

# 4 corners

WINTER 2021



ufm  
worldwide

## PREPARING ROMANIANS FOR MISSION

WE MOVED ON,  
BUT GOD DIDN'T  
Germany

ON ZOOM IN NAIROBI  
Kenya

# The privilege of being a sending church

Michael Prest, Director, UFM Worldwide



## I wonder what springs to mind when we think of sending and supporting mission workers?

Perhaps there's that line in your church budget for mission elsewhere. Or there are the prayers in the midweek meeting and Sunday service.

If we're doing some giving and we're doing some praying, is that the mission support thing kind of covered?

Well, a ministry of sending certainly includes those things, but the letter of 3 John shows us that it is so much more wonderful and weighty than that!

### The Privilege

Speaking about the travelling evangelists that had arrived in Gaius' church, John writes: "It was for the sake of the Name that they went

out, receiving no help from the pagans." (v7)

These workers had gone as representatives, as ambassadors, as messengers of Jesus Christ himself. They'd gone out for the sake of the Name; that is, the name above every name, before which one day every knee will bow.

There are so many good causes to support in our world, that are worthy of our investment. Yet what a privilege to be partners in this life changing, essential, eternal work of seeing the gospel go to the nations!

Then there's the privilege that we're "working together for the truth" (v8). Incredible! As we go on supporting mission partners around the world, we're not just observers or funders or supporters. No, we're

partners. We're working together. Friends, be encouraged by that and keep going in that!

And there's another joy here in this – thinking especially of those of us serving at home, who perhaps, in our heart of hearts, would love to be the ones who'd been sent. And yet, for all sorts of reasons, we're still here. We're not missing out on God's global purposes; we're not stuck in the second division of God's mission plans. No, the senders and the go-ers can work together for the truth.

### The Responsibility

Yet of course, with privilege comes *responsibility*. Speaking about those that have gone out for the sake of the Name, John writes that "We ought to show hospitality to such people." (v3)

Notice the sense of obligation here. John doesn't say, "well look, here are these mission workers, they're sharing Christ, you might want to think about chipping something in."

No, John says that they command the support of their brothers and sisters. Gaius and his fellow church members should help; they must help. Why? Because they had gone out "receiving no help from the pagans" (v7).

If God's people don't support gospel ministry, no-one else will!

And this sense of responsibility, here in 3 John, also comes as we grasp the significance of how we're to send.

"Please send them on their way in a manner that honours God," John writes (v6), or as some versions put it, "in a manner worthy of God."

Wow. What a responsibility! What a high calling. Do we see where the bar is set for this precious ministry of sending? It is to be done

in a manner that honours God; that is worthy of God. A manner worthy of the God who has given everything that we might be saved.

This is the kind of attitude that should characterise our sending of Christian workers: selfless, sacrificial, lavish, unconditional.

David Jackman put it like this: "There could not be a higher standard of generosity to emulate. But then there could not be a higher or more worthy service."<sup>1</sup>

It's our privilege here at UFM to help churches like yours to participate in this wonderful ministry of sending. May God bless and use you as you serve in this way!

Michael

1. David Jackman, *The Message of John's Letters*, p194.



## FEATURES

Local believers bring hope across Turkey

4

Wrestling with men, for God

6

Searching the Scriptures on Zoom in Nairobi

8

A day as a Bible college director preparing Romanians for mission

12

We moved on, but God didn't

14

Short-term mission is never just short-term

16

## CHURCH RESOURCES

Identifying & encouraging new mission workers from your church

10

## FOCUS ON

Portugal

19

## WHAT'S IT LIKE .. ?

Choosing mission for your medical elective

21

## NEWS

New to UFM

18



# Local believers bring hope across Turkey

*Carol\* serves in a training ministry in partnership with churches in Turkey*

**Ahmet\* told us he had never received anything of real value before. As we gave him the good news of salvation and told the story of Peter walking on water, sinking because of his fears, we explained, “Jesus is reaching out his hand and he can hold you”. Ahmet started to cry.**

We met Ahmet through the Ümit (Hope) Project, which began about 3 years ago, following an 8-year countrywide outreach programme. We wanted to bring a message of hope to the nation through outreach to unreached provinces.

Ümit first started with the aim of recruiting people from overseas to partner with local churches in going to places with no established church. We had our first outreach in the summer of 2019. Over 100 people attended as 14 teams reached out to

35 places in two weeks. The majority of team members were from outside Turkey, with just 20 Turkish people participating. Praise the Lord, in this short time of outreach, a few people came to believe!

