



# 33

days of  
praying  
through  
Europe



Despite being founded over 100 years ago the motto of WEC International (WEC) remains, "If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him" (CT Stud).

WEC is a truly international, interdenominational mission, with over 1,800 workers of 65 nationalities currently working in 87 countries. Mission today is from anywhere to everywhere.

The stated vision is **"To see Christ known, loved and worshipped by the unreached peoples of the world"**. Consequently, the primary goal is to take the gospel to the least reached peoples of the world, and to see churches planted and growing among them.

In order to achieve this, WEC is involved in many diverse activities, as fits local needs, including: evangelisation, discipleship, youth work, teaching, training leaders, medical work, music and the arts, Bible translation and literacy, work with addicts and children in crisis, business skills and helping local Christians share the gospel cross-culturally. WEC is committed to finding new, creative and culturally relevant ways of doing mission.

All this frontline service is supported by people with many other skills: administrators, teachers for missionaries' children, maintenance workers, writers and designers, IT professionals, and people who nurture relationships with local churches.

WEC seeks to mobilise people, churches, and resources from every culture in which they are working, to serve the least and the last, first! **WEC believes that the Great Commission means that the whole Church is called to reach the whole world.**

## Prayer for Europe

If you were asked to define prayer, I wonder what you would say? There are probably many good answers, but the one which I like the most, especially when I think of prayer in the context of missions, comes from one of the "classic" books on prayer, by the Norwegian theologian Ole Hallesby. He says, **"Prayer is an attitude of our hearts, an attitude of mind, characterised by two things; helplessness and faith."** Prayer consists simply of telling God, day by day, in what ways we feel that we are helpless - when we realise how powerless we are to change ourselves or the situations we face, or the state of this world. Our helplessness makes us more strongly dependant on Him. The second essential characteristic of prayer is faith. Without faith our helplessness would just be a desperate cry of distress without hope. But we pray because we have faith that God has the power to change us, our situation and the world.

In WEC we talk about prayer being a priority and integral to all we do. I think by this we mean that we recognise this constant dependence on the Lord and want to have that attitude of mind and heart that keeps us crying out to God, believing that **He can give us the wisdom we seek, He can prepare hearts to receive the good news and He can provide all that is needed so that the unreached hear the gospel.**

We also believe that we need others to stand alongside us in prayer. The reason that we share stories of struggles and difficulties is not so that people feel sorry for us - it is so that others will also cry out to God along with us.

### Praying for Europe

In the last 250 years the gospel has advanced worldwide; however, today, it is declining in Europe. Many of the traditional European churches are empty edifices, filled with more dust than worshippers. According to Joshua Project, there are 448 unreached people groups in Europe: more than 25 million people. The highest number are in the UK, more than 5 million. But when we look at the percentage of the population that are unreached, Bosnia-Herzegovina has more than 50%, Kosovo more than 90%, and North Macedonia more than 30%. How will these people hear of Jesus unless we go and share the gospel with them? Europe is a place where they can legally hear the gospel without government or social interference. **The unreached can be reached in Europe.** They cannot easily be reached in Algeria, Pakistan or Turkey.

### Reaching them needs intercessors

To intercede means to take the position of "going between". The intercessor takes the position of standing between two opposing forces, eg between light and darkness, between despair and hope, between sickness and wholeness, between life and death, between chaos and order, etc. The intercessor stands "in the gap". **"I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so that I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one."** (Ezek 22:30)

Ole Hallesby, wrote that **"it is by prayer that we join the powers of heaven to our helplessness, the powers which can turn water into wine and remove mountains in our own life and in the lives of others, the powers which can awaken those who sleep in sin and raise up the dead, the powers which can capture strongholds and make the impossible possible."**

Will you join us in praying for Europe, believing with us that through prayer we shall see the impossible made possible - a vibrant multiplying church among every people group with whom we are working?

### Miriam Cowpland

International Director for Research and Prayer



#### % EVANGELICALS

Bosnia-Herzegovina: 0.3%

Macedonia: 0.2%

Kosovo: less than 2%

# DAY 1

## God - outdated or relevant? Post-Christendom Europe

*'Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, Lord, look with favour on your desolate sanctuary. Give ear, our God, and hear; open your eyes and see the desolation of the city that bears your Name. We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy. Lord, listen! Lord, forgive! Lord, hear and act! For your sake, my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name.'* (Dan 9:17-19)



It is often said that Europe has moved on from Christianity. Secularisation all over Europe has caused percentages of believers to decline. Lately, interest in and practice of alternative religions have been gaining popularity. So, even though society is more secular, people are actually open to the spiritual and supernatural world. Democracy, human rights, pluralism, welfare and safety are important values for Europeans.

This year, suddenly, things have changed drastically. The foundations of Europe and secular beliefs are shaking. Where once it was thought that every disease should be curable, today an invisible virus causes great trouble. Measures taken are so radical that they are said to be larger than those taken during World War II. This, in its turn, has caused an economic decline such as we have not seen in a very long time. A large part of what secular Europeans believe has been proven to have a sandy foundation.

Whereas the elderly might still value religion highly, a lot of the youth grows up with little or no knowledge of God. Others are simply indifferent. But we know that Christ really is our risen Lord and King, ready to welcome all who believe in His Kingdom.

### Pray for

- God to reveal if and how we can adjust our plans to the times to come. "A man plans and God determines." (Prov 16:9).
- God to open people's hearts to Himself, and that He might show His presence and power.
- new and creative ways to connect to the people of every generation in a culturally sensitive way.
- God to show how we can better adjust to the culture of the people we aim to meet.
- God to show how we can work together more effectively across European branches and with other organisations.

## My new neighbour Migrants in Europe

*From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.* (Acts 17:26-27)

It was my privilege to work for many years in an obscure part of the world that most of my neighbours had never heard of and to learn a peripheral dialect of Arabic of little use elsewhere. However, now, in 21st century Europe, I find myself using that very dialect with people living five minutes' walk from my house. Am I training my neighbours to speak this obscure dialect? No, the newcomers are desperate to learn our language. The world has changed and I am seeing ordinary Christians engaging with the unreached in ways they would never have imagined.

New migrants, many coming from places inaccessible to missions, are arriving on our doorsteps, often encountering committed Christians for the first time. We should respond with faith, seeing the hand of the Lord in this (Acts 17:26-27). I have seen people from groups listed in *Operation World* as least reached taking part in their first Christmas Carol Service.

The natural, human reaction to an influx of strangers is to erect barriers, but the Scriptures teach us to abandon the human viewpoint (2 Cor 5:16) and respond with faith and love. God has brought the harvest field to us. It is time to roll up our sleeves and engage in the labour.

### Pray that

- the church in Europe will respond with faith and love to the new migrants.
- many new migrants will find salvation in Christ.
- God will raise up from among the new migrants witnesses who will speak powerfully to Europe and to their own people.

# DAY 2



# DAY 3

## Migrant flower sellers Turin, Italy

*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)*



Migrants selling flowers in the streets are visible to every citizen transiting in public spaces. But the ways these people act and live in Turin make them invisible in the sense that little or nothing is known about them. Their "invisibility" is primarily related to their legal status, to the way they arrive in Italy, to the informal work they perform and to their links, which are limited to their immigrant community.

Who are they? Where are they from? How and why did they arrive in Turin? How do they deal with this job? How do they feel? Are they exploited?

Italy has the third largest migrant population in Europe, following Germany and the UK. That's according to an immigration report by Caritas and Migrantes. The top three nationalities of migrants in Italy are Romanian, Albanian and Moroccan, followed by Egyptian, Pakistani, Chinese, Bangladeshi, Senegalese, and Ghanaian.

