

4 corners

SPRING 2023



ufm
worldwide

LOVE FOR THEM KEPT US GOING

Moldova

"SURELY THERE IS NO GOD"
Fleeing Iran, homeless in Spain

**CRACKED CISTERNS
AND LIVING WATER**
Counselling in Bulgaria

“So the word of God spread”



Michael Prest, Director, UFM Worldwide

This wonderful phrase, describing the growth of the gospel, is found four times in the book of Acts. It's a short phrase, but one that describes incredibly big realities – the power of the gospel to change lives, to see people saved, churches established and new workers sent.

Whilst we know mission work will meet with all kinds of opposition and the going will sometimes be slow, we still live in an era where gospel progress is what we long for and gospel progress is what we can expect. This is not because we're able to bring it about ourselves, but because God has promised it. Jesus is building his church and the gospel will be

preached; indeed it *must* be preached, in his name, to all nations.¹

What a joy to see this happening before our eyes across the UFM family. In recent weeks it has been thrilling to:

- hear of a man saved through the outreach of a church in Ireland
- welcome a new mission partner into UFM: a young lady being sent by her church to serve among Muslims in a 'closed country'
- meet with a brother from the Middle East who told us of the boldness of a 78-year-old lady giving out New Testaments on the bus in a country where it is illegal to have a Bible
- partner with a Brazilian Bible college graduate and her

church, providing some financial support to help her get to East Timor to serve in mission there

- hear that, over the last 10 years, 350,000 Bibles have been shared on SD cards with least reached peoples through the work of OneHundredFold

In God's goodness, the UFM mission family continues to grow. This is God's doing, not ours! Over the last 10 years, the number of mission partners we have had the privilege of supporting has nearly doubled as God has answered prayers for new workers. We pray that through each of these 240 mission partners, the word of God would spread.

And as well as rejoicing in more labourers for

1. Matthew 16:18, Luke 24:44-47

the harvest field, we've also been delighted to see God open new doors for gospel progress that we are prayerfully taking, trusting in God's provision.

One example is the growing opportunity we have at UFM to support the sending of mission workers from parts of Asia, Africa and Latin America. Places that traditionally have only received such workers, are increasingly sending, themselves. What a privilege to support such mission movements, particularly where they are sending for the very first time.

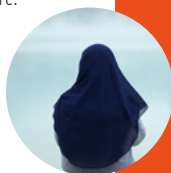
We are investing staff, research and resources into this important area of modern-day mission. We already have mission partners from 28 different nationalities in the UFM family, and, as we begin to talk with different church groups around the world where we have historical relationships, we see so much potential. We are

excited about playing our part.

With all of this in mind, we are relaunching our annual financial appeal, praying that God might raise up donors to invest in UFM's new Development Fund. This has been created to support new gospel initiatives in mission and you can read more about it on page 21, as well as on our website at ufm.org.uk/developmentfund.

Of course, with gospel progress comes opposition and challenge. This is felt acutely at times by many across the UFM family. Please pray that God would continue to strengthen, lead and provide for his people as the good news of Jesus is shared in the power of the Spirit. May the word of God continue to spread and flourish!

Michael



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The dawning of hope in the Arab world

M serves in radio, internet and media ministry

“Lead me to those genuinely seeking the truth about Jesus,” Rady* prayed as he sat down at his desk to open the database of the Shabibah (meaning “youth” in Arabic) web portal. To his joy, he discovered that many emails had come in. Rady started to answer them.

One of the emails had come from Damascus, Syria. Magdy* had met Christian neighbours and, realising he did not know much about Christ, had written to find out more and ask for a Bible. Rady was excited to answer his

request. He sent a copy of the Bible and waited to hear from him. In a few days, Magdy wrote again, to say that he was enjoying reading the Bible and felt drawn to Jesus the King. He wanted to know more.

Rady wasted no time: he explained to him who Jesus is, why he came, and the need to be saved. Shortly afterwards, Magdy responded by saying that he believed that Jesus is able to cleanse him from his sins because Jesus is the Saviour and that he wants to live in the light – as a Christian. Magdy also asked if he could go to church and be baptised.



A typical Christian satellite television programme in the Middle East can draw as many as eight million viewers. Arab Focus Media is currently preparing to launch a new TV series entitled “A new Dawn of Hope”, comprising 10 high definition 30-minute episodes, in which guests from different regions of the Arab world discuss how we apply our Christian faith in society.

