

the official online publication of **ONE MISSION** OMS · ONE MISSION SOCIETY | Jan-Apr 2023

# OUTREACH ONLINE

## Revitalizing Christ-Centered Communities in Europe

DESIGN HOTEL · DOMUS BALTHASAR

**READ INSIDE:**

*Stories from our OMS Europe and Middle East regional missionaries*

## Re-reaching a Region



Around 30 years ago, while studying missiology in graduate school, I learned that most historians credit the beginning of the “modern” Protestant missionary movement, which began in Europe, to well-known English pioneer missionary William

Carey in the late 1700s. Much

earlier, the apostle Paul likely shared about Jesus in Spain and throughout the Middle East. Yet, today, this region is one of the least-reached parts of the world. Many in this area have seemingly turned cold to the Gospel message.

Despite this reality, One Mission Society (OMS) is faithfully working to revitalize the people, communities, and churches in several countries of this region. This issue of *OMS Outreach* shares exciting news about God growing and multiplying disciples in Hungary, Ukraine, Spain, Ireland, Israel, Estonia, Italy, and other countries.

We hope you enjoy this revitalizing journey through Europe and the Middle East!

*Susan Loobie*

Editor, *OMS Outreach*

sloobie@onemissionsociety.org

Follow us on:     

MISSION NEXUS



linkedin.com/company/one-mission-society  
facebook.com/onemissionsociety  
twitter.com/1MissionSociety  
youtube.com/user/OMScommunications  
instagram.com/onemissionsociety

*Outreach Online* equips Christians to make disciples of Jesus Christ through informative, inspiring, and involvement-driven articles, which leads to deeper missions participation through serving, giving, and praying.

### Editor and Director of Communications

Susan Griswold Loobie

### Associate Editor

Lydia Gard

### Senior Graphic Designer

W. Foster Pilcher

### President

Jeffrey Edwards

### Executive Director of Global Ministries

Chris Williams

### Signatory Country Leaders

Australia—Ian\*

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

Canada—Mark Kroes

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

New Zealand—Stephen McCurdy

[www.onemissionsociety.org.nz](http://www.onemissionsociety.org.nz)

United Kingdom—Walter McCorkell

[www.onemissionsociety.org.uk](http://www.onemissionsociety.org.uk)

United States—TBD

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

### One Mission Society

World Headquarters

941 Fry Road • Greenwood, IN 46142-6599

317.888.3333 • 317.888.5275 FAX

[editor@onemissionsociety.org](mailto:editor@onemissionsociety.org)

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

**Cover Photo:** Ceyda Çiftci on Unsplash

All photos courtesy of missionaries, volunteers, stock images, and other partner churches of One Mission Society unless otherwise noted.

One Mission Society is an evangelical, interdenominational faith mission, focusing on multiplying disciples, churches, leaders, and missionaries. We engage the one to reach the many throughout Africa, Asia/Pacific, Europe/Middle East, and Latin America/Caribbean.

**Subscriptions:** *Outreach Online* is the official online publication of One Mission Society and is posted three times per year. You may subscribe for free at [outreach.oms.media](http://outreach.oms.media).

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Copyright © 2023 One Mission Society.  
All rights reserved.



## Investing Elbow Grease

What do you think of when you hear the word “revitalize”? I picture someone finding an old rocking chair covered in dust and cobwebs in an abandoned attic, ready to see new life. By investing time, elbow grease, and skill, what was once forgotten can again become a valuable piece of furniture, maybe to rock a crying baby to sleep or simply to relax in at the end of the day.

Captivating stories of church growth abound in places like Latin America and Africa. But my impression is that some people have relegated Europe and the Middle East to the abandoned attic of the Christian world. Perhaps surprisingly to many, the church is not dead in these regions! Modern culture wants to assign Christianity to an ignorable “post-Christian” attic space where it accumulates cultural and historical dust in the shadows of progressive modernization. However, modern culture doesn’t realize that nothing will prevail against the church of Jesus Christ (Matthew 16:18). Jesus has already won, and one day “every knee will bow” before him (Philippians 2:10).

