

SPRING 2019

SUMMER 2019



ufm  
united for mission

# WHAT DOES MISSION AS 'LIFE EVANGELISM' LOOK LIKE?

Middle East

TRAINING FOR THAILAND'S  
REMOTEST CHURCH LEADERS

Thailand

HOW CAN WE BECOME  
BETTER SENDING CHURCHES?

Church Resources

## UFM Worldwide exists to support churches in making disciples of all nations.

Since 1931 we've had the privilege of helping churches to identify, train, send and support workers for cross-cultural mission. We currently serve about 200 mission partners in 35 countries, sent by 90 gospel-hearted churches.

UFM workers are committed to making disciples of all nations, taking the gospel to the least reached, and supporting under-resourced churches around the world.

Please be in touch anytime – we'd love to help you or your church with your world mission involvement.

## Shining Like Stars

*Michael Prest, UFM Worldwide Director*



**“... in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life.” (Philippians 2:15)**

I'm recently back from Thailand and Mongolia. Two of the UFM couples I had the privilege of spending time with there, are pressing on in their third decade overseas, as confident today as when they first set out, that God uses ordinary people to do *his* extraordinary things. It was a joy to see the impact when God helps

his people to shine in a place for many years.

Returning from living in an Asian city to a small English market town was a shock for me and the family! Alongside late summer evenings, and huge aisles in the shops, full of bakery and dairy products, we were struck by being able to look up at night and see, not a grey, dull smog, but a sky of stars. The longer we look, the more we see.

As Johnny & Ann look back over many years in

Thailand, they can share countless stories of little seeds sown that God made grow. The more they reflect, the more stars they see! There's the young student of 15 years ago, just elected to parliament to shine for Christ there. Or his contemporary, appointed head of the Thai Christian Student movement (think UCCF in Thailand). Or the Afghan refugees who, via Norway & Pakistan, saw Christians shine like stars and now shine themselves. Praise God!



## To keep shining, you've got to keep speaking

Mark and Gill were facing a long train journey to their home city in Mongolia, when

**It would have been easy to smile and walk on but God prompted Mark and Gill to speak.**

they came across a fellow Brit looking not a little lost. It would have been easy to smile and walk on, but God prompted them to speak. As the conversation unfolded, they shared the gospel. And that was that, they thought.

Years later, one of their supporters was at a baptism service in the UK. A young woman shared her testimony of first hearing something of Christ on a railway platform en-route to Mongolia! What an encouragement ... if we

want to keep shining, we've got to keep speaking of our Saviour. Let's pray for all in the UFM family of mission workers, churches and supporters, that we'd go on doing that!

## Shining more brightly than you think

Whether serving Jesus at home or abroad, most of us have wondered if we can really make a difference. It's a question Emily Foreman asks in her story of sacrifice in mission in Africa, *We Died Before We Came Here*. She writes: "A single light bulb in the lighting aisle at the hardware store makes very little impact, but the same bulb lit in a place of utter darkness makes a huge impact."

Friends, take heart! As you follow Jesus and speak for him, you might be shining more brightly than you think.

*Michael*

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# What Does Mission as 'Life Evangelism' Look Like?

*Su Young studies at university in a Middle Eastern country*

**So many people have asked why I went to the Middle East. I didn't have a dream like Paul, but I know that Islam is the biggest unreached people group in the 10/40 Window.**

It is hard, from a cultural and spiritual perspective, for them to survive the indoctrination that prevents them from knowing the Son, and to avoid dangers from Islamic extremism. Definitely, this is where there are the fewest workers, and I feel I must go where there is the greatest need.

## **Stage 1 - Friendship**

Mission in my country is not about ministry but more about 'life evangelism' because evangelising Muslims is not allowed. I look like a normal student, but my real identity involves sharing God's love with others even though I sometimes feel unworthy of such a task.

To share God's love with people I must know them – their language, their culture, and their religion – and be willing to walk beside them in their day-to-day life. So, I've settled in a poor area and go to the University, public library, gym, and the local shops, instead of the nice malls and other places foreigners go.

God has brought many people into my life – people who really want to learn English, and also people who want to learn Korean because of the K-pop trend amongst the younger generation. I teach them, share Korean food, have coffee or dinner, or just hang out. Through this, I have opportunities to share my testimony when they ask me about my religion.

