church. So many times missionaries that work together find themselves at odds when discussing how something should be done. That the Holy Spirit gave us those exact same terms to describe our visions for church planting still gives us goose bumps . . . For that, we praise the Lord.

USA *by Stephanie Shackelford* I never thought much about my name or that it might open a door of friendship - until I met Stefania in the small town of Novi Marof in Croatia. At the moment of introduction an instant connection



Stephanie
Shackelford

was made. Never mind that we cannot say much more to each other than 'good day'. We are fast and solid friends. We have something else in common which means more than any name given by parents. We both love and follow Jesus. That makes us sisters, sisters in Christ. One day Stefania and I will be able to communicate freely and be completely understood by each other. Love shared. God shared. These things transcend language, culture and race

Glimpses of God Continued



**Jody and Marc van Eijden,
Jan-Willem and Jack**

TOUR, FRANCE by Jody van Eijden

In 2003 long before their trials began, God provided for Caroline, not yet born, and Sonia, a year old. Serine, a believer but married to an unbeliever and not attending church, found a tract in her mailbox with our phone number and the offer of a free copy of the *Jesus* film. Serine called and requested the video. Marc made her acquaintance upon delivering the cassette. In 2010 Serine telephoned local churches, looking for 'Pastor Marc'. She was dying of cancer and wanted Marc to pray for her. He did but recognized that a lady in our church who *happened* to live next door to her would be a better prayer partner. Jocelyne became intimate with the family, helping Sonia (8) and little sister Caroline (3) and being a friend. Shortly before Serine died, she and Jocelyne traveled to Madagascar, Serine's homeland, to say her goodbyes to her family. Now the pre-teen Sonia seems unable to express her grief. Jocelyne has invited Flora from church, with a degree in child psychology, to get to know and help this young girl. Results of evangelism outreaches are seldom encouraging. Few people clearly respond. It is impossible to measure the impact of a week's worth of prayer, gospel concerts, tract distributions and

personal witnessing. God might be using the outreach in ways we can't imagine, because He cares for each individual. He used an outreach in 2003 to provide for two little girls ten years later. He is the God who calls each star by its name. May Sonia and Caroline one day hear him calling theirs.

Hans and Jennifer Anderson with Ellee and Jack



OROPRESA, SPAIN by Jen Anderson

One evening a free-spirited Swiss friend, who lives on a yacht currently docked here in Oropesa, came to our Bible study and prayer time. Clara seems to really be seeking God in her life, and we have had many friendly conversations with her. At one point, she explained that she feels like she has been "knocking on Jesus' door, but not very loudly." What a blessing it was to have a mature believer in our group take her to Revelations 3:20, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me." Clara began weeping with emotion and realized she had it backward. The Holy Spirit is moving in her heart! While Clara is not yet ready to surrender her life to Christ, she continues to spend time with us. We are praying for her and her husband and kids.

MADRID, SPAIN by Brenda Anderson

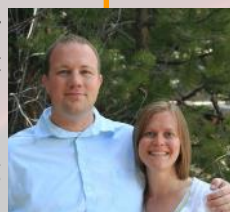
In the prison while teaching about how we have to learn patience, I explained about a tree in Cuba that takes 20 to 24 years of growth to produce its first fruits, which are a wonderful delicacy. A lady in the front row quickly piped up, "Yes, I know it. I am from Cuba." Then a Dominican lady added she also knew of it. The Cuban started telling how her husband had been so patient with her and that God had changed her heart. She did not deserve God's love or her husband's love. She told a long story of unfaithfulness, hate, greed, and sin. The Dominican sitting next to her was touched at how God had changed her. She suffers from such a severe depression that she has tried to kill herself several times and is on 16 different medications. How often we hear similar stories - one of great need, another of God's faithfulness. Please pray for the women imprisoned in Madrid and for the team that ministers to them.