Although Ümit is led by foreign organisations, it has a goal of strong Turkish leadership. The following year we made the decision that only local believers and Turkish speakers would be on the team. We knew it would not be easy for local believers, in full-time secular work, to commit to two weeks of outreach, so we decided to have shorter outreaches with the potential for sponsorship of local team members.

Of course, we couldn't have predicted what happened – Covid-19! The pandemic prevented any church services and face-to-face outreach. We wondered what to do.

Having prayed together, we decided that training is fundamental to reaching out to others. So, late in 2020, we held a week of evangelism training seminars. Different speakers, local pastors, and mainly Turkish believers talked about a variety of subjects from storytelling to apologetics. We had about 70 people each night for five days.

We were so encouraged by this, realising that people were thirsty for such teaching and seeing that God could still open doors during the pandemic. Indeed, the pandemic allowed many to join us online who would otherwise not have been able to afford training. It also helped us form better connections with others throughout the country.

Our first trip after the pandemic, in July 2021, was to the East of the country, in partnership with the Bible Correspondence Course team who had led the original countrywide outreach that resulted in Ümit. After follow up work, we were delighted to see someone come to faith! Others we talked to were genuinely seeking, to the extent that it is likely a new church will be formed there. Please pray for this potential new church.

In addition, three more teams went out in the summer, and again each team saw three people come to faith. This is where we met Ahmet. He did not believe that day, but those from Ümit and others were praying for his lost soul. In the evening, the brothers

from the group shared more about the Lord and we continued praying. Then, on Sunday, Ahmet came along to the fellowship, and while we were praying for everyone in the room, he came and asked for prayer and believed in the Lord.



God willing, we have plans to do more but we need your support and prayers. We currently need financial support for more volunteers to join teams; people to help with managing the finances; promotion; and website management and development. If you would like more information about how you can help, please email [umitwebsite@gmail.com](mailto:umitwebsite@gmail.com). Turkey has long been known as one of the least-reached countries in the world. Our vision is to ensure that, with God's help and grace, this is no longer true!

\*Names and identities have been changed



# Wrestling with Men, for God

Joel\*, with his wife Amy\*, serve in church planting in Central Asia

**When we moved to Central Asia six years ago, I never imagined that God would use physical combat with other men to share the gospel and transform lives for the kingdom.**

Involved with some form of physical activity since I was a teenager, and growing up with five brothers, we spent a lot of time wrestling each other – sometimes playfully, sometimes less so!

After we had been living here for six months, I opened a gym with a local partner and was soon training athletes from a variety of sports. I discovered that wrestling was the national sport and most, if not all, young men competed in some form of grappling at some point in their lives. In the summer of 2019, when we were home visiting family, I began training in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu. As a strength and conditioning coach for grapplers here, I wanted to better understand the physical demands of grappling sports. I soon fell in love with the sport and have been training ever since.

On returning to Central Asia, I found one school that taught Jiu Jitsu and began taking private lessons from a young man named Mehrab\*.



and his brother had lived in Dubai for eight years where they had learned this sport and were now teaching it in Central Asia. As I trained one on one with Mehrab three days a week, we began to develop the friendship that I had been praying for. In the culture here, men are proud and macho, so opening up with personal feelings is not something they typically do, especially with foreigners.

However, as we spent more time together, we began to talk about our families and our spiritual background.

He assumed, as most people do here, that I was a Christian simply because I was an American. We talked about his faith and he had many questions about my own. He had made friends in Dubai with westerners,



but saw something different in my life and the way I spoke about my relationship with God.

Mehrab had been raised as a devout Muslim, but his father had taught him to be open and accepting of people of other faiths, not only because God requires it but so that he could learn from them.

Lying on the mats catching our breath after a particularly hard wrestling workout, he initiated a conversation about sin. He told me

that he believed everyone has their own personal weakness and that Satan knows how to tempt each one of us with that knowledge. He confessed to me what we would describe as his own besetting sin, and we agreed that without God's help it is impossible to avoid falling into temptation.

**... I suspect that the close physical combat breaks down emotional barriers.**

I was encouraged by this interaction – it was a turning point in our relationship. He has been more open to the gospel and learning about Jesus since that day.

