



European Christian  
Mission  
Prayer Diary  
December 2020  
and January 2021

## DECEMBER 2020

### TUESDAY 1

#### **AUSTRIA: David and Linda James in Villach**

We had planned a special set of guest services during advent, but now we are suggesting a daily online reflection. Please pray that we would be able to reach people with the Gospel during advent and Christmas. We anticipate that we will not be able to continue with the Teabus ministry before the Spring.

---

### WEDNESDAY 2

#### **ECMI INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEES: Dave Allen, President**

Today we are holding an online forum as part of the preparation for the online Extraordinary General Assembly we are planning to hold on the 14 January. The aim is to give opportunity for any members to participate in a discussion about holding this type of meeting and specifically about online voting in general. Please pray that it will be a very useful time and will help to alleviate any concerns that some may have about this method of voting.

---

### THURSDAY 3

#### **ECMI Human Resources**

There are currently 12 participants on the Foundations Course which starts today until 11 December. Being online weekly allows a wide variety of people to lead sessions, contribute content and relate their own real-life experiences. Please pray this course will help people to understand their context, adapt to, and overcome challenges. What this course will miss is the personal interaction which is often so vital because some are struggling in their first term of service.

---

### FRIDAY 4

#### **PORTUGAL: Alex Kowalenko in Lisbon**

Pray for the current situation with COVID in Portugal. Pray for wisdom for the President, Prime minister, Minister of Health, and Director of Public Health, as they deal with this situation and another lockdown. Pray for opportunities to speak about Jesus in a time when many people are frightened in Portugal. Pray for the thinking and planning for the direction

*For God so  
loved the world  
that he gave his  
one and only  
Son, that whoever  
believes in him  
shall not perish but  
have eternal life  
John 3: 16*



for ECM Portugal, for wisdom both for me, the field council and the members as we plan the questionnaire as we plan the questionnaire and people answers in it early 2021.

---

**SATURDAY 5**

**NETHERLANDS: Roland and Carolien Smith in Maastricht**

We invite you to join in prayer for All Saints International Anglican Church here in Maastricht. The chaplain is nearing retirement and has moved back to New Zealand. This is a good opportunity and impetus for all of us to continue to take part and develop our gifts. We pray that those on the fringe would enter fully into the life of the fellowship. Also, for the process of appointing the next chaplain. Thank you for praying.

---

**SUNDAY 6**

**PORTUGAL: Ebersson and Madalena David in Alentejo**

Please pray for our trip to Brazil from 8 to 30 December. Pray for the Church of Montargil, that this would be a time of great spiritual harvests and for the new Youth Ministry there, and for the beginning of our Bible School. May the Lord give us strategies to disciple youth and adolescents.

---

**MONDAY 7**

**SPAIN: Ron and Brenda Anderson in Camarma**

Pray for the Deerings as they transition into a new ministry in Scotland and for us too, that we will know the Lord's leading for the next phase of ministry for the ECM hospitality and ministry centre in Camarma. Ron continues to be involved in the European church planting Platform – NC2P.org. Pray for the next virtual meeting on 8 December with key European leaders. Our aim is to help each other in the development of National Church Planting processes that bring the whole body together to take the whole gospel to the whole nation.

---

**TUESDAY 8**

**IRELAND: Colin and Ally Holmes in Ferrybank**

We give thanks for Colin's recovery of health. From today he will spend a few days in Hospital to further investigate any causes. We have both returned to ministry with our church. Ally hopes to connect with kids and families at Christmas through stories and craft on social media. Colin will focus on teaching and leading worship with church.

---

**WEDNESDAY 9**

**SPAIN: Delyth Sutton in Pozoblanco**

We thank the Lord for a blessed time at Spanish prayer days, with great encouragement from the Word of God. Praise God for growth in our community in the church in Pozoblanco for and that during this time we have been able to help and support each other. In Almadén (35 mins by car) there is now a small group that regularly joins us via zoom. Pray for the young men in that group that do not know the Lord yet and for those in residential homes and can't mix with others, that the Lord would meet

with them in a special way this Christmas.

