

Europe Today

A publication of Greater Europe Mission to inform, inspire, and give glory to God.

“Glorify the LORD with me; let us exalt his name together.”

Psalm 34:3 (NIV)

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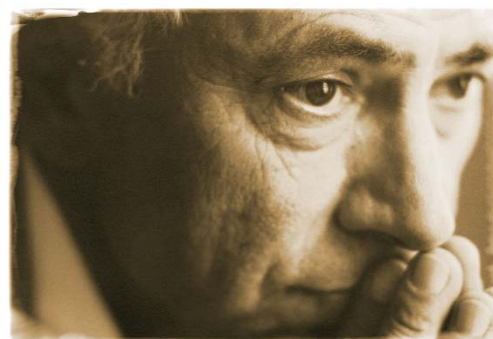
GEM's Mission Statement

The mission of Greater Europe Mission is “to assist the peoples of Greater Europe in building up the Body of Christ so that every person is within reach of a witnessing fellowship.”



Greater Europe Mission®

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Boardwalk

Volunteering for board service is a special calling. Board members bring wisdom and insight that would otherwise be unavailable to most nonprofits. They serve without pay and are often asked to contribute large sums to special projects. In these stories we get a peek into their hearts.

GEM Board Spouses Take Prayer to Heart

Board members' spouses uplift GEM missionary family in prayer.

By Pat Laube, Board spouse

During the fall 2005 GEM Board meeting, the Board members' spouses took time for a morning of prayer. Wives—and one husband—gathered to pray from their hearts for requests from the whole missionary family. We feel that it is our privilege to partner in such a way, and we don't take it lightly.

For several weeks we had collected prayer requests from across the Mission family. This year the requests included personal, spiritual, relational, emotional, guidance, marriage, children, parents, health, housing, ministry, financial, and communication needs. Several missionaries reported answers to our prayers from prior years, and it was a joy to praise God with them. Some prayer requests were for situations “in

process,” and we felt God guiding our prayers for those as well as for new requests.

Prayer time began with a reading of Exodus 17:8-13, recognizing that we are in a spiritual battle. Missionary field work was related to Joshua, and the Board spouses' prayer support was likened to Moses, Aaron, and Hur. Our desire is to be faithful in holding up our hands to God along with the hands of those serving abroad.

Psalm 5:3 says, “...Each morning I bring my requests to you and wait expectantly.” The Board spouses and missionary families are waiting expectantly to see how God answers our requests.

Pray Without Ceasing

God let me see an answer to the faithful prayers my father uttered so long ago.

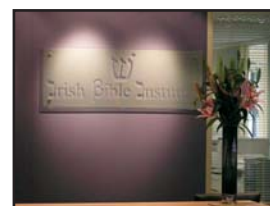
By Derek Langran, Chairman of the Irish Bible Institute Board

I can recall sitting on a horse-drawn wagon in 1943, rattling over the cobbles in Foley Street, beside a driver called Ned, en route to Fairview with a delivery of beds. I was eight years old. Twice a week I walked down Foley Street to meet my dad, who managed an upholstery factory there. It was an appalling street with terrible tenements and overcrowding that the Dublin of today knows nothing about. The cobbled street was neglected, filthy, and poorly lit.

Midway through 2005, I looked out from the top of the Ulysses House ministry and realised, with growing amazement, that I was standing on the very site of the premises managed by my father all those years ago. Dad worked in Foley Street for more than 20 years. He prayed each day for the street and its

poverty-stricken people. He often gave little tracts about Jesus to the children and paid them small sums of money to keep an eye on his bicycle.

Looking out from Ulysses House, I thanked God that my father's prayers for the street and for Dublin had been answered. I hope this will encourage all prayer warriors. God inevitably hears and answers—in His own way and time. My dad died in 1988 without seeing his prayers answered, but the Irish Bible Institute now stands on this site, and that is an answer to prayer.



Reception desk of Irish Bible Institute (IBI)

Witness Through Giving

A way everyone can witness. Some gifts even continue to witness long after we're gone.

Years ago, a GEM family invested in the brownstone neighborhoods of Chicago. They set aside one property as “God's House” and donated its rental income to ministry.

Recently, they placed “God's House” into a Donor Advised Fund. The fair market value of the charitable deduction they received for establishing this gift offset a significant amount of their income

taxes—and they were able to continue using the rental income to provide for the ministry projects they love.

If you have questions about maximizing the impact of your assets, give GEM's Steve Hoffman a call. He is highly regarded in this field and a pleasure to deal with. You can reach him at 719.488.4110 or SHoffman@GEMission.com.

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NEWSLETTER



GEN X GEMERS

God uses faith and friendship to shape a shared destiny.



Barbi and Karalee (right), now sisters in Christ, display going away gifts they gave to one another.

Two talented GEN X recruits recently joined GEM. Karalee McCarthy, who now serves with GEM in Slovenia, also had providential impact on GEM's newest home office staffer, Barbi Stover. Without Karalee's witness, who knows where Barbi would be today. Barbi tells her story this way:

The first time I met Karalee was after an audition for a high school play. We were waiting for our rides home. To break an awkward silence, I offered up a somewhat obligatory, “You did well in there.” Little did I know what that small sentence was about to start.