In the meantime, God has mandated OMS (along with every Christian) to be his agent of change to invigorate his church and help fulfill the Great Commission worldwide. This includes Europe and the Middle East.

In this edition of *OMS Outreach*, you will discover how God is using OMS to renew his church throughout this area. Will you consider joining us in our mission to see Christ exalted and glorified in this region?

For Christ and his kingdom,

Jeffrey Max Edwards



# The Missionary Heart

| By Jonathan Long, OMS Europe/Middle East Regional Director

**Every OMS missionary's heart** desires to see lives transformed. Every day, we meet people where we live and minister who are searching for hope, peace, and joy. Some of those include our small group (Bible study) members in Budapest. Here is what a few growing disciples said about the ministry:

*"Why is it good to be in a small group? Together, we study the Bible, share experiences, and help our friends, who study with us, on their journey to God. It is good that we can trust each other. They pray for me, and I pray for them."*

*"Regular Bible reading is becoming a deeper habit in my life, and the words of the Word are shaping my way of thinking, my character."*

*"I recommend that everyone be in a small group. It grows our relationships with God, deepens our biblical knowledge, makes us more curious about the treasures of the Bible, and helps us grow closer to each other."*

As OMS missionaries, we leave our homes and, for some, the security of our former jobs to share that Jesus is the source of the hope people seek. We have a deep passion to see people reborn and dramatically transformed. Scripture describes it in these terms ... "darkness to light" ... "death to life" ... "a new creation."

Only the Holy Spirit can make this drastic transformation in the human heart. However, he invites us all to participate as catalysts of this change. Christ intended for all of his followers to play a critical role in bringing people into life-changing relationships with him. By living out our faith as the body of Christ, we



join Christ's Great Commission to become and make disciples.

Sadly, Europe and the Middle East, once the source of great church growth and theological teaching, seem to have strayed from the art of disciple-making. Postmodern thinking has impacted cultures tremendously, and the church has been relegated as an ineffectual part of people's lives. It seems like a dire situation.

But as a believer and an optimist, I know there is hope! Though church attendance is declining, people are no less hungry for purpose and meaning in their lives. They are no less needy of love, acceptance, accountability, and belonging. In recent years, we have seen church communities that desire to revive disciple-making. Every church we partner with has many believers who want to make a difference.

These new disciples are looking into their communities and seeing the need to make an impact. We have an opportunity to partner with them by dreaming and planning ways to practically exemplify God's love. Disciple-making and community impact go hand in hand. Grow deep! Grow wide! Ours is a vision of total community revitalization.

Today, historical and young churches alike are being revitalized by a disciple-making movement, with roots that are spreading. A church of fervent disciple-makers is rising up, and we, the OMS Europe/Middle East team, are praying for an outright transformation of our region, beginning in our churches and spreading to unreached hearts.

I invite you to join us. Perhaps you can prayerfully or financially support an OMS ministry or missionary in our region. Maybe God is calling you to step out and serve with us in a region that greatly needs more missionaries. ▲



# Not About the Bikes

| By Bradley McKinney,  
| OMS Italy Disciple-Maker

**The island of Sicily** has received almost 200,000 refugees in the last 5 years—130,000 of those in the last 2—not counting many who died while crossing the sea. Most have come from Muslim majority countries where the Gospel cannot be openly shared. Too many have never had the opportunity to hear the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is why my wife and I serve in Sicily.

We not only strive to share the Gospel among these people who have left their homes and communities, but we also want to make disciples who will form new communities as the body of Christ and, in turn, make more disciples. We use simple, reproducible methods to share the Gospel, disciple believers, and invite them to join in expanding God's kingdom on earth as disciple-makers.

Much of what we do centers around the Agape Bici bicycle shop and adjoining Agape Center. Through the bike shop, we serve refugees in several ways. First, we fix anyone's bike for free or for a free-will offering. But preferably, instead of doing it for them, we teach them to fix their own bikes. Second, we give refugees and Sicilians used bikes after we repair them together. They use these bikes to get to work or school. Finally, we offer a bicycle mechanic apprenticeship program where individuals learn everything they need to know to fix bikes and to run a small business. Once they finish the course, they receive a certificate and a complete bike repair tool kit.