While I'm not sure why wrestling has had this effect, I suspect that the close physical combat breaks down emotional barriers. I have noticed a bond unique to the sport, both here and back in America.

Like Jacob wrestling with the LORD at Jabbok, we come face to face with our limits and failures and hopefully we learn and grow from this experience. Though we may walk with a limp from that point on, the knowledge gained is invaluable.

Please pray for Mehrab and others like him in Central Asia, as we seek to share our faith with them, through whatever means God provides.

\*Names and identities have been changed

# Searching the Scriptures on Zoom in Nairobi

*Martin and Claudia Bussey serve in Bible teaching and pastoral training in Nairobi*

**Is it possible to write about our life and work in Kenya over the last two years, without using the word “Covid”? What we do and how we do it, has changed tremendously as a result of the pandemic.**

On 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020, the first Covid case was confirmed in Kenya. Two days later, the President announced the response: all schools and universities were to close with immediate effect. A curfew was

**... the international airport closed, and all borders were sealed. We were in Kenya to stay.**

imposed from 7pm to 5am each night. Although, happily, we were never locked down in our homes and prevented from visiting friends and neighbours, for a while we were not allowed to leave Greater Nairobi. A week later, the international airport closed, and all borders were sealed. We were in Kenya to stay.

The official figure for Covid deaths in Kenya is very low: under 5,000 for the entire pandemic. This is partly because the population is so young (half are under the age of 20); partly because so much of life takes place outside; and partly because only those dying in hospital are included in the official figures. Many were never tested or were too poor to go to hospital, so it is likely that many more have died than the figures show.

Currently 1.5% of the population is double vaccinated and 4% has had one dose. This is due to the shortage of Covid vaccines. Added to that, some fear all vaccines, which are thought to be a Western strategy to produce infertility and limit population growth in Africa. Sadly, among some Christians, there is a belief that there is a link between the vaccine and 666 (the number of the beast), and that anyway, if you have enough faith, you don't need a vaccine – God will protect you.

All my teaching for the last 18 months has been online, via the dreaded Zoom. We love it, because it means some live interaction with students





is possible, and we hate it, because it is nowhere near as good as being face to face, eyeball to eyeball, with

**Students ‘disappear’ because the electricity has just gone off in their area; others have to go to a cybercafé so aren’t free to contribute**

students in the classroom. Why do students – usually so lively, passionate and eager to ask and answer questions and engage in discussions – become so very reluctant to unmute and get involved on Zoom?

And there are further difficulties. Students ‘disappear’ because the electricity has just gone off in their area; others have to go to a cybercafé to connect to the web, so aren’t free to contribute; some are at home looking after three young children (who are off school because of the pandemic) at the same time as

being in class. It’s not ideal, but we persevere, longing for the day when once again we are back “live” in a physical classroom.

Despite the limitations of teaching online, there are still many assignments to do and to mark: assignments designed to make them search the Scriptures thoughtfully, so that they are taught, rebuked, corrected and built up in righteousness; assignments that are meant to fill their hearts and minds with glorious life-giving and life-changing biblical truth; and that are meant to lead them to humble, joyful worship of the Lord.

And, despite the frustrations of online teaching, it’s always a joy to receive comments like, “That reading really challenged me”, “That assignment made me realise for the first time just how serious sin is”, or “I think I finally understand what that Bible passage is really about.”



# Identifying & encouraging new mission workers from your church

Michael Prest is Director at UFM Worldwide and an elder at Emmanuel Church Marlborough

**We have always got to be careful with generalisations, yet it's probably fair to say that when it comes to identifying new gospel workers, many churches are pretty passive.**

Sure, if someone comes forward asking to be sent, most will do all they can to help. But if no one approaches them, should church leaders conclude there are simply no new mission workers in their church?

Not necessarily! God's word shows us that there is every reason for our churches to be active when it comes to identifying and encouraging potential workers for cross-cultural mission service.

**God calls and sends out workers for the harvest fields**

Matthew 9:38 reminds us that if we long to see more mission workers, then before we come up with any

grand plan, glossy leaflet or moving video, we need to get on our knees.

As a team at UFM we try to pray this prayer every day: *"Father, would you send out workers for the harvest field."* Could you make that a regular prayer in your church?

**God sends out workers through the church**

We see this reality right across the New Testament, perhaps most famously in Acts 13:3, "the first piece of planned 'overseas mission' carried out by representatives of a particular church."<sup>1</sup> It is a basic principle, but easily lost in the pragmatism and action of mission.