Following that first encounter, Karalee sought to become my friend, and eventually we became close, even though she was a Christian and I was an extremely outspoken atheist. Knowing that I was opposed to listening, Karalee never directly shared the Gospel with me. Instead, she wisely chose to testify with her life, and it made all the difference.

In my cynical state, I believed that God just existed where science lacked, but I sensed that there was more to life than what I saw. I chose my friendship with Karalee and her boyfriend to fill the void and be my life's anchor.

As college approached, my obnoxious grip on them intensified. One night while chatting with them online, Karalee's boyfriend said he needed to sever his ties with me and signed off. Devastated, I cried out to God for help and repeatedly told Him I was sorry for something bigger than I could find words to describe. In that instant, I felt a distinct presence in my room. I sat straight up, stopped crying, and said, “God, is that You?” A warmth fell over me from head to toe, like warm oil, and my mind thought of one word repeatedly—the word “choice.” A huge burden lifted off my shoulders but remained hovering over me. I knew that how I chose would determine the course of the rest of my life, but what that choice was I did not know.

The next day, I begged Karalee and her boyfriend to take me to church. At first they were skeptical, but once they realized I wasn't trying to find a way to ensnare them into some attack on their faith, they acquiesced.

God is incredible. The sermon that morning was on “Choices.” The pastor talked about the different choices we make in our lives, and ultimately the choice to follow Jesus or not. He used Matthew 7:13-14 to explain the Gospel in a way I'd never before heard and juxtaposed it with my favorite poem by Robert Frost, “The Road Less Traveled.” He described the life of those who enter the wide gate and live on the broad path. I identified with that path and was sick of it. He then described the narrow gate, and what life was like on the narrow path, and that very few find it. I was hooked! I wanted to be one of the few that had that life. So I gave my heart to the Lord, and in that instant, the burden I felt hovering over me was lifted. My life was instantly changed. I went from being bitter, cold, distant, and angry to joyful, warm, and kind.



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The rest of the story.

Our paths separated after high school, but we kept in touch. Two years ago Karalee was appointed for three years of service in Slovenia with Greater Europe Mission. Around that time, I too felt called to missions but knew my time to be on the field was farther off. In July 2005, after my move to Colorado, we met up again. Karalee was eagerly awaiting her visa, and I needed to find a job. She and I prayed for a miraculous August 1 visa arrival for her and job start date for me.

One day, while Karalee was at work in our local coffee shop and I was surfing the web for jobs, the position of Benefits Administrator at Greater Europe Mission appeared. Karalee told me to whom to address my resume, and so I applied.

Within minutes of my interview, and just days before August 1, I learned that Karalee received her visa. She received her visa by August 1 and left for Slovenia on August 22, and I started as Benefits Administrator for GEM on August 1!

The Lord had plans for both of us all long. Though Karalee never spoke the Gospel to me, her life was a living testimony of His existence, love, and truth. I know as she lives among the people of Slovenia, the Lord will use her to breathe spiritual life into many. I am eternally grateful for her friendship and the Lord's faithfulness.

"...by the time we left for Europe her dad had led her to the Lord over the phone."

"Such a Great Cloud of Witnesses"

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. (Hebrews 12:1)

Since GEM's purpose is to assist the peoples of Greater Europe in building up the Body of Christ so that every person is within reach of a witnessing fellowship, we may ask, "What does a witnessing fellowship look like?"

Hebrews chapter 11 helps by telling us who is among that "great cloud of witnesses." The diversity of witnesses is amazing. It's an account of wildly different personalities, places, and situations. The three stories that follow are a sample of the diversity in fellowships that GEMers encounter: A fellowship within the deaf community in Holland, witnessing among the poor and widows in Spain, and connecting with a brand-new Christian in Poland through U.S. ties.

Where Will We Serve?

Chris and Anita experience open doors as they work alongside Spanish volunteers at Mision Evangelica Urbana.

By Anita Anderson

How exciting to find a place to serve God in Spain! God blessed our 10 days in Valencia in every way. We felt a real kindred spirit with the director and a passion for the ministry that we saw. We worked nonstop alongside the volunteers at *Mision Evangelica Urbana* (MEU) so that we would know exactly what would be expected of us, and so that the volunteers would accept us as one of them and not see us as "American missionaries" who came to "take charge."

The director, Rafael, and the president of MEU, Jose Maria, have 10 churches working together, sending teams of 90 volunteers to help the poor there. The volunteers gather for a time of prayer and then serve meals, give haircuts, offer showers, have a weekly Bible study open to any who want to come, help people find jobs, give them clothes, hold a weekly children's program, and much more. The goal is to take Christ to the people by loving and serving them. We were humbled to serve coffee and food and to help out in any way that we could. Chris was put to work repairing a partition that would not "stand up." We also went to a widow's home to help with



Chris Anderson with Pastor Rafael, his wife Pilar and their sons Daniel 7, and Felipe 6.

some minor carpentry repairs. While Chris worked, I had an opportunity to talk about Christ with the woman (it is very rare to be invited into a home).