The Shabibah team was able to put him in touch with a local pastor in Damascus, who discovered that Magdy is serving in the army and located in a very troubled part of the country. Since it was difficult to meet up, Magdy receives Bible verses from the team to encourage him and they continue to pray for him.

Shabibah outreach is part of Arab Focus Media which is based in France and works in partnership with UFM Worldwide. There are multiple such stories in this ministry, where we find ourselves providing a spiritual lifeline to those in isolated and dangerous places. It is one of the reasons why we are involved in media ministry to the Arab world.

Correspondence through the Shabibah website is one of the many tools we use to share the gospel. Our vision is to see Christ glorified among the unreached peoples living in the twenty-one countries of the Arab world.

To see this vision fulfilled, we also use satellite broadcasting.

The discussions are enhanced by dramatic and moving real-life stories of Christians who have responded in faith to the call of God on their lives and had a lasting influence for good in society. We are filming stories about characters such as C.S. Lewis, Amy Carmichael, Oswald Chambers and Edith Schaeffer. The series will also be broadcast on Shabibah in order to reach more people.

With so many turning to Christ in the region, training and discipleship are key to gospel progress. An online interactive discipleship course is being developed; this will help those who are in remote places and have no access to a church, to benefit from studying God’s word for themselves.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support. May we see abundant fruit in the months and years to come, because of your prayers and the work of the Holy Spirit in this region.

For more about the ministry of AFM, please contact us at info@afmedia.org

*Names have been changed

“There is no God”– fleeing Iran, homeless in Spain

Fari serves in church ministry/outreach amongst Iranians in the UK

Kamran’s life was in danger. He made his way across the border from Iran to Pakistan – sometimes on foot, at other times on motorbike – hiding in caves all day and travelling by night so as not to risk being spotted.

Finally, he made it across the border, but even then he couldn’t relax. He remained in hiding, knowing that if he was found, he would be returned back to Iran and persecuted.

After a year, he managed to get a fake passport and fled to Spain, sleeping in city parks. By then, not only had he totally lost his faith in Islam, but also in God.

Every morning by 4am, feeling hungry, he would wake to the enticing smell from a nearby bakery. Seeing him stare at the fresh buns through the window, the owner took pity and gave him some. This became a daily ritual and the baker told him of a local church where he could find free food.

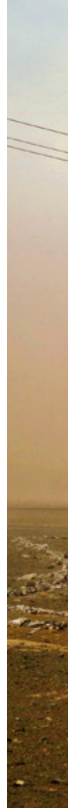
Kamran is my brother. Eventually, he moved to the USA, but came to the UK to visit us. By this point, he was searching for the truth and

was interested in Christianity. As we talked, he would say, “Surely there is no God, otherwise he would not have done this to our family.” But he often talked about the baker in Spain, remembering how kind he was to feed him every day, expecting nothing in return.

One night he cried out to God, “If you are there, help me to know the truth.” By the morning, he was a new man – he had met the Lord in a dream!

I wonder how many people were impacted by that baker and if he ever found out ...

I am the leader of an Iranian Christian outreach ministry in South Wales. Saved by the grace of God, I come from a Muslim background; miraculously, my whole family have come to know the Lord too. Our ministry here began around 1995 as a prayer group formed by a small number of people from different fellowships in Swansea, Wales. Around 1999, we took the step of faith to expand this work by taking a name,





‘Noor’, which means ‘light’ in Arabic and Persian, and by having regular, open meetings where we invite those who have never heard the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We want to thank God for all he has done over these years. Our open meetings, which are attended by around 150-200 people, comprise worship, sharing the gospel and teaching – with translation into Farsi – followed by a meal.

Many of those who visit us are very lonely people, who feel isolated in this foreign land. Their hearts are often touched by seeing the reality of Christian love and acceptance. These meetings enable them to hear the

gospel of Jesus (usually for the first time) and to have fellowship with Christians from their own culture.

I wonder how many people were impacted by that baker and if he ever found out that his kindness and silent witness led Kamran (and maybe others) to cry out to God and find the truth. Our prayer is that we also will be tools in God’s hand, to lead people to him. Please keep on praying for the Iranian Christian Outreach and for the Lord to provide for our every need.