One of the things that most surprised us when we served in SE Asia was how many missionaries seemed to have a low view of the church. Some weren't even clear about who had sent them. Others

weren't committed to being part of the local church where they were. Again, this seems to fly in

**... mission workers aren't to send themselves, and equally as important, they aren't sent by mission agencies**

the face of the New Testament pattern – God sends out workers through the church, and workers are supported by local churches.<sup>2</sup> It is the local church primarily that has this responsibility and privilege, and so *mission workers aren't to send themselves* and equally as important, *they aren't sent by mission agencies*.

Someone recently asked if we could be their sending agency. The short answer was “no.” We're not trying to be pedantic about language, but rather, careful. The church sends. UFM supports the church as they send.

This means that church leaders need to grasp this privilege and responsibility, not hand it to others.

**Church leaders are best placed to identify those with cross cultural gifting**

In 1 Corinthians 12, we have that great image of the church as a body,

made up of many parts. And it is within the body that people's gifting is recognised, valued and honoured, as each part of the body interacts. In Ephesians 4:12, we see that one of the responsibilities for those who lead God's church is to equip God's people for works of service.

Put those two things together and what do we see? Gifting for mission is best recognised, encouraged, tested and developed in the local church, and by its leaders.

When going for a kebab, who is it in your church family that chats to the guy behind the counter rather than scrolling on their phone? When the international student walks quietly into church, who is it that naturally welcomes and opens their home to them? When the refugee crisis erupts on TV, who is at the prayer meeting that night, crying out to the Lord?

As church leaders, let's pray for God to raise up workers for mission and be on the lookout for those with a mission heart and gifting. And let's take the initiative. Let's encourage them to grow in their gifts and point them to good training opportunities, short-term mission openings (see p17) and older mission workers that they can learn from.

1. I. Howard Marshall, *The Acts of the Apostles*, Tyndale Commentary, p214.

2. See, e.g. Acts 13, Romans 15:23-33, Philippians 4:10-20, 3 John:5-8.

# A day as a Bible college director, preparing Romanians for mission

*Andy and Anca Worsop work in mission training in Romania*

**Let me give you a flavour of my ministry, as I take you with me through a day at Kairos Mission School in Romania. I live and serve here with my wife, Anca, and daughters, Chloe (6) and Emily (3).**

It is Monday morning and I get up to send out the daily prayer points. Anca did some research on the persecuted church in Vietnam last night, translating it into Romanian, and I also send out prayer points from a Romanian mission worker; today, a family serving in the jungles of Peru.

After sending these on WhatsApp, Signal and Telegram, we rush through a family breakfast, so I can drive our daughters into the city for school. When I get back at 8:30am, I will be leading a devotional with the students. I appreciate this time in worship and the Word each morning.

After a cup of coffee, we start class. This week I will be continuing my Bible Overview, teaching the students how the whole of Scripture

is a story of God's unfolding salvation plan, pointing to our need for Christ.

They have had all weekend to read and think about the passage, Exodus 19, 20 & 24. I lead them in exploring how the story of the Exodus makes clear our need for Christ and shows us what He will do. As always, we are lost in discussion until a knock at the door: Anca reminds me that it is midday and I need to collect the children from school.

One of the highlights of my day is the drive back with Chloe telling me all about school; Emily, as usual, tells us that she did nothing at kindergarten!

Once home, our family joins the students for our midday meal. Today





Valentin and Mlădița are also joining us. They are leaders of the Kairos Association, whom I serve alongside. This afternoon they will be preparing parcels for the refugee camp nearby.

Today I won't be able to participate. The first part of the Doctrine of Suffering course is starting, and I need to continue teaching. It is so important for the students to learn why Christians suffer, so that when the inevitable day comes on the mission field, they are prepared.

This evening I will be active in my other ministry, as a teaching Elder at

our local church. We are studying the Gospel of John, with our brothers in the church, trying to help them learn how to study the Bible and to work out the main message of the passage. We are praying that we will be able to train up new preachers for the church.

On Friday, instead of classes, we might have street evangelism in the city or nearby village, or outside of term time, we are on mission trips to other towns or even neighbouring countries. It is a great privilege to have a life that is full of ministry and opportunities to serve our Lord.





