

CHRISTMAS/WINTER 2021-22

FOCUS

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN MISSION INTERNATIONAL-USA
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Madrid, Spain is one of Europe's most beautiful cities at Christmas. Behind holiday celebrations lies deep spiritual emptiness, however, as only 1% of Spain's nearly 47 million inhabitants identify as Evangelical Christian. ECMI-USA missionaries in Madrid and Malaga support Spanish churches in advancing the Gospel of Christ.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



“Who can add to Christmas? The perfect motive is that God so loved the world. The perfect gift is that He gave His only Son. The only requirement is to believe in Him. The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life.”

– Corrie ten Boom

Christmas in Europe holds special appeal. From its famous markets to splendid light displays amidst historical backdrops, the continent springs to life at the holidays. Yet, while Christian icons and rhetoric will be freely employed this season, we know the vast majority of Europe lives apart from faith in Jesus. Most recent *Operation World* data reveals only 2.5% of Europeans are Evangelicals. While this does not indicate the totality of those following Christ, it clearly underscores a pervasive spiritual void.

My hope this Christmas is next year brings spiritual awakening for many in Europe.

At ECMI-USA, our unswerving vision is for every new generation in Europe to interact with the Gospel. To that end, we are committed to identifying like-minded people to join our field staff and to planting new churches across the continent. You can read about our vision for 2022 and beyond on page 5, and if our dream for Europe resonates with you, please consider the year-end giving opportunity on the next page.

Your faithful participation with us through prayer and giving has been a tremendous gift to us throughout this past year. Thank you for your support.

On behalf of the ECMI-USA family, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Doug Gotcher

doug.gotcher@ecmi.org

INCLUDE ECMI-USA IN YOUR CHRISTMAS GIVING

“For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”
- Isaiah 9:6

During this season of giving, we invite you to include European Christian Mission on your gift list. We believe every new generation of Europeans should have opportunities to respond to the Gospel. To this end, ECMI resources local European churches dedicated to impacting their communities with the love of Jesus. In 2022, we are excited to launch our vision to plant 12 new churches across Europe by 2026. God is graciously enabling us to participate with Him in bringing the peoples of Europe to faith.

Consider the need and opportunity in Hungary. Only 2.8% of the population are Evangelical Christian, and the country is perpetually included among the highest global suicide rates. Yet, despite pervasive social and economic challenges, there is hope for Hungary in the good news of Jesus. We have been introduced to gifted Hungarian ministers with a clarion call to serve their country, partly through church planting in one of Budapest’s newest neighborhoods. As ECMI continues pursuit of

this strategic partnership, we are reminded of our commitment to share the good news with each new generation of Europeans.

Your generous year-end gift helps us move church planting efforts and other key ministry initiatives forward. Thank you for prayerfully considering one of the following gifts:

# of Gifts	@Amounts	Total
1	\$2,500	\$2,500
5	\$1,000	\$5,000
10	\$500	\$5,000
20	\$250	\$5,000
50	\$100	\$5,000
Other Individual Gifts		\$2,500

Total: \$25,000

*Thank you for your generous support of
European Christian Mission International—USA!*

How to Participate

- Give online at ecmi-usa.org/year-end-gift
- Scan QR code at right with your mobile device
- Checks payable to ECMI-USA

European Christian Mission International
P.O. Box 563
Wheaton, IL 60187
(Please indicate “Christmas/Year-End Gift”)

- Gifts by mail must be postmarked by Dec. 31 to be acknowledged as a 2021 donation
- Questions?

donors@ecmi-usa.org
217-209-5183



Scan with
your phone
to donate!

CHRISTMAS IN EUROPE

There are 44 nations in Europe, each with its unique holiday traditions. As you read about two European states below, we invite you to use the information as a springboard to pray.

FRANCE

“Joyeux Noël” (“Happy/Merry Christmas”) is what you hear this time of year in France. As in most nations with Christian history, Christmas is a significant annual celebration with December 25 being a public holiday. Père Noël is the bringer of gifts in France and in other French-speaking regions of the world. Arriving with his donkey, Gui, Père Noël leaves gifts for children who have been good during the year.