In Italy nearly 7% of the population are regular migrants (600,000 being irregular). Piedmont has 427,911 migrants (9.8%), and Turin has 221,842 (9.8 %)

### Pray for

- migrant ministry in Turin.
- a breakthrough of the gospel among the migrant population in Italy.
- more workers for migrant ministries both among the Arabic-speaking people and among other ethnic communities in Turin.
- growth of the small worshipping Arab community.
- fruit from the marketplace outreach.
- the Italian church to more intentionally reach out to the migrant community. God's love is not exclusive.

### ITALY

Capital: Rome
60.3 million people
81% christian
1.46% evangelical
Evangelical annual growth rate 1.9%
105 people groups
23 unreached people groups (22%)

Sources: Joshua Project

# Basque people France

*Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbour as yourself." (Matt 22:37-39)*

The Basque people in France number over 200,000. In their own language, their territory, extending into Spain, is called *Euskal Herria*. There are 2 million more Basque in Spain, with a strong self-identity. Despite a lower profile in France, the Basque are very proud of their language, called *Euskara*; they even have two dialects in France!

Everywhere in the Basque Country you can see their flag, called *Ikurriña*. During the year you can participate in Basque festivals, the largest and most well known being the Fête de Bayonne, in the city of Bayonne, near the Atlantic Ocean and along the rivers Nive and Adour. A highlight of this celebration is the clothing everyone wears: a white outfit with a blazing red scarf!

Music and dance are important aspects of not just the festivals, but of everyday life. During your visit you can feast on their special hams, cheeses, and Basque red spice. As for sports, the Basque treasure a range of hand ball games collectively known as pelota, played with either an open hand, a paddle, or a special scoop.

They are one of the oldest people groups in Europe, and historically have come under the influence of the Roman Catholic church. Many label themselves as Christians, yet their actual involvement has increasingly diminished over the decades. In fact, many would rather put their trust solely in science, than to have a faith.

Politically, the Basque in France have been more peaceful than those in Spain. Those who are evangelical Christians are in the minority (1%), but fortunately are not forgotten.

### Prayer and praise

- Pray for an increase in Basque speakers to reach them in their own language. The effort made by outsiders to learn Basque is also a testimony of God's love.
- Pray for Basque believers, missionaries, and local Christians: to recognise the impact and failure of christian witness in the past, and for a new vision of how to point Basques to Jesus Christ.
- Pray that the Basque identity will come to include belonging to the Kingdom of Heaven.
- Pray for an outpouring of grace, patience, and perseverance to current Basque christian leaders and believers.
- Pray for long-term options for non-Europeans to enter and stay in France and Spain as they join the effort to reach the Basque.

# DAY 4



### BASQUE IN FRANCE

239,000 people
70% christian
1% evangelical
<b>BASQUE IN SPAIN</b>
2.5 million people
85% christian
0.67% evangelical

Sources: Joshua Project and Wikipedia

# DAY 5

## Transformed! Betel UK

*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever. (Heb 13:8)*



Betel UK is a ministry of WEC International, begun as part of WEC's field strategy in Spain 35 years ago. We are an independent christian charity for men, women and families affected by the hardships that lead to social exclusion, especially homelessness, drug and alcohol abuse and long-term unemployment. Many of our residents say life at Betel feels like becoming a new member of an extended family. Betel is a safe, structured, family-like environment where there is consistent peer support: during the first few months each resident is assigned a brother- or sister-like mentor. As such, Betel is neither a rehabilitation centre nor a clinical programme with doctors or counsellors, where you receive a medicated detox. Instead, it provides an alternative model of recovery which has made a radical difference to many lives which were formerly in chaos. Our end goal is to help people not only escape addiction, but become productive, trustworthy men and women of character when they leave our community.

### We praise God for:

- Larger Betel communities that are helping their poorer Betel brethren. In Spain, our Betel communities also provide weekly food to hundreds of local families: poor Spaniards, immigrants, and refugees. To God be the glory.
- The grants that have been awarded to Betel UK nationwide.
- Ingenuity and diligence by all the members.

### We are trusting God for:

- Covid-19: we have had a dozen men and women in Madrid hospitalised from our Alcalá, Azuqueca, and La Cabrera communities. Pray for healing for those members of Betel communities and churches who have the virus and who are hospitalised, and for comfort for the families and friends of those that have died.
- Our centres as we put stringent protocols in place to be able to begin interviewing and receiving new residents. Pray for wisdom for the leadership team in oversight of this unlocking of our doors.
- Protection, especially for the volunteers caring for new residents and for all our healthy people.

## New ways for new peoples Mobilising in the UK

*He says, 'Be still, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth.' (Ps 46:10)*

The UK is now being referred to by many cultural commentators as a post-Christian country<sup>1</sup>. This creates an interesting environment in which we are trying to mobilise for the unreached. As the world around us has changed we have seen two key trends emerge:

1. The UK church's theology on mission is changing from global to local.
2. Faith is continually becoming an individual experience rather than a communal one.<sup>2</sup>

As a result, the mobilising strategies of previous decades are now becoming outdated and irrelevant to younger generations. The challenge now ahead of us is, "How do we inspire the church to go to the ends of the earth and reach the unreached?"

While many mission agencies are trying to adapt to this new environment, there are three responses that are critical to reaching the UK church and the younger generations.

**1. Discipleship is vital.** Many young Christians are lacking in biblical literacy today and are not being taught why mission to the unreached is important. Mission events are no longer generating results. A more lasting and personal approach is needed through discipleship-based relationships.

**2. Be online.** Younger people not only access their information online, that is where they build relationships. We need to learn to build relationships in the way they do.

**3. Church leaders hold the keys.** If a relationship can be built with a church leader it is possible to build relationships with an entire network, not just with one church.

### Prayer and praise

- Pray that the UK church will once again be inspired to take the gospel to the ends of the earth.
- Pray that mobilisers will find new methods so as to reach the younger generations.

<sup>1</sup> Mark Sayers, This Cultural Moment Podcast, Charles Taylor, A Secular Age  
<sup>2</sup> Jay Matenga, <https://missionexus.org/onmission2020matenga/> (June 2020)

# DAY 6



### THE UNITED KINGDOM

Capital: London
68 million people
57% christian
25.7% non-religious
5% muslim
1.3% hindu
0.7% sikh
7.9% evangelical
Evangelical annual growth rate 0%
113 people groups
33 unreached people groups (30%)

Sources: Joshua Project, Wikipedia

# DAY 7

## Finding a home Second- and third- generation migrants

*But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' (Luke 10:29)*



"This is an important invitation," he said. "An invitation to get right with God for your eternal future." He was one of two fresh-faced young men, out accosting the general public in the town centre one evening. Into my hand he placed a silvery grey envelope.

"Well," I said, "that sounds important, let's have a look." I opened it to find a sort of tract calling all people to repent and to return to God. It quoted Isaiah 42. "Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight" and so on. Because the chapter mentions two locations believed to be in Arabia, he was claiming that the text was about Muhammad. He was on the street, preaching Islam.

He has become a friend. He is one of the rising second generation of migrants. Born and raised in Europe, deeply aware of not belonging to the home countries of their parents but not totally sure that they are truly welcome here either, the conflicted generation.

Some invest their whole identity in Islam. Others sink and slide into crime and fill up our prisons. Many others muddle along, neither one thing nor the other, aware of not quite belonging but having nowhere else to be. God loves them all. Fluent in our languages but wary, these Muslims are careful who they respond to. We have an important invitation for them, but we really need to be genuine friends for them to receive it.

### Prayer and praise

- Thank God that He has given us these neighbours.
- Pray that Christians would love them as they should.
- Pray that local Christians will truly befriend Pakistanis in the UK, North Africans in France, and Turks in Germany.
- Pray that many will receive and accept the invitation to the Kingdom.