This shop is not primarily about bicycles. Interactions and connections here provide opportunities to work side by side while having great conversations about faith and Jesus with people we would never meet otherwise. We build relationships that are strong enough to support important and difficult discussions. Because we develop these friendships, we get to study the Bible with believers and non-believers and disciple these people whom God is calling. As people come to believe, we welcome them into the community forming around the bike shop and Agape Center. In the

midst of this community, true disciples are formed, and the body of Christ is alive. Its members learn to make disciples and multiply God's image no matter where they end up ... in Sicily, in Europe, or back in their home countries. This is the exciting stuff! The bicycles just create a way to get to it.

Are you interested in helping refugees hear the Gospel, possibly for the first time, and learn to make disciples of Jesus? We would love for you to partner with us in what God is doing among refugees in Sicily. Email [go@onemissionsociety.org](mailto:go@onemissionsociety.org) for more information.



**photos, pages 6-7:** Ministry at Agape Bici includes fixing bicycles, teaching bike owners to fix their bikes, and making Gospel connections in a safe environment.



# Around the World of **One Mission Society**



## **Colombia**

In the middle of banana plantations, outside of the rural town of Chigorodo, Colombia, an OMS Men for Missions (MFM) team, made up of men from Kentucky, Indiana, and Oklahoma, helped build a parsonage for a local pastor of our OMS-related IGLEICO denomination in September 2022.

In addition to the MFM short-term workers, God used our OMS Colombia missionaries, two IGLEICO pastoral couples, and many church members from the area to bless this pastoral couple.

## **Togo**

The Africa Village Church Planting Supervisors' Seminar took place in Lomé, Togo, from September 20–27. Our 9 senior African leaders and 11 leaders from the U.S. gathered for a week of reporting, fellowship, and instruction. Executive director of Global Ministries, Chris Williams, was warmly welcomed on this, his first trip to Africa.

We also rejoice that eight *JESUS* film backpacks were presented to our supervisors.

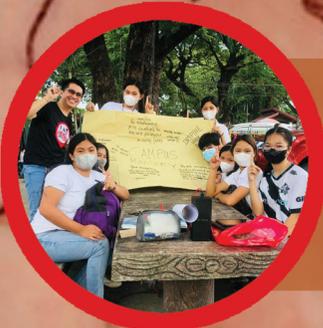


## Ireland



OMS partners with the “What’s the Story?” evangelistic campaign that is gaining national momentum as it addresses the 6 greatest spiritual questions on the hearts of the Irish people, according to a survey of 1,000 participants. More than 130 collaborating churches have been equipped to engage and impact their communities for Christ by addressing these questions through thought-provoking online content, video resources, and materials.

## Philippines



In the first quarter of 2022, the OMS Philippines team returned to face-to-face campus ministry. When they shared the vision of the ministry, it ignited the passion of the student leaders, and they clearly grasped the urgency of the Great Commission. Each of the campus workers has prepared teams to make disciples who make disciples on their campuses.

## South Korea

The 20<sup>th</sup> annual Cowman Lectures were held at Seoul Theological University on October 4 and 7. OMS sends a speaker each year to present lectures for the seminary students and faculty. This year, Daryl McCarthy spoke on “Theology that Transforms Individuals, Nations, and All of Life,” learning from John Wesley.



## Southeast Asia



We praise the Lord for the training that took place from July–September 2022 in which 393 new church planters were equipped to share the Gospel with unreached peoples in this nation. Additionally, 375 people received Christ, 80 were baptized, 43 new small groups started, and 3 new churches were planted.



**On the northeastern border** of Europe lies Estonia, a small country of 1.3 million people. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, Estonia has developed a reputation for cutting-edge technology, e-government, and high-level education. Estonia is also known as non-religious and considered one of the most agnostic countries in Europe.

While there are active Christian congregations here, they struggle to grow in a society where religion as an institution is stigmatized. Inside the church, people stand by faith despite a lack of resources, teaching materials in the local languages, or strong communities.