---

#### **THURSDAY 10**

##### **ECMI: Simon Marshall, International Director**

Today is our "Mission Statement Workshop". Please pray for us all as we take part together in exploring how our mission statement is worked out in our everyday ministries. Pray for real unity of purpose for us as a mission and that, through our service, Europe may become a place where Jesus is known, loved, and followed.

---

#### **FRIDAY 11**

##### **SERBIA: Branko and Rada Tihojevic in Zajecar**

Please pray for daily guidance from the Holy Spirit, especially when meeting people in need. This is the time to keep social distance, but at the same time people want to socialize and be friendly. Pray for people I (Branko) meet when distributing literature in the town. Each person is in a special need and seek advice how to cope in this situation: what to say to a lady whose daughter committed suicide, to elderly man who does not have enough money to live, to a man wanting to save his marriage with two children and for his wife who is 20 years younger than him.

---

#### **SATURDAY 12**

##### **AUSTRIA: Tobias and Esther Giersch in Arriach**

We are expecting our second child beginning of April and thank God for this great miracle of a new life beginning. However, on one of the ultrasound examinations, the child was diagnosed with oversized kidneys most likely due to a genetic defect. The good news is that the kidneys are working as expected, but later in life dialysis or even a transplant could become necessary. Please pray with us that, if it is God's will, the baby's kidneys develop normally and the child will be born healthy. Please also pray for strength for us as a family with all the extra examinations now coming up and everything else this diagnosis implies.

---

#### **SUNDAY 13**

##### **ITALY: Richard and Pinuccia Wilson in Trento**

We are thankful for God's protection and strengthening as a family, after Pinuccia caught Covid in November. We were quarantined for 18 days, after which we were all tested. Two of our children were positive then, which meant another 2 weeks of quarantine. We survived the month at home, and are thankful for the friends that looked after us, the many people around the world that prayed for us, and that the children were able to keep up with the school work that the teachers sent us.

---

#### **MONDAY 14**

##### **SPAIN: Edgar and Jane Alvarez in Madrid**

Please pray for our church's teens, who are probably the group that is suffering the confinement effects the most. While they are used to

**Edgar and Jane  
Alvarez  
In Madrid**



gadgets, they are struggling with church or youth meeting online. The church project we are involved in Madrid has been in a leadership and vision transition period for around two years now, but the latest return to lockdown is testing all the work done so far. Pray for resilience and patience for members and leadership.

---

#### **TUESDAY 15**

##### **ENGLAND: Stephen and Tabita Bell at Capernwray Bible College**

NC2P (National Church planting Processes - Europe) Please pray for this movement, as enthusiastic church planters and church leaders from throughout Europe seek to encourage huge growth. Stephen represents Croatia and is on an advisory board. Pray that God would start many churches and bring many to himself in every European country. Please pray our children Sheona and Joshua can find a new flat in Stuttgart, where they are studying. Praise God for Capernwray Bible College. Pray that we be brought oh, so close to Jesus, and grow.

---

Murray and Féy  
Cotter  
In Zealand



#### **WEDNESDAY 16**

##### **ECM NEW ZEALAND: Féy Cotter, Mobiliser and International Support**

January is the summer holiday month in NZ, and the month for camps and conferences. I am planning to have a missions table at least two conferences so please pray for preparation for these during December and for worthwhile conversations with interested people at each of the conferences I attend.

---

#### **THURSDAY 17**

##### **SPAIN: Honor Perfect in Castellón**

Having had increasing problems from my hip over the past 18 months, I had a postponed visit to the surgeon in March which was then finally set for September. A further visit at the end of October finished with a date for a hip replacement today December 17. Please pray that this will happen, that it will be completely successful, and that I will have opportunities with the doctors and nurses to share my faith.

