

4 CORNERS

WINTER 2023



ufm
worldwide



“THE AIRSTRIP IS CLOSED”

Mozambique

PASTORS FROM
WAR-TORN CONGO MEET
The Democratic Republic of Congo

WHAT CAN A SUMMER
TEAM REALLY ACHIEVE?
Italy

Ready to die

Michael Prest, Director, UFM Worldwide



In the rainy, black and white video clip, a UFM missionary nurse speaks to ITN about her release from captivity by Simba rebels in Congo.¹ The year is 1965. For seven months she had been missing, believed killed, along with 19 others.

Margaret Hayes' death certificate had been issued in the UK, a thanksgiving service held and yet here she was. This middle aged lady with a speech impediment, recalled:

"I was in hiding in the forest for one month. But then the rebels heard where I was and said 'If you don't come out, we'll kill the whole tribe.' When I heard this I decided it would be better for *me* to die than my friends."

She gave herself up, saying, "If you want to kill me, kill me."

Friends, here was a lady who was ready to die. Remarkably her life was spared – and you can read her story in the book *Missing, Believed Killed* – but the rest of her UFM colleagues, 19 mission workers and their children, were killed. A plaque at the UFM office in Swindon names each one. Below is the text: "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants." (Psalm 116:15)

It is moving to hear such stories of sacrifice, yet who in the UK today is telling us to live our lives with such abandon? Who in the church is urging us to give our lives like this?

Too often, we are inspired by these stories for a time, but then we put them, together

with the way of life they represent, back into the archive box. We go on our way, influenced by the culture of the day – a culture that is telling us at every point to avoid discomfort. Every danger is to be dealt with, every risk assessed and ultimately avoided.

The apostle Paul faced a similar critique. Having decided in the Spirit to go to Jerusalem, knowing that hardships were facing him, he was 'urged' not to go by the believers in Tyre (Acts 21:4). Yet Paul responded, "Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." (Acts 21:13)

Here is the reason that Paul could face such sacrifice with resolve; his life had been given over to someone else, he

1. www.gettyimages.co.uk/detail/video/margaret-hayes-story-margaret-hayes-press-conference-news-footage/828271928?

was committed to Jesus Christ and the cause of the gospel among the nations.

When James Calvert went to reach a cannibalistic tribe in the South Pacific, the ship's captain urged him to turn back, "You will lose your life and the lives of those with you if you go among such people." Calvert replied, "We died before we came here."

This again is Paul's example, "I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace." (Acts 20:24)

What a joy it is to see God continuing to raise up workers ready to relinquish their rights, lay down their lives and, in faith, follow him to the ends of the earth.

Over recent months we have had applications for long term mission work in South Asia, Eurasia, Madagascar,

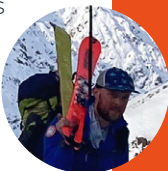
Hungary, France, and Kenya.

A modern mission biography takes Calvert's words as its title. Stephen Foreman was shot in the street by militants in North Africa. His wife, grappling with questions about this cost and sacrifice, writes,

"Stephen had handed over his life a long time ago. No bullet could have taken it from him. He had willingly given it so that more of his brothers and sisters could join him in worship on the other side of eternity, where the Father's comforting hand and proud smile would wipe away every trace of pain and sorrow ... Stephen didn't lose his life. He found it."²

Friends, let's pray on that God would continue to raise up workers where the gospel is yet to go.

Michael



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2. Emily Foreman, *We Died Before We Came Here*, 171-172.



“The airfield is closed”

Jeremy and Janet Boddington are UFM mission partners serving with Mercy Air

We had been flying our mission partners into the villages beside Mozambique’s crocodile-infested Zambezi River for several years. Now, suddenly, permission from the authorities in Maputo dried up. Unless we were flying out of a certified airfield, the answer was ‘No’.

Using a certified airfield would be impossible. Those up and down the Zambezi had been closed and overgrown since the civil war in 1990.

“But Sir, we have helicopters that can land anywhere.”

The answer was still ‘No’.