The revitalization of the church starts by empowering those who are its pillars today. Pastors, missionaries, and volunteer workers often show signs of loneliness and fatigue. Investing in these people is essential so they can be encouraged in their relationships with God and sustainably serve in a balanced manner, with joy and spiritual boldness.

Six years ago, my husband Mark and I started a “Bible Teaching Day” to revitalize communities through learning and fellowship. Estonia does not have traditional Sunday school for adults, so for many, the Sunday church service offers the only

source of biblical teaching and fellowship. Our Bible Teaching Day project started in southern Estonia, involving four congregations. We were amazed that most active members of each congregation were willing to gather for a Saturday filled with Bible study and camaraderie. As a result, those four congregations started to interact with and support each other. After a few years, we took the project to northern Estonia, where we saw the same thing happen.

We generally notice that for Estonian churches to grow, they take a personal approach to ministry. Home services or groups connect through common interests and a much less institutional atmosphere. This shows the necessity of human interaction rather than structured programs. Focusing on this reality, we invested in a missions house in the countryside where we welcome and encourage people and offer a space for informal meetings, teaching, and fellowship. The house needs significant updates to receive people year-round, but in its first summer, it hosted about 60 people. We see great potential in going this direction to revitalize Christ’s church in Estonia. Would you pray with us for future ministry at the mission house?



# Rest for the Weary

| By Amanda Buck, OMS Europe/Middle East Communications

**If you casually mention** the name “Peña de Horeb” in just about any evangelical church throughout Spain, at least one person’s eyes will light up as they launch into a story of how much they love this camp. The camp’s impact runs so deep that some have chosen to have their ashes scattered on the campgrounds. This is the legacy of Peña de Horeb.

Translated from Spanish into English, the camp’s name is “Rock of Horeb,” referencing the famous mountain where Moses received the Ten Commandments and the Jewish people entered into a covenantal relationship with God. The name is an apt reminder of this covenantal relationship for all believers today, and the camp provides a physical space for Christians to remember the promises God has made.

For nearly 50 years, Peña has been a unique place for churches and individuals in Spain to escape the relentless pace of the world and find true rest, as well as a place to offer evangelistic camps for children and adults. The 17-acre campground, situated just above the unbelievably blue Tajo River, offers space for churches and workers to slow down and be refreshed.

Today, the need for this kind of space continues. The world has not slowed down, and the desire for hope is more tangible than ever. People and pastors alike are worn out. Peña offers an alternative to this pace.

*“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly” (Matthew 11:28–30 MSG).*

Unfortunately, the pandemic forced the camp to close for two years. With zero income in those years and the grounds and buildings continuing to need maintenance, reopening has been difficult. Despite these challenges, God remains faithful. Summer 2022 was the busiest on record, despite the two-year shutdown. Clearly, the camp is still vital.

Please pray with us as we invest now so that Camp Peña de Horeb can continue its legacy of pouring into lives for years to come, offering its revitalizing presence to the people of Spain. ▲



By Jacqui Shatto, OMS  
World Intercessors Director

# When God Answers

**Does taking a prayer team** to the Middle East make a difference? Are our prayers really changing Israel? Having recently returned from there, I am humbled by God’s answers to our prayers and by what he has done and is doing through them.

When an OMS prayer team last visited Israel, we prayer-walked around the Karmiel municipality, and we specifically prayed *that God would provide a government leader for Karmiel who would come to know Yeshua as the Messiah and for a government that would work with believers in the region.*

Karmiel has a new mayor. When Moshe, the OMS field leader for Israel, met with the council of messianic leaders in the community, he suggested they invite the mayor to come to their time of worship so they could pray for him and his leadership. The leaders said this has never happened before in Karmiel; it will never happen. But what they said would never happen *did* happen in answer to a prayer. The mayor came and allowed them to pray over him!

On that same visit, we also prayed *that believers in Israel would serve the Lord and share the Gospel in other countries.* God answered that prayer in an unexpected way. When the war in Ukraine started, OMS’ ministry team from Israel was quick to go to Hungary to help refugees crossing the border. Those refugees included many

Jewish Ukrainians who would soon be living in Karmiel, Israel! God often does more than we can imagine. When the mayor of Karmiel saw on Facebook that Moshe was in Ukraine, he contacted him, offering to help the refugees.