CORDOBA, SPAIN by Dan Julian

While apartment-hunting for a place to live during our first year in Córdoba, we had a remarkable experience. During the visit to the apartment we selected, the landlord said he was very interested in setting up an *intercambio* (language exchange). He could help us with Spanish and we could help him with English. At the same time, the real estate agent arranged an *intercambio* with our teammates, the Millers. In the space of fifteen minutes, we encountered some of the first families with whom we will be sharing the gospel. The Lord is already at work opening doors for the Gospel in Córdoba.



Brenda Anderson



Dan and Anna Julian

Team ECMI-USA

USA Section Field Missionaries

Ron/Brenda Anderson - Spain
Hans/Jennifer Anderson - Spain
Jesse/Krista Ashmen - Sweden
Daniel/Mariana Cocar - Romania
Sharon Graves - Training Consultant
Doug/Lila Groth - Poland
Dan /Anna Julian - Spain
Kent/Angie Morton - Albania
BJ/Rachel Whitaker - Spain

US Staff and Volunteers

George Brown - Executive Director
Loren/Helen Anderson - Prayer Ministries
Rebekah Burkholder - Personnel and Communications
Ben Fergus - Director of Operations
Frank Koleszar - Mobilization Associate
Lynn Leitzel - Candidate Coordinator
Stephanie Shackelford - Administrative Assistant to Johan Lukasse
Bob/Helen Walter - Mobilization Associates

Approved Candidates

Justin/Corinne Bellars - Germany
Don /Birdie Harms - France
David/Lauara Jouf - France
Joel /Pam Weber - France

Board of Directors

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

2014 Summer Update

Second Lieutenant Brian Andre and Kaitlyn Weber were united in marriage on May 31, 2014. The wedding took place at the Air Force Chapel in Colorado Springs, CO. Joel had the privilege of officiating and Trenton was a ring bearer along with Brian's younger brother. The couple will reside in Oklahoma at Vance Air Force Base.



ECMI-USA is pleased to introduce Ben Fergus who has joined the ECMI-USA team, volunteering part-time as Director of Operations.

Ben Fergus was born into a family that infused him with the love of Jesus. He has degrees in Chemical Engineering and Environmental Engineering and works in project management of designs for environmental infrastructure. Ben lived in London for 3 years while he served on the program management team for the design and construction of the London 2012 Olympic Park. During that time he experienced the great need for Christ throughout Europe.

God called Ben and his wife Sheri into youth ministry about 30 years ago as volunteer leaders. Ben has led youth on short term missions trips both at home and abroad. He has served on the Board of Directors for Youth Unlimited and Bethany Christian Services as well as a Deacon and Elder in the Christian Reformed Church. They currently worship at Reston Bible Church. Ben has been married to his teenage sweetheart, Sheri, for 42 years. They are blessed with 2 daughters, Christian sons-in-law and 3 precious granddaughters. They live in Ashburn, Virginia.



Joel and Pam Weber, Trenton, candidates for France
 Brian and Kaitlyn Andre

Joel was ordained in March of 2013 and he and Pam started Ekklesia Bible Church in their home in January of 2014. Joel will be holding a baptismal service for two members as well as those from two other churches in the area. It has been a blessing for them to witness people growing in the knowledge of the Lord and to serve in a capacity that is giving them experience for their future work in France.



ECMI-USA is delighted to announce the arrival of Evangeline Solveig, born Sunday, April 6th, 2014 to Jesse and Krista Ashmen who are ministering on the island of Gotland, Sweden. She joins her sisters, Adalyn and Eleri.



European Christian Mission International - USA

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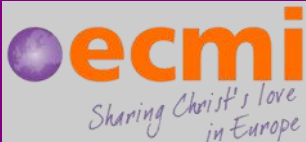
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ECMI is an international agency whose mission is to establish and develop reproducing churches that evangelize and disciple the peoples of Europe; its vision is to see

Europeans transformed in the name of Jesus Christ. ECM International has more than 120 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.

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.



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