How would the mission organisations we had been flying in carry on their ministries? Our Canadian mission partners, SAM Ministries (ASAM in

Mozambique) had a well-established pastor training and Bible teaching programme in villages bordering the river. Not being allowed to fly was a real showstopper. The roads are awful and flood damage has left only two usable bridges in the whole region. The drive from a village on one side of the river to a village on the other side could take two days across rutted, potholed roads, compared to five minutes on our helicopters.

Not only that, but the area is also regularly hit by cyclones. Often there is no way to get supplies in. Our helicopters provide emergency lifesaving, clean water and food to stranded communities.

Bringing the long-abandoned colonial airfields back into use meant they would have to be cleared and



inspected, but we were not allowed to take the government inspectors there in our helicopters ... because the airfields hadn't been inspected!

So we made several trips from the Mercy Air base in South Africa to Maputo, the capital of Mozambique, to persuade the authorities to be flexible. Working with the Disaster Management Agency, a case was made that this would not only make cyclone flood response easier, but the area could be opened up for businesses, agriculture and tourism. Eventually permission was granted as long as Mercy Air and SAM Ministries bore the costs of the flights, inspections and runway clearance.

In a couple of months, local churches and a sugarcane farmer cleared the runways, and they were surveyed and certified. Since then, we have used them to fly food into flood-stricken villages using our Kodiak aircraft. SAM Ministries is continuing their wonderful work with churches and



Left: Chemba Airport before re-opening, above, top: Mercy Air pilot, David Schumacher, delivering food aid to a newly opened airstrip, above: the Zambezi River – canoe crossings are dangerous and to drive around takes days. Photos: Matthias Reuter of Mercy Air Switzerland

schools. Given the competition with false teachers and witchdoctors, it is particularly important to boost the credibility of the few pastors who have received clear biblical training. This is done by holding graduation ceremonies in the communities, with the graduates flying in by VIP helicopter.

By God's grace, an inaccessible area is being opened up for gospel outreach. Pray for the Lord to do amazing things in these communities.

What can a summer team really achieve?

Ruairidh MacLean, UFM Area Director based in Scotland

A group of Scottish Christians of a wide range of ages, trying to communicate the gospel in a mixture of Italian and English, together with local Christians on the streets of Sicily, Italy – this is where we found ourselves last summer, but could God use a week-long trip like ours?

The summer team came about following my visit to UFM workers, Jonathan and Annette Gilmore last year. The Gilmores serve in church planting and Jonathan leads Impatto (Acts 29 Italy) in Palermo, the capital of the island of Sicily. They had a number of connections in Scotland, and I suggested we build a short-term team. So, with UFM's blessing this June, I had the privilege of heading to Italy with a team drawn from churches across Scotland, to work alongside the Italian church-plant there, LifeHope.

Why organise such a short trip? Our prayer was that it would be an encouragement to the mission workers, the local church, the team themselves, as well as their churches

and other churches they might have contact with. We prayed that it might encourage the team and their churches in their involvement in mission. So, were we able to be a blessing in these ways?

Very much so. Our prayerful and practical response to the local church was indeed encouraging, but we also saw God working during the week in a number of other ways. For example, a cultural event we ran at a home for the elderly, led to the owner inviting Jonathan to return in a spiritual capacity. This was very much a surprise, although something we had prayed for, and it was a particular encouragement to Jonathan and Annette.

The presence of the summer team encouraged some from the church to be more directly involved in the street outreach, and we hope this may stimulate others as well. Some of our team facilitated the work through the practical help of preparing meals. This was an encouragement to everyone, at various levels, but one particular blessing that came through this was that it opened the



Above: looking over Palermo, below, top: LifeHope church, below, bottom: Palermo summer team

door for one family member, who had not yet come to faith, to come along to one of the events.

It was, of course, great to enjoy fellowship with the church members in LifeHope church, which we trust was an encouragement to them, as it was to us. The members of the team were also very much encouraged by their time on the team, seeing the Lord at work in and through us. The Lord graciously enabled the group to gel really well, even though we were all so different.


