

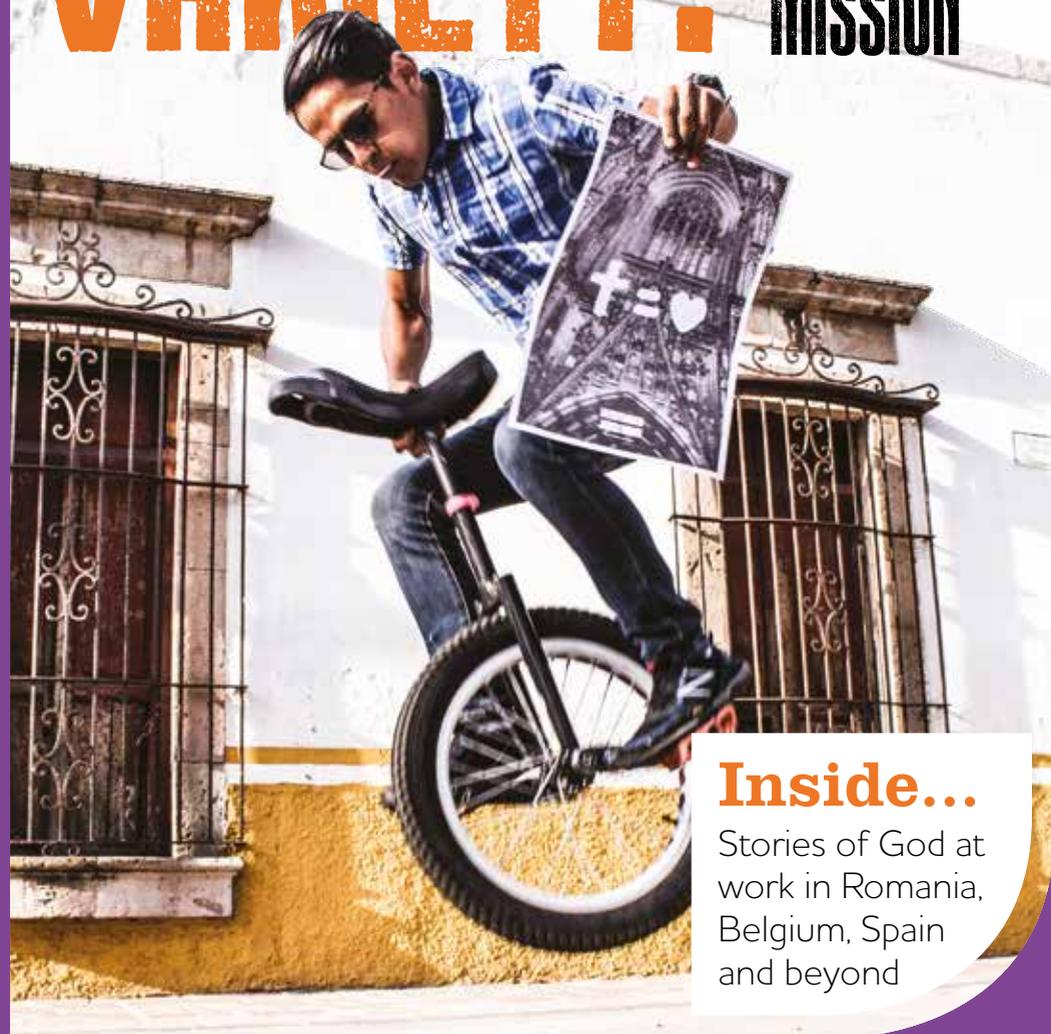
# ecm outreach

newsletter of the european christian mission

[www.ecmbritain.org](http://www.ecmbritain.org)

# VARIETY!

## THE MANY FACES OF MISSION



### Inside...

Stories of God at work in Romania, Belgium, Spain and beyond

# WE WANT TO SEE...

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more organisations working **TOGETHER** to love Europe for Jesus



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# VARIETY!

## WHY IS MISSION SO DIVERSE? *From the British Director*

### Dear friends

Clothes shops sell a wide variety of choices for a good reason. Firstly, people don't come in just one size. Secondly, they like different styles. Simply put, one size doesn't fit all.

Ministry in Europe faces the same issue. Europeans come in all ages, from vastly different cultures, speaking multiple languages, have a selection of religious backgrounds and face varied problems. Need I go on?

And Jesus loves every one of these people. That's why He has called us to find ways to share His love with everyone, however diverse they might appear.