Fari is available to speak at churches about this ministry. Contact UFM for more information.

*Names have been changed

Love for them kept us going

Ben & Esther Smith are language learning and working in the Casa Mea project in Moldova



Cut off from society and living in dire conditions, many adults with disabilities spend their lives in Moldova's state institutions. Our friends in Casa Mea's four community homes have come from such places, and we long to provide a fifth home.

As we enter our second year of full-time ministry here, there is so much for which we are thankful. The immediate hurdles that loomed

so large when we arrived have morphed into stories of God's faithful provision: a place to live, residency permits, a car. Yet these things that so dominated our prayers (and prayer letters!) are soon replaced by other needs: language learning remains a persistent struggle, coupled with the tiring frustrations of adjusting to a new culture.

It is easy to let our gratitude fade and to focus on the pressing concerns of the present. We are learning



Far left: some of the residents at a Casa Mea home; Above: Ben & Esther; Left: Reuben with Aslan the cat!



that a spirit of thankfulness and contentment must be cultivated and keeping a written record of what we are experiencing has been a helpful way to turn our hearts to praise the giver of every good and perfect gift.

Ministry itself has been a source of encouragement. Our transition into the Casa Mea team has been smooth thus far and we are grateful for a growing God-given love for this work.

Indeed, a sincere love and desire to help those individuals supported by Casa Mea has been an anchor for us during the more challenging times.

Casa Mea seeks to bring the gospel to those abandoned in society because of physical and/or intellectual disabilities. Four homes have been founded and we now have the privilege of planning a fifth. We are eager to see how God will guide us.

Our residency permits are granted on the basis of a full-time job description with Casa Mea. We feel the pull of wanting to honour that and yet the limits of our language are holding us back. It feels like a catch-22 situation: we need the language to work, but time for language study is often pushed aside by work commitments, not to mention the added challenge of raising two small children, and needing to foster a safe and happy environment for their development.

On frustrating days, when we come home from the market with all the wrong ingredients, we are grateful that our heavenly father is not measuring our productivity by human standards. He simply asks us to humbly obey him each day in the tasks he has given us to do.

As you seek to do that yourself today, please remember us in prayer: that our manner of life would be “worthy of the gospel of Christ” (Philippians 1:27) and we would never cease to learn at his feet.



When should we pass on the baton?

Alan & Pat Davey serve in church and student ministry in Bordeaux, France

“We need to have a four generation view of Christian leadership: those who told us the gospel, ourselves, those we pass it on to, and those who will follow them,” the preacher extolled us. The passage was 2 Timothy 2:2.

I was already stretched in ministry in a mature church, but I knew I needed to take this seriously. So I met with some men weekly to read and to pray, and with others on a monthly basis to read and discuss what it means to be a godly leader.

Years later, in our mid-fifties, Pat and I began an international church in France. One day, the pastor of a Baptist church in the city told me that he would retire that year. He didn't want to. He didn't know who could succeed him, but his mission organisation had told him he must retire at 70. In the event, he avoided that by going to glory suddenly one Sunday, leaving the question of planning for the future to others.

I thought there might be a better exit strategy.

Succession – finding the next pastor – is difficult, and for international churches it is even harder. There aren't that many pastors in France, and anyway, who wants to come to France and serve in English? (Even we didn't, but that's another story!)

He didn't know who could succeed him, but his mission organisation had told him he must retire at 70.

God intervened, as he does. Two young men joined Bordeaux Church. They were French but they had grown up in the USA so they were fluent in English. Both were willing and able to preach. We began to work together. Both were open to long-term, full-time Christian service. One had a heart for evangelism, for students and for coffee; he is now in a new church plant in Marseille. The other is more concerned with





pastoral ministry. He and his wife have begun preparing for full-time service by training part-time while working and serving in the church. You'll be introduced to them elsewhere in this issue.

The time to consider passing on the baton is now. It is never too soon, but it can be too late.

But why do this, anyway? After thirty years of experience, why not carry on till we drop? After all, the church could learn so much from the sudden death of its serving pastor! I think there are several reasons:

We wanted to build a church, not establish a ministry: a church that would outlive us, bear Jesus' name, and be there for his reputation.

Power, authority and responsibility are to be shared and given away in Christian service, not kept and held on to.