Evangelistic conversations took place on the streets of Palermo, sometimes in Italian, sometimes in English, and one notable interaction also moved into Spanish. This individual had a couple of conversations with team members, and also got in touch with Jonathan later through the contact number that had been shared.

Through conversation and literature distribution, seed was sown. We pray that the seed planted will bear fruit. We also pray that the experience will

be a fruitful one for team members. Who knows, maybe the Lord will lead some to engage with mission long-term. Since our return, the fruit of our trip has continued, as team members have shared with home churches and others about their experiences of the Lord's work during their time in Italy.

We feel blessed to have been part of the team. Praise God for all the ways in which he blessed and used the trip. Please pray for continued fruit.





Laying a foundation as a wise builder

E serves in Central Asia in church planting

Everything had been swept away, there was no cabin there. After a 2-day trip of hiking and skiing, I stood on top of the avalanche debris, looking at the remains of all our hard work.

Foundations aren't pretty. Grey, concrete, mostly hidden. They look even more ugly when they don't have anything on top of them – a reminder of former ambitions or demolished dreams.

That's certainly how I felt, as I stood on top of these foundations earlier this year, in the remote part of our country known as 'The Valley'. A few days previously, I had received a phone call from local friends to say that the cabin we'd been building as part of a tourism development project had been swept off the side of the mountain. Now, as I stood on top of dull, grey foundations with no

cabin on top of them, I contemplated how our work had been revealed, not by fire, but by snow ... and found very lacking (1 Corinthians 3:13).

Processing the loss with local friends up there was a fruitful experience. They were visibly upset. Their hard work had been swept off the mountainside, but they were also keen to impress upon us that no one in their 150 years or more of community history on that hillside had ever seen an avalanche touch that spot.

I sat with my colleagues in their guest room and shared with them that whilst we were indeed saddened by what had happened, I wanted to follow the Psalmist's model of taking time, even in moments of darkness, to praise and to worship. I shared with them Psalm 8 – David's psalm of marvel at God's majesty in creation. It seemed appropriate

to remember that the power of the avalanche, that laid waste our cabin for several hundred yards down a mountainside, is incomparably minuscule compared with the power of the creator God of the universe.

As we have served alongside the local church here, the picture of foundations has been one that we have returned to, time and time again. In a society where the vast majority of our local friends have engaged in constructing their own home, there's strong resonance with the concept. We often want to quickly jump ahead to the pretty bits – the aesthetics, and the finer points of design – but unless we take time to build good quality foundations then that work is futile.

We have been spending increasing amounts of time shoring up theological foundations through teaching over this last year. It is often not the fancy or practical part of the Christian walk – whatever the ministry equivalent is of picking out wallpaper – but it is essential. We are so often tempted by 'doing' in the Christian life and are prone to skip the building of solid foundations that will mean the wallpaper can be admired for many years to come.

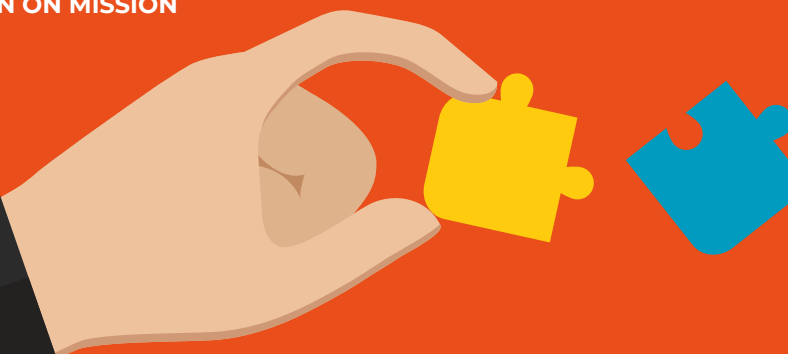
In The Valley we have not even poured the foundations yet. Alongside others with a heart for those isolated communities, we have been going through the spiritual equivalent of clearing rocks, putting



Left and above, top: the remains of the cabin, above: trekking through 'The Valley'.

in stakes and marking out the boundaries. Our hope is not to see cabins built, but his church.