Every time we visit, *we pray for ministry to grow.* God is now equipping a young couple, who recently joined this ministry team, to lead discipleship bands, begin an English camp, and work with the youth. God is also providing supporters for new humanitarian projects.

During every visit, *we pray for salvation for the lost in the Middle East.* One recent humanitarian project brought a team member, an Arab Christian pastor, into the home of a Jewish woman who did not have food for her family. The woman asked him, “Why are you doing this? You are an Arab. I am a Jew. Why would you help us?” Her questions opened the door for him to share the Gospel with her, and she accepted Jesus as her Savior!

A government official working with believers, a missionary team from Israel helping in Europe, a growing ministry in the Middle East, and an Arab pastor leading a Jewish woman to salvation in Christ ... God is at work in the prayers of his people. Prayer is changing the Middle East and the lives of those who pray. Will you join us? ▲



**photos, page 12:** This OMS prayer team visited Israel in November to pray for the country.



# Ministering to Ukrainian Pastors

By Amanda Buck,  
OMS Europe/Middle East  
Communications

**A few days after Russia invaded** Ukraine, OMS missionaries were among the first to cross the Hungary–Ukraine border to provide relief and support to Ukrainians. A small OMS team first entered Ukraine on February 27, 2022, carrying a van filled with basic, non-perishable food to be shared with the lines of people waiting at the border to flee from Ukraine. What we didn't know at the time was that this would be the first of many trips. Thanks to our generous OMS supporters, partners, and missionaries, OMS has provided more than 500,000 pounds of food to Ukraine since the war began.

After seeing the great need on our initial trip, our team kicked into high gear, creating a multipronged approach. OMS missionaries from the Europe/Middle East region traveled to the Hungary border to help. At first, the biggest need was helping people safely evacuate Ukraine and navigate their next steps. Translators from the OMS team in Israel, where there is a large Russian and Ukrainian population, were invaluable as they cared for people at the border, offering them assistance and hope in their native tongues. Our missionaries transformed the OMS Ministry Center in Budapest into temporary housing with multiple sleeping cots, a shower, laundry facilities, and even toys and stuffed animals to comfort little ones.

After the initial waves of refugees, Ukraine still desperately needed supplies. We worked alongside national partners in Hungary to create a food order and delivery schedule for six days a week from March to July. After delivering food to our partners in Ukraine, they shared the food, pictured to the right, with cities in need, including

Kharkiv, Bucha, and Mariupol.

As the war continues, the need remains great. Several OMS missionaries have returned to Kyiv to minister to their communities by providing physical help, spiritual support, and prayer during this difficult time.

Our focus has narrowed to specifically supporting the network of pastors our OMS Ukraine team works with. Most of these pastors are absolutely worn out. They have been giving everything to their communities for nearly a year, often leaving themselves and their families with nothing. Because they didn't evacuate their homes, choosing instead to stay and serve their communities in the midst of war, they do not qualify for Ukrainian governmental relief and often go without necessities. To fill this gap, OMS has created pastor relief pallets of food and supplies to sustain our network of 320 pastors and their families for a month at a time.

We value your prayers and donations as this war continues. Together, we are the hands and feet of Jesus for those in desperate need.



photo, page 13: OMS teams work alongside national partners in Hungary to create a food order and delivery system.

A close-up photograph of four small green seedlings growing out of dark brown soil. The seedlings are at various stages of growth, with some having two leaves and others just starting to emerge. The soil is rich and textured, with some small rocks and organic matter visible. The background is a soft, out-of-focus brown, suggesting a garden setting.

# Planting the Gospel

| By Jonny Pollock,  
OMS Ireland Disciple-Maker

A few years ago, my family planted some vegetables in our garden. It was a joyous experience full of laughter, grubby hands, and grand visions of the harvest. The next morning, the kids hurried out to the garden expectantly, only to find ... nothing. No shoots, no growth, no harvest. This happened for a few days, and even the first green shoots brought disappointment. As we explored their disappointment, we realized that they thought the passionate and energetic start would result in flourishing, easily observable, and immediate fruit. They were disappointed because it seemed nothing was happening.

