

A photograph of a multi-story European building, likely in France, featuring light-colored brickwork, ornate black iron balconies, and flower boxes. The building has several windows with shutters and a decorative facade. The scene is set on a cobblestone street with a view of a city in the background.

EUROPEAN PRAYER GUIDE

A showcase of the work God is doing across Europe

Dear Prayer Partner,

Europe is known for its history, architecture, and its art. But what most people don't know about Europe is the deep need for the gospel.

This book is a gallery of stories and pictures from your IMB missionaries in Europe.

As you admire the art and narrative that come from this beautiful continent, look deeper into the images and pray for the 810 million people who live in Europe and the 98.9% who do not know Jesus as Savior.

Thank you for reading this and for your commitment to pray for Europe.

Elisabeth and I took the position of leading ministry in Europe in August of 2019 and are excited to partner with you. God is definitely at work across the continent. Here in the UK, where we live with our four children, we have been able to engage those struggling with mental health in our fast paced and politically charged social environment. We spend time in workplaces and on busy streets asking if there is any way that we can pray for those we meet. This request is often met with surprise and appreciation and gives us an opportunity to communicate directly to the heart. Often the conversation flows into gospel proclamation. One such encounter with a believer even led to a training of how she could do this same thing to share the gospel in her community.

As we pray for God's spirit to move in the UK and all across Europe, let's begin with thanksgiving and praise for all that God is already doing in our midst. We are constantly encouraged by the various stories we hear from our workers in the field, including stories about digital engagement, leadership development, and church formation.

As we celebrate what is happening, we eagerly anticipate what God will do. Psalm 5:3 says, "At daybreak, LORD, you hear my voice; at daybreak I plead my case to You and watch expectantly."

As we pray together, let's watch expectantly, knowing that He will work.

As our Europe leadership team prayed about which ministry strategies would work best in Europe, we came up with five specific priorities for our workers. These priorities can help direct your prayers.

Gospel Training: Continuing education for missionaries in the missionary task, theology, cultural training and innovative gospel engagement strategies.

Gospel Advancement: Discipling and training Europeans to be on mission by focusing on the unreached in every city and province that leads to multiplying, biblically faithful churches.

Gospel Resources: Developing materials in local languages that reflect local culture and help Christians mature in their faith and share the gospel.

Gospel Displayed: Caring for the practical needs of the poor and oppressed opens the door to gospel conversations as missionaries and local believers show the love of Christ.

Gospel Outreach: Missionaries and locals hold community events, sponsor camps and clubs, and distribute resources, all with the focus of proclaiming the gospel.

This prayer guide will present prayer prompts and stories in these categories. Our workers' faithfulness and perseverance are constant, but we cannot accomplish any of these priorities without God's intervention. Please pray daily for God to send workers into the harvest and for people to respond to the message of the gospel. Thank you for partnering with us in prayer.

Grateful to serve alongside Southern Baptists,

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'Jacob & Elisabeth Boss', is written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed names of the signatories.

Jacob & Elisabeth Boss, IMB European Affinity Leaders



GOSPEL ADVANCEMENT

Discipling and training Europeans to be on mission by focusing on the unreached in every city and province that leads to multiplying, biblically faithful churches.

Less than 1.1% of Europeans are evangelical Christians.

Believers in Europe have the God-given task of sharing the gospel with the 98.9% around them who don't believe. Your IMB missionaries work alongside local churches, seminaries, and individual believers to train and equip Christians in Europe to share the gospel and to form new churches.

ENGLAND

In North London, Jesus is being glorified as many Albanians turn from their sin and place their faith in Christ. IMB missionaries have seen God open the doors for more than a dozen new believers to be baptized in the last year. As a community of Albanian believers grew in London, and a new church started meeting under the leadership of Mark* and Rita.*

After a mutual friend introduced Mark and Rita to IMB missionary Grant,* a friendship and partnership soon formed with prayer, discipleship and leadership development at its core.

Many IMB missionaries worked alongside a local church to provide Mark and Rita with theological and doctrinal training to prepare them to lead a healthy and theologically sound church.

Grant said God has used this training and partnerships—including partnerships with “awesome” Southern Baptist churches in the US—to move in incredible ways.

“Mark has grown into a strong man of God who will ... pastor many of these new believers as they move forward as a new church family,” Grant said. “Rita is one of the most gifted evangelists we’ve ever met. Her heart for her Albanian brothers and sisters is on display constantly and inspires everyone to faithful gospel engagement.