## **Stage 2 - Fellowship**

The deeper friendship we have with people, the more we are able to look for the right moment to share the gospel. A local lady opened





her heart to me about her grief in a polygamous marriage. I taught her the truth about God's will for marriage through the Word of God.

**I taught her about God's will for marriage. She agreed but told me that if she becomes a Christian her husband will kill her in secret.**

She agreed with me but told me that if she becomes a Christian her husband will kill her in secret. A Syrian lady told me how she prays five times a day and asked how Christians pray. I told her about my morning devotion and how God is answering my prayers in my daily life. An old, sick, Palestinian lady who is lonely asked me to visit her and I encouraged her with prayer and explained to her how we pray in the name of the Lord.

People are astonished that I grew up in a Buddhist family and converted to Christianity, since their culture sees it as impossible to convert from Islam. They ask many questions. Others try

to convert me to Islam. We have long discussions about the differences. Sadly, most reject him for many different reasons. I cannot change their hearts, my task is to give them opportunities to hear about Jesus. We read the Bible together, since through the Word of God, they can come to know the Saviour. Sometimes I invite them to church events.

### **Stage 3 - Discipleship**

Amazingly, a few have come to know our Father – all Iraqi or Syrian refugees. My pastor taught and baptised one Syrian family in secret. I feel so sad about the cruel wars in this area, but I can see the door being opened to share the gospel and reach past this stronghold of the evil one. Indeed, all things are working together for good.

It is tempting to want self-satisfaction from a successful ministry, but I know what the most important thing in my life is. It is not about what I do, but what I am like. I do not want to be merely his servant, but his loving daughter. My eyes are fixed on him and I continually desire to know and love him more than anything else, to grow to be more like my Lord and please him in the work I am doing.

*Names and identities have been changed in this article.*





# Training for Thailand's Remotest Church Leaders

*Johnny and Ann McClean work in outreach and pastoral support with students in Bangkok, and Johnny is part of the Thai Langham Team*

**Somphon and her mother received a tract in a nearby city and became Christians – the first in their village. Somphon's husband, a rice farmer who struggles to read, soon followed. Concerned for their village, the family built a simple church on their farmland and invited neighbours and friends to hear the Good News.**

The church started to grow, but there was no pastor and no nearby church to support them. So Somphon and her husband faithfully sought to teach the new believers each week.

Unbeknown to Somphon, a number of years earlier, a small number of academic scholars had the opportunity to study PhDs in theology as part of the Langham Partnership set up by John Stott. They committed to return to Thailand to serve the Thai church.

Six years ago, three of them gathered together a small group of church leaders with the same passion for the faithful preaching of God's Word. Johnny is privileged to be a part of this Thai-led Langham team.

Initially, Langham Preaching – one of the international ministries of Langham Partnership – provided them with experienced trainers from Australia. But as they studied the materials, the Thai team also discussed the specific challenges of training preachers in a Thai context, knowing that soon they themselves would be the course leaders.

In 2017 the Thailand team ran its first Langham Preaching course. In a beautiful resort south of Bangkok,





45 pastors and church leaders met. Somphon's family were there. It was a transformational moment in their lives. Somphon wept with joy at the end of the conference. She had received the training she desperately longed for! She had tools and resources to take back to their small church on the rural eastern seaboard.

**“Churches live, grow and flourish by the Word of God, and they languish and die without it”**

**– John Stott**

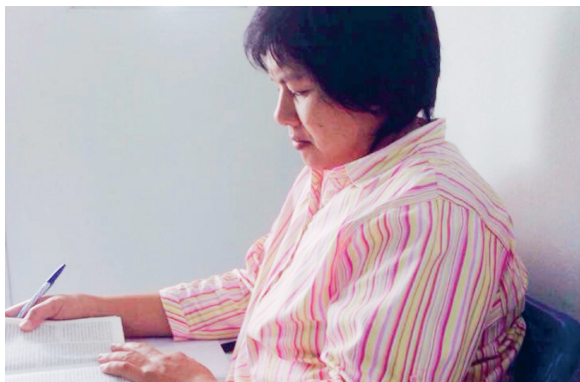
For a number of years, the team have run annual conferences to train pastors and lay-leaders. Bi-monthly preaching clubs have been developed in Bangkok. Johnny was particularly excited one evening to meet with a group of young men all preparing their next sermon. Sent from a well-established church in Bangkok, they drive 240 miles each weekend to support a fledgling church plant in

one of the poorest and least reached regions of Thailand. All are working full-time and have young families but are committed to learning to teach God's Word faithfully to others in less privileged circumstances.