What makes sense to a university student in Albania may not connect with a homeless person in Spain. What appeals to someone out clubbing in Austria probably won't work for a Tamil refugee in Germany. We cannot simply "cookie cutter" ministry programmes from one place to another and expect them to work.

We see this in Paul's ministry in 1 Corinthians 9:22:

*"To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some."*

This issue of *ECM Outreach* looks at a selection of the ministries ECM workers are

using to share Christ. You may be surprised at how unusual some of them are. Look out for references to cooking, art, music... even an Elvis impersonator!

But behind all that our workers do lie the prayers of people like you. Even the best ministry idea will fail unless God touches people's hearts. Thank YOU for helping make all that we do possible.



Kent Anderson,  
British Director





Projects News

# EUROPE IN FOCUS

*A glimpse of God at work across Europe today*



## Iranians baptised

**Blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him (Psalm 34.8b)**

Rita and Vidas Rimkai, who work with immigrants in Gloucester, write, "It was a spectacular Sunday when three Iranian men stood in front of the church and shared their stories. God made Himself known to them in such a unique and unbelievable way. Two of the Iranian men got to know God back in Iran. The

church prayed for one of them for two years before he came to our house group.

"Their courage and joy shone through and through. We live in a country where religion is not considered a crime, where we have freedom, but these men had to run for their lives because of their faith. These men are hungry for God. They attend nearly every house group available at church and are being disciplined by our church's pastor."

## Croatian church planting movement

**Stephen Bell has been central to the Lausanne church planting movement coming to Croatia, as he explains:**

"It has been a joy to see national church leaders and developing younger leaders from all of Croatia's denominations and independent groups coming together to reach their nation for Christ. We have already held two national consultations and some six regional conferences. I am encouraged to see so much willingness to work together.

"In June an overseeing board was set up and plans are being made to hold training for pastors and church members in key areas of ministry. This will begin with training 20 'first generation' Croatian trainers who will pass on their skills to some 150 'second generation' workers. Then on a national level we also will facilitate training in mentoring, church planting and revitalising struggling churches."



# Three short months!

Kent and Angie Morton in Albania tell us how a college student moved from anti-church to attending a Bible study in 3 months!

"Albanian college student Gerta (not her real name) was excited about coming to English class, but when she saw that it was at a church, she hesitated and didn't even want to come inside. Fortunately, she decided to come in with one of her friends who goes to our church.

"For the next three months we invested relationally into this college student: letting her see who we are and how we treat each other; letting her experience the love of Christ in us. After three short months she began attending a Bible study on a Friday night. Praise the Lord!

"There is still much that she does not understand, but she knows two things. First, she is welcome to come. Second, we will not judge her. We welcome her questions and doubts. And in return, she receives answers and love.

"This is precisely why we put energy into "non-churchy" events. It is to build relationships in a non-threatening environment."



## NewsBite

**National award:** The World Café in Gloucester, featured in a previous issue of *ECM Outreach*, was shortlisted for Premier's Love Britain + Ireland Award for Community Building. The World Café describes itself as "basically built around a community meal, cooked by people who have often recently arrived in the city and want to engage locally, learn about the culture and people and mostly feel free just to be themselves & share their own special richness." Rita and Vidas Rimkai help organise this migrant loving ministry.

**On national TV:** "Our church had the opportunity to broadcast a service on a national TV programme. We were asked to give testimonies why the resurrection of Jesus Christ matters and what it has to do with our lives 2000 years later." – Sebastian and Gloria Forjan, Slovenia



**Exotic outreach:** Klaus and Franz Libuda exhibited at an *Esoteric and Natural Healing Day* in Rostock, Germany. "We had many really good and deep conversations not only with visitors of the fair but also with other exhibitors and we handed out lots of literature and CDs. Klaus was able to hold a short seminar each day about *How to get in personal contact with God*. On one day only a single person attended, but at the end she said that must have been planned by God and by that very evening she was saved!"



Missionary focus

# BUSY BUT FRUITFUL

*What do missionaries actually do?*

Gary and Ioana Stoll have been working with a local church in Piatra Neamt, Romania, since 2014. Their ministry focuses primarily on children and young people but that still leaves plenty of scope for variety, as these quotes from their updates illustrate:

"We are thankful to God for four young people from Piatra Neamt who have put their trust in Jesus and were baptised on Sunday. Praise God that the Saturday youth group which has been running for a year now is bearing fruit."