“The potential ... to see this [church planting] movement multiply not only among Albanians but through Albanians to the nations is staggering,” Grant said. “God is doing a special thing among these special people in these days.”

- Pray that God will continue to raise up leaders and laborers for the harvest among Albanians in London and across the world.

- Ask that God would bless the efforts of IMB missionaries who are training European believers in theological education, and pray that many leaders will rise up to lead more Europeans to faith.

**Names changed*





BALKAN REGION

In the Balkans, 24 national believers have been trained to be disciple-makers through an online initiative that saw exponential growth throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The IMB team began focusing on bold evangelism and Scripture distribution in the fall of 2019 and saw traction with a website they created where local believers posted testimonies and offered Bibles and conversation to anyone who was interested. The team created social media posts and ads to garner traffic for the website. Today, more than 3 million people have seen the ads and nearly 14,000 have commented, liked or shared the posts. More importantly, 13 people have come to Christ and another 51 are being discipled by local believers.

The project is led by believers from various Balkan churches who were trained and mentored by IMB personnel. Eleven local believers recorded their testimonies, and now more than 125,000 people have watched at least one video on the site and nearly 6,000 people have watched them all. These Balkan believers love being part of something bigger than a single church body and reaching others beyond their city and country.

The website depends heavily on the website manager who facilitates cooperation between churches. He is the first contact for those in unreached areas. He responds to requests for copies of Scripture, answers questions, and connects people with a local body of believers who can give them more information.

Innovation in evangelism like this is becoming a key component to Gospel Advancement in Europe.

- Please pray for more people to see testimonies on the website and inquire about the life change that only salvation can bring.

- Pray for local believers who are leading this project and getting excited about reaching people for Christ.

- Pray for your IMB missionaries as they train and mentor local believers. Also pray for the website manager who helps people take the next step towards faith.

GOSPEL DISPLAYED

Caring for the practical needs of the poor and oppressed opens the door to gospel conversations as missionaries and local believers show the love of Christ.

With more than 650,000 refugees seeking asylum in Europe, red-light districts in every city, and more than 9% of the continent living in poverty, **there is a devastating need for humanitarian relief in Europe.** As your IMB missionaries are providing assistance, they are also sharing the gospel. Providing for physical needs creates an open door for sharing God's love and spreading the good news.

NETHERLANDS

In early 2020, Amsterdam's infamous red-light district closed down for several months. Just like almost all socially based enterprises in the world, the prostitution business was directly affected by the COVID-19 quarantine. Thousands of men and women who worked in the district were suddenly without any income. That opened the door of ministry for Christian workers.

Many local believers, including IMB missionaries, have been praying for revival in the district for many years. With the help of Send Relief's financial assistance, IMB workers began a ministry called *Closed Windows, Open Doors*, which provided much-needed food assistance for men and women who lost their jobs. The ministry also allowed for interaction, counsel, prayer and gospel sharing. Today, workers are amazed at how God has worked!

Hundreds of bags of groceries and hot meals have been delivered, many prostitutes have heard about Christ's love for them, and at least three have made the decision to find different employment! These three have introduced other prostitutes to the believers who were distributing groceries, which has expanded the reach of the gospel.

"I think one of the greatest blessings to me throughout this whole project has been a beautiful picture of [believers] working and serving together," said one IMB missionary.

Meeting people's basic needs is one opportunity for IMB missionaries to share the love of Christ. As needs are met, hope is restored and Jesus is glorified.

- Please pray for resources needed to continue to help with physical needs and for more opportunities to be a consistent presence in this community.

- Pray for many to find salvation in Jesus Christ and freedom from the bondage of prostitution.

- Ask that as people receive food assistance, medical care and help with shelter through IMB and Send Relief, that the gospel would be displayed and communicated clearly for the glory of God.





UKRAINE

Most of the world is unaware of the six-year conflict in Eastern Ukraine that finally reached a ceasefire in July of 2020. Russian forces invaded Ukraine in 2014, and the two countries battled for territory in daily clashes. Many Ukrainians died, many more were displaced from their homes and most had no access to healthcare.

One of the displaced people was IMB missionary Joe Ragan, who had to flee his home in the war zone with only the clothes on his back. He relocated to Kiev and organized volunteer medical clinics in local churches that provided medical assistance. These clinics paved the way for physical, emotional and spiritual ministry in the city. At one clinic, more than 100 people came looking for medical help, and each one heard the gospel during their appointment. Ukrainian churches connected to the ministry and passionately followed up with the clinic visitors, and many patients started attending church services.