# We moved on, but God didn't

*Larry and Sinead Norman serve in church ministry and student work at Leipzig English Church, Germany*

## **Spiritual opposition makes me think of bad coffee in a smart café.**

Alex\* had asked me to meet his father to discuss Alex's recent interest in Christianity. Originally from a middle class, nominally Muslim family from the Middle East, Alex had long given up on Islam. He had come to Leipzig

**"I paid for his education, he now owes obedience. If he converts and gets baptised we will cut him off."**

to study, and during his studies become dissatisfied with what atheism offered. He started coming to Leipzig English Church (LEC). We'd met a few times to read the Bible and talk; he was clearly attracted to Jesus.

And so, I found myself sitting in a smart café, sipping bad coffee, praying for God to work a miracle in Alex's life. His father, though polite towards me, made it very clear that

he would not tolerate Alex following the Lord Jesus: "I paid for his education, he now owes obedience. If he converts and gets baptised we will cut him off." Reasoning with him was like debating a stone wall.

Just weeks later Alex cut contact with me and almost everyone at church.

Jack\* had been converted through a sermon on Leviticus. He came from an East German family, grew up an atheist, but had turned to Islam two years prior. He had just broken off an engagement to a Muslim girl in Egypt, and for some reason decided to go to church. He liked speaking English, so he came to us.

He was the type of young man that makes Tigger look sedated and inactive. He devoured Christian books, read the Bible with me and a couple of other men in the church, and was all go for the Lord. Then, after a frustrating season, he left LEC. We found out he was now attending a Roman Catholic congregation. Not long later he moved to an Austrian monastery run by a Catholic sect.

I wrote to Jack a few times, seeking to assure him of our love for him, and explain the problems of Catholicism. He refused to be convinced.

Alex left in 2018, Jack in 2019. Not exactly the type of fruit we were praying for from our ministry.

## **“I woke up one morning and felt God was calling me to go to church”**

For a while we kept praying for them, but as the months progressed they slipped further down our prayer lists.

We moved on. There were other people to invest in; Sinead and I became parents to Zoe in September 2020; our life took on new rhythms.

We were in England in June 2021 for parental leave when a friend in church texted us, *“It’s a miracle!”* Nonplussed, we responded *“What’s a miracle!?”*

“Haven’t you heard? Alex and Jack have come back to the Lord Jesus!”

Jack had returned to Leipzig to say goodbye to family and friends before moving to South America to study Catholic theology. He’d met up with a friend from LEC and they’d stayed up late into the night talking about the gospel. In the morning Jack cancelled his plans for Brazil. The next Sunday he was back in LEC.

Alex said, *“I woke up one morning and felt God was calling me to go to church. I checked when the services were and off I went.”* When I first met Alex he was more interested in YouTube psychologist, Jordan Peterson, and philosophy than in taking the Lord Jesus on His terms. This time he’s hungry for Christ. He’s apprehensive of the future and what his family will do, but he trusts Jesus. We baptised him last Sunday.

God is better at bringing prodigals home than we give Him credit for. We sow the seed, He makes it grow, in His own good time. Alex and Jack’s stories encourage us to keep praying for others still fleeing the Father’s love.

*\*Names and identities have been changed.*





# Short-term mission is never just short term

*Mike Chalmers is Short-Term Mission Coordinator at UFM Worldwide*

**Every Christian has a part to play in God's mission to the world. It's a mission that he started and that goes to the ends of the earth, and to the end of time!**

Short-term mission is typically any length of time from one week right up to two years – but with long-term gospel impact. It obviously includes Brits going abroad. But it can also involve staying within the UK and even internationals travelling here!

UFM supports around 200 mission partners in 37 countries. We're confident that serving alongside them will provide rich opportunities for the individual, their church, and the mission partner.

Individuals and their church are able to test and develop gifts, and learn first-hand about God's long-term global mission, as they hold out the word of life to the least reached and support under-resourced churches.

Commenting after his medical elective in Ivory Coast, Jeremy said, "I came back challenged by

the huge need and amazed by the potential for the gospel".

The Childs family, serving in the Republic of Ireland, hosted a visiting summer team in their church. They reflected how this enabled them "to do more than we could on our own, to enthuse our church about service and to equip those visiting to serve in a different context."

It wouldn't be a surprise to anyone that traditional short-term mission opportunities have been limited in these last 18 months. International travel still feels like a distant memory! But God's mission has not stopped, nor is his mission solely about crossing borders.