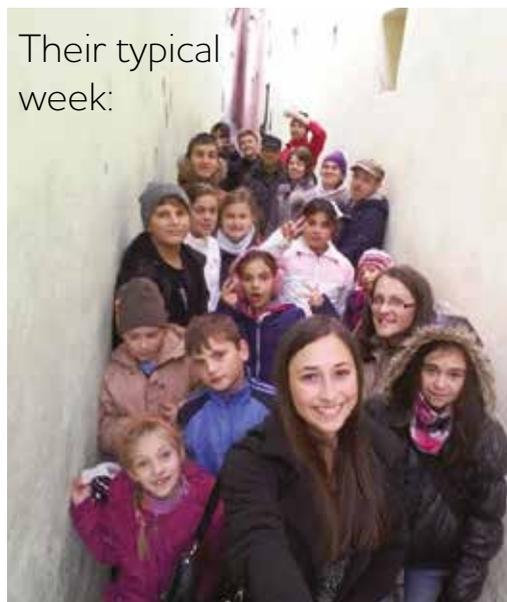
"Thanks so much for all your prayers for our summer youth camp which happened last week at Voronet. Around 70 young people attended from different parts of the country for a week packed full of activities, good food, games, Bible study, songs, evening meetings and more."

"Please pray as we prepare to take a group of 20 young people and children from Bodesti to Brasov for a week away."



"Please pray for the Medical Mission which will take place in various locations including Piatra Neamt, Bodesti and Barguani. Last time it was estimated that 1,000 people heard about Jesus through this medical mission, whilst many others experienced Jesus' love through receiving free treatment and care."

Their typical week:



- **Monday:** Bible teaching and training session at their home with 8 young people.
- **Tuesday:** A day off!
- **Wednesday:** Prayer meetings with the youth leadership team in the morning, Housegroup in the evening.
- **Thursday:** Prepare and finish off talks, sermons and activities for the weekend.
- **Friday:** Kids' club in the village of Bodesti in the afternoon, followed by a church service
- **Saturday:** Kids' club with a small group of kids in the village of Barguani. Run another kids' club in the afternoon in Roman or Piatra Neamt. Youth meeting in the evening.
- **Sunday:** Sunday School at 9am and then church both morning and evening. Gary preaches once a month.

# REFUGE FOR THE REFUGEE

*Changing migrants' lives, one at a time*



Europe is in the grip of a desperate refugee crisis, but God's love is being shared powerfully nonetheless. Here are three glimpses inside the world of migrant ministry. Due to the sensitivity of their situations some details have been omitted.

## 'Every time I read God's word I cry'

These are the words of W, a young Iraqi man who gave His life to Jesus this morning. I first met him at the start of the year at the school where I teach a couple of hours per week. We had a friendly chat on the train on the way home.

Then, last week, we bumped into each other in town. I asked him how he was doing. He answered 'not good' as he showed me the scars on his wrist where he had cut himself. I gave him my number and told him to get in touch when he wanted to talk. I got a phone call from him yesterday evening to ask to meet up this morning.

I didn't know what to expect. I was ready to just show Christ's love in the best possible way I

could. It wasn't long into our conversation that he told me he wanted to become a Christian. For some reason he couldn't get through on the number on the business card I had given him, but the card also had the church website on it, which he visited. He said that he read and listened to everything on the church website and started reading the "book of the Christians". He said he loved Jesus and that each time he thought about Jesus on the cross he would start to cry. He said that he also cried each time he read God's word. 'Is this allowed?' he asked.

We prayed together on a park bench thanking God for his salvation through Jesus the Messiah!

## From Sri Lanka to Germany to Christ

**Another migrant to Europe is 'N', known to ECM workers Vimal and Louise Vimalasekaran, who minister among refugees and migrants in Germany.**

"My name is N. I came with my wife R from Sri Lanka to Germany as a refugee several years ago. My expectation was that I would have a good life. However, I was addicted to alcohol and smoking. When I arrived in our refugee camp, my desire was to drink more "good stuff". I came from a religious background, but I did not know the true God.

"I believed that as long as I did good things, God would be pleased and forgive my sins. I did not realise that Jesus came to save me. I did not believe that he could save me from my sins. I thought that I was born a Catholic and therefore I was a Christian.

"A pastor visited us continually in the camp and took us to a church. It was a new experience for me and my wife. We began to study the Bible seriously and the pastor helped us to know more about the word of God and the Lord Jesus Christ. As my wife and I searched the word of God, the Holy Spirit showed us that we are sinners and only Christ can wash away our sins. We thanked God for His mercies and obeyed His word and committed our lives to the Almighty God. A year later my wife and



I were baptised by our pastor in the German Church we attended!