# DAY 8

## Man's plans are for evil but God works it for good Iranians in the UK

*And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (Eph 3:17b-19)*

For the last eight years, I've been privileged to be involved in bringing in the harvest among Iranian asylum seekers and refugees. Disillusioned with fundamentalist Islam, yet believing in God, the Iranian harvest is truly ripe.

However, while it's relatively easy to lead an Iranian to Christ, discipleship is a real challenge, in part due to the large number of new believers but also due to their many and complex needs.

Many churches and ministries are involved in this vital work but so often we see the parable of the sower lived out before our eyes. Please pray for more of the seed to find good soil and less to fall along the path, among weeds and on stony ground.

### Prayer and praise

- Pray for effective discipling of Iranians, to see them established in their faith and going on to live fruitful lives.
- Integration of new believers into the local church is an ongoing challenge. Pray for more local believers to be willing to build cross-cultural relationships with Iranians and to get involved in the discipleship process.
- Pray for the raising up of Iranian church leaders. In a culture renowned for "cutting aspiring leaders down to size", it's incredibly challenging to take on a leadership role and it requires a lot of courage and perseverance.
- Pray for our workers to walk in close intimacy with Jesus and to live and minister in the power of the Holy Spirit.



# DAY 9

## From a mustard seed Albania

... by the power of signs and wonders, through the power of the Spirit of God. So from Jerusalem all the way round to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ. (Rom 15:19)



### ALBANIA

Capital: Tirana
2.8 million people
Official language: Albanian
Minority languages: Greek, Aromanian, Macedonian
55% muslim
33% catholic
12% non-religious
0.6% evangelical
Evangelical annual growth rate 4.6%
16 people groups
3 unreached people groups (20%)

Sources: Joshua Project and Wikipedia

As Albania is a small nation with a high rate of unemployment, emigration is the goal of the average Albanian. During the communist regime, people were told repeatedly and forcefully that there is no God. Only a handful of Christians have survived from the regime and today's church is composed of people who have become Christians since 1991.

The evangelical church is young and small. Many towns and villages still have no evangelical church presence, so church planting is urgently needed in many places in the country. In the last few years, growth seems to have plateaued, as churches struggle to take the initiative in evangelism.

Many churches are now led by local leaders, but for so long, churches have been supported from outside. In some places, the church shows encouraging growth. Our team is involved in church planting in and around Tirana, in cooperation with national christian workers. Our team is also involved in many types of ministries. Over 60% of Albanians are Muslims, although superstition and folk Islam prosper. One of our passions is to reach Albanian muslim communities with the gospel of Christ.

### We praise God for:

- The great work He has done in Albania for years.
- The local churches which are now effectively involved in evangelism and church planting across Albania.
- Freedom which exists to share the gospel in almost every community in Albania.

### We are trusting God for:

- The churches in Albania to keep on growing and to be bolder in sharing the gospel.
- Spiritual maturity in Christians who come from a long history of communism, atheism, or Islam.
- More national workers to be raised up among the new generation, for the Albanian church and world mission.

## Small country, big needs Belgium

Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. (John 17:24)

According to *Operation World*, Catholicism in Belgium is in rapid decline. Atheists and the non-religious now amount to 31%. Nominalism is pervasive; nationally, only 7% attend mass, attendance is as low as 1% in some parts of Flanders and less than 0.5% in some Walloon cities. The Church faces five major crises - declining commitment, waning influence, a severe lack of students in seminaries, mass defections and, most of all, the paedophilia scandals that have destroyed Catholicism's reputation. The charismatic movement brought some new life but remains small.

Rapid secularisation has allowed the introduction of several very liberal laws that are an affront to a biblical understanding of the sanctity of life, sexuality and marriage. These coincide with widespread recreational drug use, sexual immorality and occult and New Age activities.

Belgium is experiencing an important growth in the "Ethnic fellowships" like African, Brazilian, Russian, Romanian and English-speaking communities. At the same time as these communities reach out, they intercede and indirectly influence the spiritual situation in this "divided" country which, since its last election in 2019, cannot agree to form a government.

Rosane and Lauro have been living in Belgium for 17 years. They started a church plant in the Liege region for French speakers, which is a way to spread the good news of Jesus to children, teens, young people, couples and elderly people. Through creative evangelism and other events, 90% of this fellowship is composed of new believers. This community of believers is multiplying themselves, and as a result, new leaders have been made.

### Prayer and praise

- Pray for revival in this materially prosperous but spiritually poor land.
- Pray for unity among the politicians and also unity among evangelical leaders.
- Pray that new fellowships may continue to be born to have an impact on many places in Belgium where the presence of believers is non-existent.
- Pray also for follow-up from the difficult days of Covid-19 for God's protection over us all. During this time many have been reached through online services.

# DAY 10



### BELGIUM

Capital: Brussels
11.5 million people
Official languages: Dutch, French, German
64% christian
6.5% muslim
1.4% evangelical
Evangelical annual growth rate 2.5%
92 people groups
26 unreached people groups (29%)

Sources: Joshua Project and Wikipedia

# DAY 11

## The new normal? Covid-19

*So be careful how you act; these are difficult days. Don't be fools; be wise: make the most of every opportunity you have for doing good. (Eph 5:15-16, TLB)*



Who would have thought a year ago that a tiny invisible virus would influence the whole world's events? Europe has just been through one of the biggest crises since World War II and as this text is written at the end of August 2020, the numbers of infections are on the rise again. So far over 200,000 people have died of Covid-19 in Europe. Will we experience a second wave? When will it all be over? As European Branches of WEC, we are asking how long this will affect our members and work. It seems as though we will have to get used to the "new normal" and that our work will be influenced by it for longer than we think.

During March and April, quite a few of our members were infected by the virus. Thanks to God, no one died. Some are still struggling to recover. God suffers with us, and at the same time he is not taken by surprise. The "why" question is a difficult one, and it might be more beneficial to ask the "what" question: "What, O Lord, are you doing in these days; how can we be part of it?"

For some of our branches the current crisis has provided great opportunities to share the gospel, widening the area of influence through online tools. For others it meant that ministry had to stop. For our sending entities it meant a lot of challenges as a considerable number of workers are stuck, either in their passport country or ministry country. Let's pray that we wisely make use of every opportunity this crisis brings to share the good news, so that God's kingdom will advance. Pray too that people's suffering due to this pandemic will be the least possible.

### Prayer

- Pray that people in Europe will connect with God during this difficult time: find believers who will share the gospel relevantly and sensitively.
- Pray for wisdom for our Branches to transform their ministry into the new normal.
- Pray for wisdom for the sending entities: especially how to advise their teams and members.
- Pray for the financial support of pastors, churches and missionaries.
- Pray for the Church in Europe: that the current crisis will deepen the faith of members, and that we will make use of the opportunities.

# DAY 12

## On fire for the King Cornerstone Bible College for Mission Training

*Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvellous deeds among all peoples. (Ps 96:3)*

"On fire for the King with a Passion for the lost" is boldly stated on the banner at the front of our chapel. It is a daily reminder for us to check the position of our hearts and press on with our task - training and equipping for cross-cultural ministry.

Cornerstone began in 1989 and has since trained over 600 workers for service in over 90 different countries. Our training is threefold, focusing on head, hands and heart as we aim to equip our students with theological training, practical ministry skills and personal formation. We encourage them to be shaped by the Lord and transformed more and more into His likeness as they prepare to serve in missions.

Cornerstone students come from all over the globe, from as many as 17 nationalities, with an average of 40 students a year. We live together in a wonderful cross-cultural community, another aspect of our training. Sharing our lives and learning to communicate with others from different backgrounds and perspectives gives our students a good foundation from which to go on and serve successfully in cross-cultural teams around the world.