More recently, Langham Literature has supported the translation of materials into Thai to be distributed at discounted prices. These books help pastors and lay-leaders to understand the passage and apply it to their Thai congregations – for many Langham Training participants, their first theological resource after years of preparing sermons with a Bible and daily Bible reading notes. Giving each conference attendee the latest publication for free is a bonus in supporting Thai churches.

Our third Langham conference is in July. We pray that many Thai believers will be equipped and enthused to take the Word of God back to their churches. We long for the day when these conferences will reach every region in Thailand. The need is great. The workers are few.

Follow the McCleans on Facebook at [f](#) Pray for the McCleans



A photograph of two young children, seen from the back, looking out over a blurred landscape. The child on the left is slightly behind the one on the right. They are both looking towards the right side of the frame.

# Rebuilding from Storm, False Teaching and Broken Lives

*Lee and Fai Furney work in churchwork in Malawi*

**With winds up to 280km/h leaving 1.5 million displaced and ruining 711,000 hectares of crops, Cyclone Idai grabbed the headlines recently. It caused an estimated \$1bn damage to infrastructure across Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.**

It is thought by some to be the worst ever disaster in the Southern Hemisphere. A few days after it hit, Lee found himself preaching at the memorial service of a dear friend after she apparently lost her footing alongside a small stream that the storm surge had turned into a raging torrent. Mercifully, overall, there were fewer fatalities in Malawi than with Cyclone Bansi in 2015, partly because people found out then where to find higher ground to rebuild safer houses. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of so many, sending financial aid and offering assistance with the reconstruction process.

We've also been pleased to help provide safehouses of another

kind. A few years back, we found ourselves priced out of property in the city by spiralling rents. To avoid being pushed too far out of town, we borrowed money to buy a place on the fringe of Blantyre, between the township – where many of our congregation live – and the rural villages. Providentially, the property had a decent piece of land and a few outbuildings. We now have a smallholding and three vulnerable families living in safehouses. The issues we meet most regularly here include poverty, prostitution, addiction and abuse.

Central to all we do is proclaiming the gospel to address the deeper needs that the cameras do not capture. In the shape of the worldwide Church, God is building the safest of all houses for all who call on his name, which will withstand the 'flood' of his judgment when Christ returns. Through Word ministry, we are delighted to be, as our late seminary principal would have said, 'brickies' (bricklayers) on the site. Blantyre Community Church, where we serve and Lee pastors, is





inching closer to becoming a church that plants church-planting churches. The challenge is to engage our culture humbly, yet boldly, with the gospel, not retreating into a Christian 'comfort club' or conforming to the world. We also struggle to retain potential indigenous leaders. Many are distracted or deterred by the struggle to make a living in one of the world's poorest countries, or diverted down the path of sensual indulgence.

### **In the shape of the worldwide Church, God is building the safest of all houses**

This year, we've been working through John's letters and the book of Revelation in our Bible studies and sermons. We are struck by how the description of the beast in Revelation

13 fits the proliferation of false teachers here. Looking like a lamb, but speaking like a dragon, it has the appearance of Jesus but the message of Satan! We constantly find the beast at work to tempt the extremely religious people of Malawi to unknowingly join the rebellion of the nations against the God of the Bible. Many are brought up on Scriptures misapplied, albeit in the context of an impressive performance. There is much learning and unlearning to do.

"The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run into it and are safe." (Proverbs 18:10). Praise God, a few Christ-centred, mission-focussed churches have popped up in Malawi recently. We're exploring how to collaborate in evangelism, church-planting, support, and rural outreach in particular. Travel and time will be challenges in an already demanding context, but we rejoice that the Lord continues to provide human and financial resources at just the right time. Our eyes are on him.

*Follow the Furneys* [🐦 @leefurney](#)



# What Cultural Glasses Do You Wear?

*Rosie Crowter works in Bible training in Papua New Guinea*

One of the most challenging things in cross-cultural work is to take off our own cultural glasses and put on the worldview of the people we work amongst. All of us look at the world and even read the Bible from our own cultural understanding, with our own worldview spectacles on.