Sadly, Joe succumbed to a long battle with cancer the same month of the ceasefire in Ukraine.

Rebuilding in Ukraine will take years, and medical clinics will continue to reach many for Christ. For the sake of the gospel, and in honor of Joe's passion and love for

Ukrainians, please pray for the clinics and other ministries in war-ravaged Eastern Ukraine. Meeting practical needs is oftentimes the first step to bringing people to a deeper understanding of God's love and plan of salvation.

- Lift up those suffering in Ukraine as they are displaced from their homes and without proper healthcare.

- Ask the Lord to continue giving vision and passion to the IMB team and the local churches as they seek to meet the needs in the community and share the gospel.

- Ask God to give wisdom and peace to new believers as they seek a way to follow Him during this difficult time.

- Pray for other IMB workers who display the gospel through humanitarian efforts.

GOSPEL OUTREACH

Missionaries and locals hold community events, sponsor camps and clubs, and distribute resources, all with the focus of proclaiming the gospel.

To bring together Europeans, refugees, and immigrants, your IMB missionaries host events, camps, and other outreach efforts to **gather people around God's love and the gospel**. As missionaries broadly sow the seeds of the gospel, more and more people have the opportunity to hear the good news of salvation through Christ.

AUSTRALIA

In Sydney, Australia, which is considered part of the European affinity, barbeque grills, sausages, and willingness have led to planting new churches and reaching people with the gospel. A unique neighborhood in the southwest part of the city testifies to the city's burgeoning population, which is projected to double by the year 2050. Oran Park Raceway was a motor racing circuit from 1962 to 2010, but to accommodate Sydney's growth, the land was transformed into a new residential community complete with shops, schools, parks and now churches.

The IMB team in Sydney began a church plant in the local primary school. The local council invited the church to help build the community by hosting BBQs when they open new parks in the neighborhoods. What the team calls "sausage sizzles" gives the church opportunities to meet new families and youth.

These BBQs opened a door for the church to start a youth gathering on Friday nights at the school where the church meets. Sausages also sizzle on Friday nights as the team prepares a BBQ for the kids. The team posts a question each week on a whiteboard that challenges the youth to think about spiritual things. Before the food is served, several leaders share their testimonies and incorporate their thought on the question presented that night.

The kids have loved these Friday nights and have now heard of the hope that is found in Christ.

"We have had some great spiritual conversations with youth who do not attend church or have not heard the gospel," said one team member.

- Pray for God to continue to show favor to the church through good relationships with the council and the school.

- Pray for sausage sizzles to open doors into the homes and hearts of local families. Ask that the gospel will be clearly understood and eagerly received by those who hear it.

- Pray for Friday youth nights to result in many youths coming to know Jesus.

- Pray that God's name will be glorified as workers share at community events, sports camps, English clubs and concerts.





BELGIUM

As she entered the building, Elsjje,* a middle-aged woman, was escorted to a table and offered a cup of coffee and a pancake. One of the hostesses sat down and started a conversation.

As the conversation progressed, Elsjje told her tragic story. She said her husband died at a young age, and she was raising a son alone. She explained that her parents had passed away and that she had lost her job, as well. Elsjje was full of sadness and loneliness.

This was one of the few times Elsjje had left her house except to run errands. But someone had told her about a free pancake giveaway. She was surprised to find out that it was hosted by a church. The outreach was one of many being held during the Gentse Feesten, one of the largest music and theatre festivals in Europe, held every year in Ghent, Belgium. More than 2 million people crowd the city and enjoy hundreds of activities including more than 12 concert stages, national and international artists, puppets, circuses, boat trips, monuments, fireworks, and more than 800 performances.

Volunteers and local believers join with your IMB missionaries to serve coffee and hot chocolate after all-night concerts and serve pancakes and coffee to visitors in the city center. The day Elsjje visited the church for pancakes, she also heard about a Savior who cares for her and loves her.

God is faithful to bring the brokenhearted to a greater understanding of his love through Gospel Outreach events like this and countless others that IMB missionaries host around Europe.

- Thank the Father for the opportunities to share about God's love at events like a pancake giveaway in Belgium.

- Ask that God prepares the way as the gospel is shared and that the good news will fall on receptive hearts.