William Brown, UFM's Deputy Director and an elder at Emmanuel Church, Chippenham, explains that, "We don't want to merely send individuals, but to forge a link as a church that will encourage ongoing prayer and interest in God's work."

As well as having long-term impact, short-term mission partners do not serve alone. Aled, an i:Witness trainee in Indonesia, summed it up



well: "Being in a team of mission workers, meeting local believers, experiencing church life overseas, seeing family life for mission workers, and getting to know locals, were just some of the highlights."

If you're thinking about getting involved, the very best place to start is to talk to one of your church leaders. We'll then be delighted to

talk to you and your church, helping to suggest placements that best fit your gifts and current situation.

Whatever country you go to, or stay in, going 'short-term' is a great way to get involved in God's long-term mission in the world.

## Go short term

**i:Witness** – A one to two year ministry training scheme with the benefit of living in a cross-cultural context.

**Student Ministry with IFES** – Partnering with IFES in Europe, serve cross-culturally in a national student movement or work overseas in international student ministry.

**Summer Teams** – We can facilitate a group from a single church, or connect individuals from different churches. Not necessarily limited to the summer!

**Flexible, personalised placements** – We're confident there will be a ministry and location that will be a great fit for you.

**Bible College placements** – Placements for students of UK Bible Colleges, whatever your course. Bursaries available!

**Medical placements and electives** – Opportunities for doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals.

**\*NEW\* Lawyers' Christian Fellowship Internship** – Work alongside local LCF partner organisations in other parts of the world, as interns or as part of short-term mission justice teams.

**Operation Centurion** – A fantastic opportunity to provide practical support wherever it's needed. Work so far has included building an orphanage, classrooms, and houses for adults with disabilities.



**find out more**

[www.ufm.org.uk/short-term](http://www.ufm.org.uk/short-term)

# Welcome!



**A & K** previously served in East Asia and are currently in Nairobi, Kenya, preparing for future ministry among African believers in East Asia. Their sending church is Euston Church, London.



**Ben and Amber** are due to be married shortly. They have been short-term in Central Asia and will be returning to pioneer gospel outreach and develop discipleship opportunities. Their sending Church is Christ Church, Mayfair.



We've been delighted in recent months to see several people come forward to serve part time as volunteers with 100Fold, a digital media ministry that helps to get the gospel into places that are hard to access physically. There are now 12 people serving in this capacity.





FOCUS ON ...

# Portugal

*Andrew & Jenny Love* are based in South Wales and undertake church training visits to Brazil and Portugal

**Portugal has a population of approximately 10.5 million, with over a tenth living in the capital, Lisbon. Despite development in the major cities, there is much poverty, and traditional farming methods provide a meagre living in the country areas, with the main agricultural products being wine, olive oil and cork.**

Portugal is loved by the Brits as a holiday destination. There are many expats living in the sun-kissed area of the Algarve, known for its sandy beaches and nightlife. But what of the church in Portugal, and the work of God in this spiritually needy land?

Portugal remained untouched by the Reformation. Roman Catholicism was the official state religion...



## Please pray ...

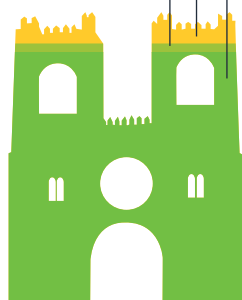
- for gospel workers – Covid has impacted churches, with loss of income for workers, as it has done around the world
- for gospel outreach – Please do pray for those working in the forgotten mission field of Portugal. It is a land full of gospel potential as well as challenges
- for the church – with many churches low in numbers and lacking young people
- for new church plants and those preparing for ministry in Bible colleges
- for the Lord to send more workers into the harvest field of Portugal



# Portugal is...



>90% Catholic  
6% other religion / no religion  
3% Other Christian (of which <1% Evangelical)\*



\*Source: Evangelical Alliance of Portugal, 2016

until 1974 and remains dominant, with over 90% claiming to be Catholic. In the 1950's and 60's, Pentecostal churches grew under persecution but numbers of evangelicals remained small.

## ▲ Challenges

- Despite an influx of Brazilian Christians, less than 1% of the population is evangelical.
- Emigration and increased secularisation mean many churches have no young people.
- The evangelical church is seen as foreign.
- Someone has said that the church in Portugal has the “gift of invisibility”, as few people know of its existence. Sunday worship continues, but little else.