God is the creator of all peoples and cultures, as Acts 17:26 reminds us ("From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth"). There is not one culture that is right and all the others wrong. God has made them all, and all can be seen in the Bible.

And what a wonderful mix of people God has made in his image – people of every nation, tribe, colour and culture. He cares for each individual.

To connect and communicate with someone from another worldview, we need to see things as they see them. We need to grapple with how to connect God's Word with the people

we talk to – who may come from a completely different worldview.

It helps if we first know our own worldview.

For those in the West, that has traditionally been the guilt/innocence framework. Westerners tend to see right and wrong, to want honesty and justice. We see sin as disobedience to God.

**Papua New Guinea  
(and African cultures)  
view the world and the  
Bible through a fear/  
power framework**

Papua New Guinea (and African cultures) view the world and the Bible through a fear/power framework. Traditionally they live in fear – fear of the spirits and what they will do to them. They fear death and fear what others will do. They want power – power in society, power to heal sickness, power to be





big men with much land and many women and pigs.

**It was very shameful of Adam to reject the position God gave to him and in doing so break his relationship**

Many in Asian cultures wear honour/shame glasses. The worst thing is to bring shame to people. Relational peace is very important – it was very shameful of Adam to reject the position God gave to him and in doing so break his relationship with his father God.

It's not only our worldview that is different. Our upbringing, our personalities, our experiences, all contribute to shape how we see and respond to life situations. Sometimes the most challenging people to work with are those from the same world view as us, yet having different values and

understandings and life experiences. May we always remember God has made each person in his own image! We are all precious to him. Doesn't that give us a glimpse of what a complex, intricate, creative, innovative God we serve? God longs for us to love and understand each other as he does us. And he has promised to give his wisdom to those who ask for it.

We can ask him to help us see each situation through the glasses of those we talk and work with – whatever culture they are from. Many in our churches are from different backgrounds and understandings.

Let us work to appreciate and understand each other so we can connect and share the different insights we have on God's Word. God weaves a wonderful rich tapestry of people together. We can learn from each other and learn more of who God is.



# No Weapon Fashioned Against You Shall Succeed

*Margaret and Mike work in Bible ministry and leadership training in India*

**Hindu mobs wielded rods, tridents, swords, guns, kerosene and even bottles of acid. Adorned with Hindu militant headbands, they shouted slogans such as, “Jai shri Ram!”, (Victory to Ram, the Hindu god) and “Jai bajrang bali!”, a tribute to another Hindu deity.**

A series of riots in 2008, led by radical Hindus in Kandhamal, Eastern India, left roughly 100 people dead, thousands injured, 300 churches and 6,000 homes destroyed, and approximately 50,000 Christians displaced. Many were forced to hide in the jungle where more died of hunger, snakebites and poisoning.

I was in the neighbouring state of Andhra Pradesh at the time. Three

Khandamal pastors attended my first Pastor Training International (PTI) conference and told us horror stories of going with the wives of pastors to look for their husbands' mutilated bodies in the jungle.

Most of the Christians in the area are tribal people or untouchables. That means that there is a double hatred. The high caste Hindu social elite hate them because they are untouchable, and because they are Christians they are seen as anti-Indian. There was a smaller persecution in this area in 1998 and it is here that Graham Staines was brutally murdered with his two sons in 1999.

In this beautiful mountainous and jungle area, home to many tribal groups, Satan tried to wipe out the church. Now we have several



Kandhamal pastors working with us as church planters. They asked us to go and visit the area, so that we could see what the Lord is doing.

**The believers are still living right beside those who took part in the violence, or did nothing to stop it.**

So together with one of our Khandamal families, we took the 27-hour journey by train and bus to Khandamal.

I helped with a three day pastors training conference for the Khandamal Baptist Convention and spoke at a large regional church. Each year this convention has an annual conference, held in the forest so as not to draw attention. I was asked to be one of the preachers. After an hour's journey through the forest on an interesting road, we came to the clearing. What a joy to see around 5,000 humble village believers come to worship Christ and hear God's Word! They danced and sang praise to the Lord and their faces were filled with joy.