- Pray God will guide other IMB missionaries in Europe as they draw the community closer to God's love through Gospel Outreach.

**Names changed*

GOSPEL RESOURCES

Developing materials in local languages that reflect local culture and help Christians mature in their faith and share the gospel.

Imagine trying to grow in your faith without the aid of Sunday school curriculum or discipleship training materials in your language. That's the reality for most believers in Europe, which is home to more than 200 different languages and very few Christian bookstores or major Christian publishers. Your IMB missionaries work tirelessly to **create resources in the local language** so they can better disciple Christian leaders and local believers.

SPAIN

IMB missionary Emilio Marrero is fascinated by art that uniquely explores a topic or tells a story. After his family moved to the Basque region of northern Spain, he wanted to create artistic gospel resources for broad seed sowing.

La Cueva (The Cave) is a short story inspired by Plato's allegory of the cave and Franz Kafka's novella, "The Metamorphosis." It presents the gospel in a narrative that confronts preconceptions and cultural assumptions.

Todas Las Cosas (All Things) is a theology magazine Marrero created to suggest gospel concepts in the form of a conversation. He uses this resource as a first step with people who say they don't want anything to do with Jesus.

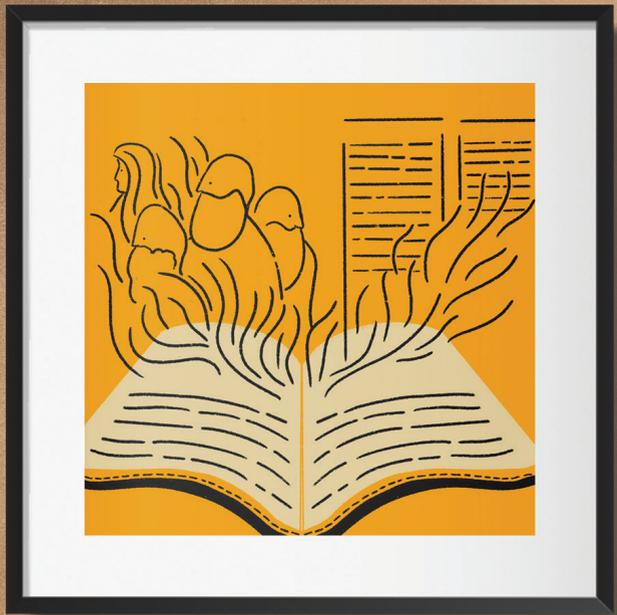
Posters and stickers around town advertise ateajo.eus (atea jo means, "to knock on the door"), where resources (in Spanish and English) live in digital format. Here, people can also find the full gospel, other resources and information about how to connect with local groups to explore the Bible.

Believers locally and throughout Spain possess print copies, which have been used to go deeper in spiritual conversations. These resources even opened a door for a local believer to share the Gospel on a local radio station.

"Every new movement in a culture will produce new art, music, and a fusion of local culture and gospel kingdom culture. We want to continue creating and thinking of new ways to bridge the lost with the gospel," Marrero said.

- Pray people in the Basque region and throughout Spain will interact with these resources, hear the gospel, connect with local groups and come to know Jesus.

- Pray Marrero and other missionaries will be encouraged as they continue to use their unique skills to share the gospel.





RUSSIA

When Erasyl* started university in his hometown in the former Soviet Union, he knew very little about Jesus. Being from a Muslim home, he was familiar with the Bible but didn't know the gospel. An IMB missionary befriended him on campus and led him to the Lord.

“Through studying Scripture and reading good books on apologetics and church history, God convinced me of the truth of the Bible and I put my trust in Jesus in 2007,” Erasyl said.

Now Erasyl serves as a lay pastor and credits much of his rapid spiritual growth to reading good Christian books. As he has traveled throughout the former Soviet Union and met with other pastors, he's been surprised to learn that “the privilege of having good books is a rare thing.”

More than 200 languages are represented in Europe. In many countries, it's difficult to find books, study aids and even Bibles in European languages. Resources that are readily available in the States are a commodity in Europe.

Erasyl and his IMB partner are trying to change that. They have begun a program called Equip a Pastor that aims to get new books to pastors on a monthly basis.

These books include commentaries as well as books on theology, ecclesiology, pastoral ministry, and biblical counseling—all provided in the Russian language. More than 150 pastors have applied to take part in the program. The first 50, who have been sponsored, have commented that through having access to these books, they have been challenged to think more deeply about their theology and ministry.