### Prayer and praise

- We have a continued need for staff in all areas of college life: teaching, administration and maintenance. Please pray the Lord would lead the right staff to us to join our cross-cultural team.
- Pray also for our staff, for wisdom and open ears to hear the Lord's leading when making decisions on behalf of the college community.
- Cornerstone is an intense time of preparation for cross-cultural work. Pray for our students that they would learn and grow in the Lord during their time here. Pray also for applications for new students, that we may continue to train new workers to share the gospel with the unreached.





# DAY 13

## Growing hope Spain

*Though the fig-tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the sheepfold and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Saviour. (Hab 3:17-18)*



### SPAIN

Capital: Madrid
46.7 million people
77.13% christian
1.6% evangelical
Evangelical annual growth rate 3.4%
106 people groups
16 unreached people groups (15.2%)

Sources: Joshua Project and Operation World

The WEC España team is focused on evangelism, church planting, children's ministry, counselling, pilgrim ministry and outreach to Muslims. The team's mission statement is: "For God's glory, seeing teams working together making disciples and forming churches".

WEC Spain has been present in Spain for over 50 years now. We are working in five regions: Galicia, Asturias, the Basque Country, the Madrid area and Granada.

There are 4,238 evangelical places of worship in the country (December 2018). Evangelical Christians are the religious minority with the greatest presence in the country. The largest evangelical denominations in Spain are Assemblies of God, Baptists, Brethren and independent churches.

However, there are 331 municipalities of more than 5,000 inhabitants with no evangelical church. More than 10 million people in Spain live in places that have not been reached by the gospel. Of the 8,131 villages in Spain, 92% have no evangelical church yet. The challenge of reaching the villages with between 5,000 and 20,000 inhabitants, far from the capitals, still stands and continues to be one of the great shortcomings of the mission in Spain.

(Stats source: evangelicafocus.com)

### We praise God for:

- Church growth in the last decades.
- The opportunities the evangelical communities have to bless their neighbours.

### We are trusting God for:

- Unity and cooperation across the churches, denominations and organisations.
- Creativity and cultural sensitivity in how to reach a mainly unchurched, post-Christian generation.
- Teams to form and to work well together.
- Churches to implement stronger, mission-minded discipleship structures.
- The challenge of the missionary to present, communicate and live the good news in a relevant way.

# DAY 14

## Not always a happy ending Moroccan diaspora in Europe

*How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? (Rom 10: 14)*

After the end of the French Protectorate in Morocco (1912-1956), many Moroccans chose to emigrate. The estimated number of Moroccans now living abroad is over 5.5 million, the overwhelming majority of whom are living in Europe.

Morocco's large diaspora, estimated to comprise up to 15% of the population, has changed considerably since World War II when it was mostly blue-collar workers who moved away from home. However, today the population of Moroccans living abroad increasingly comprises highly educated young professionals.

The sad story is that these poor people emigrated from muslim countries but many were not welcomed nor well integrated to their country of choice but rather ended up living in muslim ghettos.

Testimony: Mohan grew up in a sensitive neighbourhood of a big French city, fighting and taking drugs till one day his mother was admitted to hospital. A French christian lady living close to them took care of the children. One day she gave a Bible to Mohan's sister, who later shared her new faith with her brother. Mohan later became a wonderful servant of the Lord.

### We praise God for:

- The media and modern technology, which is bringing the gospel to many. Recently a Moroccan pastor in France organised a Zoom conference attended by around 400 people, most of them believers from different countries. Two ladies gave their lives to Jesus.

### We are trusting God for:

- Several people, especially students, who are interested in the Word. We need to work patiently and with perseverance in follow up.
- Help in combatting the fear and lack of cultural understanding that prevent believers from attempting outreach to Muslims.



### MOROCCAN DIASPORA

France: 1,514,000
Spain: at least 840,000
Belgium: 430,000
Italy: 420,600
Netherlands: 391,088
Canada: 300,000
Germany: 100,000
UK: 50,000
Denmark: 11,273
Switzerland: 10,270

Source: Wikipedia

## Division-hope-reconciliation! Bosnia-Herzegovina

*They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations. (Isa 61:4)*



### BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Capital: Sarajevo  
3.2 million people  
Official languages: Bosnian, Serbian, Croatian  
54% muslim  
41% christian  
0.1% evangelical  
18 people groups  
3 unreached people groups

Sources: Joshua Project and Operation World

Bosnia-Herzegovina is a country divided. Though the Dayton Peace Accord brought the interethnic war to an end in 1995, it did nothing to bring about true peace and reconciliation between the three ethnic groups - Bosnian Muslims, Croat Catholics and Serbian Orthodox. Division and war have been the story of this land for many generations.

The country is ruled by three presidents, one from each ethnic group, on an eight-monthly rotating system. There are three separate versions of many things. A person's ethnicity can affect where they live in certain towns, which internet provider they choose, which school their children attend, and therefore which curriculum they follow, which hospital they use, even in some places which fire service comes out to a fire and so forth.

In contrast, people are generally so welcoming, happy to sit and drink strong Turkish coffee for hours. It has been said that to have an opportunity to share your faith you must first consume 50 litres of said coffee and 5 kilograms of salt with someone.

On the first day we arrived here we met our neighbours, including a young mother. After seven years of sitting, chatting, drinking coffee, sharing lives together, children in and out of each other's homes, we started reading the Bible together. We now enjoy reading the Bible each week and seeing how it applies to our lives. She still holds to her traditions but her heart is open to God's Word.

### Please pray for

- Hope and reconciliation in this divided land.
- People who are able to commit long term to reaching out to people in this stony land.
- People to have open hearts to hear God's Word and be touched by His love.

# Waves of immigrants in Suomi Finland

*I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me. To a nation that did not call on my name, I said, "Here am I, here am I." (Isa 65:1)*

The wave of immigrants, mostly from Islamic countries, to Finland five years ago led to new possibilities for the Church to reach out to unreached people. Most churches are not growing and ministry to immigrants has brought new thinking and new activity.

Unfortunately, many Finns, even some believers, see immigrants as a threat - this is causing tension. WEC teams in Finland are focusing on reaching out to refugees and asylum seekers. There has been a lot of openness among them towards the christian faith, and we pray for a new awakening, a second wave to occur, with many of these people turning to Jesus.

About 9% of Finns are born-again believers.\* The worldview here is based on humanism, secularism and materialism and it is creating increasing liberalism within the church, too. There is a negative attitude towards Christians who hold to Biblical principles and faith. There are a few church planting projects in bigger towns. In rural areas, especially in northern and eastern Finland, there are fewer churches, long distances and a decreasing population. Existing churches often struggle, with limited resources and other difficulties, to extend their ministry and to reach out to "unchurched" people.

### Please pray:

- for opportunities to make contact with refugees and asylum seekers in our town. We work through our local church and want to build a community where people feel safe and welcome, and come to know Jesus. We do this through a monthly meeting, visiting people in their homes, small groups for language learning, and cooking classes. (Marja & Kevin)
- for the church, that they may be brave and faithful in their walk as followers of Jesus, despite the increasing societal pressure.
- that the hearts of the believers would be burning for reaching the unreached both in Finland and abroad.
- for God to send workers who would be willing to settle and work even in remote areas in the north and east.
- "I work as a teacher, teaching Finnish to immigrant students at a Christian Institute in my hometown. Some are asylum seekers or refugees; some have come to Finland for work or family reasons. My prayer is that I would see God moving among my students and that I could be a small part of that." (Marja)



### FINLAND

Capital: Helsinki  
5.5 million people  
Official languages: Finnish, Swedish, Sámi  
83.75% christian  
12.1% evangelical  
58 people groups  
16 unreached people groups

Sources: Joshua Project and Operation World

\*Seurakunnan kasvu ry (Parish Growth Association)

## From the stump of Jesse ... a branch will bear fruit Jews in Europe

*Brethren, my heart's desire and my supplication to God is for them, that they may be saved. (Rom 10:1, ASV)*



**JEWES**  
14.7 million (worldwide)  
1.34 million in Europe

Sources: Jewish Virtual Library (2019)

France has the largest Jewish community in Europe with around 500,000 Jews in Paris and 80,000 in Marseilles. The UK is second with 300,000 people (two-thirds living in London). In recent years there has been an increase in anti-Semitic acts in many places across Europe.

