

European Christian Mission

Prayer Diary February 2023



*Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. **Philippians 1:6***

If you use the Prayermate app, you can get a daily feed of this Prayer Diary by clicking this [link](#).

WEDNESDAY 1

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND: Jonathan and Nicola McCracken in Claremorris

We are meeting up with Calvary Mission partners for some Prayer Days which starts today, 1 February. Pray as we meet up together for fellowship and encouragement. Nicola is starting up a Ladies Ministry once a month in the local GAA centre. Pray for the ladies in the Church and for others from the town to come along.

THURSDAY 2

NETHERLANDS: Roland and Carolien Smith in Renkum

Carolien is in Poland visiting Lila Groth. Please join with us in praying for safe travel and for these days to be mutually encouraging and upbuilding.

FRIDAY 3

AUSTRIA: David and Linda James in Villach

The past few weeks have been incredibly difficult. David's dad died on 4 December, Linda's dad died on 24 December. We are sad but not crushed. We are very distracted at the moment but have benefited from a significant amount of down time over the last few weeks. Currently, we are undecided about when to travel to Spain to scatter the ashes of Linda's dad. The memorial service for David's dad is today, 3 February. Please pray for us as we deal with our grief and that the memorial service would celebrate his life and point people to the one who gives life.

SATURDAY 4

FRANCE: Jack and Sarah Winterburn in Tours

We have a youth-run worship evening coming up in February with a couple of other local churches. Do pray for the youth to grow in their faith as they experience church ministry in a new way and alongside others of their age. Pray also for Jack's preaching and Sarah's worship leading, for God to inspire us, for it to be useful to the church and for us to be diligent in preparation.

SUNDAY 5

NEW ZEALAND: Féy Cotter, National Director

Chris Wigram will be visiting New Zealand from 10-27 February and speaking at a number of churches and events in Wellington, Nelson and Auckland. Please pray for fruit from Chris's visit. Also, from 17-21 February, we are holding our first Induction Retreat for three couples (candidates) and some of the Trustees. Chris will be doing the Bible studies for the weekend. Please pray for wisdom, deepening relationships and the Holy Spirit to be at work that weekend.

MONDAY 6

BULGARIA: Andrew and Kate Blackwell in Sofia

From today 6-11 February, we will be travelling to Sinsheim, Germany, with a small team to be involved in both the first gathering of the Cluster Leaders and the Foundations course. We want to discuss and learn more about the role of a Cluster Leader. Pray that the Spirit would help us to understand how best to serve the members of ECM and glorify God as we all serve Him together in Europe. Please pray for safe travel, a blessed time for all involved and for the Blackwell boys as they remain at home.

TUESDAY 7

SPAIN: Honor Perfect, Retired Missionary in Castellón

I had a further operation on my knee on 19 January! When the doctor removed the 8 screws which he put in when I broke my leg in March 2021 and then put in a prosthesis to support the knee after complications that July, I had been on a waiting list since February 2022. Please pray that this time the healing will be complete with no further repercussions and that I will be able to continue serving the Lord as He leads.

WEDNESDAY 8

ITALY: Richard and Pinuccia Wilson in Rovereto

Pinuccia organised and ran a public meeting in January in the church, in which a friend from Switzerland who does and teaches counselling talked in the morning and met privately with people in the afternoon. It was good to see people from both the Trento and Rovereto churches, but also people who had seen the advertising around the town. Pray that this ministry will be able to continue, with further similar meetings planned for the future.

THURSDAY 9

SLOVENIA: Sarah Deacon in Ljubljana

Praise God that I have been granted another temporary residency permit, this time for 2 years. Please pray for the two girls I meet with one-to-one, K and K, that I would best know how to serve them. Please pray especially for one of them with learning difficulties, that I would be able to teach her at an appropriate level. Thank God that the sessions have been going well and both are keen to keep meeting and learning about God.

FRIDAY 10

ECMI: Chris Wigram, Former International Director

Today I arrive in New Zealand for two weeks helping the mobilisation effort in the country. Pray for the meetings in the Wellington area, Nelson and Auckland until February 27. On the return journey I will stay in Singapore until 1 March and catch up with former mission colleagues from OM and OMF International.

SATURDAY 11

SPAIN: Abel and Rafi Nuño in Bañeras

We thank the Lord that his grace and mercy continue to sustain us every day. Abel will be teaching the subject of ethics, both face-to-face and online. Please pray that it would go well and for strength and wisdom from the Lord. We pray that the Lord will help us in all that is involved in sharing the care of Abel's father and that the Lord will bless Samuel in his work so that he can provide for his family. We continue to cry out to the Lord for opportunities to share the news of His love and mercy with people in our area.

SUNDAY 12

BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA: Radovan and Blazenka Trajkovski in Novi Travnik

In February we plan four Alpha Courses with a new group of people. Please pray for me personally because I will be the speaker in all sessions. Also, pray that God will prepare the hearts of people who will participate in Alpha courses.

MONDAY 13

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND: Colin and Ally Holmes in Ferrybank

We give thanks for an increased appetite to grow together in the grace of Jesus in Bible study and prayer beyond our Sunday gathering. Please pray for Wednesday night Bible studies. We will study Exodus together for 6 weeks. It could see us embark on journeying across 7 different genres in the Bible, helping us to travel across the whole Bible and to find application in our whole lives. We hope to be in person and on Zoom.