Some assume that Ireland is a historic hotbed of Christianity, an ancient Celtic people who transformed the world as saints and scholars, a fertile soil. However, the nation of Ireland is tired of religion and the perceived shackles it brings. Yet, one commentator explains that Ireland is not finished with God but rather with a religion that is holding it ransom. The results of this weariness are skepticism, doubt, guilt, and a misunderstanding of God, all of which are muddied by history, struggle, shame, and abuse. My family and I minister in Ireland, recognizing this as a humbling experience that helps us enter into a people's pain. Nevertheless, we have a God who is great, a Gospel that is beautiful, and a commission to carry out. So, how do we reach out with the Good News, and what do we need to understand before sharing?

**1. The soil might be hard, but our God is able.** Ireland is the least-reached English-speaking country in the world, with less than one percent of the population claiming evangelical Christianity. This culture makes planting Gospel seeds a challenge. We have learned that, rather than becoming overwhelmed by the whole culture, we should focus on the biblical concept of sharing our lives and the Gospel with those God

places around us. We are called to start by reaching our families, friends, and neighbors, not entire towns or cities. Instead of seeing the fields and lamenting the scale of the work, we can see the souls of those around us and faithfully pray and share Christ with them.

**2. We are Gospel planters.** We are not marketers, influencers, or communicators. We know these things can help, but first, we are Gospel witnesses. Our evangelism overflows from our Gospel joy to those around us. This means that we aren't called to plant churches but to plant the Gospel. Of course, a church is an inevitable outcome of a transformed and redeemed people, but once we begin prioritizing strategy over Gospel ministry, our posture negatively changes. In the Irish culture, we do not need large-scale events or campaigns; we need more acts of everyday Gospel faithfulness.

**3. The harvest is in God's hands.** This connects with my children's struggle in my opening illustration. We are sowing seeds of the Gospel but may never see the harvest. However, as humbling and sometimes frustrating as this is, it reminds us that the harvest is in God's hands. He alone breaks strongholds; he alone transforms hearts; and he alone gets the glory, honor, and praise.



*"The harvest is in  
God's hands."*





# Ukraine:

## A Collection of War Stories

| By Randy Marshall, OMS Ukraine, Disciple-Maker

*People used to have a hard time finding Ukraine on a map, or they just considered it a suburb of Russia. Now, Ukraine has captured the world's eyes and hearts almost one year into the war. Here are a few stories of Ukrainian refugees who have passed through OMS' 12-bed ministry center/ shelter in Budapest, Hungary, seeking safety from the war in Ukraine.*



**One couple came to the OMS shelter in shock (pictured with Randy).** They were so on edge they couldn't even sleep. They lived in an eastern Ukrainian city near Lugansk that has been heavily bombed. They slept in their own beds the first night of the war then spent 24 days in a bomb shelter. The electricity was out, and the only time they had lighting was when they ate. The light came from harvested batteries some of the men had gathered from abandoned trolleybuses. Otherwise, they

lived in darkness and listened to bombs shaking the earth above them.

This couple visited their house once (pictured on page 16), but the windows were blown out, and everything was frozen. When they finally escaped the city, a missile exploded just around the corner—scaring them but only damaging a building.

Thankfully, they made it to Switzerland and reunited with their daughter. A farmer there even gave them a small plot of land where they could plant vegetables. “We have our own *dacha* (cottage) in Switzerland,” they said, expressing thankfulness to God for all the help they received during their evacuation.



**Another couple of families who stayed at the OMS shelter evacuated from Kharkiv, a large town near the Russian border in northeastern Ukraine that has been under heavy attack.** One of the women, Lena (red hair, pictured with Randy and Lena's daughter), shared that she learned to distinguish sounds of the various missiles that were exploding in their city because she heard them so often. “No woman should be able to do that,” she said in Russian. She remembers cooking borscht in

her kitchen while bombs were falling and deciding not to run for the shelter because they fell so often.