The Jews have very diverse beliefs. Some are very religious, others practice only the main festivals, others are atheists, or say they are close to Buddhism or Taoism. Even among those who practice Judaism, many believe in reincarnation and some would even say that they do not believe in God, but they practice the Jewish religion because they feel connected to a people and a history. And they can even be Rabbis! Therein lies the complexity of evangelism among the Jews. To be a Jew means belonging to the Hebrew people and/or to practice the Jewish religion.

Jews do not necessarily feel comfortable in our evangelical churches whose language they do not understand. This is why meetings in homes or in a neutral place can be more effective, at least at the beginning.

Several missions, including the Shepherd of Israel and Jews for Jesus, work among the Jews in Europe, but with very few missionaries. There are a few Messianic communities but with few Jews in them. When you think of the effort towards the Jews, who nevertheless represent a large population on a European scale, it is very small.

### Prayer and praise

- Please pray that new workers will come to reach Jewish people in Europe.
- Please pray for the unity of workers who want to reach Jews.
- Please pray for effective strategies, a prayer covering for this people, an awakening from the Lord.
- Please pray that the Jews who wonder about Jesus will meet the right people or come across the right websites.
- Please pray for more multimedia means for Jewish people.

## Whom shall I send? Who will go for us? East-Central Europe

*[Jesus] told them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.' (Luke 10:2)*

Today, we want to pray for East-Central Europeans to reach the unreached in the world.

Did you know that 1 in 25 Ukrainians is an evangelical Christian? And even more in Romania? There are other central and eastern European countries with many evangelical Christians, such as, Moldova and Hungary.

When we were working in Central Asia, a Romanian family moved to our town and we were amazed how quickly they integrated and had a meaningful ministry with locals, sharing about their faith in Jesus Christ. It seems, in part, to have to do with a commonality: Romania and many countries in Central Asia have, at some time, been part of the Soviet Union and their cultures have been influenced by it.

There is so much potential in the East-Central European Church. How can we mobilise and recruit for reaching the unreached globally? May God guide us in WEC about how to mobilise and recruit to advance God's kingdom.

Furthermore, we have made advances in Slovakia and Poland. There are partnerships in place with believers from those countries and initiatives to mobilise, and already five people from here are working with WEC International.

### Prayer and praise

- Pray for a pioneer mobiliser for eastern Europe who has great networking skills.
- Pray for open doors to start networking and mobilising in those countries, especially among the Ukrainian Churches.
- Pray for contacts in the countries who are ready to partner with us, especially Slovakia.
- Pray that many will be called to mission, and that church leaders will be open to partnering with WEC: pray for trust and mutual understanding.



**EVANGELICALS IN  
EAST-CENTRAL EUROPE**  
Romania: 5.4%  
Ukraine: 3.8%  
Moldova: 3.7%  
Hungary: 2.8%  
Slovakia: 1.2%  
Poland: 0.3%

Source: Operation World

# DAY 19

## Gospel opportunities Greece

*For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? Indeed, you are our glory and joy. (1 Thess 2:19-20)*



### GREECE

Capital: Athens
10.4 million people
91.46% christian
0.4% evangelical
50 people groups
10 unreached people groups

Sources: Operation World and Joshua Project

Greece, the birthplace of democracy, has a proud history. When Paul responded to the Macedonian call, Greece became the first country in Europe to receive the gospel. Today, the Orthodox Church is a fundamental part of Greek national identity, so to be Greek is to be Orthodox. Any other expression of Christianity is seen as a threat. Greek Evangelicals from an Orthodox background can be subject to discrimination, harassment and persecution.

In Greece, there are fewer than 100 evangelical churches throughout the country. There are now around 25,000 Greek evangelical Christians and another 10,000 migrant evangelical Christians.

The team is now working in Thessaloniki alongside local churches and believers. We are also working with disabled people. We need workers gifted in evangelism and working in cooperation with the local churches and teams. As Greece becomes a destination or initial entrance point for many refugees, we need workers to reach out to them. So Arabic-speaking workers are becoming more necessary. The Greek church has also caught the vision of reaching the many refugees entering Greece and we are working alongside them in this ministry.

Is there a place for christian workers in Greece today? The answer is "Yes". Today many Greeks have never heard a clear presentation of the gospel.

### We praise God for:

- The team being able to start a new ministry of reaching out to the refugees with the local churches and other teams.
- The new workers who will join the team in the near future.
- Evangelism opportunities among refugees.

### We are trusting God for:

- Spiritual awakening among Greek people and spiritual growth of new believers.
- Prayer that Greek Christians and ministry leaders will continue to catch the vision of church planting and for unity among evangelical Christians.
- The christian organisations working to bring a sense of the hope, the love and the message of Christ to the refugees, in and outside camps.

# Show your power! Germany

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom 5:8)*

About 55% of the population of Germany are nominal members of the official state churches, Protestant or Catholic, of which only a small percentage understand and believe the Bible. The state churches suffer deep divisions on many levels and a steadily declining attendance. Many of the clergy do not even believe in life after death. The need for evangelisation and new church planting projects is great. A small group of Germans belong to independent evangelical churches and about 2% of the whole population are evangelical Christians. They are unevenly distributed, with groups and congregations concentrated in Württemberg, Siegerland and south Saxony. In other parts of Germany evangelical churches are often few and small.

A growing number of Germans do not belong to any religious organisation. Especially in the east the majority of the people are agnostic or atheist. Other parts in the west, while superficially christianised, have never been evangelised. The northern plains, Bavaria and the Eifel are almost devoid of a live, evangelical witness.

About 6% of the population are muslim. In particular, Turks, together with Kurds, who have lived and worked in Germany for many years, have never been reached. They often live in ethnic ghettos with only minimal integration into German society. Islamic organisations, mosques and prayer houses are intensifying their activities.

WEC workers are supporting local churches in their efforts to reach Muslims in Germany. WEC also wants to reach many of the people to whom the name of Jesus is not known at all, especially in the northeastern part of the country.

### Prayer and praise

- May God reveal Himself to those, who have not even heard of the Lord Jesus Christ: their Creator and Saviour.
- May God put a burden for the unreached on the hearts of many churches in Germany.
- May God unite Christians with love and strategy to take steps together.

# DAY 20



### GERMANY

Capital: Berlin
83.7 million people
64.25% christian
2.1% evangelical
92 people groups
25 unreached people groups (27.5%)

Sources: Joshua Project and Operation World

# DAY 21

## Where two or three are gathered in my name ... The unreached of Portugal

*In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents. (Luke 15:10)*



Rural Portugal may not have the bustle of Lisbon nor the riverside views of Porto but it has a simplicity that stirs up feelings of nostalgia. The pastor turns to me and his intern, and apologises for driving so fast, but unfortunately, we are already late.

Soon we pull up in front of a small row of white buildings and start to walk towards what looks like a Portuguese country house. As we get closer, I notice the sign on the stone wall which says "Igreja Evangélica" (evangelical church). We go inside into a small room - no larger than a living room - with a few rows of wooden chairs and a little platform at the front. The first thing I notice is that it is colder in here than it is outside, so I quickly take a seat at the front, close to the electric heater. The pastor tells me that everyone is already here so we are going to start. I am surprised as I look around the room and see no more than seven people, mostly elderly, wrapped up in big black winter coats, waiting patiently.