---

#### **FRIDAY 18**

##### **KOSOVO: Gani and Adile Smolica in Peja**

We are grateful that we can still meet at our church premises. Because of the Covid safety measures, we will not be able to celebrate Christmas like we did in previous years with a big number of children and guests. Instead, we are planning to visit our neighbours and poor people and bless them with food, medicine, and money for wood for heating. Please pray for a right response towards the Good News of the birth of the Saviour.

---

#### **SATURDAY 19**

##### **ECM BRITAIN: Rachel Gurney, HR Assistant**

Despite the upheavals of 2020, we were able to keep one short-termer on the field in Germany throughout the year and sent another short termer

to Bulgaria for a month. We thank God for making these plans possible and for the ECM missionaries who have invested in the lives of these women. Please pray for both women as they look ahead and consider where the Lord is leading them in 2021 and beyond.

---

#### **SUNDAY 20**

##### **SLOVENIA: Sebastian and Gloria Forjan in Radovljica**

Pray for our church during pandemic that they will grow in God's word and in prayer and that we will stay connected through internet. Pray for Sebastian as he continues to serve the local church as a shepherd, for wisdom and guidance by the Holy Spirit and that he will use time well during the lockdown for personal and ministry growth. Praise God for a recent convert. Pray for protection and growth in the Lord.

---

#### **MONDAY 21**

##### **REPUBLIC OF IRELAND: Jonathan and Nicola McCracken in Claremorris**

As the country starts to open up again after the lockdown, we give thanks for safety and pray that we will soon be able to meet as a church. Pray for opportunities to witness to neighbours in the lead up to Christmas. Pray too for travel restrictions that we will be able to travel to Northern Ireland to see family over the Christmas period.

---

#### **TUESDAY 22**

##### **GERMANY: Gerard & Janneke de Wit in Schwerin**

We are thankful to be healthy. Today we hope to celebrate Christmas with a lot of neighbours. Please pray that a lot of them come, so they can hear the story of Jesus' birth and meet Him as their Saviour. Pray that the children have the courage to sing the Christmas Songs we practised.

---

#### **WEDNESDAY 23**

##### **ITALY: Susanne Stoehr in Macherio**

Thanks to God for a good exposition on the 5 senses recently. I represented a joyful African boy in the rain and had some good conversations with artists and visitors. My painting for the Fellini exposition went well. Unfortunately, it was postponed due to Covid. Pray for Marzia that the Holy Spirit can show her the significance of the death on the cross of Jesus. Thanks to Emanuela we now have two groups of people working on the book "The stranger on the road to Emmaus" by John R.Cross.

---

#### **THURSDAY 24**

##### **GERMANY: Christian and Kseniya Kooiman in Schwerin**

Many men and women who help at the Patchwork Centre are struggling with alcohol and drug addictions. Very often they come for several weeks, have a nice time in a Christian community with a daily structure which is good for them, but then they fall back in their old life and we do not see them for some time. Many bad things happen during that time. Please pray that God would break through this circle, that He would give people





power to make a change in their lives. These are some names which you can personally pray for: Peter, Nadine, Thomas, Eckard, Louise, Patrick, and Victor.

---

#### **FRIDAY 25**

##### **SERBIA: Branko and Rada Tihovec in Zajecar**

Pray for Christmas at the time of the Covid pandemic, when we cannot meet in the church. Please pray that we will use every opportunity to sing Christmas songs and read the Bible during our visits to people at their home, explaining to the hosts why the Lord Jesus Christ came 2000 years ago, just for sinners. We are celebrating two dates in Serbia today 25 December in the North of the country and 7 January in the South.

---

#### **SATURDAY 26**

##### **AUSTRIA: David and Linda James in Villach**

Having managed the situation well at the start of the crisis in March, the Austrian government has reacted slowly to the second wave and sadly many people were much less willing to follow the appeals and rules they issued. Austria is now very close to a health care crisis and has imposed a stringent lockdown.