After reading Psalm 8, we talked about the author and I shared the good news of Jesus, the better David, who defeated the giants of sin, the world, and the devil, and who is now "crowned with glory and honour" (Psalm 8:5). In the work of spiritual construction, after years of relationship building, it took stripping back our cabin to its foundations to have an opportunity to begin breaking ground in the hearts of our dear friends there.



Can God use AI?

Ed and Kate in digital publishing and internet ministry with OneHundredFold

When AI burst on the scene less than a year ago, people began to ask a lot of questions, like “Is AI going to destroy us all?” or “Isn’t AI a force for evil?” At 100fold we have always worked to redeem technology and we asked a different question: “Can AI be used to advance the gospel?”

We knew that people already asked Google medical questions and spiritual questions, so we expected that they would do the same with AI. We started asking different AIs spiritual questions and found the answers were often unhelpful. So we set about making an AI gospel app, but it had to be accurate and trustworthy. To accomplish this, we trained the app on thousands of gospel questions and answers. After a couple of months of work, we started to ask people to test the app and give us feedback. Within a few days we

received the following testimony from a woman testing the app:

“I was talking to a man at work about my hope in Jesus and he asked me, ‘Why didn’t God just delete sin when Adam and Eve fell?’ I had been testing your app and thought that he would be interested in an answer from an AI. So we asked the app his question and got the following answer:”

“God did not simply ‘delete’ sin when Adam and Eve fell because sin has serious consequences. Sin is a rebellion against God’s perfect, holy nature, and it

... her colleague felt the AI had given a good answer and he opened up to receiving Christ

separates us from Him. God is just and righteous, and sin cannot go unpunished. However, out of His great love and mercy, God provided a solution for sin through Jesus Christ. Jesus, the Son of God, came to earth,





lived a perfect life, and willingly died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins.”

The woman went on to say that her colleague felt the AI had given a good answer and he opened up to receiving Christ. Please pray for this man as he is reading the Bible and learning what it means to be a Christian by talking with his coworker who is a believer.

“I just tried it with three of the most difficult questions my middle kid asked me on his way to non-faith, and the answers were excellent!”

When we heard this account, it struck us that this was similar to a tool that has been used by generations of Christians to share their faith – the gospel tract. However in this case, it turns a smartphone into a “smart tract” that can provide

an answer to very specific questions.

Another tester commented “I just tried it with three of the most difficult questions my middle kid asked me on his way to non-faith, and the answers were excellent! I wish I’d had this tool then.”

To think that this AI app could help people share their faith with greater clarity and assurance – that it could be a tool to help people, not something to replace people – was exciting and humbling. So our answer to the original question of whether AI can be used to advance the gospel is: “Yes, if we build this app carefully, it could be useful in this way.”

We are continuing to work on the app to make it more useful. You can give it a try at questionbot.org or you can call +44 7360 536695 and ask a question directly. Both are still a work in progress, but we would welcome your feedback so that we can improve the app and make it more reliable.



Ink in God's pen: Pastors from war-torn Congo meet

William Brown, UFM Head of Personnel

"May you continue to serve as ink in God's pen, writing his story in our generation." These were the words of Dr Eraston Ligoma, CEO of the Centre of Intercultural Missions and Research (CIMR) in the Democratic Republic of Congo, when he visited the UFM office earlier this year.

A country UFM workers have served in for many years over the last century, the DRC has sadly suffered much in recent times, due to the civil war. Whilst the war is officially over, the bloodshed continues in the east. And yet, God is at work and building his church among the Congolese.

In June, I had the amazing opportunity of visiting, at the invitation of Eraston, to see the great work of CIMR which is based in Goma, the largest city in Eastern Congo. CIMR runs several training programmes including leadership and cross-cultural training: equipping students to be ink in God's pen.

It was a great privilege to participate in a conference for pastors serving in



Some of them were clearly traumatised ... Some had been kidnapped or their churches destroyed ...

the war zones. Some of them were clearly traumatised due to what they had suffered and witnessed. Some had been kidnapped or their churches destroyed, with church members suffering sexual violence. It was moving to hear these men sing in Swahili, "Trust and obey, for there's no other way, to be happy in Jesus,



Above, top: sharing and praying at the conference, above: a seminar on member care.

but to trust and obey!" One of the most poignant moments was at the end of our time together, seeing the men sharing their experiences and praying for one another.

