

SUMMER 2020

# FOCUS

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN MISSION INTERNATIONAL-USA  
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



The unique diamond pattern of its color tile roof is the most striking feature of St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna. This beautiful city is also where ECMI-USA missionaries serve a small international church.



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Welcome to this first edition of *Focus*. Every three months, we will communicate with you about the progress we are making in our renewed focus on church planting. In this issue, you'll meet my colleagues on the new Executive Team at ECMI-USA. We are here to serve you and the members of our missionary family.

*“Planting vibrant local churches in key population centers is our answer to the spiritual crisis in Europe.”*

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These are exciting days for our organization. In 2021, we will launch a capital campaign to place 30 new church planters in Europe by 2026. The need is great, as only 2.5% of people across Europe identify as evangelical followers of Jesus. Planting vibrant local churches in key population centers is our answer to the spiritual crisis in Europe.

Thank you for your faithful and generous giving during this season of uncertainty; our missionaries are grateful for your support. As always, your prayers for our mission are deeply appreciated.

Reaching the 98%,



**Doug Gotcher**

[doug.gotcher@ecmi.org](mailto:doug.gotcher@ecmi.org)



## MEET OUR EXECUTIVE TEAM

### Rev. Brad Pellish

*Vice President of Staff Care and Development*

Having joined ECMI–USA on January 1, Brad provides pastoral care and facilitates resourcing for our field staff in Europe. Additionally, he devotes significant time to donor relations. He finds each of these responsibilities extremely fulfilling.

Brad previously spent nearly thirty years in pastoral ministry, serving churches in Arizona, Michigan, and Ohio. He has visited more than 35 countries while leading short-term mission teams and overseeing local church missionary partnerships. Europe is where he feels the greatest sense of connection and calling.



Brad and Jennifer have been married for more than 31 years, and they have three adult children. They make their home in the greater Phoenix area.

[brad.pellish@ecmi.org](mailto:brad.pellish@ecmi.org)

### Kristy Steiner

*Director of Operations*

Kristy Steiner joined ECMI–USA in January as the Director of Operations. Her main focus is keeping the daily procedures running smoothly in the office, so our missionaries and other staff can more effectively accomplish their ministries. She enjoys making things more efficient and simplifying processes.

Kristy currently lives in central Illinois with her husband, Kevin, and their four teenage children. She became involved with ECMI–USA after her and her family repatriated from France, where they lived for four years for her husband's work. While living in France, they became acutely aware of the spiritual void in Europe, and their hearts for European missions grew. Kristy served on



ECMI–USA's Board of Directors for over five years before joining the staff as Director of Operations. Her background is in engineering, and she has been a stay at home mom for the last seventeen years.

[kristy.steiner@ecmi.org](mailto:kristy.steiner@ecmi.org)

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*Thank you for your care for our missionaries through your prayers and generous financial support!*

## MEMBER CARE

### How ECMI-USA Aims to Care for Its Missionaries

– Brad Pellish

*The Search for God and Guinness* (2014) recounts how Benjamin Lee Guinness led the famous family business in the mid-1800s. He was described as one who guided the company with kindness and maintained a friendly rapport with every worker connected to his brewery, even during a time of unprecedented growth. Benjamin Lee Guinness understood the way to get the best from employees was to ensure they were appreciated and cared for.



Valuing others is central to the Christian faith, and we purpose to care for our staff in a way which underscores this belief. My position was created precisely with this in mind, as my chief assignment is to connect our missionaries with an array of helpful resources.

We want you to know what Member Care at European Christian Mission International looks like now, and what we are working on for the near future.

**Member Care occurs on two levels.** Each of ECMI–USA’s missionaries is under the care of a Member Care Facilitator based in Europe. These gifted men and women are ECMI colleagues trained to assist in various levels of care. Additionally, I am in contact with our field staff on a regular basis.

**Pastoral Care is my role.** For now, my interactions with our staff in Europe occur exclusively via video chat, *WhatsApp* messaging, and email. Of course, I look forward to visiting with our missionaries in person when European travel resumes. While I am comfortable providing pastoral care, I will avoid crossing into areas outside my expertise. This is why ECMI–USA is assembling a new team of service providers for our missionaries.