For a week, we visited isolated tribal village churches, preached the gospel and prayed with many families. We were shown houses that had been destroyed and then rebuilt. We saw church buildings that had been burnt down and left, and new church buildings had been built. We were shown the Christian villages that sit one side of a track with Hindu houses the other side. The believers are still living right beside those who took part in the violence, or did nothing to stop it.

**The joy, faith and hope we saw ... was truly wonderful and so obviously supernatural**

Yet for all that, the joy, faith and hope that we saw in these believers was truly wonderful and so obviously supernatural. Praise the Lord! Here is living proof of Isaiah 54:17 "No weapon fashioned against you shall succeed, and you shall confute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD and their vindication is from me, declares the LORD."

*Names and identities have been changed in this article.*





# Why We Do Outreach on the Streets

**Kevin and his wife, Susan, live in the North of England and work in outreach to ethnic minorities**

**Twenty seven years ago we knocked on doors in a street in France, to share the gospel. A conversation with one man led on to Bible studies. Next week we will see this man in Paris: a keen believer whose journey to faith started in that doorway.**

After 12 years as 'real missionaries' in France, we left 'la France' in 2002 to come 't'up North' – a different language from France (and Bedford where I'm from!) and a different culture – baguette to butties. What was not a change for us, was the large number of Muslims. Of course, we intentionally chose such an area. We have had a heart for reaching Muslims for the last 30 years and still return to France and Belgium to help in evangelism weeks with Muslims.

In his excellent book on Muslim Evangelism, *The Gospel for Muslims*, Thabiti Anyabwile shares his burden,

that the great need is to preach the gospel. Christ crucified and risen is the message Muslims need to hear. The power is in the Word of God. Of course, discussions about Islam, Muhammad, the Qur'an, etc., are unavoidable. Muslims see to that. Yet our objective is to present salvation in Christ's name.

**Let them tell you what they believe. Some do not believe what you may assume**

A good way to learn about Islam is simply to witness to Muslims and let them tell you what they believe. Some may not believe what you assume or may even have beliefs inconsistent with Islamic teaching. Recently one told me he believed Jesus died on the cross for sinners! I have often been surprised by unorthodox beliefs that probably result from living in a non-Muslim

culture or even some previous contact with the gospel. We should not hesitate to go out and speak with Muslims we meet. Share the gospel. Share your testimony. Speak well of Christ.

### **Why street evangelism?**

Speaking with those you already have a relationship with is ideal. But in a country with fewer and fewer Christians, how will we reach the millions around us? Praise God, we still have freedom to go out and meet those with no contact with Christians!

### **Christians join us in fear and trembling, to finish rejoicing**

We go out weekly in four towns with a simple book-table and offer literature to passers-by. We work with local churches who join us. Each week we produce a list of contacts for prayer. Last week, despite bad weather, we had over 30 on the list. Sometimes we have spoken of Christ with 50 or more.

Do numbers matter? We all recognise this is God's work. We all know that even one soul is precious. Yet it is a real encouragement to know that many have heard the way of salvation; "How shall they call on him of whom they have not heard?" (Romans 10:14)



### **Is there fruit?**

How can we evaluate what the Lord has done? We do know of some fruit. Last July an Italian woman took an invitation, went to a meeting and has since trusted the Lord. A Muslim man, who spoke to us the previous year, came back to tell us he had trusted the Lord. I study the Bible with a Muslim whom I originally met at an open air meeting two years ago. He is not yet converted but happily hears the truth week by week. Many go away seriously intending to seek the Lord.

One pastor told me of the difference in their prayer meeting as they pray for the contacts made. Christians join us in fear and trembling, to finish rejoicing. It is an immense blessing to share how wonderful our Saviour is!

And there is the encouragement of new people coming to services, curry nights, coffee mornings, meals for the elderly, and toddlers groups.

Persevering is not easy, but we sow in hope of a day coming when the Lord will work powerfully, and we will witness many seeking the Lord. Pray that it may be in our life time!





# How Can We Become Better Sending Churches?

**We asked Andy Upton, pastor of Knighton Free Church, Leicester, about world mission and the local church**



**As a pastor, what would you say the role of a church leader is in identifying and equipping people for cross-cultural mission?**

I think our responsibility is to keep global mission pumping through the veins of the church family. On my desk I have an angle-poise lamp. Remember those? If it's not tightened up, then you lift it up over your work, only to have it slowly and imperceptibly drop down. It feels like that with global mission in the church.