TUESDAY 14

PORTUGAL: Marcus and Kellen Benicio in Sesimbra

Please pray for our physical and emotional health and for the boys at school. Marcus Antonio needs to complete the 9th grade in June and go on to secondary school but he has great difficulties in mathematics. Please also pray for divine direction regarding our move during summer vacation: new city, house, schools, moving expenses. For our cooperative work with the Churches "Catedral de Adoração" and "Comunidade Plenitude" in Vila Real; "1a Baptista" and "Renovo" in Braga and "Nova Vida" in Lisbon.

WEDNESDAY 15

SPAIN: Peter and Kate Knowlson, Peñarroya

After Peter and Kate's move to another town, the congregation is being covered by missionaries in a team some 35 km away and at a different time. Attendance dropped anyway due to COVID but now there is this additional change. Pray for the Spirit's prompting for believers to maintain their commitment to be a community.

THURSDAY 16

GERMANY: R and A in Berlin

Thanks to the Lord for Kiez Church Wedding for a good start to the new year with team unity and a desire to seek God's will here in Berlin. Pray for us as we team up with YWAM Berlin in order to be a witness to the neighbourhood here. Pray for Ali as she takes a group of women through Bible study. Pray for the men in the church to be trained in leadership. Pray for those on the fringe at church to experience God's transforming love and forgiveness.

FRIDAY 17

NEW ZEALAND: Alex and Liz Preotesea-Wagner, Candidates for Romania

Please pray for us as we adjust to studying again! God is guiding us to remain here in New Zealand for another season. So, we will be moving our family to another city for a year of cross-cultural and theological study and preparation for our work in Romania. This will be a big adjustment for our family. Pray for our children (1.5 years and 6 years) to make friends and settle well into their childcare and school. Please pray for our continuing support-raising journey and for God's provision. It will be a busy year, but we know God has awesome plans for it.

SATURDAY 18

GERMANY: Christian and Kseniya Kooiman in Schwerin

Please pray for our co-worker, R. She is going through lots of difficulties. Please pray that in this time, when she has lost everything, she will find God.

SUNDAY 19

SPAIN: Edgar and Jane Álvarez in Madrid

Please pray for our small church project in the North-West of Madrid. We are looking to appoint new leaders for the next two years with vision and desires to see the church reaching out to our community here in Madrid. Also pray for our son, Asier, as he gets closer to the end of his secondary school studies. Pray for his exams and for the best results for his university chances and for Gabriel making wise decisions as a young man.

MONDAY 20

SLOVENIA: Sebastian and Gloria Forjan in Radovljica

In January it has been 11 years of our official church plant and we give God all the glory for His amazing work. Continue to pray for me and my coworker Chris, that we will lead and care for the flock as we need to. Also pray for me (Sebastian) teaching/preaching of God's word. Many times I feel that I am not fully equipped and the right person for that so pray for the Holy Spirit to empower me so I will be boldly teaching God's word.

TUESDAY 21

GERMANY: Martin and Anja Teubert in Ribnitz-Damgarten

Please pray for our churchplant. We have a lot of seniors, but hardly any children. And at this point we have not really a lot of ideas what to do to change this. You can pray as well for our family. One of our daughters started to study and had to move to another city. It is not easy for her, as she is used to live in a big family, not on her own.

WEDNESDAY 22

UKRAINE: ECMI Crisis Management Team

David James' visit to the Ukraine was incredibly moving, challenging and inspiring. The workers in Lviv were very weary: rolling power cuts and frequent air raids have taken their toll on the team there. However, they continue to serve the Lord faithfully in so many different ways. Just one example: following an air raid with a direct strike on electrical infrastructure leaving 90% of the city without power, the team were running a children's Christmas camp within just two hours.

THURSDAY 23

ITALY: Susanne Stoehr in Macherio

Thanks to God for his help in managing the bureaucracy after the death of my father. I still need a lot of patience to get it done. Thanks for Elvira. She desires to meet God, so pray that God may work in the heart of this woman. Pray for Marco to whom I gave a book on the parable of the prodigal son. He said he has come to be on the edge of the abyss. May God touch his heart.

FRIDAY 24

NEW ZEALAND: Geoff and Glenda Hubbard, Candidates for Spain

Thank you, for your continued support and prayers as we move into 2023. Selling 'Trade Aid chocolate' as a fundraiser at Geoff's work, has enabled Geoff to inform more people about our vision. May the Holy Spirit keep breathing upon this. Pray for financial support to keep flowing in to meet our target of leaving in July 2023. Pray for increased wisdom and discernment of God's will as we prepare for Spain.

SATURDAY 25

GERMANY: Martin and Anja Teubert in Ribnitz-Damgarten

From today 25 February we start our Children's club. Please pray that we reach out to more children and for wisdom to share the gospel, especially to the children with Muslim background.

SUNDAY 26**ECMI: Biennial Planning Team**

Pray that everyone will have the funds needed and the time off school and obligations to be able to attend the Biennial Conference. Pray for the main speakers and the seminar speakers as they prepare for their sessions.

MONDAY 27**ECM AUSTRALIA: Sam Boog, ECM Media and Promotions Officer**

Please pray for the promotion of ECM this year and for the Lord to open church doors that we may present the gospel needs of Europe clearly. For wisdom and creativity to know how to use the media resources we have for God's glory and the purposes of ECM.

TUESDAY 28**GREECE: Noah and Suzanne Bartlett in Athens**

Please pray for all the refugees who left Greece over Christmas, that we can meet new arrivals and form deep relationships with them. Please also pray for guidance as we discern when to return to Northern Ireland. Praise the Lord that the opportunity came up for us to visit an Afghan family who we were close to, and they had moved to Switzerland. Please also pray for Suzanne who is pregnant and the health of our little boy on the way.