Unfortunately, she had to leave her husband behind—no men between 18 and 60 are allowed to leave Ukraine. That's why most of the refugees are women and children. She escaped with her teenage daughter, who was amazed at all the assistance they received along the way—food, lodging, and transport. “Mom, God really loves us,” she said. Her comment surprised Lena since they didn't usually talk much about spiritual things.



**One young woman, Olya (center with Randy and Shelley, his wife), came through Budapest with her aging mother on their way to Belgium.**

They evacuated from Kyiv when medical supplies started waning. Her mother had surgery in early January 2022, and she needed medicine and bandages, which had become scarce. During their brief stay in Budapest, with a feeling of peace and safety, this woman's mother took her first walk since her surgery. She looked out over the Danube

River and enjoyed the nighttime lights of Budapest. The walk “was so important for my mom—to have a gulp of fresh air!” said Olya.

Please continue to pray with us for peace in Ukraine. ▲



# Sometimes, We Need to **Go**

| By Kylie Lau, OMS Asia/Pacific, Disciple-Maker

Being the  
Hands and Feet  
of Jesus  
in Ukraine

**As tears fell down** my new friend's cheeks, I stepped forward and hugged her. Her heart broke with grief over the war in Ukraine and its impact on her family and community. As we held each other and cried in her hometown in Ukraine, I reflected afresh on the fact that many needs will never be met through donations alone.

I am an OMS missionary, living in South Korea and serving the Asia/Pacific region. Since the war in Ukraine started, I have prayed and hoped I could help in some way. I sent money, but that felt incomplete to me. I heard about the needs of our OMS Hungary team on a Friday afternoon. The call requested drivers of manual transmission vans and Russian speakers to make supply runs to and from the Hungary-Ukraine border. I can drive, and my coworker Hannah speaks Russian. The next morning, we booked our tickets, and we hopped on a plane the day after that.

In Hungary, we averaged 15-hour days, our muscles got good workouts from moving more than 4,400 pounds of food and other materials each trip, and we managed to have 3 significant car repair “adventures.” The roles we played felt vastly inconsequential in the grand scheme of the amount of need in Ukraine. Despite the overwhelming big picture, we found that being a tiny cog in a massive machine was extremely refreshing and life-giving.

God is doing the work, and he just asked me to take a small part. I didn’t end the war, and I don’t even have stories about people making Gospel commitments because of our interactions. Instead, I had the privilege of being the arms of Jesus to a woman who needed a hug; the hands of Jesus that unstacked, stacked, and



restacked boxes of food; and the feet of Jesus that drove a van thousands of kilometers. The Gospel, “Good News,” of Jesus Christ includes more than avoidance of hell or eternity without God—it is comfort for the suffering, hope for the oppressed, love for the neglected, and sometimes, it is food for the war-ravaged people of Ukraine.

So, why did I go? Every mission field has needs that can never be met by only sending money. Sometimes, we just need to go. ▲

**photos, page 18-19:** OMS missionaries Kaylie Lau and Hannah Kappler traveled from South Korea to serve the Ukrainian people affected by the war.



**Our shared mission:  
to show the students  
Christ's love.**

# A Glimpse Into Summer English Camps

## in Hungary

By Amanda Barton,  
OMS Hungary, Embark Missionary

**Last year,** I had the opportunity to help the OMS Hungary team put on their second English camp of the summer in Vác, a town about 45 minutes outside of Budapest. We welcomed volunteers from the United States for the week and partnered with local volunteers, who served as translators. We spent the weekend before camp preparing the facility while preparing spiritually and building a strong team.

We had a sweet time getting to know each other and feeling united under our shared mission of showing the students Christ's love. Having everyone on the same page about how to approach conversations with the students was crucial. Of course, we want them to engage in spiritual conversations, but many of the students are not believers. They come to camp to practice their English and have fun, not to give their lives to Christ.

I was happy to learn that we would not be overtly evangelizing the students. I have always favored a more subtle approach than preaching the Gospel to those, such as unsuspecting campers, who don't express interest and aren't asking for it. Each morning, one of our staff members gave a brief devotional in Hungarian. It was usually a Bible story that related to the day's theme, given in language that would appeal to nonbelievers.