Passing on the baton doesn't mean you then do nothing. Think of relay races: runners stretch forward to give the baton to their successor, then for a while both are running together before the successor speeds away, while the other slows down and cheers them on.

Pat and I have a wonderful team of generous and committed supporters, with almost 20 years of partnership. Once we can depend on the government's generosity and care, this can enable those people to partner with others in taking the gospel forward.

Jesus commands and challenges us in his word: "The things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others." (2 Timothy 2:2). The time to consider passing on the baton is now. It is never too soon, but it can be too late.



“I’m too young to retire!” Preparing a mission partner for retirement

William Brown is Head of Personnel and Deputy Director at UFM Worldwide

“Retirement? I don’t know what I am doing next week, never mind thinking about retirement!”

“I am counting down the years, months and days and can’t wait until I receive a free bus pass!”

“I have no plans to retire, I just want to keep on going ...”

These are all responses I have heard from Christian workers over the years in relation to retirement.

UK employment legislation has no compulsory retirement age. However, as mission partners approach state pension age, UFM encourages them to use their annual review meeting to talk, in partnership with their sending church, about a possible timeframe for retirement and any adjustment of working arrangements.

So how can you, as a sending church, help prepare your mission partner for retirement? Here are some issues for church leaders to think through with their mission partner:


Health

We all know those who have given decades of sacrificial service in cross-cultural mission and who want to keep on going for as long as they possibly can. However, we are also aware that as the ageing process kicks in, the human body slows down and our parts tend to wear out! Therefore we owe it to our mission partners, in caring for them, to have those difficult conversations, encouraging them to think of their health needs, their ability to relocate while in relative good health, family needs, and so on.

Finance

Often when we think of retirement, it isn’t a case of not wanting to retire but of not being able to afford to! This is no less the case for our mission partners. Some are proactive and have made financial provision, others haven’t thought about it enough. It is a good idea to have your





mission partner check their National Insurance contributions to ensure that they will receive their maximum state pension. www.gov.uk/check-national-insurance-record

Perhaps you know an accountant or financial advisor who may be able to give your mission partner some professional advice.

What about housing? Some mission partners are in the fortunate position of owning their own house, others are not. What can you do as a church to help them?

Current ministry

What about the ministry they have been involved in? As church leaders, we have the responsibility of investing our limited resources wisely and strategically for gospel work. There must come a time when the mission partner and the sending church recognise that it is time to invest in the next generation of gospel workers.

Is cross-cultural input still needed? Is it time to let go and hand it over to the national church? Is it time to pass on the baton to someone younger, with fresh ideas and enthusiasm? What is the best time to do this to ensure a smooth transition and that the ministry will continue to thrive? What needs to be in place?

Ministry during retirement

Ongoing opportunity for involvement in ministry is often overlooked by sending churches. How can you support your mission partners to serve effectively when back in their sending church and not feel like a 'spare part'? Remember, in all likelihood they will be struggling with the huge challenge of 're-entry' in numerous ways, with loss of ministry and identity. How can you re-deploy the many gifts they have acquired over the years, to serve your local church?

Thinking through these issues during the years leading up to retirement will help to alleviate some of the stress for your mission partner. What can they look forward to in serving God in this new season of their lives?

Set a date!

It has often been said that if we aim at nothing, we will hit nothing! A retirement date in the calendar helps all parties to focus on what needs to be in place as they prayerfully plan with the knowledge that all our days are in God's hands (Psalm 31: 15).

With this in mind, we encourage you to have timely conversations with your mission partners, thinking through practicalities, and walking closely alongside them on the journey.



10:
ALARM

Fighting misconceptions in Portugal

Leonardo & Ana Moraes work in pastoral ministry in Lisbon, Portugal

Today in many places in Africa, South America and Asia, the church is growing at great speed. Evangelists find people eager to hear the gospel and the prayers of mission workers are answered almost as soon as they are asked.

Is God wanting to provoke a rightful envy in Europe and North America, where few seem interested in Christianity? This relative disparity in the success of the gospel can cause us

The Portuguese look at these 'weird churches' that meet in shops, warehouses and cellars, as something foreigners need in order to maintain their religious habits. It is *theirs* and for *them*. Evangelicals, despite having organised communities in the country for almost two centuries, are only 2% of the population¹.