The best way to help identify and equip people for cross-cultural mission is to keep lifting our eyes to the world around us. That has to start with God's Word. We have the occasional sermon series focusing on world mission but ideally it should flow out of every passage we look at.

There are lots of other ways we try and raise our eyes: interviewing and praying for those in cross-cultural mission in prayer meetings;

partnering with a local church in a very multicultural part of the city; working with other churches to help students and refugees. We also have a Middle Eastern worker on our staff which changes the dynamic of our church family in many helpful ways.

**Where do mission agencies best fit into that?**

We need somebody to prod us every now and again: 'Look Andy, can you see what God is doing here? Are you aware of the need there?' Mission agencies help keep that angle-poise lamp raised. We lean on them for resources and information, but most crucially when we send a mission partner/worker. The combination of local church, mission agency and mission partner makes a strong team.

**Why 'mission partners' not missionaries?**

The word 'missionary' carries a lot of baggage these days. Like it or not,





people still think of pith helmets and colonialism. The word also feels like a very solitary calling, the missionary heading off to fulfil their calling, but it's a calling for the whole church. Our mission partners are sent by God and by us. We partner with them in mission to the people group they go to.

**What does a healthy mission partnership look like in practice?**

I can think of one couple who came to Knighton passionate about a people group in Africa. They had links with a mission organisation we'd worked with in the past and, as we got to know and love them, we began to catch their vision. They spent time with people in the church who have served abroad. They got involved in cross-cultural work in Leicester. When it came time for them to head out they'd recently had a small child so it was hard to say goodbye, but we get regular updates and pray for them. They work in a sensitive part of the world but we've learnt how to manage that and speak to them on Skype without putting our foot in it – well, most of the time! Some have been to visit them and we're looking forward to them coming back this year.

**"The best way to help identify and equip people for cross-cultural mission is to keep lifting our eyes to the world around us. That has to start with God's Word ... "**

**What lessons have you and your church learned through your involvement in world mission?**

That we have much to learn!

We have much to learn from our mission partners. This year, a couple are back for an extended period and we are looking forward to them teaching us about cross-cultural mission from their experiences in South America.

We have much to learn from churches in other countries. Through one church partnership, some Romanians have joined our church here. Being outside our culture, they see where we are weak or in error.

And we have much to learn from God himself who is calling a people to him from every tongue, tribe, language and nation. He loves all people and we need to learn to do the same.



# Welcome!

We are delighted to welcome two new mission workers to our UFM family, as well as two volunteers, who are able to provide specialist advice to families. Their support will complement that offered by sending churches and UFM pastoral staff.



## **James and Andrene Hayton**

are from Keswick, Cumbria and are members at Lake Road Chapel. They are doctors who have worked with Christian mission projects and secular development agencies in Asia, the Middle East and Africa. After visiting Sierra Leone, they felt led to serve Christ at Kamakwie Wesleyan Hospital, providing compassionate medical care and making the gospel known alongside staff and local believers. Please pray for them adjusting to life in Sierra Leone.



## **Rebecca Wright (volunteer)**

lives in Enfield, North London, with her husband and two children, and attends Enfield Town Community Church. She is an Educational Psychologist and can advise on learning, play, behaviour, language and communication, social interactions and emotional development in children and young people. She will be giving a seminar and some consultation sessions at the UFM Summer Conference.



## **Emma Coalter (volunteer)**

is from Country Fermanagh but lives in Aberdeenshire, where she is a member of Hebron Evangelical Church. She is a Specialist Speech and Language Therapist. She can advise on speech and language development, additional support needs and language development for children with several languages in their environment.



## FOCUS ON ...

# Italy

"Let's get one thing straight. Your *Italy* and our *Italia* are not the same thing. Italy is a soft drug peddled in predictable packages, such as hills in the sunset and olive groves. Italia, on the other hand, is a maze ... you can go round and round in circles for years." (*An Italian in Italy*, Beppe Severgnini)

Beppe is right. Think Italy and the predictable comes to mind. But think Italy and the gospel and you may struggle a little more.