Christmas Day is largely quiet, as most businesses are closed. Many French put up a Christmas tree and may visit a religious service, while gifts are often opened on Christmas Eve. May God use this period of peace to prompt reflection on the true meaning of Christmas.



SERBIA

Božić, the Serbian name for Christmas, comes from a derivative of *bog* (“god”). Serbs greet one another with “Christ is Born” and “Truly He is Born” is the anticipated reply. Gifts are not traditionally exchanged Christmas Day, but on the three Sundays prior.

Numerous *slavas* (family patron saint day celebrations) occur during the extended holiday season, the most popular being the celebration of St. Nicolas on December 19. Many seasonal rituals are actually old pagan practices in Christian disguise, and some use mystic symbols and practices to predict outcomes for the new year.

Perhaps Christian imagery will cause people to focus on Christ this season. Pray for the spread of the Gospel among Serbia’s 6.9 million people, the vast majority of whom do not know Jesus.

Thank you for participating with ECMI to reach the nations of Europe!

OUR VISION FOR EUROPE

Each New Generation Interacting with the Gospel

God is constantly drawing people everywhere to faith. There is never a time when He is not bringing people toward belief. This redemptive action is rooted in God's great love for the world, so beautifully and clearly stated in John 3:16. No level of secularization can finally undo this. No post-Christian reality can stand forever against the love of God. His purposes may be resisted, but they will never be ultimately thwarted. We hold these truths deeply, thus our hope for Europe is undeterred.

Our vision is each new generation of Europeans interacting with the Gospel.

Therefore, we commit ourselves to the following:

- *We will plant new churches in Europe* – In 2022, we launch an initiative to plant 12 churches in the next 5 years. We believe biblically based, evangelistically dedicated, and holistically focused faith communities are key to transforming the spiritual landscape of Europe.
- *We will search for like-minded field personnel to join us* – We seek people who are adequately equipped and fully committed to reaching the peoples of Europe.
- *We will provide comprehensive care for our European staff* – Kingdom work is hindered and good people hurt when ministry teammates are inadequately supported. We seek to mitigate this reality through an array of physical, emotional, and spiritual care resources.
- *We will employ our connections in Europe for greater effectiveness* – We are blessed with European colleagues and friends who can help us avoid needless setbacks. We will utilize these key relationships.
- *We will invite you to participate in our vision* – Our vision will only be realized with sufficient funding. We will regularly encourage you to participate in something you already believe in.

Thank you for your support of the people and programs of EMCI-USA. Questions? Contact Brad Pellish, VP of Staff Care and Development, at brad.pellish@ecmi.org

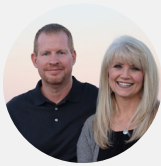
*“You have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ.”
– Philippians 1:5*



EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN MISSION INTERNATIONAL-USA