In spite of the difficulties, however, there are opportunities. Although the 'Concordat' with the State favours the Roman Church in various dimensions

... these 'weird churches' that meet in shops, warehouses, and cellars are just something 'foreigners' need, to maintain their religious habits

to repent of our worldliness and look to the Lord for a fresh awakening of his Holy Spirit upon lands that once shone with the light of Christ.

On the other hand, in some Western European countries like Portugal, the church has never shone brightly. Evangelical churches are seen as a religion of foreigners for foreigners, in a country religiously dominated by Roman Catholicism.

of social life, the Portuguese constitution does guarantee religious freedom and equality.

People are open to talking about their spirituality (not necessarily Christian spirituality). Most have a positive opinion of Christ and many would be receptive to an invitation to an informal conversation about the Bible. There is room for creativity and new ideas. There are healthy churches in the main regions of the country, and

¹ 2021 Census





the smaller churches – some without workers and with scarce financial resources – are faithful and persistent in proclaiming the gospel.

Portugal needs new mission workers. But they need to come with an awareness that their work is best done in cooperation with the national churches, a willingness to root themselves in the culture and build friendships with the Portuguese, the capacity to deal with frustrations, and the humility to learn.

How did we arrive in Portugal? We were members of a church in Vila Velha, Brazil. I was settled as an elder and taught at a theological seminary in the city, yet we were challenged to leave Brazil to serve in Portugal. At that time, Ana was recovering from a heart problem and our children, Pedro and Lavinia, were small. The challenge was great, but God was leading us to long-term mission.

After nine years in Portugal, and three years in Wales in study and ministerial redirection, we returned to Portugal



in 2020, at the invitation of the Baptist Church in Sete Rios, Lisbon, with the support of Tabor Church, Llantrisant and UFM Worldwide. We are so glad to be part of one of Portugal's healthy national churches that are preaching the gospel.

The church is growing and we do not have space to gather all the believers on the Lord's Day. We have an expansion project planned for the summer, but not enough resources. However, we trust in God's providence and in the generosity of his people. Please pray, contribute, or come along and join us on this mission!



Cracked cisterns and living water: counselling in Bulgaria

Gisli & Nora work in church-based counselling in partnership with SEND

“Eventually ... I came to see myself as I really was, someone whose security was rooted not so much in God, but in achievement and activity.”

Selwyn Hughes wrote these words in his autobiography and I can relate to them well. I have found it hard to understand that God loves me for who I am, not for what I am doing. Scripture tells us to be transformed by the renewal of our minds, so I worked hard to live in a loving way and I knew my sins were forgiven, but I was not being transformed. It was like the new wine was put into old wineskins and the old wineskins were not being fundamentally changed.

In Jeremiah 2:13 we read, “My people have committed a double evil: They have abandoned me, the fountain of living water, and dug cisterns for themselves, cracked cisterns that

cannot hold water.” I wanted to know how to live as Jesus lived, going to the fountain of living water and not having to go to useless, broken cisterns.

It is this challenging teaching from Selwyn Hughes – author of 52 books including the ‘Everyday with Jesus’ devotional, and pioneer of Christian counselling training in the UK – which has motivated us to develop our ministry here in Bulgaria.

In studying the Bible, Selwyn Hughes found that, to live healthily, people need to have security (knowing we are loved and accepted), significance (our life has purpose and meaning), and self-worth (personal value). These are found in our relationship with God. However, often as a result of our upbringing, both Christians and non-Christians are subconsciously driven to meet these needs in other ways.

We started training in counselling with a Christian worldview in September 2021 with four trainees. All are committed Christians from different walks of life, interested in helping people to have healthy marriages and families, and good relationships with their communities. They have all experienced brokenness in many ways in their own backgrounds and have similar challenges to their non-Christian colleagues in handling relationships.

Children would often be left alone ... while their parent or parents worked and then queued for food

Our counselling trainees come to our village once a month. Together we gently explore their own hearts: how much they are coming to the fountain of living water and what leaking cisterns they have dug or are digging, depending on these for significance, security and self-worth.

They have all been brought up in a previous era, where life was hard. Children would often be left alone during the day and night for long

periods while their parent or parents worked and then queued for food. With limited choices of schooling and employment, a person's identity was often shaped by struggles to survive.

In addition to learning about themselves and how they relate to others, the trainees learn techniques for working with individuals to help them identify how they function in relationships and how they have been affected by their upbringing.