Later that week, a seminar organised for church leaders encouraged them to think about cross-cultural mission sending. Eraston pointed out that DRC is strategically placed to send mission workers to the least reached areas in the 10/40 window. His vision is that DRC could become

a hub to send and equip others to serve in Francophone Africa. He reminded the church leaders of their responsibility to be proactive in identifying and equipping those suitable to serve in mission.

It was inspiring to talk to Congolese Christians already serving as ink in God's pen in the midst of huge challenges. For example, Dr Kasareka (Jo) Lusi, a highly respected surgeon in Eastern Congo, opened a hospital in Goma and performs much-needed operations in this war-torn region. In 2002, the hospital was destroyed by a volcano, yet Jo and his wife were determined, by God's grace, to rebuild it. Jo also has warm memories of serving with UFM mission workers in Nyankunde hospital.

The trustees of CIMR expressed their gratitude for the sacrificial input of mission workers during the 20th century and told us, "Had it not been for mission workers coming to our country, it would be in a much worse state." They invited UFM to consider partnering with them in taking the gospel to the least reached.

We are excited about the possibilities of learning from one another as we serve together. This could involve providing training and advice, inviting CIMR personnel to conferences with other sending organisations that partner with UFM, financial giving for a specific period, and praying for one another. May we all continue to serve as ink in God's pen, writing his story.

Loving France and French people

An interview with Debs Prisk, who works in women's ministry in France and French-speaking Europe

Debs has been living in France for 17 years. She first moved there to work with students and then began working with local churches in Paris. We caught up with her to find out more about what ministry in Europe is like.

Can you tell us when your love of France and heart to serve there originated?

I've had a love for France since I was a child. My first visit to France was at the age of four when my family went on a canal boat holiday in Brittany. I also fell in love with the "Madeline" books and was enamoured by the French language. In school, French was always my favourite subject, thanks to an amazing French teacher, who I'm still in contact with.

I became a Christian at a young age, around 8, while growing up in a Christian family. As I grew older, I began to notice differences between the church in France and the UK, particularly in terms of church size and receptiveness to the gospel. France seemed more closed to the

gospel at that time. It was during this period that my love for France, which had always been rooted in its culture, language, and gastronomy, transformed into a spiritual love for the French people. This newfound love for France ignited my broader interest in cross-cultural mission work, but it all began with a deep affection for the nation itself.

What is it like working with young people in Paris?

Paris is a vibrant and cosmopolitan city with a mix of cultures and a significant population of young people. In my church, the average age of members ranges from 18 to 35, with many being students or young professionals. One of the challenges for young Christians in Paris is navigating the temptations of secularism while staying true to their faith.

Can you elaborate on those challenges and how you support young people in maintaining their faith?

Before coming to Paris, I conducted a survey among members of





my church and some friends to understand the most significant temptations they face. The results were a mix of the expected and the surprising. Predictably, materialism, workaholism, and the high-pressure culture of Paris were common challenges. Distractions and the abundance of options also played a role in tempting individuals away from their faith.

However, what struck me most was that many Christians mentioned struggling with their behaviour towards others, particularly in stressful situations like crowded metro rides. Paris can be a challenging place to live, with unkindness and unfriendliness sometimes prevalent, making it difficult to respond with kindness and care.

How else is God using you?

In addition to my ministry role, I am actively involved in the French National Council of Evangelicals, where I represent the conservative evangelical wing of the movement. This role demands a significant time investment, but it's driven by a deep passion. We are currently focusing on being more mission-oriented as evangelicals, aiming to bring the gospel to those who have not yet encountered Jesus. While we recognise that the Holy Spirit's work is at the centre, we actively seek strategic ways to impact France with the gospel, placing ourselves in positions where God can use us effectively.