Doug & Chloe
United States



Brad & Jennifer
United States



Kristy & Kevin
United States



Ron & Brenda
Madrid, Spain



Sharon
Madrid, Spain



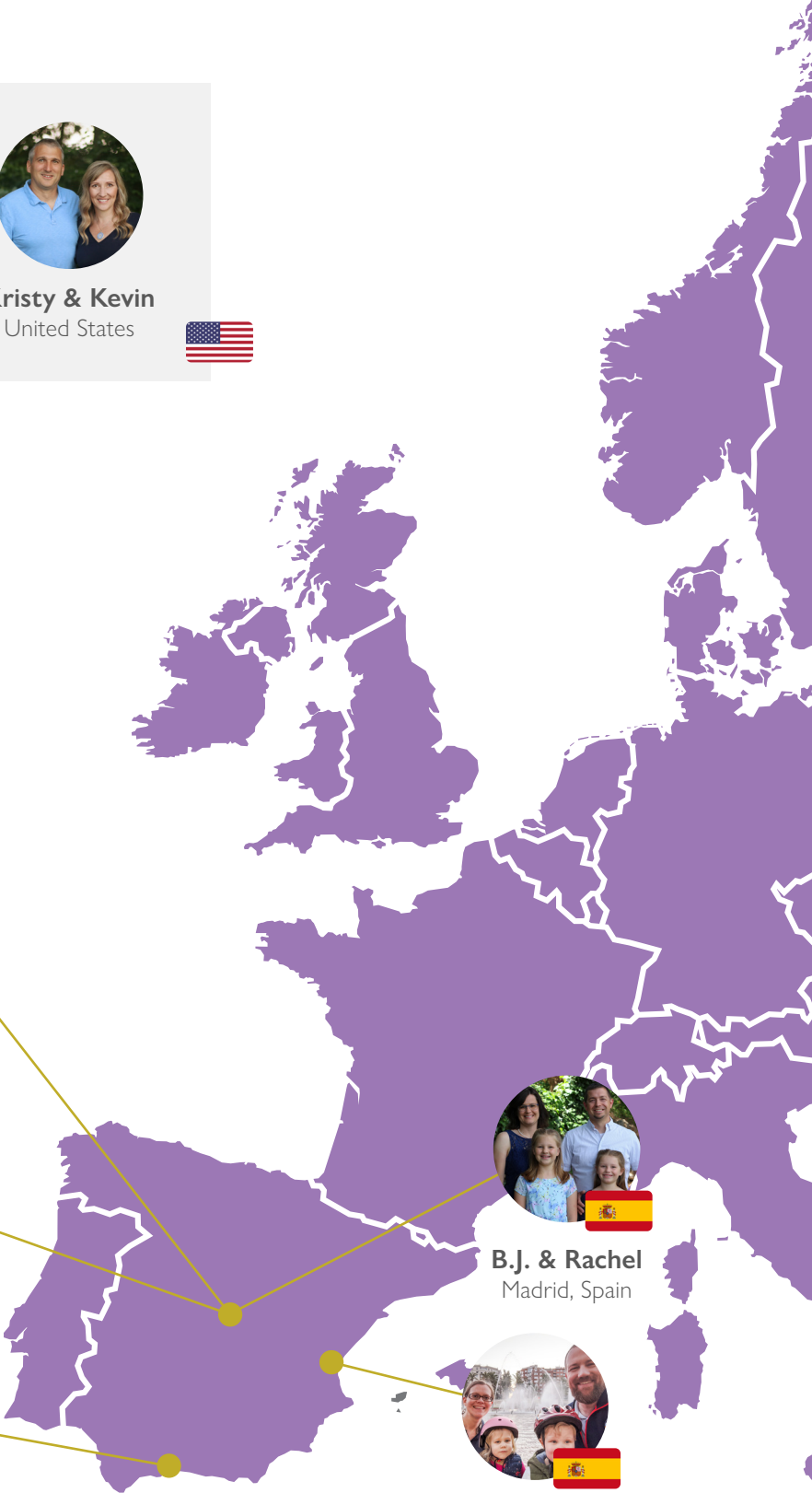
Hans & Jennifer
Malaga, Spain



B.J. & Rachel
Madrid, Spain



Dan & Anna
Valencia, Spain



“May the nations
praise you, O God.
Yes, may all the
nations praise you.”
– Psalm 67:3



Lila
Krakow, Poland



Roman & Iryna
Lviv, Ukraine



Oksana & Peter
Lviv, Ukraine



Günther & Mallory
Vienna, Austria



Octavian & Eugenia
Timisoara, Romania



Dimitrie & Maria
Burgas, Bulgaria



Diana
Ljubljana, Slovenia



Kent & Angie
Tirana, Albania



Kostya & Iryna
Zagreb, Croatia

According to *Operation World*, only 4.4% of Swiss are considered Evangelicals. We currently have no presence in Switzerland, but desire this to change in the future.



Each December since 2000, hundreds of swimmers raise funds for charity by crossing the Limmat River near Zurich.

PARTICIPATING WITH ECMI-USA

European Christian Mission is an interdenominational, evangelical missionary organization planting churches in Europe.

We invite you to invest in our vision of each new generation of Europeans interacting with the Gospel. Unless otherwise indicated, all donations to ECMI-USA are tax deductible. ECMI-USA is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.



Thank you for your generous participation in the work of ECMI-USA!

- Give online at ecmi-usa.org/give-online

- Checks payable to ECMI-USA

European Christian Mission Int'l
P.O. Box 563
Wheaton, IL 60187

- Connect with ECMI-USA



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- Contact Us

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