All the trainees completed a Certificate in Counselling in June 2022 and are now seeing their own clients, supervised by UK counsellors. They are helping clients with all sorts of issues, such as anxiety, depression and abuse. In their second year with us they hope to gain a Diploma in Counselling.

Please pray for us and the counsellors, that 'many a bruised reed and smouldering wick would be strengthened and lit up' (Isaiah 42:3), as clients come to gain insight in what is going on in their lives. Pray also that we would all keep drinking from the fountain of living water, learning to discern what the Lord's will is and his ways of going about it.

1 Selwyn Hughes, *My Story*, CWR 2004





What it's like... Outreach to Muslims amid persecution

UFM mission partner, H, serves in evangelism in the Middle East. We asked her about her experiences of reaching out to Muslims in a culture very different to her own.

Tell us a little about what you do in this region of the Middle East.

I want to reach Muslims with the gospel, but I can't share openly or in public. Instead I seek to build relationships with those around me. I am studying English and Arabic, and I use my English skills to come alongside Muslims to teach them the language. This gives me opportunities to share the truth.

How does God create opportunities for you to share the gospel?

I try to engage people in talking about everyday things like marriage, family, health and finances. As they share with me, I can bring the Bible and the Koran into these conversations, creating a natural way to talk about the differences between Christianity and Islam.

What are some of the main cultural differences between your home country and your host country in the Middle East?

Life for a single woman in an Islamic culture is very different. Married women don't go out alone, but

are always accompanied by their husband or children. I have lost count of the number of times that I have been proposed to by men seeking a second wife! I have to be careful and not talk to men openly in public. I use public transport and walk to visit friends' houses, but it's not always safe and I have been threatened by men and boys.

When you are in the Middle East, how do you draw strength from the Lord?

I often feel like I am in the middle of a spiritual battle. I am a morning person, I get up early to have a long time to pray and talk to God. This clashes with the first call to prayer for Muslims, broadcast from the mosques. It is very loud! I still find this a struggle after 10 years of living here, but it keeps me seeking God's presence.





How have you seen God working in this region in the Middle East?

I can't say how many people I have seen saved. Many people come to our church but few have real faith.

... colleagues ask him why he doesn't pray five times a day, why he doesn't fast during Ramadan and why he no longer goes to the mosque. He is fearful for his life.

People are so joyful when they first accept Jesus as their Saviour, but many convert back to their original religion due to persecution or social reasons.

However, I still have hope. It's not about numbers; God is working in a few people who are very faithful. Persecution makes

Muslim Background Believers (MBBs) 'grow up' spiritually and identifies true believers who know that they may have to give up everything for their faith.

Tell us about some of those people who are close to your heart.

I have a friend who is scared that people might know that he has converted to Christianity. At work, colleagues ask him why he doesn't pray five times a day, why he doesn't fast during Ramadan and why he no longer goes to the mosque. He is fearful for his life.

I met another MBB in church. When he was in university, someone shared the gospel with him. He was really angry and became violent, throwing chairs, declaring that it was dishonouring the name of God to say that Jesus is his son. But 10 years later, he became a Christian. His wife left him and took their children, so he is alone but is keeping the faith.

What advice would you give to other women who are considering going on mission to the Middle East?

We really need workers to reach Muslims in the Middle East. But it's tough. You must not be disappointed when you don't see fruit; it is a very difficult place to see true conversions. I keep in mind that we don't know who will come to the Lord in the future as a result of what we share now. I am sure that God is working, so I share the gospel and leave the rest up to him, knowing that he will make all things good, for his glory, in the end.

Welcome!



Luke and Claudette Baldwin are students at Oakhill College. They are exploring future ministry possibilities in post-Soviet countries and hope to be involved in discipleship and evangelism. They have two children, Alexander (3) and Kaiden (1). Their sending church is Kings Church, Walton.



Ellie Maffett is currently working with the Emmanuel Church group in Bristol. She has been involved with summer teams alongside Jonathan and Dawn Clark in Greece for several years and is now hoping to move there to work with local churches. Her sending church is Emmanuel, Westbury.



Sylvain and Océane Coquerel are joining UFM as associate mission partners. Alongside their paid work, they are serving with Alan and Pat Davey in the Bordeaux International Church in France and doing part-time ministry studies.



BT is preparing to serve in the Middle East. Her sending church is St Peters, Fulham, London where she is currently a Ministry Trainee.