---

#### **SUNDAY 27**

##### **SPAIN: David and Samantha Gilkinson in Salou**

The young people have been very faithful in coming each week. Understandably they engage much better when in person so please pray for them when they have to meet via Zoom, that they would grow in hunger for spiritual growth, for Biblical knowledge and in passion for sharing Christ with others. Pray for David as he leads the team in discipling these young people.

---

#### **MONDAY 28**

##### **SPAIN: Dan and Anna Julian in Valencia**

Please pray for the Julians as Dan begins to serve as ECM Spain's Field Director, working alongside two others on a new Executive Team. Pray for wisdom, good working relationships, and that God would grant much fruit. Pray also for the work teaching Biblical and theological courses, that the students would continue to grow in their faith, and that they would put their studies to good use in their local churches.

---

#### **TUESDAY 29**

##### **PORTUGAL: Mike and Daveen Wilson in Mourão**

Please pray for a breakthrough in our relationship with the new priest. And for cheerfulness over a Christmas, presumably, without our family, that we will at least be able to reach out to folk here.

## **WEDNESDAY 30**

### **PORTUGAL: Steve and Lydia Cockram in Coimbra**

Praise God that we have still been able to meet in person on Sundays and for the way God has brought a number of new families to our church over the past few months. Pray especially for new Brazilian families and their teenagers, many of whom struggle with adapting to their new life and miss home.

---

## **THURSDAY 31**

### **ECM BRITAIN: Kent Anderson, Director**

Tomorrow, the UK will begin to experience the effects of withdrawing from the EU. How this will affect many areas like visas, travel, financial transactions, medical care is still unclear. Please pray for missionaries from the UK working within the EU as they invest time in navigating these changes. Pray that unexpected effects of Brexit will not negatively impact their lives and ministries. Pray for British and European leaders to find new ways of cooperating effectively together.

---

## **JANUARY 2021**

### **FRIDAY 1**

#### **PORTUGAL: Alex Kowalenko in Lisbon**

Pray for our organisation and reception of the next missionaries from Brazil in 2021, that as ECM Portugal we will do a good job. Pray that our church will be more pro-active in follow-up of people, and discipleship especially those who are following the church services online. Pray that A will understand the gospel as we read it together and that C in London will be encouraged as we meet online. Thanks for God's ongoing concern and care for this world, shown by sending his son to save it.

---

### **SATURDAY 2**

#### **KOSOVO: Gani and Adile Smolica in Peja**

In January, we plan to visit some more people and to revisit those we helped and spoke with before Christmas. Most people around us are Muslim, and it is becoming extremely hard for them to understand and to respond towards the Good news. Adile and I are still praying about having a Sabbatical. Please pray as we have not had one for more than 10 years.

---

### **SUNDAY 3**

#### **ECM BRITAIN: Annette Bull, Fundraising and Marketing Manager**

Only the Lord knows what will happen during 2021, including how the world economy will perform. But as God's the one who provides for us all, pray that he'll again prove faithful in providing for his people and his work. Ask him to meet your needs and those of your church. Ask that he will provide for ECM missionaries through their faithful partners around the globe. And pray that ECM sending offices will have adequate income to serve their missionaries well.

## **SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES**

If you are interested in Short term ministry in the future, we'd love to start the conversation with you. There are also lots of opportunities for supporting ministry in Europe from your own home.

**Please Contact your nearest ECM office for details**

#### **MONDAY 4**

##### **GERMANY: Christian and Kseniya Kooiman in Schwerin**

Please keep in your prayers Tony. He did social hours in Patchwork Center. After that he stayed with us as a volunteer. He built many friendships and sees the Patchwork Center as his family. He is also very open to believe in God and wants to be baptised in the summer. Please pray that his faith will grow and become stronger. Our big wish is that such a person as Tony will in future be a leader of Patchwork community.