"For nine years we have waited to hear whether we can remain in Germany. We were ready to obey the Lord and if Germany did not give us asylum status, we would have been happy to follow the way the Lord gave us. However, our gracious Father moved mountains to grant us asylum status.

"It has not been easy to live without knowing what will happen to us. It is the Lord Jesus Christ who has been our refuge in our need. In him we found a place of comfort and security. Therefore we were able to continue our lives amid the uncertainties and chaos."

# Dried limes, Iranian ‘flamenco’ and the gospel

**ECM’s Irish Director Charlie Anderson describes a visit to a German refugee centre.**

“It was the turn of the Iranian community to do the cooking at the International Café in Karlsruhe. I had the privilege of being part of one of the initiatives led by Vimal (see previous section) at the Evangelical Migration Centre. What a challenging, flavourful taste of Iranian culture and music the night turned out to be.

“The Centre is a collaborative project supported by a group of churches in Karlsruhe which provides a space for workshops, language classes, Bible studies and other community contact initiatives like the International Café. That evening a small team of Iranian believers cooked up a traditional Iranian meal – beef stew containing lots of onions and flavoured with the distinctive taste of dried limes, it was served on a bed of rice with yoghurt dressing.

“As the meal was prepared an Iranian man played his guitar singing Christian songs which although traditional in style, sounded like a Middle-Eastern version of flamenco to me. There was certainly an attraction to clap your hands or stamp your feet but it brought a very emotive reaction from the people present as they obviously experienced a tugging at the heart strings, a longing for home and familiar ways.

“This was not an overtly evangelistic event but somehow sitting there sharing fellowship, eating together, the positive conversations, the building of relationships, the respect of culture and identity, certainly had something of the aroma of Christ about it all. It reminded me of how we also need to build bridges with our neighbours especially those of a different cultural identity from ourselves, so as to be able to share the gospel message.”

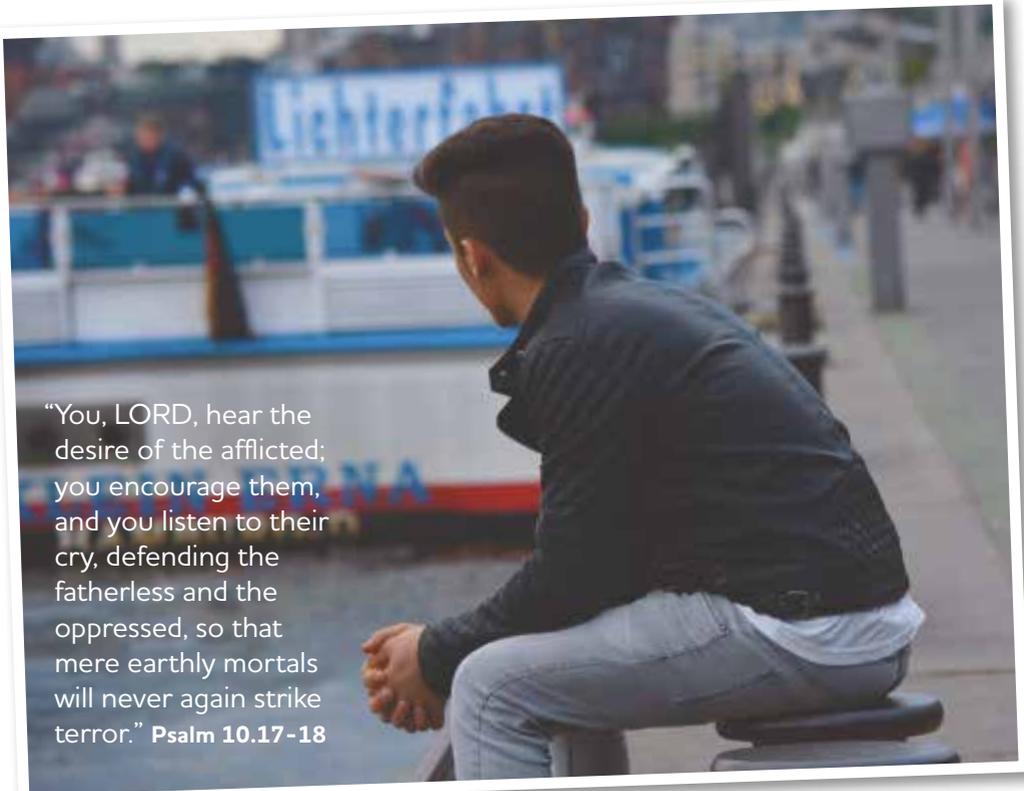
“It reminded me of how we also need to build bridges with our neighbours especially those of a different cultural identity from ourselves, so as to be able to share the gospel message.”