Heidi Angell is undertaking a three-month placement at a Christian school in Nicaragua with Barry and Susana Davis. Her sending church is Providence Baptist Church in Clifton, Bedfordshire.

Introducing the UFM Development Fund

Here at UFM we pray daily that God would send out workers into the harvest fields of the world. When you hear that, in places like Oman, there are likely more branches of Starbucks than there are national believers, we're reminded of the huge, global, gospel need that remains. The harvest is still plentiful and the workers are still few.

It has been our great joy therefore to see God raise up many new workers from the UK in recent years and it continues to be our privilege to support UK churches as they send mission partners to make disciples of all nations.

Alongside this, we are also greatly encouraged to see how God is raising up mission workers from all over his global church. A growing number in UFM are now involved in supporting, encouraging and facilitating churches in other parts of the world as they send mission workers for the first time. UFM workers are, for example, involved in cheering on the first generation of the Mongolian mission movement, as the church there sends gospel workers into least reached parts of East Asia and beyond. Others work with pastors in sub-Saharan Africa with more and more local

churches catching the vision to send to unreached people groups in North Africa.

The opportunity to support these new mission sending movements in areas such as training, pastoral support and finance, without just replicating a Western mission structure, is as challenging as it is exciting!

Building on historic relationships to equip future mission sending

Andrew and Jenny Love, who served with UFM in Brazil and are now based in South Wales, are involved in just this kind of ministry. With the historical and linguistic links, a good number of Brazilian mission partners are sent to serve in Portugal, where just 2% of the population are evangelical Christians and where the number of churches has declined from 1,630 in 2000, to 964 by 2016.¹

With their connections to sending churches in Brazil, understanding of language and culture, and experience of cross-cultural mission life, the Loves are ideally placed to support Brazilian mission workers in Portugal. Andrew & Jenny make regular visits to Portugal to provide pastoral support on the ground, as

well as encouraging churches in the UK to partner with sending churches in Brazil, to see such workers well supported financially.

The new **UFM Development Fund** has been created to support these types of gospel initiatives.

As we build on UFM's historic relationships with churches in places like Ivory Coast, Papua New Guinea

and Brazil, it is our prayer that the new Development Fund will help to facilitate the sending of many more workers to God's glory among the nations.

For more information, or to give to the development fund, please see www.ufm.org.uk/developmentfund.

¹ www.ufm.org.uk/focus-on-portugal

New UFM Podcast: Insights direct from mission workers, staff & guests



**How can the local church be more involved in mission sending?
What role should the church in the West play in sending in the
future? How can we serve 'better' not 'bigger' in our ministries?**

These are just some of the conversations we have had on the 4Corners podcast. Launched in 2022, the podcast seeks to engage discussion about the latest issues and trends in cross-cultural mission, with a variety of guests.

In this first season we have chatted to JD Payne (Professor of Christian Ministry at Samford University), Michael Prest (Director of UFM Worldwide), Seth Lewis and Grace Njuguna (UFM mission partners), and Ardi Wiriadinata (Director of Mission at the Asia Pacific Baptist Federation), and have covered topics

as varied as the biblical theology of mission, contrasting church cultures, and how to 'dream small'.

Perhaps you are a church leader, a supporter of one of our mission partners, or are just generally interested in what God is doing in his world through cross-cultural mission? We hope you will find our conversations engaging.

Listen online on our website or search for **4Corners Podcast** wherever you get your podcasts.

www.ufm.org.uk/4-corners-podcast

Upcoming Events

Considering your role in mission, or supporting others?

Join us for Bible teaching and a chance to chat at our events.

Find out more at ufm.org.uk/events

Called to Serve

10am-4pm, Saturday 25th March,
UFM Worldwide Main Office

Irish Spring Conference

10am-4pm, Saturday 1st April,
Craigavon Baptist Church

Scottish Spring Conference

Saturday 22nd April

Summer Conference

24th-28th July 2023, The Hayes
Christian Conference Centre,
Swanwick, Derbyshire

(Early bird discount available
until 1st March)

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Summer Conference

24 - 28 July 2023

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

The Hayes Christian Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire
Book your place at ufm.org.uk/summer-conference

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 240 mission partners in 40 countries, sent by 100 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.



Supporting churches in
making disciples of all nations