**Wrap around services will be available soon.**

We are currently in the process of enlisting skilled providers in areas such as counseling, health and nutrition training, financial advising, spiritual formation coaching, and medical consultation. These services will be made available via video, and ECMI–USA will provide initial sessions at no cost to our missionaries. Field staff have the option of funding ongoing services from their individual support account.

**Your gifts play a part in the process.** As a portion of every donation to ECMI–USA is allocated to operations, you help fund these member care efforts through your regular support of our missionaries and ministries.

“Your kindness has often refreshed the hearts of God’s people.”  
– *Philemon 7*

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Thank you for your care for our missionaries through your prayers and generous financial support! Please contact me with questions about our member care process or any of our field staff in Europe.

[brad.pellish@ecmi.org](mailto:brad.pellish@ecmi.org)

## FROM THE FIELD

Brief updates from some of our workers in Europe



### **Hans & Jennifer Anderson**

*Malaga, Spain*

Hans & Jennifer provide leadership to Diez42 (from Matthew 10:42), a ministry center serving the immigrant community. Diez42 provides food, language classes, homework assistance, skills development, and a small sewing and jewelry co-op to benefit those living on societal margins. All this is undertaken within a context of living and speaking the gospel of Jesus. Recently, Diez42 has experienced significant shortages in food and other necessities. If you would like to help Diez42, contact Hans and Jennifer at [hans.anderson@ecmi.org](mailto:hans.anderson@ecmi.org)/[jennifer.anderson@ecmi.org](mailto:jennifer.anderson@ecmi.org)



### **Jesse & Krista Ashmen**

*Visby, Sweden*

The Ashmen's live and serve on the largest island on the Baltic Sea: Gotland. They engage in Bible teaching, pastoral ministry, and discipleship. More recently, they are creating connections and fostering relationships with refugees who have come to Gotland in the past few years. Learn more about ECMI's work in Sweden by contacting Krista and Jesse at [krista.ashmen@ecmi.org](mailto:krista.ashmen@ecmi.org)/[jesse.ashmen@ecmi.org](mailto:jesse.ashmen@ecmi.org)



### **Oksana & Peter Savka**

*Lviv, Ukraine*

Oksana is part of ECMI's New Hope Ukraine ministry, leading the adoptive and foster care initiative. New Hope advocates for Christian families to pursue adoptive and foster care, providing them with encouragement, document assistance, and training. For more information on New Hope Ukraine's orphan care ministries, contact Oksana at [oksana.savka@ecmi.org](mailto:oksana.savka@ecmi.org)



### **Dimitrie & Maria Todorov**

*Burgas, Bulgaria*

Dimitrie provides leadership to New Hope Bulgaria's various ministries to children, youth, and families. New Hope efforts reach Bulgaria, northern Greece, and North Macedonia. During the COVID-19 pandemic, those already in need have been particularly affected. Thus, New Hope's participation in a weekly food pantry ministry in Burgas has been well-received. For more information, contact Dimitrie at [dimitrie.todorov@ecmi.org](mailto:dimitrie.todorov@ecmi.org)

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

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For more information about ECMI–USA's missionaries, contact Brad Pellish at [brad.pellish@ecmi.org](mailto:brad.pellish@ecmi.org)



# EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN MISSION INTERNATIONAL-USA



**Doug & Chloe**  
United States



**Brad & Jennifer**  
United States



**Kristy & Kevin**  
United States



**Jarrold & Amelia**  
Home Assignment  
Arizona, United States



**Ron & Brenda**  
Camarma, Madrid, Spain



**Sharon**  
Madrid, Spain



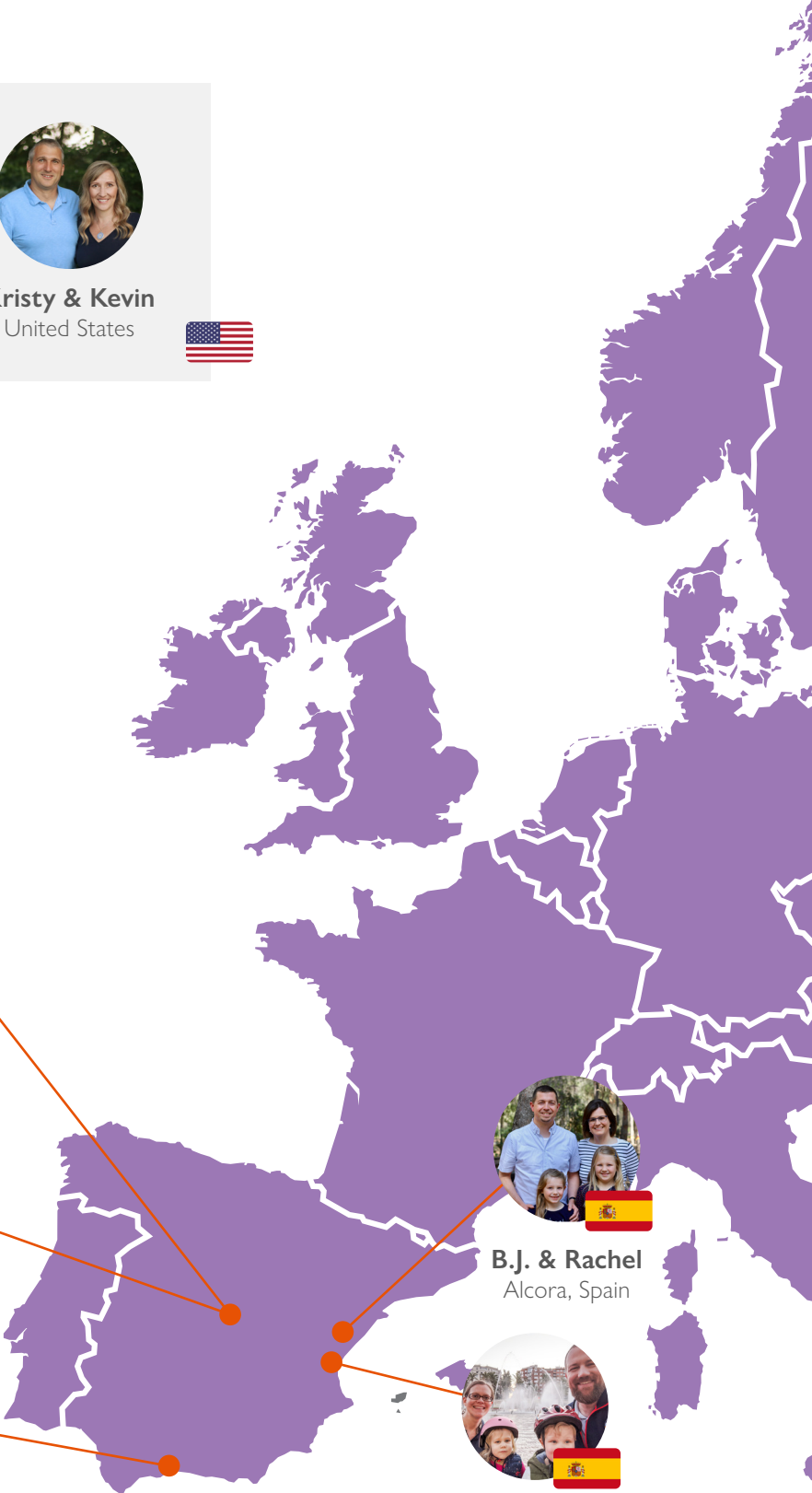
**Hans & Jennifer**  
Malaga, Spain

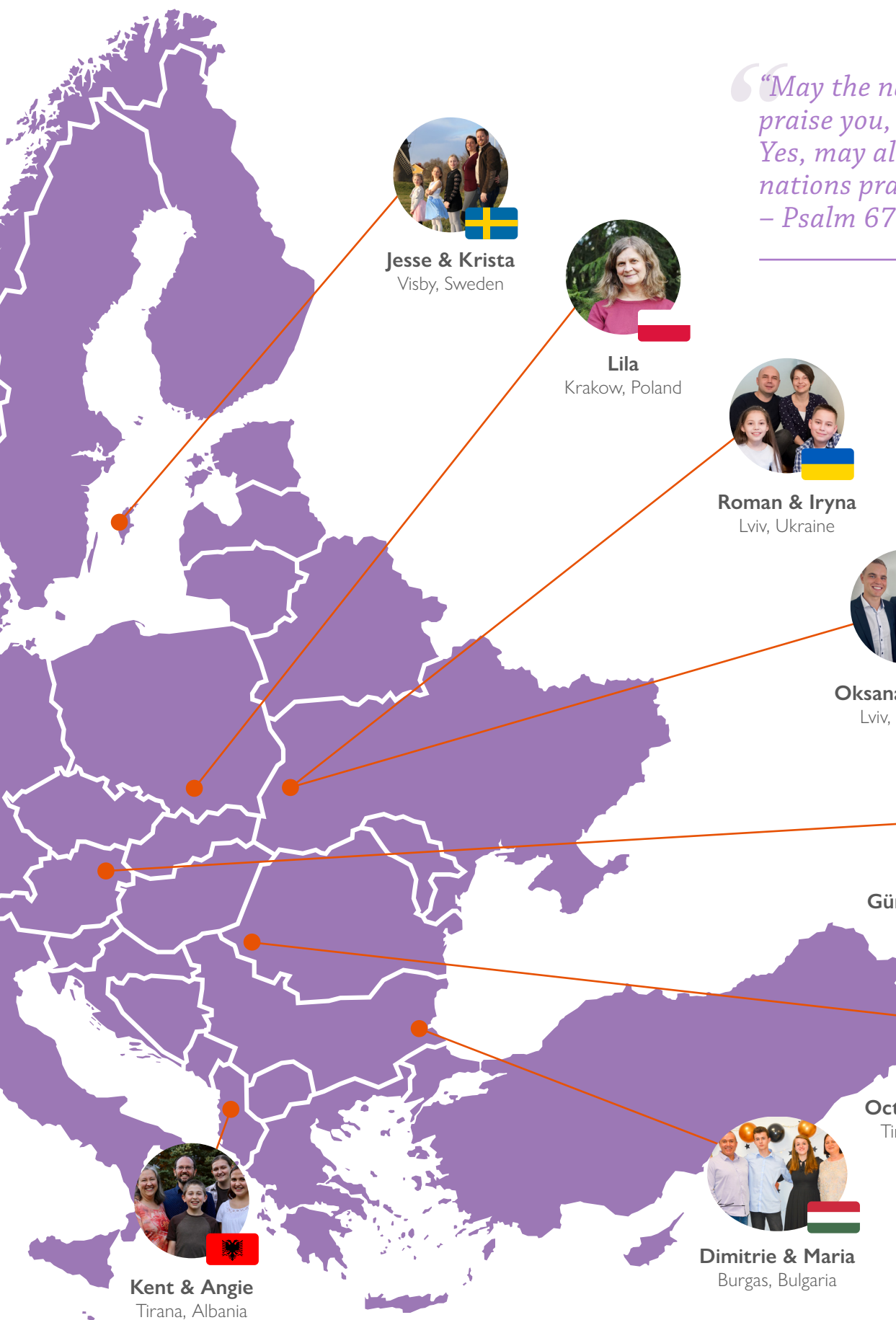


**B.J. & Rachel**  
Alcora, Spain



**Dan & Anna**  
Valencia, Spain





  
**Jesse & Krista**  
Visby, Sweden

  
**Lila**  
Krakow, Poland

  
**Roman & Iryna**  
Lviv, Ukraine

  
**Oksana & Peter**  
Lviv, Ukraine

  
**Günther & Mallory**  
Vienna, Austria

  
**Octavian & Eugenia**  
Timisoara, Romania

  
**Dimitrie & Maria**  
Burgas, Bulgaria

  
**Kent & Angie**  
Tirana, Albania

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

*According to Operation World, about 2.5% of Europeans identify as evangelical followers of Jesus.*

**Lviv, Ukraine**

## 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 transforming Europe through the establishment of new churches across the continent. 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 European Christian Mission International-USA!*

• Give online at [ecmi-usa.org/donate-now](https://ecmi-usa.org/donate-now)

• Checks payable to ECMI-USA

ECMI-USA  
P.O. Box 2217  
Monument, CO 80132-2279

• Connect with ECMI-USA



• Contact Us

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