# Praying for refugees in Europe

**What we hear about the “refugee crisis” on the news can seem overwhelming at times. But however big it appears, our God is much greater. When we face even the largest challenge we can take it to Him in prayer, knowing He cares and answers.**

- Pray that the Lord will open the eyes and hearts of many refugees so that they come to know Jesus and experience His love, healing and peace.
  - Pray that the conflicts in the Middle East and Africa which have contributed to the refugee crisis will soon come to an end.
  - Pray that churches across Europe will know how best to respond to the refugees coming to their areas. Pray that they will respond with compassion instead of fear. Pray that they will initiate many creative new ministries to meet the needs of their new neighbours.
  - Pray for Germany, Sweden, Greece and the other countries that have received massive numbers of refugees. Pray that their leaders
- will know how to encourage their citizens to welcome, not reject, the many needy people crossing their borders.
- Pray for Europe as a whole as it continues to struggle with the unprecedented number of refugees coming to it today.
  - Pray for God to call people with the right gifts into specialised ministry focused on refugees. Pray that they will be able to inspire other Christians to assist in appropriate outreach and social care programmes.
  - Pray for ourselves and our churches to know what the Lord would have us to do in response to this complex situation.



“You, LORD, hear the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry, defending the fatherless and the oppressed, so that mere earthly mortals will never again strike terror.” **Psalm 10.17-18**



# 6 DAYS OF LIFE

*A glimpse inside a summer camp*



**Last year many of you responded to an appeal raising funds for summer outreach events. Here's what took place at one such camp in Croatia thanks to your generosity.**

"Our summer camp entitled "A new season for new things!" took place for six days on the island of Ugljan. 72 people enjoyed the varied activities that started with exercises early in the morning and finished with fun programmes in the evening.

"Each day included time to hear the gospel, worship the Lord with cheerful songs, pray together and share thoughts about our relationship with God. People also learned new skills at workshops, made friends, shared their gifts and talents, played sports and, of course, enjoyed the beach and the sun!

**"Participating in the summer camp with you was unique, unrepeatable... Thank God and you for this opportunity." Andrea**



"The camp was a very new experience for me. I met people to whom it was easy to open my soul. Going to the beach was not just a holiday for the body, but also for the heart and the soul." **Katarina**

"Most of the young people attending the camp are in foster care and do not have much self-confidence. But we could share love with them! They were impressed to see that there are people who believe in them and are ready to help.

"After the camp we are having weekly meetings with the campers and we already started discipleship with some of them. Summers camps here are our greatest opportunity to share the living gospel and make new contact with people.

"So, thank you for being with us and giving us the capacity to carry out this summer camp and share God's love. Thank you so much for your donations and prayers!"

"At the camp I met many new people. We had fun and we all learned something about God. It has changed the worldview of many of us." **Felip**

**To make a gift so ministry across Europe can continue please use the enclosed response form**



Special focus

# VARIETY

*So many ways*

There is not any single best outreach approach. Different needs require different solutions. That's why no two ECM ministries look exactly alike. Here's a quick glimpse at just a few of the many activities that our workers are using to share Christ's love across Europe.



## Food

"James has started volunteering one morning a week at a café run by evangelical Christians. Set up a year ago ago by a member of the Chinese Church, it provides free breakfast for about 40 low-income and homeless people every day."

**James andCarolynn Webb, Spain**

## Music

"We've started to go regularly to a hip-hop bar where they have weekly jam sessions. Pete has been able to start playing bass there, and we have made a few friends and contacts within the bar and with the house band. Music seems to be providing wonderful opportunities for us to meet people and also start sharing our faith."

**Peter and Silje Lilly, France**



## Kids

"Last week's Overleieclub was a success. For the first time since starting this initiative we achieved our goal, namely reaching the children living in the Overleie neighbourhood. We had a total of 28 children taking part, 21 of whom came from an unchurched background."