---

#### **TUESDAY 5**

##### **GERMANY: Vimal and Louise Vimalasekaran in Karlsruhe**

Please pray for a number of refugee Arabic women from Syria, Lebanon and Iraq that have been meeting on a regular basis for German classes, that we would be able to share the gospel with them. Teaching English to 7th grade migrant children and for the opportunities to use English as a chance to life coach them. During lockdown, we have been involved in prayer and Bible study groups with churches in the UK. Please also pray for a desire to compile material for Bible study opportunities in the near future.

---

#### **WEDNESDAY 6**

##### **SERBIA: Branko and Rada Tihojevic in Zajecar**

Please can you pray for Voyan, a friend I recently met from my hometown. He was thrilled to talk, because he knew that I am Christian and can help him to find answers in the Word of God, for current world events. I gave him two booklets, praising the Lord for his open heart for the Gospel.

---

#### **THURSDAY 7**

##### **PORTUGAL: Steve and Lydia Cockram in Coimbra**

The youth group has been going well, with a mixture of online and in person groups. Please pray for wisdom as we continue to grow community in the group. We have studied the book of John, so please pray that what they've learnt about who Jesus is will enter their heart and change their lives.

---

#### **FRIDAY 8**

##### **NETHERLANDS: Henk and Hanneke Knol, Accepted Candidates for Spain**

We are a new family in the ECM family, and we are going to Spain for mission in January 2021. We ask for prayer for our family in this busy period of preparation for moving to Sevilla.

---

#### **SATURDAY 9**

##### **SLOVENIA: Sebastian and Gloria Forjan in Radovljica**

Pray for our family as we try to navigate during the lockdowns how to function family life, work and school from home. Sometimes it is challenging. Pray for Gloria that she will have energy as she works with our boys for school.

Steve and Lydia  
Cockram



in Portugal





ECMNZ is now in a good place to begin sending missionaries to Europe, so please pray that I will connect with those that God is calling.

---

#### **SATURDAY 16**

##### **FINLAND: K. in Finland**

In Northern Lapland the sun will rise again mid-January, bringing light to our darkness every day a little more. Please pray for the people in Inari that they may get to know "the sun of righteousness with healing in its rays" (Mal.4:2). He can bring the light of life to spiritual darkness – not just for some months, but for ever.

---

#### **SUNDAY 17**

##### **ECM IRELAND: Lindsay Moorhead, Director**

In these challenging times give thanks that people continue to give generously and sacrificially to the work of ECM. We are continually surprised and amazed by God's provision. Please pray for our missionaries who are seeking to raise more financial support. Pray that as they make the need known, that God would put it on people's hearts to give and to support them in this way.

---

#### **MONDAY 18**

##### **SPAIN: Andy and Andrea Warner in Castellon**

Join us in praying for those around us, particularly for J-L, J and D who are each doing the Alpha Course with members of The Bridge, that they would meet Jesus through it.

---

#### **TUESDAY 19**

##### **SLOVENIA: Bostjan and Lidija Cifer in Maribor**

Praise God for all we have learned over this past year in Australia and ask Him to help us know how to translate these learnings into our Slovenian situation. Pray that God connect us with new mission partners in Australia during December who will stand with us as we prepare to return to Slovenia. Pray that interest will grow not only in us but in the people, places, and opportunities where the Lord gives us ministry.

---

#### **WEDNESDAY 20**

##### **BOSNIA: Pastor R. working in Bosnia**

Pray for 60 families who received humanitarian aid recently through Mission Without Borders. I visit them regularly every week in their homes and pray for God's blessing for them and their families. Recently in our Church building I had the opportunity to share the Gospel.

---

#### **THURSDAY 21**

##### **SPAIN: Chloe Wolfson in Roquetas del Mar**

Pray for us as we think through what Short term experiencing we can offer virtually and how to take advantage of the proximity virtual communication offers to creating awareness and interest in Europe as a mission field and new relationships with supporters and prayers.

## **FRIDAY 22**

### **ECMI: Chris Wigram**

Today I complete my teaching course on Global Christianity at the London School of Theology. This has been a 'blended' course with students in class and on zoom which has had a few complications along the way, but we have survived! Now for the marking of the essays and presentations on various aspects of Global Christian faith. The story is always uplifting!