A survey by the Evangelical Alliance of Portuguese Churches has noted a drastic 40% decline, with 1630 churches existing in 2000 and only 964 by 2016. This is due to emigration, secularisation and nominalism.

## 💡 Opportunitites

However, the same survey also reported that, in the last 15 years, 322 new church plants took place. In Lisbon, the Baptist College and the Portuguese Bible Institute are starting to send new gospel workers, and in 2020 the International Theological and Leadership College began in the Algarve.

UFM has its first couple in the country after two decades: Brazilians, Leonardo and Ana Moraes. They report encouragements and conversions. The Brazilian church has matured and sent some of its best people as mission workers.

If you visit Portugal, the International Church of the Algarve holds English services and offers a warm welcome. Why not encourage the Lord's work in this needy land, where you can pass through many towns with a highly visible Catholic church yet still no evangelical witness.

◀ Cut here, pop in your Bible, and pray for Portugal

# What's it like ... choosing mission for your medical elective

*Esther Hughes completed a medical elective placement in 2019 at Kiwoko Hospital in Uganda*

**The single thing that impacted me most during my paediatric nursing training – both professionally and spiritually – was the month I spent at Kiwoko Hospital, a mission hospital in Uganda.**

A medical elective is a once in a lifetime chance to see healthcare in a different setting, with different resources, in a different culture.

Being sent on mission through UFM for my medical elective meant I felt prepared and supported throughout my trip. Having the support of believers praying for me at home, and working alongside believers at the mission hospital, was a new but great experience.

My mindset was challenged as I saw Christians starting a shift with an attitude of joining

together in the Lord's name, to do His work, for His glory. It was common to see staff comforting one another and their patients, with reminders of God's presence and love, and praising the Lord for His provisions – something which is unheard of back in the UK.

I had many opportunities both on various wards, and in the community, to learn about new diseases and illnesses, practice a huge range of clinical skills, and grow in my understanding of many aspects of healthcare.

Witnessing healthcare in a new culture really equipped me to deliver better care in every setting.

For the last two days of my placement, I returned to maternity and the neonatal unit as these were the wards where



I learnt so much and made good friends with many staff. It is amazing how after just one month, both the language and culture barrier seemed so much smaller.

It took time to become comfortable caring for patients and families with whom you could not communicate with many words, although it's amazing how far a smile and an 'oli olya' ('how are you') went towards making these friendly people feel comfortable. They were open-hearted towards me, even though they were at a difficult time in life.

Upon returning home, I reflected on my time in Uganda and wrote this:

*"It is strange to be home. The suitcase hasn't yet found its way back into storage but when it does I pray that none of the new things I've learnt – about the world, about culture, about nursing and healthcare, but most importantly, about God – would be stored away with it. I pray these experiences would remain a very present part of my life, that I would not forget anything the Lord showed me whilst I was away."*

Choosing mission for your medical elective can seem daunting, particularly following the pandemic, but I would encourage anyone to go for it. You will grow in so many ways and come away with a fresh and broadened understanding of healthcare, the Lord and His world!

## Upcoming Events

Considering your role in mission,  
or supporting others?

Join us at one of our events.

### Scottish Prayer Day

10am-12.15pm, 13th November  
Abbeygreen Church, Lesmahagow

### Irish Autumn Multisite Conference

8.00-9.30pm, 17th November  
Church hubs across Northern Ireland

### Called to Serve

26th March 2022  
UFM Main Office and online

### Summer Conference

1st-5th August 2022 (New venue: The  
Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick)

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

## Christmas Cards

Once again this year we shall benefit from the sale of Christmas cards and the other cards and gifts available from Gospel Cards, etc. 20% of their Christmas card sales and 5% of the sale of other items will be given to 26 Christian missions including UFM Worldwide. Produced to a very high standard, the calendars and books make excellent gifts for children and adults, while the cards are perfect for sending to Christians and non-Christian family and friends.

Full details available at  
[www.GospelCardsEtc.com](http://www.GospelCardsEtc.com)

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one of the UFM offices or  
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**[www.ufm.org.uk](http://www.ufm.org.uk)**





**Saturday 26th March 2022**

Bible teaching, interviews with mission partners, questions and discussion times. Held at the UFM Main Office near Swindon and also online. Please book at [www.ufm.org.uk/events](http://www.ufm.org.uk/events)

## **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 37 countries, sent by 94 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 and your church with your world mission involvement.



**ufm**  
worldwide

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