This article is paraphrased from a recent podcast. Find the full interview at www.ufm.org.uk/4-corners-podcast



Supporting you better

Matthew Martin, Communications Manager explains how we are connecting our mission family with the UFM portal

I am an unapologetic Apple enthusiast. Twice a year, during Apple's highly anticipated launch events, I find myself filled with excitement. It's the moment when Apple's CEO, Tim Cook, accompanied by his team of sun-kissed Californian executives, takes the stage to unveil the latest in mobile and computer technology.

Tuning into the live-stream on my trusty, four-year-old iPhone, I eagerly await the big reveal, often followed by the iconic phrase, "This is the best iPhone we've ever made."

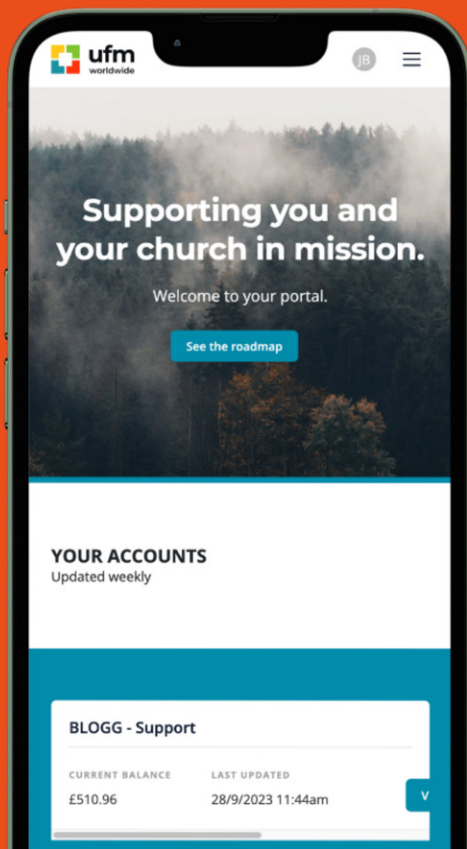
As I comfort my aging but still capable device, it's clear that Apple's consistent messaging has served them well, leading them towards a staggering \$3 trillion valuation.

It's about gospel progress

This year at Summer Conference, something *arguably* more exciting unfolded. We took to the stage to introduce the UFM Portal. Although our audience wasn't comprised of millions of global fans, we were joined by an enthusiastic group of

mission partners and supporters, eager to see how UFM plans to enhance practical support for those spreading the gospel worldwide.

God has equipped us with the tools, vision, and know-how to communicate more effectively with our mission family. This way, they can



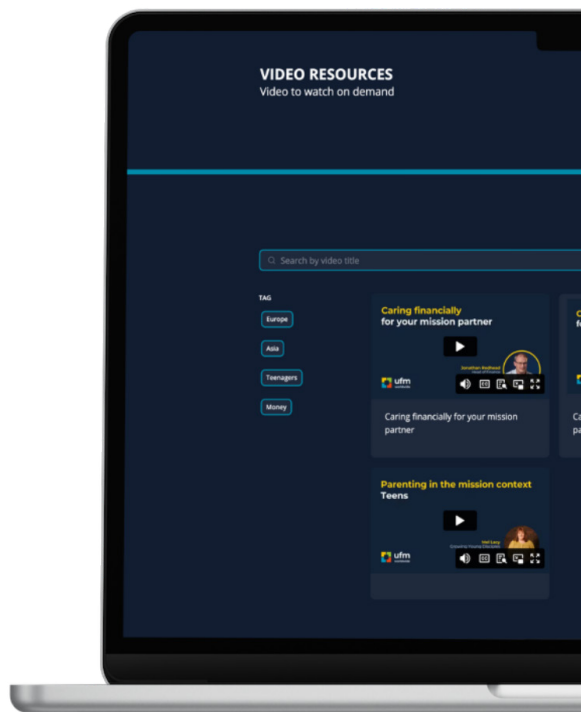
focus more on building his kingdom and less on administrative minutiae. Similar to Tim Cook's annual declaration about iPhones, we too want to demonstrate that, by God's grace, we continually seek to improve on equipping and empowering our mission family with the best viable technology while stewarding our resources wisely. Our aim is to return to each Summer Conference with the phrase, "We are supporting you better."