---

## **SATURDAY 23**

### **SPAIN: Ron and Brenda Anderson in Camarma**

Today we plan to gather church planters in a virtual gathering that will take the place of our annual La Plaza general meeting. Laplazadelplantador.com is the National church planting platform that promotes discipling the whole nation by gathering the whole church. Pray that key leaders across Spain would feel the need to join the continuing conversation of how to execute our agreed collaborative vision. The Vision is to reach all strategic geographical areas and social collectives in the next decade.

---

## **SUNDAY 24**

### **SWEDEN: Gerard and Gerdien Willemssen in Hässelby**

We have a new member in our church who is a refugee. His juridical case about if he is allowed to stay in the country is ongoing, but now things are postponed in the procedure. It is really hard for him to cope with the uncertainty. Pray for God's peace in his heart. Of course, we hope that he can stay.

---

## **MONDAY 25**

### **SPAIN: Edgar and Jane Alvarez in Madrid**

Gabriel, our eldest son is working hard in his exams and his preparations for university studies later on this year. Pray he (us the parents too) can file-in all the different documents needed to hopefully secure a place in the best possible University and career for him.

---

## **TUESDAY 26**

### **ECM BRITAIN: Jack and Sarah Winterburn Accepted Candidates for France**

We are preparing to move to serve in Tours, France in 2021. Thank God for his provision so far. Give thanks for our church who have supported and prepared us. Please pray for God to provide all we need, and for us to trust in his goodness. Pray for God to prepare us for the work ahead that he might use us to encourage French Christians and reach out with the hope of the gospel.

---

## **WEDNESDAY 27**

### **AUSTRIA: Stephan and Cludia Pohn in Dornbirn**

We are thankful for God's sustaining hand at work throughout 2020 and his answer to prayers for unity within the church despite a wide range of





opinions during the pandemic. Please pray for the leadership (both elders and administrative) to make wise decisions in 2021 both for the health of the church as well as for the presence and impact here in our area in ways that glorify God, possibly employing a children's ministry worker a few days a week.

---

#### **THURSDAY 28**

##### **SPAIN: Peter and Kate Knowlson in Azuaga**

Pray for the conversations we are having with the Córdoba church to investigate the possibility of providing support for the Peñarroya mission point. This could give stability to the community in Peñarroya and free us up to work in other areas.

---

#### **FRIDAY 29**

##### **SWEDEN: Jess and Krista Ashmen in Visby**

We are seeking God's leading and provision as we once again will be in need of housing come July. Living accommodations are very limited on the island, and the wait to rent a place can be decades long. Buying is also not a feasible option as the tourist industry and summer residents have driven real estate prices beyond reach for most year-round residents. Please pray for the right connections. Pray for sensitivity to God's leading. Pray also for the churches (many of them without a pastor) who are struggling to resume meetings with a meaningful sense of normality.

---

#### **SATURDAY 30**

##### **GERMANY: Vimal and Louise Vimalasekaran in Karlsruhe**

A 17-year-old Afghan has recently put his faith in Christ and is now worshipping with Iranians. Please pray for his growth in his faith. We have also been looking after two clusters of refugees, due to an outbreak of Covid !9, so looking after a few families has been difficult, but the Lord has managed to open doors for us to help them in practical support. Please pray that people will be encouraged to support the refugee ministry in Germany.

---

#### **SUNDAY 31**

##### **SLOVENIA: Alen and Liljana Kerckmar in Ljutomer**

Slovenian national television is broadcasting a church service from the Lutheran church in Murska Sobota once a month and this gives opportunity to share the Gospel with a wider population. Pray that this

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

To receive this publication by email and for all correspondence contact:

ECM International, City Works, Alfred Street, Gloucester GL1 4DF

T: 01452 901714 e: [prayer.diary@ecmi.org](mailto:prayer.diary@ecmi.org)

European Christian Mission International Company number 3341959

Registered Charity number 1064037