**David and Holly Delameillieure, Belgium**

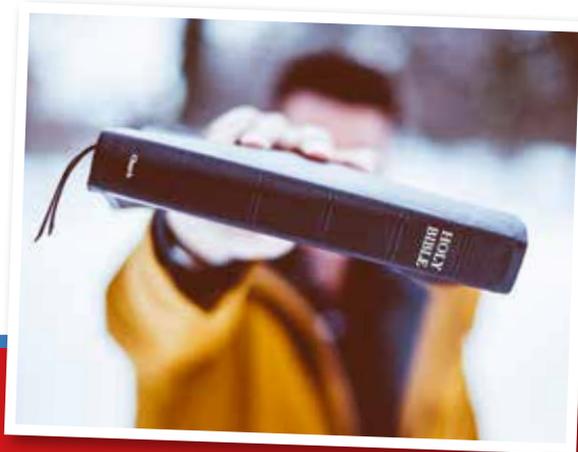


## Students

"We appreciated all your prayers for our last student camp for high schoolers in Madrid. We had 61 students between 13 and 18 years old. Some students committed themselves to Christ for the first time and all were challenged to share their faith with their non-believing friends at school."

**Edgar and Jane Alvarez, Spain**

to show love!



## Art

"We held an exhibition focusing on "the tree of life" of the Garden of Eden, the environment and our behaviour towards it. We invited primary school classes to contribute artistic objects. A large number of people came, with good feedback from the media. When the town's Director of the Museums saw the exposition, he arranged that it be exhibited in a museum for the whole year."

**Almut and Erwin  
Büschlen, Italy**



## Talking

"70 visitors came into the bus and there were great opportunities to share the gospel. Michi has a lot of contact with Alex who regularly comes into the bus. The first time he seemed very interested, then he declared he became a Muslim, later he rejected Islam. He is still seeking but not finding the truth and he is very needy."

**David and Linda James,  
Austria**

## Refugees

"Our community café is doing well. On Mondays, we have Iranians and Afghanis coming together. On Wednesdays, Tamils from Sri Lanka come together. They all cook their own native meals, play some games, and spend time together in talking to each other. We already have some people interested in learning the Christian faith."

**Vimal and Louise  
Vimalasekaran, Germany**



"Behind all that our workers do lies the prayers of people like you. Thank YOU for helping make what we do possible!"

Kent Anderson, British Director



# ELVIS GOES TO MALTA

*Use your unique gift for God*



**Church planters come in all shapes and sizes. Sometimes they also come with “unusual” gifts, as this interview with new ECMers Mark and Gina Borg reminds us:**

### **So just who are you?**

We are Mark, Gina, adult daughter Angie and our four children Zara, Caleb, James and Rose. We've been musicians and ministers of the gospel in various settings over the past 12 years. This has involved full-time ministry on the pastoral team of a church plant and pastoral care of the elderly. **Mark also has a gift of professionally entertaining as an Elvis tribute artist.** This has both fed our family and led us into local and international evangelistic ministry opportunities.

### **Why are you interested in Malta?**

We love Jesus! As His sent ones living in a lost world, we're committed to responding to what the Father is doing, drawing sons and daughters home. And we love Malta! Mark's childhood was spent on the rocky archipelago. Words spoken over him in a time of prayer ministry about

returning to minister in his homeland form the basis of our passion to return to the country of his roots.

### **What will you be doing?**

We are convinced God is busy with a beautiful work in Malta. We're yearning to be there and partner with local believers, trusting God for the harvest He is bringing in.

After the intensity of the initial cultural adjustments we look forward to sharing our lives and God's powerful word strategically in a setting where institutional misrepresentations of Jesus have often left people burdened and disillusioned.

We'll be working in local church ministry in an established fellowship. As the Lord leads, we will make ourselves available for creative outreach in local churches within Malta as well as neighbouring countries. We plan to work towards a future church plant.

*From an article by Madeleine Koo*

# PEOPLE. CHANGE. EUROPE.

**Service opportunities in Europe**

**Be part of what God is doing in Europe!**

- Church planting in Albania:** Support Albanians in a wide range of ministries within and outside the church. From 3-24 months.
- Evangelist/outreach worker to immigrants in Lisbon, Portugal:** Evangelism and discipleship, social action and leadership development in a Nepali and Punjabi community.
- University area outreach in Spain.** Help church planting team build relationships and more. 3+ months.
- Psychologist in addiction rehabilitation centre in Pozoblanco, Spain:** Must be between 25 and 60, single, male and have a psychology degree.
- Join a team for 2 years in Croatia.** Help local churches reach their communities. Language learning required.
- Gospel community team member in Maastricht, Netherlands:** Hospitality, building relationships and love for people are key words. Must speak Dutch.



**Find out more about these and many other exciting possibilities on our website.**

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