### ▲ Challenges

Italy, as with most western counterparts, is increasingly secular. 'DIY religion' is popular as people mix-in their own ideas at their own convenience. Alternatively, nominalism is easy. Or there is occultism, with an estimated 150,000 fortune-tellers (contrast this with 35,000 Catholic priests!) who serve 13 million clients annually! Increasingly, religion isn't seen as working or being relevant. Faith is one thing (maybe for emergencies), but life is another. Telling the gospel is no simple matter as familiar words take on different meanings from what we intend.

### 💡 Opportunities

There remains a narrative among Italians where authentic community and spirituality are valued as people are increasingly disappointed by contemporary emptiness. In this scenario the



### Please pray for ...

- the emerging of a strong gospel-centred culture and DNA within the churches
- new churches to be planted and multiplied
- specific areas of need and opportunity: campus ministry, ministry to the migrant communities, strong gospel-centred social action
- raising up of godly leaders who can be trained and deployed
- international partnerships to help bring the gospel to the 99.5% of people in Italy who are still without hope

# Italy is...

**60 million**  
**people** 8% foreign

1/4 million  
leave annually  
for study/work

coffee

3.7kg per  
person  
per year

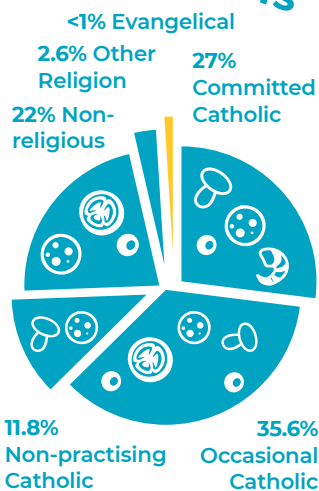
>60%  
young  
adults live  
with a  
parent

25% youth  
are NEET\*

wine

World  
largest  
wine  
exporter

beliefs\*



\*Ipsos Public Affairs: 2017

*practice* of the gospel becomes a wonderful, spontaneous platform for the *proclamation* of the gospel. Authentic love for neighbours is noted and breaks down many barriers.

## Church Planting and Growing

Italy needs new churches. Praise God for growing vision and energy here. Impatto (Acts 29 in Italy) is one church-planting church group with five new plants in 2018. Others are also growing in vision and efforts to multiply. Sadly, however, church division has often been a cause. Pray for the strengthening and healthy multiplying of churches. Nationally, less than 50 churches could be defined as evangelical. This means no more than a few thousand people in all!

Over the last decade there have been unprecedented opportunities for the Church to grow, including access to information online, ease of contact with the rest of the world and increased mobility.

**Events** - an increasing number of significant events are filling church calendars. These often give quality input, and a stimulus for growth.

**The web** - articles, blogs, teaching, webinars, live church services, etc. are accessible. Not all is wonderful, but an opportunity to pray for!

**Literature** - good, theologically-rich books (almost all translated) have come onto the market. Four major publishing houses align with a gospel-centred theology.

Thinking now of Italy or Italia? Pray that the glorious gospel of grace might break into many needy lives and contexts.

*Jonathan and Annette Gilmore live in Sicily.  
Jonathan pastors a church ([www.lifehope.it](http://www.lifehope.it))  
Follow the Gilmores [@jaydeegilmore](https://twitter.com/jaydeegilmore)*

< Cut here, pop in your Bible, and pray for *Italia!*

# What's it Like ... When Your Parents are Mission Workers?

*Rosalind Brown served in Ivory Coast and now supports UFM parents*

Last year, the number of UFM children reached almost 160! The term Third Culture Kid (TCK) has been coined to describe children who spend some of their formative years outside their parents' culture. They build relationships with both cultures, without fully owning either, and often identify most with other TCKs. This is one reason children in the UFM family love our Summer Conference. They feel they have met their 'own tribe'!

Being a TCK brings many rich blessings, as well as challenges. They often grow up with an expanded worldview. They learn that skin colour is unimportant and people have different perspectives on the same thing. They experience the world first-hand, and often learn to empathise and value relationships above convenience and things. They develop social and linguistic skills, and are often task rather than time oriented. They make friends across cultures and get a front row view of the joys and trials of ministry. There are also challenges, however, such as a gap in

understanding their parents' culture. They may be cultural chameleons, observing and adapting on the surface, while inwardly feeling like outsiders for a long time. TCKs have widely ranging experiences, but many share a feeling of being uprooted several times, making rich friendships but saying goodbye to friends and loved ones with painful frequency. They can face unrealistic expectations of behaviour in unfamiliar contexts. Their educational history may be enriching but a form-filling headache!