A tall man, who looks to be in his 70s, takes to the lectern to begin the meeting in prayer. He pauses for a moment, then proceeds to raise his voice, look to the heavens and cry for God to come to their town, to send pastors, to turn hearts towards Jesus and to grow their congregation in this little unknown town. I turn around to see the six remaining saints falling to their knees and crying out almost in unison: "Amen. Amen. Come God! Come!"

### Prayer

- The average rural church community in Portugal has fewer than 20 members. Pray for God to grow these congregations and bring pastors to these areas.
- Seven out of 10 evangelical Christians live inside Lisbon, Porto and Setúbal. Pray that the evangelical church would grow in the rest of Portugal.
- Pray particularly for the localities of Vila Real, Viseu, Guarda, Bragança, Castelo Branco, Beja, Leiria, Portalegre, Madeira and Azores. Here there are many towns without an evangelical community.
- Out of the total of 233 municipalities in Portugal, 65 have no known evangelical community at all. Please pray for these 65 areas that God would send more workers and missionaries to send forth His gospel and plant churches.

### PORTUGAL

Capital: Lisbon
10 million people
94% christian
3% evangelical
Evangelical annual growth rate 3.37%
42 people groups
6 unreached people groups (14%)

Sources: Joshua Project and Operation World

# Turkish-speaking people Europe

*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. (Isa 9:2)*

In Europe there are about 7 million people with Turkish and Turkish-Kurdish backgrounds. About half of them live in Germany.

Around 120,000 people from Turkey are living in Switzerland, most of them in the cantons of Zurich, Aargau and Basel. Almost all of them are Muslims; only a few have a christian background, eg Armenian.

In Turkey, the majority of people are Sunni Muslims, while in Switzerland the proportion of Turkish-speaking Kurds is higher. Most Kurds are Alevis, members of a moderate movement in Islam that is not really accepted by the Sunnis. In addition, the difficult political situation in Turkey is causing many Kurds to emigrate.

Many are able to adapt, more or less, to life in Switzerland; some of them are well organised in their own communities within mosques or cultural associations, which makes it rather difficult to reach them with the good news of Jesus Christ.

About 100 to 200 Turkish speakers call themselves followers of Jesus. In some places there are christian meetings for them: others attend a local church. For many, living a life in "freedom in Christ" (Gal 5:1) is difficult due to poor integration into local churches/fellowships, where they could experience discipleship with others, and to being trapped in occult practices from popular Islam/folk Islam.

### We praise God for:

- Those who came to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.
- Churches that welcome Turkish speakers and help them to integrate.
- Efforts to reach these people with the good news of Christ.

### We are trusting God for:

- "the Lord of the harvest" (Luke 10:2) to call more workers into the harvest field among Turkish-speaking people.
- Many to find and live in a new-found freedom in Christ.
- Turkish believers to be well integrated into churches and fellowships, and for them to have a desire to tell their peers about Jesus Christ.

# DAY 22



### TURKISH-SPEAKING PEOPLE IN EUROPE

Germany: 3-3.5 million
France: 1 million
Bulgaria: 800,000
UK: 500,000
Netherlands: 480,000
Austria: 360,000+
Greece: 350,000
Italy: 20,000

Source: Wikipedia

# DAY 23

## Youth: the largest unreached culture today Global youth culture

*I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. (3 John 4)*



Fatima is a Moroccan teenage girl growing up in a muslim family in Rotterdam. She is one of the lucky ones as she comes out of a loving home. We hear many stories about broken families and family situations. She was raised to be a good Muslim, but sometimes is confused as to how to go about things. Like all of her peers, she is constantly on social media; TikTok is the thing now! She was in tears about the fact that she could not get tickets for the BTS (K-pop) tour in Rotterdam. It is quite usual to have a bit of FOMO\* at this age, but I see social media gives her a lot of stress, including getting pictures and messages from boys she does not want to see or hear.

Peer pressure seems to be enormous. Being called a loser is the worst thing that can happen to you. For example, it is felt that you cannot run away from a fight where knives are used. Fatima is an outspoken girl (that's an understatement) but, when visiting her home, I see a completely different side to her. Her parents are really trying, but for the most part don't seem to know about, let alone understand, her social (media) life. If she's calm, she really is a lovely girl and quite interested in religion and church and asks a lot of questions. Knowing I'm a Christian she wants to know what we believe and how we do things.

Luke Greenwood (Steiger Europe) describes the global youth culture as the largest unreached culture today. The youth have a spiritual hunger; they are desperately in need of truth in love and true community. Let us start, but not stop, by praying to make that happen.

\*FOMO: fear of missing out

### Prayer and praise

- Pray for the spirit of our youth that they will not be lost in stress, depression or a "don't care" mentality.
- Pray for God to awaken passion in the hearts of churches and mission organisations, and in WEC specifically. Pray that God will call people with open, warm hearts and creative minds to reach out, through creative ministries, to these precious people of God who hold the future.
- Pray that God will mobilise this generation to use their passion for His glory.

# Leaving cheese, chocolate and comfort zone for a God-adventure Switzerland

*'Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. (Luke 12:32-33)*

When you think of Switzerland, maybe chocolate, cheese and watches come to your mind. But Switzerland is foremost a country with a lot of rich people. A christian foundation, a good government, a high-quality education, a strong working ethos, a humanitarian tradition, international relations and being spared from wars have brought the Swiss wealth and social welfare. To leave security and comfort behind for missions, to pray for the nations or to give generously is a challenge.

30% of the people living in Switzerland are foreign-born, one of the highest rates in the world. Another trend is the ageing population. Many people who retire find themselves in good health and want to be active.

This is the context which the Swiss branch must address. Time and again we see young people who embark on the adventure of a life fully dependant on the Lord. About 25 people go on a short-term mission a year, while we hope for about eight people a year to prepare for long-term involvement.

### We praise God for:

- The continued commitment of the Swiss Christians to world evangelisation.
- The good number of short-term and long-term members every year.
- The 25 people working at the Sending Base, most of them part-time.

### We are trusting God for:

- Young people to leave their security and comfort zone behind and step out into missions where God may make use of their skills.
- Retired people to share the gospel abroad and contribute to community-building.
- Our Sending Base staff to receive full support from churches and friends.

# DAY 24



<b>SWITZERLAND</b>
Capital: Bern
8.6 million people
Official languages: German, French, Italian and Romansh
76% christian
3.9% evangelical
Evangelical annual growth rate 1.2%
41 people groups
8 unreached people groups (20%)

Sources: Joshua Project and Wikipedia

# DAY 25

## New vision for here and beyond Romania

*Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" (Isa 6:8)*



<b>ROMANIA</b>
Capital: Bucharest
19.24 million people
96.96% christian
5.4% evangelical
32 people groups
7 unreached people groups

Source: Operation World and Joshua Project

As you travel to Romania, you can find young people speaking English with ease. After Romania joined the EU many people moved to Italy, Germany, Spain, the UK, Canada, and the USA. About 6.6 million Romanians live outside the country now, with all families connected with the diaspora. This makes Romanians quite welcoming to other cultures and languages. Their open and friendly mindset encourages people to go out and explore.

Romanians are the major people group here. There are small numbers of Romani, Hungarians, Saxons, Turks and Jews. Around 86.7% of Romanians identify as Orthodox. Evangelical Christians include Pentecostals (1.8%), Baptists (0.56%) and Brethren (0.16%). Hungarians, living in central and northwestern areas, are either Catholic or Reformed.

Eastern and Southern Romania are still mostly unreached. Evangelical Christians are under social pressure, being easily identified with any sect or cult. Romanian churches are focusing on mission in the southern area. The Orthodox church puts priority on tradition and ritual, rather than the Bible or faith. People are under the influence of legalism. Evangelical churches founded by former Orthodox Christians still have strict behavioural and dress codes. Because of this tradition, the church struggles to find ways to reach the modern, secular society.