The main opportunity for students to engage in spiritual discussions came during conversation groups. Twice a day, we met in groups of about six students, a native English speaker, and a translator. We had been encouraged to let each conversation take its natural direction, allowing the stu-

dents to feel comfortable and practice spoken English. Sometimes, we played games or sat around chatting about their favorite hobbies or holiday plans. I was with a group of advanced English speakers, six girls ages 14-18, and they liked asking me questions about American culture.

Other times, conversations took a more spiritual route. I enjoyed answering their questions and sharing my testimony in ways that would relate to teenage girls. We discussed how it can be difficult to be our true selves because we worry about what others think of us. I told them that God knows who we truly are and loves us anyway.

None of my students declared their faith or gave their lives to Christ that week, but I believe seeds were planted. I consider it a successful week at camp if just a few of them left thinking more deeply about God and pondering what it would mean to have a relationship with him.

Goodbyes at the end of the week were filled with hugs and tears. I knew our team had done our best to show these students the love of Christ, and that made every bit of sweat, hard work, and exhaustion worth it. We continue to pray for their spiritual development.







# Pouring Into Preschoolers

| By Amanda Buck, OMS Europe/Middle  
| East, Communications Team

**We often think of** revitalizing and restoring communities through large projects and interventions after major trauma or when those communities seem to be on their last leg. We all love a good “total makeover,” right? But what if revitalizing and transforming a community could be more organic and begin without the urgency of a disaster? Say, through creating a cornerstone of community that pours truth and love into children from an early age?

The American Preschool Academy (APA) in Budapest, Hungary, will do just that. As the largest business as mission project in OMS’ Europe/Middle East region, the preschool is a prime example of creating sustainable businesses that tangibly serve a community’s needs and generate a steady revenue stream to fund even more, often local, ministries. In this way, the business becomes an integral part of its neighborhood, sharing God’s love with the people living there every day while maintaining an eye on the bigger picture and funding ministry beyond itself for years to come.

Our business as mission team in the Europe/Middle East region is passionate about finding and meeting what they have called the “double bottom line” that exists in businesses launched to create and revitalize Christ-centered communities across the globe. The first bottom line exists in the business world, starting a successful and sustainable business. The second bottom line comes when considering the impact on individuals and how the business could impact its customers for Christ through the goods and services it offers.

God works powerfully through the creation of these businesses as people use their vocational skills to build the kingdom of God in their own backyards. And as the businesses succeed financially, they can use their profits to fund even more ministries.

In a way that only God could orchestrate, the APA is uniquely situated to make a huge impact on the kingdom of God in Budapest. Studies indicate that a person’s worldview is primarily formed by the age of 10, and the Hungarian government requires that all children attend preschool beginning at age 3. Unfortunately, the school system in Hungary is both overpopulated and largely shame-based, meaning children are motivated more by discipline than encouragement. Because of these factors, a Christian preschool that also offers English language, which is important in Eastern Europe, creates an organic space to impact both children and their families through daily interactions.

Who knows what fruit will come years down the road from providing this Christ-centered space to these young children today?



# A Few Opportunities to Serve in Europe

## Hungary—Preschool

A business as mission preschool is under development in Budapest, Hungary, to serve the needs of working families and to help fund ministry efforts. The following staffing positions are open: director, program specialist, and teacher.

## Italy—Disciple-Makers

OMS seeks disciple-makers who will help grow more disciple-makers among the refugee and immigrant population in Catania, Sicily. Help is needed for the ministry center, English classes, bicycle repairs, cookouts, discipleship groups, and other activities.

## Spain—Peña de Horeb Camp

Volunteers are needed at a Christian camp called Peña de Horeb, near beautiful Auñón, Spain. Duties include helping cook meals in a commercial kitchen for up to 120 campers, cleaning the kitchen and camp facilities, washing bedding, and preparing rooms for new guests.



**For more exciting opportunities,**

go to [www.onemissionsociety.org/opportunities](http://www.onemissionsociety.org/opportunities), or scan the QR code. You can also email [go@onemissionsociety.org](mailto:go@onemissionsociety.org) to connect with a mobilizer.