Wise cross-cultural parenting doesn't just happen. When families move cultures, far from support systems, stress is placed on the family relationships. Decisions have to be made about schooling, medical and spiritual care for the children - things often taken for granted in the home culture. Then there is the extra pressure of deciding the best time for re-entry for education or family reasons. This can be positive if families have a good foundation. The support of the sending church is vital. Asking the right questions, >



keeping mission workers accountable, and caring and praying for them, all help to strengthen the family's foundations. Home churches can also help by keeping links with children in the church, passing on prayer requests, and being sensitive that for TCKs, the UK is not really 'home'. One of our sons, when asked if he was glad to be home after a dramatic evacuation from Ivory Coast, replied with childlike frankness, 'No I'm not glad, and I'm not home!'

In UFM, we believe that mission workers are sent by local churches, and we deeply value the support churches give to those they know and love. To complement this, and support from our pastoral team, we offer practical support. This includes help considering education options, resources, and the timing and impact of transitions. We are delighted

to have two new volunteers (p18): Christian professionals who can provide Skype or email consultations to support families in and outside of the UK. This means parents anxious about a child's emotional, behavioural or educational needs, can get tailored help before returning to the UK, without having to wait to go through the state system. We are very thankful for this provision and the blessing it has already been to several families.

Please pray for strong relationships and communication in UFM families and that in the pressures of ministry, children feel valued and heard. Pray for good adjustment and friendships, and that our children come to a personal faith and share a sense of ownership in their parents' ministry. Please pray that they will be able to look back with joy and use their experiences positively.

## John Wilson (1943-2019)

On 14 March 2019 John Wilson passed into the presence of his Saviour. He was in his 75th year and had lived with cancer for 17 years. John and Gloria went to West Irian, now Papua, in 1971 with RBMU, now World Team, and served there for 20 years. John and Gloria joined UFM when the RBMU British Office closed in the early 1990s. They began their ministry among the Yalis in the Ninia area learning language and culture. Three years before their arrival, two RBMU missionaries, Stan

Dale and Phil Masters, where killed by Yali tribesmen. They moved to Holuwon when an airstrip opened there and worked with national evangelists planting churches.



Together with two Yali church leaders, Otto Kobak and Luliap Bahabol, John was involved in translating the whole Bible into the Yali language. We thank the Lord for the life and ministry of John in which Gloria was his constant support and encouragement. We pray that Gloria and family will find comfort knowing that John is now with the Lord whom he loved and served.

## Upcoming Events

Considering your role in mission, or supporting others? Join us for Bible teaching, and a chance to chat, at our events.

### UFM Summer Conference

29th July – 2nd August 2019

Hothorpe Hall, Market Harborough, Leicestershire

The annual conference for the UFM family of mission workers, churches and supporters

### UFM Annual Thanksgiving Evening

4th October 2019, 7.30pm

Trinity Possil and Henry Drummond Church, Glasgow

### UFM Irish Autumn Conferences

8th October 2019, 8pm - Stonepark Baptist Church, Enniskillen

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[www.ufm.org.uk/signup](http://www.ufm.org.uk/signup)

Or to receive prayer letters from any of the mission workers in this magazine, please contact one of the UFM offices or email [info@ufm.org.uk](mailto:info@ufm.org.uk)



9th October 2019, 8pm - Ballykeel

Presbyterian Church, Ballymena

10th October 2019, 8pm - The Iron Hall, Belfast

[www.ufm.org.uk/events](http://www.ufm.org.uk/events)



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4 Corners is the magazine of UFM Worldwide, Registered Charity in England and Wales (No. 219946) and in Scotland (No. SC039343)

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## Summer Teams 2019

Please pray for safety in  
travel and spiritual blessing  
for our teams.

27th June – 15th July: South Africa

16th July – 1st August: Ivory Coast

19th July – 2nd August: Moldova

5th – 20th August: Thailand

11th – 25th August: South Africa #2

17th – 24th August: Ireland



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