We need more cultural bridges to reach non-Christians. Art and sports are good tools to reach those people. Mission mobilisation with the Kairos course is going on, as well as CCC (formerly known as Children in Crisis Care) ministries, but it is very slow and hard to see the fruit.

Many Romani children in rural areas are abused by alcoholic parents and forced to beg in the streets. Girls from the rural areas are enticed or kidnapped for human trafficking in western Europe and end up in sex slavery. They need teachers who can help young kids to study continuously and help them to know Jesus Christ.

### Pray for

- the Romanian evangelical church to embrace mission to Romania and beyond.
- the rural areas lacking education and church plants.
- the southeast part of Romania to be evangelised.

# Ageing populations Europe

*'And afterwards, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.'* (Joel 2: 28)

Due to a number of factors, including increasing health, life expectancy has grown from around 65 in 1960 to 81 today. Birth rates across Europe are rapidly decreasing.

If half of the European population will be over 65 by 2070, this will require a complete rethinking of mission priorities. Care for the elderly could become one of the principal activities of christian mission.

The time of the Covid-19 pandemic has reemphasised that loneliness, isolation and feelings of lack of worth are far greater among the elderly.

Not only will care for the (weaker) elderly be essential but there will also be a tremendous opportunity to tap into the potential for retired people to become "second career" missionaries. Financially independent, mature Christians could be a great asset in reaching the unreached of Europe and further afield. In many societies, especially of a high-context culture, grey hair is treated with great respect.

Of course, we mustn't forget the prayerful influence of many of the older generation who continue, as "prayer warriors", to be the backbone of WEC.

### Pray for

- the elderly in the care homes.
- creative ways to connect with the elderly.
- new ways of recruitment of mission-minded retirees.
- opportunities in our sphere of influence to link the generations.

Main source: 'Missiological Trends in Europe, A Discussion Guide for Branches', Working Group WEC Europe

# DAY 26



# DAY 27

## An open door North Macedonia

*During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. (Acts 16:9-10)*



In Macedonia there is a large number of Albanian, Romani and Turkic groups. Many Macedonian Slavs are nominal Orthodox Christians (70%); however, their churches remain largely empty. One third of the North Macedonian population is Albanian (mainly in the northwest of the country). Almost all Macedonian Albanians are Muslims. There is no evangelical church.

The evangelical witness is now growing, and there is an open door for national believers to reach out to their neighbours with the gospel of Christ. The Macedonian church and pastors have caught a vision to reach out to every area in North Macedonia. This is a daunting task but some churches are now cooperating in trying to start to move outwards.

The team is working in a Romani community called Sutka (Shuto Orizari) in Skopje. Skopje is the city with the largest Romani population in the world: one percent out of its total population. The team is also involved in church planting in partnership with the Evangelical Church of North Macedonia. We would like to see a team of WEC people working in partnership with national evangelistic initiatives and local churches.

### **NORTH MACEDONIA**

Capital: Skopje  
2 million people  
Official languages: Turkish, Romani, Serbian, Bosnian, Aromanian  
64% Eastern Orthodox  
33% muslim  
0.2% evangelical  
23 people groups  
3 unreached people groups

Sources: Operation World and Joshua Project

### **We praise God for:**

- Local churches.
- The Youth Centre for the Romani community in Sutka and for all the staff God has brought, working and serving together.
- Churches and mission groups trying to reach out to Albanian Muslims in North Macedonia.

### **We are trusting God for:**

- The provision of aid to the poor and God's blessings, particularly for people with disabilities and the Romani people.
- New churches established in unreached areas, especially among Albanian Muslims in North Macedonia.
- Revival as new evangelical churches are planted in towns and cities across North Macedonia.

# Together, we can ... The Netherlands

*'You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ... In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.' (Matt 5:14&16)*

In English (and in the older versions of Dutch) you could almost forget that Jesus is making a corporate statement here, saying: "You, my people are the light of the world!" Our individualised thinking steers us almost automatically in the direction of a personal evaluation. But how are we going to be a light as a body? Being like a city on a hill asks indeed for a body. It asks for ears, eyes, hands and feet, it asks for a team. This is our prayer for WEC Netherlands these days: Lord make us, together, a light in this world.

As numbers of immigrants, many of whom are from unreached people groups, are growing in the Netherlands, we need to grow to be more united and purposeful. As they are coming to us, how are we going to reach our new neighbours? The churches can't do it alone, and as a mission organisation we have a lot of experience to offer.

Let's pray for teams in the Netherlands who can be the ears, eyes, hands and feet of Jesus among people who need Him so much. Let's pray that we will be a bright shining light, piercing the darkness.

### **We praise God for:**

- His faithfulness and care for WEC Netherlands, which we can see in all the big and small things. Praise especially for our team in Emmeloord; we now have several workers in our headquarters, the team is growing and we feel we can move forward.
- New candidates, and for wisdom and guidance for the Candidates Director and the participants during their time together at candidate orientation.

### **We are trusting God for:**

- Reinforcement: for new workers to build teams in the Netherlands and abroad to shine God's light in the darkness.
- New projects and teams in the Netherlands, growth in unity and purpose in reaching out to our (new) neighbours in the Netherlands.
- Mobilising: for growing relationships with student organisations, schools and churches to mobilise people into God's mission and for engaging in mission trips.

# DAY 28



### **THE NETHERLANDS**

Capital: Amsterdam  
17 million people  
Official languages: Dutch, English, Papiamentu, West Frisian  
46,55% christian  
4.3% evangelical  
101 people groups  
22 unreached people groups

Sources: Joshua Project and Wikipedia



## Where is the Lord leading us? European Russia

*Pray that the Lord your God will tell us where we should go and what we should do. (Jer 42:3)*



### RUSSIA

Capital: Moscow  
 146 million people  
 66.9% christian  
 1.2% evangelical  
 177 people groups  
 78 unreached people groups  
 (63.2%)

Sources: Operation World and Joshua Project

In Western Russia there are approx. 110 million people. Moscow and St Petersburg are the largest cities in the western part of the world's biggest country. The cities also attract a lot of minorities as migrant workers come from all over Russia and the former Soviet Union.

Our former work in Russia, although continuing in another form, has officially come to an end. We are now researching as to where in Western Russia the Lord is leading us. It is our desire to reach out in word and deed to people who have not yet had a chance to experience the love of Christ personally. Two-thirds of Russians follow Orthodox Christianity; around 1.2% are known as evangelical Christians.

Our focus in the research will be on people groups, geographical areas or segments of society who do not have access to the gospel, who do not know a Follower of Christ to whom they can relate, or who cannot visit a Christ-centred church that would speak to their heart. Often, minorities are overlooked when it comes to church planting. Many of those minorities are from different religions; most of them are Muslims, but there are also Jews, Hindus, Buddhists etc. Due to the different cultural and religious backgrounds it is much harder for them to be invited and welcomed into a mono-ethnic Russian church.

This is an exciting stage of research, as the Lord leads us to start a new initiative.

### Pray for

- clear guidance in the process of research. May the Lord lead us to an area, people group or segment of society that is still entirely unreached!
- good networking with like-minded groups. We don't want to compete with already existing church planting work but complement and partner with our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- security and strategy: sharing the good news is still often misunderstood by the government. Please pray for wisdom in working with the authorities and that our ministry can be seen as a blessing to the community.
- those that the Lord has already called to join the new work!

## No longer excluded! The Soninke in France

*... remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. (Eph 2:12-13)*

- The Soninke are a people spread across at least seven countries in West Africa and with many living outside of Africa as well. The largest population of Soninke outside of Africa are in France, where over 41,000 now reside.
- Global population: 2,706,000
- Spiritually the Soninke are known to be virtually all muslim, although traditional beliefs are usually held alongside those of Islam.
- WEC France is challenged by the fact that the evangelical rate among those Soninke living in France is 0.00%.