- Please pray that resources will be available to sponsor the other 150 pastors who are waiting to take part in the program.

- Ask that more pastors will apply and benefit from the theological and pastoral growth that can happen with these resources.

- Pray for other believers around Europe who are eager to learn and grow in their faith but don't have access to gospel resources in their language.

**Names changed*

GOSPEL TRAINING

Continuing education for missionaries in the missionary task, theology, cultural training and innovative gospel engagement strategies.

The world changes fast. As missionaries develop their ministries on the field, they often desire continued education to help them better minister in the context where God has put them. To this end, IMB missionaries among Europeans are **always learning and developing new methods to share the gospel** among 741 unreached people groups, shifting cultural contexts, and evolving worldviews.

CZECH REPUBLIC

For more than 25 years, IMB missionaries Preston and Karen Pearce have focused on literate people who learn through the written word. Today, cultural and global changes have altered their strategy. As refugees from Africa and the Middle East seek stability in Europe and a new generation of men and women are brought up in the digital age, many people now require or desire a different kind of learning—one that is orality based.

Preston and Karen work with refugees in Prague, Czech Republic. There is a great need for trauma healing among refugees, so the Pearces focus on addressing the mental health needs in addition to the physical needs of refugees. Through New Hope, an orality-based trauma healing program developed by IMB workers, Preston and Karen have learned how to help trauma victims through Bible storying, healing exercises, learning activities, one-on-one sharing and prayer.

The main refugee camp in the Czech Republic has around 700 people. As IMB personnel and local partners have assisted the families at the camp, more than 60 people have come to faith in Christ. As more refugees learn about the God who loves them and wants to bring healing to their lives, Preston and Karen expect the number of new believers to grow.

Missionaries in Europe are always looking for new ways to reach the people that God has placed on their hearts. Through Gospel Training, missionaries can learn new methods of reaching people who don't know the love of Christ.

- Pray for the refugees scattered in Europe who have been through trauma and are looking for healing that only Christ can give.

- Thank God for the learning spirit he put in IMB missionaries, and pray that God will continue to provide dynamic training for an ever-changing world.

- Ask God to help the refugees in the Czech Republic as well as the thousands of other families and individuals seeing refuge in Europe. Pray these displaced people will have an opportunity to hear the gospel and experience salvation.





UNITED KINGDOM

London Lab has a long history of training our workers for effective engagement in the harvest. The EURO Training Team (a team of IMB missionaries who are tasked with training personnel in Europe) began hosting Labs in North London. In 2017 when the London Global Training Center in south-central London opened, this provided an ideal venue for the 4-day event. It's a great opportunity to host workers in the Center, train them and walk with them as they are challenged to apply church-planting movement principles in their work where God has sent them.

A key part of every Lab is sending people two-by-two into the streets to begin conversations with people. The goal is to share the gospel message. During many of the Labs that have been hosted, numerous people have been engaged with the gospel, some of whom have become believers.

Engaging people during Labs often turns up contacts from among believers as well. On one of these occasions, Lab participants met a woman named Carolyn who was the pastor of a tiny Salvation Army church. Carolyn introduced IMB workers to her daughter who is passionate about sharing the gospel, and they began training her in church-planting movement techniques.

Carolyn and her daughter live in London and were IMB missionary's first contacts in their neighborhood. Because of their relationship, which started through London Labs, a whole new ministry area has opened up and is now a key to broadening IMB ministries to an eight-borough segment of London.

London Labs has proved to be pivotal Gospel Training for missionaries as well as a wellspring of ministry opportunities.

- Thank God for making trainings like London Labs a resource for your IMB missionaries.

- Pray that God will continue to equip missionaries with the training they need to more effectively share the gospel with Europeans.

- Ask God to continue to guide IMB personnel to innovative trainings as well as to people who need the saving grace of the gospel.

Thank you for praying for your IMB missionaries and for touring Europe through this gallery of stories and photographs.

For your IMB missionaries in Europe, the images shown here aren't merely still images - these pictures come to life as missionaries walk out their door or peer out of their window. The sights, sounds, and smells of European streets are part of their everyday life. And everyday they follow God's guidance to reach the men, women, and children around them with the good news of the gospel.

When you give to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering, you make their life and ministry in Europe possible. Thank you for your prayer support as well as your financial support.

To give directly to these European priorities or browse all of the options for additional giving across Europe, please visit
imb.org/europe/giving



Thank you for
your prayer support

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