The road ahead

We don't have Apple's vast resources. We rely on faith in God and the evolving digital landscape to create the UFM Portal without complex, expensive in-house development.

Initially, the portal will offer basic financial reporting, expense requests, directories of mission partners and staff. In the coming months, we'll expand its features, including enhanced financial reporting, administrative functionality, prayer requests and various resources.

Our vision is to expand the UFM Portal into a comprehensive tool that efficiently manages the financial, resource administrative aspects of cross-cultural mission. This tool, supported by a dedicated support team, benefits mission workers worldwide by connecting them with a broader mission network, offering adaptable, scalable, and cost-effective software for their ministry.



This potential extends beyond mission partners. UFM's core aim is to assist gospel-hearted churches in identifying, training, sending, and supporting cross-cultural mission workers. Greater visibility of mission work not only fosters accountability but also enhances engagement between partner churches and their mission workers, as well as with cross-cultural missions in general.

Please continue to pray for us as we explore our role in majority world mission sending including the digital infrastructure required for this purpose.

Welcome!



Rachel Horner is currently completing a Crosslands training course and placement at her sending church, Aigburth Community Church. She hopes to move to southern France in 2024 to work alongside a local church in women's ministry and outreach among students.



Zi Yang Chew recently completed a ministry internship at St Andrew the Great, Cambridge. He is now training to be a pastor at Evangelical Theological College of Asia in Singapore, with a view to serving long term in a Mandarin-speaking church in Malaysia.



Rebecca Hughes is spending a year in North America serving in a support ministry at Radius International – a mission training organisation. She is sent by Lordshill Baptist, Shropshire.



Joe and Fi Northway are spending almost a year in Eswatini in Southern Africa. They are using their skills as a doctor and physiotherapist to show God's love through healthcare to poor and remote communities. Joe and Fi are sent by Christ Church Southampton.



Steve Jackson is serving in Moldova until July 2024, doing student ministry in partnership with IFES. He is sent by Hope Church, Longsight, Manchester.

FOCUS ON ...

Ireland

Peter Milsom, 4Corners Editor

It may surprise many people to hear that Ireland is the least evangelised country in the English-speaking world. There are many Bible-believing Christians in Northern Ireland and the UK mainland who speak the same language and don't need a visa to go to Ireland yet very few have engaged with the great spiritual need there.

Ireland has a population of five million people and has been known as the land of "saints and scholars". In the 5th century Patrick brought Christianity to Ireland. The Roman Catholic church has been the dominant religion with 90% of people identifying with it.

Today Ireland is a secular country. Devotion to religion is waning and progressive secularism is rising. The influence of the Roman Catholic



Please pray for ...

- God's help in reaching out to disillusioned Roman Catholics.
- Church work with young people and students.
- Evangelism and ministry to the growing immigrant population.
- Encouragement for church planters facing many challenges in engaging people with the Gospel.
- For a new leader for Calvary Mission, when Paudge Mulvihill retires.
- A new pastor for the church in Westport.
- UFM mission partners in Ireland



Ireland is...

5million



14% are non-Irish
including Polish, British,
Indian, Romanian, Brazilian



1 in 5
under 15



6million



7.4million

- >1% Evangelical Christians
- 1% Muslim or Hindu
- 8% Non-religious
- 90% identity as Roman Catholic

(joshuaproject.net)

**...known
for giving
a warm
welcome**

**...very
fond
of a
cup
of tea**

The Shamrock is an unofficial symbol of Ireland originating from an account of St Patrick using the leaf to explain the Trinity.



church is in sharp decline. Many people are deeply disillusioned with the Catholic Church because of the many cases of child abuse which have come to light in recent years. The decline in the influence of the Catholic church has opened the door for new progressive laws on abortion and same-sex marriage.

More than 100 towns in Ireland with a population of 5,000 plus with no gospel witness.