Please stand with us in prayer today.

### Prayer and praise

- We are delighted that the Lord has given us a couple who are working with the Soninke in Paris. Please pray for the contacts they have and for more bridges to reach out to them.
- Pray for more workers. We would like to see a bigger team working among the Soninke in Paris.



# DAY 31

## Taste and see Mobilising in France

*There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. So Moses thought, 'I will go over and see this strange sight - why the bush does not burn up.'* (Ex 3:2-3)



<b>FRANCE</b>
Capital: Paris
65.27 million people
61.14% christian
8.8% muslim
1% evangelical
116 people groups
37 unreached people groups

Sources: Joshua Project

For the past three years, in WEC France, we have believed that God has been asking us to be like this “burning bush”. God used this burning bush to draw the attention of Moses, who then was used by God to deliver his people.

Our strategy is simple: we want those called by God “to come and see”. When we identify a potential candidate, we invite them to visit and to get to know our team here. The candidate can stay at the French WEC Headquarters free of charge, for three days.

We spend time with the candidate, explaining to them WEC’s vision, values and how we function. The form “En route” is an important recruitment tool for us. In this way, the candidate can have a pretty clear idea of the different steps that they need to take in order to reach their goals.

### We praise God for:

- All the work of remodelling the French WEC house so that we can receive and host candidates.
- The fact that most of the candidates coming to visit us take the decision to get involved in mission, short or long term.
- The increase of people doing short-term trips.

### We are trusting God for:

- Wisdom as to how to go about short-term trips in the time of global travel restrictions
- The finances needed to finish paying for the French WEC house.
- A Short Term Coordinator (STC) for beginning of 2021. The one currently responsible will leave in the middle of next year and we pray that God will send us someone capable of continuing her extraordinary work.

# Love overcoming fear Somali in the UK

*Now Jericho was tightly shut up ... No one went out and no one came in. (Josh 6:1, Berean Study Bible)*

Rahab knew that God was powerful. Her deliverance came later when the Israelites obeyed God. People on the estate are in fear, waiting (like Rahab) for deliverance and salvation.

The Somali population in Leicester could be as high as 20,000. On one estate of around 4,000 people, half are Somali. For decades, it has had a reputation as a deprived and difficult area. There are at least 12 mosques on the estate.

The estate is isolated, surrounded by dual carriageways and so few people pass through. Outsiders are reluctant to step into this community, assuming, rightly or wrongly, that the people there will not welcome them and do not want their friendship.

There is a lack of freedom or understanding to think for themselves, even about what they can do, or where they can go.

After about 18 months I was introduced to a leader of a Somali community centre. I have been building relationships with those who come to the centre for English classes, and helping with events, for example, a meeting with people from the NHS who wanted to know more about health needs among the Somali community.

### Pray for

- more people to work among the Somali community.
- strongholds of Islam to be broken.
- fear to be replaced with God’s love.
- enquiring hearts and minds to ask what they believe and why.
- English classes with the women.

# DAY 32



There are significant Somali communities in:

the UK: 108,000 (2018)
Sweden: 66,369 (2016)
Norway: 43,196 (2016)
the Netherlands: 39,465 (2016)
Germany: 38,675 (2016)
Denmark: 21,050 (2016)
Finland: 20,007 (2017).

Source: wikipedia.org, June 2020

According to Joshua Project the percentage of evangelicals among Somalis living in the countries listed above is 0.00%.

# DAY 33

## From anywhere to everywhere More workers from and for Europe

*'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'* (Acts 1:8)



Where in the world are the most unreached people? People who do not have a genuine chance to receive the love of Christ? Many would say that the unreached are somewhere in Africa, the Middle East, or parts of Asia, which is certainly true. If one asks the same question in Asia or Africa, people would also mention Europe and it is true as well. Mission is nowadays from anywhere to everywhere! This is what we want to pray for today.

In WEC we strongly sense and see that Europeans are a great blessing in many parts of the world. They share the good news in word and deed among the unreached. They come from a multi-cultural context, with good education and a heritage of mission. Let's pray for a new generation of intercultural workers, that they might be agents of God's grace in this world.

At the same time Europe has become a needy continent, spiritually, socially and in some contexts physically. Europe is in need of receiving many Spirit-filled and creative workers who can reach the unreached here. Europeans are sometimes more open to receiving the gospel from a person from the Global South than from a fellow countryman.

Where is our "Jerusalem", "Judea", "Samaria" and the "ends of the world"? It depends where you live! How do we set priorities to the different "destinations"? Many churches in Europe have put more emphasis on reaching their Jerusalem (neighbourhood), Judea (countrymen) or Samaria (migrants) but have lost the vision for reaching "to the end of the earth".

### Pray for

- a new generation of workers from Europe to bless the least reached in the world.
- the European churches to recognise world mission as a part of Jesus' commission.
- more workers from non-European countries despite the visa challenges and immigration restrictions.
- good ministry options in Europe for workers so that Europeans can discover the love of God.
- good contextualisation of our work to the context in and out of Europe so people can grasp what Jesus Christ did for them.

## How to get involved

There are many ways to get involved in the worldwide endeavour for Christ. Depending mainly on your calling, not your age or circumstances, we invite you to prayerfully consider what this could be!

"Christ wants not nibblers of the possible, but grabbers of the impossible, by faith in the omnipotence, fidelity, and wisdom of the Almighty Saviour who gave the command. Is there a wall in our path? By our God we will leap over it!" CT Studd, founder of WEC.

These are exciting times! God is mobilising His worldwide church to partner with Him as never before. Mission is no longer the private affair of a few specialists "out there", but the whole church taking the whole gospel throughout the whole world.

**Pray!** Prayer is at the heart of WEC's work around the world. Prayer not only changes people, situations and even the course of history, but also those who pray! It is dangerous for the enemy and also "dangerous" for you.

We have a number of resources to inform and fuel prayer for what God is doing in the world through WEC and beyond: resources like *Operation World* and the children's version *Window on the World*.

**Go!** As followers of Christ we received power when the Holy Spirit came on us and we will be Jesus' witnesses in Jerusalem - where you now live, in all Judea - your own country, and Samaria - the other ethnic groups in your country, eg migrants, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). **Where is God leading you?** This is not dependant on age or circumstances; be courageous and explore your calling! We are keen to come alongside you and find out, together with you, what God has for you!

**Disciple!** That is indeed the main job on earth that God has given us (Matt 28:19-20). **Whom in your circle of influence has God entrusted to you to disciple?**

**Mobilise!** Instead of going yourself, you could mobilise many to go. Maybe God has given you the gift of mobilising? Please contact us!



*"Christ wants not nibblers of the possible, but grabbers of the impossible, by faith in the omnipotence, fidelity, and wisdom of the Almighty Saviour who gave the command. Is there a wall in our path? By our God we will leap over it!"  
CT Studd, founder of WEC*

*Mission is the whole church taking the whole gospel throughout the whole world.*

## How to get involved (continued)

- **Support!** Supporting includes financial aid but means far more than that. All of the possibilities mentioned above are ways to support. The key is to do what God has put on your heart. It's not about comparing with others or not feeling suitable to engage in missions. The New Testament, as well as history, shows us that one person can make a huge difference!

Looking forward to partnering with you!

## Thank you

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We thank our triune God for His salvation and for the privilege of being able to walk and work alongside Him for the spreading of His gospel and the promoting of His Kingdom. We are His beloved children. May, through the initiated prayers, His glory become more and more visible in Europe.

**Chris and Betty Hund and Michael and Gabriella Baltensperger**  
The European AD-Team

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