Bible-believing Christians make up less than 1% of the population and there are more than 100 towns in Ireland with a population of 5,000 plus with no gospel witness. Most people know little about the Bible's teaching or understand the way of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

UFM works with Calvary Mission who are committed to planting healthy gospel churches across Ireland. We are also involved in the Cork-Kerry Project which is planting churches in Cork and the surrounding areas using the "strawberry runner" method.

One great challenge is to reach people living in urban areas – 64% of the people live in urban communities including 2 million people living in the Greater Dublin area.

A great priority is to reach the 1 in 5 of people who are under 15 years of age. Many have been brought up as Catholics but have left the church in disillusionment..

One source of growth for Bible-believing churches has been through immigration. It is estimated that more than 700,000 non-Irish nationals (14% of the population) now live in Ireland, many of them from countries in Europe. Some are Christians and have joined Bible-believing churches.

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



What's it like ... being a doctor in a dangerous jungle?

Dr Rachel Hopkins spent 10 months with UFM in Papua New Guinea.



I wasn't expecting anything untoward when suddenly, about 90 minutes into our journey, we were stopped by a gang of men pointing guns at us. Their faces were blackened by war paint and they were shouting in a language I didn't understand.

I was making the trip from Kompiam District Hospital to the nearest town for the first time, five months into

my short-term trip to Papua New Guinea. It was four hours' drive on a bumpy road and I knew the journey was sometimes dangerous. There could be roadblocks, but these had never affected the hospital before, as they respected our neutrality.

Now we were being forced out of the car and our possessions stolen. I had managed to quickly hide my small bag and phone under the car seats so none of my items were taken, but

this left me with a strong feeling of guilt later.

It was a challenging time, but God was kind and faithful. Our community grew closer through it all, and I felt so upheld in love and prayer from those near and far.

Five months earlier, I had been settled in my home city of Sheffield working as a junior doctor, serving in my local church. However, growing up reading mission biographies had instilled in me a deep awareness of the gospel need and how God is working around the world. This shaped my faith and dreams for my life. I had gone into medicine with mission in mind, so I took the first opportunity for a short-term trip.

She could still take her machete and pay back eye for eye ...

The mission hospital in Kompiam is a small, 55-bed hospital in the highlands, offering maternity, paediatric, medical, surgical and outpatient care. I loved the variety, from delivering babies to reviewing emergency patients, learning basic surgery and managing chronic health problems. One highlight was visiting rural villages on MAF planes to support health workers.

There is a close community in Kompiam which I was accepted into immediately. These friendships were a huge gift; however it was

challenging adjusting to the lack of resources and the difference in medicine. I felt the weight of the expectation of patients, that after having walked for days to get to the hospital, we would save them. Sadly, this wasn't always the case. This broke my heart, especially as many died from preventable illnesses.

During my time there, we started a weekly Bible study. Many patients were from church backgrounds and were so open and honest. After reading about loving our enemies, one lady who had been attacked with a machete, shared how she had been planning her revenge. Her left hand had been chopped off, but she still had her right. She could still take her machete and pay back – eye for eye, tooth for tooth. She lives in a violent culture where revenge is expected. However, God moved her heart to see that this is not his way and she was able to forgive. Tears streamed down my face as I saw God change this lady's heart in this remote corner of the world. He is the God who sees, cares and changes lives.

The past year, I have known the presence of God on a deeper level and seen his faithfulness in joys and sorrows. I am now praying about how best to be equipped to go back long-term.



Upcoming Events

Scottish Prayer Day

Saturday 11 November at 10am
11 Newton Place, Glasgow

Irish Autumn Conference

Tuesday 21 November at 8pm
Irvinestown Independent Methodist Church, Irvinestown

Wednesday 22 November at 8pm
Stranmillis Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Belfast

Thursday 23 November at 8pm
Richill Park Baptist Church,
Londonderry

Called to Serve (Nottingham)

Saturday 25 November, 10am-4pm
(lunch included), Beeston Free Church

All details at ufm.org.uk/events

Christmas Cards

Once again this year we shall benefit from the sale of Christmas cards produced by Gospel Cards, etc. 5% of their Christmas card sales will be given to 16 Christian missions including UFM.

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