Soon after our visit to Valencia, God worked out all the details for us to move there and work full time with Rafael and Pilar. They both have seminary degrees from IBSTE, GEM's Bible institute and seminary in Spain. Rafael is a kind, wise, patient, godly man with vision—and more work than he can handle.

Opportunities abound. We have found that when we serve others, doors open. And with opened doors come opportunities to share Christ. In our three years in Spain, we had not been invited into any home other than that of our neighbor and friends from church—that is, until we visited Valencia and were welcomed into a home to help a widow.

Christians are God's fellow workers (1 Cor. 3:5-9). We plant and water the seed, but God causes it to grow. We are servants through whom precious souls come to faith in our Lord. He has assigned each of us a task, and we are thrilled to have found ours!

Remarkable Reunion

"Dead" father reunited with daughter taken from him many years ago. By Frank Zauflik, GEM Appointee

When my wife Andrea and I first met Andrzej (aan-d-jay), we had no idea that we would soon see the unmistakable hand of God at work in a vivid way.

Andrzej Krupinski is pastor of Harvest Polish Ministry, one of many outreaches sponsored by Harvest Bible Chapel, located in Rolling Meadows, Illinois. His ministry includes Sunday morning worship in English and translated to Polish through headphones, a Friday night worship in Polish translated to English through headset, and a Wednesday night Bible study in his home.

Andrzej was born and raised in Poznan, Poland. As a young adult, he was a professional musician who, like many from Eastern Europe, claimed to be an atheist. Andrzej immigrated to the USA, where he met and married Maria. Later, while scuba diving, he had a conversion experience, after which he transformed his weekly secular Polish radio show into a Polish radio ministry.

One day in late August 2005, Andrzej sent an email, asking me to call him about a very personal matter. When I called, he asked if we still planned to return to Europe in September. If so, he wanted to know where we would be. I said that we would be in a lot of places, but would be starting and ending our trip in Brno, Czech Republic. At that, he began to cry.

He then explained that before he came to America, his former wife had left him, taking their five-year-old daughter, Ida. Due to communism and such, he was unable to find them. But now, some 23 years later, he had just received a phone call from his long-lost daughter. She had located him through a web search that somehow linked to Harvest Bible Chapel's website.

Ida was surprised to find her father. She was surprised to learn that he was a pastor. And she was very surprised that he was

alive, since her mother had told her he was dead.

Andrzej wept when we mentioned Brno because that is where Ida lives. He asked us to visit her and deliver gifts from him.

Like a lot of Czechs, Ida was an atheist. I say "was" because by the time we left for Europe her dad had led her to the Lord over the phone. The Brno connection was even more interesting since GEM has ministry staff there. Gloria Ginn visited Ida and her family with us. Now there is a local GEM connection available to disciple Ida. We have great hope that her husband and other family members will become believers soon.

Andrzej wrote us: "Dear Frank and Andrea, thank you very much for your heart for my daughter Ida. I will never forget you about this. This is very important to me, that she can have fellowship with you, that she can see in you not only my friends and brother and sister, but Christ. You are walking Gospel. I love you both."

Recently, Ida was able to spend a few weeks with her dad—their first time together in 23 years.



Finders keepers - Andrzej at the keyboard with re-united daughter Ida and wife Maria standing between Andrea and Frank Zauflik.

Aftermath: A few days after we visited Ida in Brno, members of a local cult "just happened" to knock on her door to talk about faith issues. Fortunately, she had spoken to her dad about this, but it is an example of how quickly the spiritual battle can manifest itself.

Signing Away

GEM missionary Terri Chapman willingly gave up her special skill, only to discover what God really had in store for her.

By Terri Chapman



Imagine the isolation of not being able to communicate verbally, especially if you're in a foreign country!

When my husband and I left the U.S. to answer God's call to join a church-planting team in Alkmaar, Holland, I assumed that I was giving up my 23-year career working with the deaf as a sign-language interpreter. Strangely, though, I was amazingly at peace about it.

For three years I focused on learning Dutch, the culture, and the regular ministry needs. Then, last

spring, I took a Dutch sign-language class and immediately began to see God opening doors for me. Just a few weeks into class, God brought my first Dutch deaf friend into my life. Tasja is a believer who, because of her deafness and physical isolation from other deaf people, is hungry for relationships. Soon, to my

complete amazement, God brought into my life two deaf Americans who live in Holland. The American Sign Language skills that I thought I had left in the States are now finding open doors for ministry halfway around the world!

Deaf people are often isolated in their own cultures. Those who live abroad are even more so. Recently I spent a day in Amsterdam, introducing my new American deaf friends to each other. The joy on their faces at being able to communicate in their own native language was incredible! My relationship with them is opening doors for me to share the Gospel with them as well.

I have now completed my second Dutch sign-language course and plan to take the third course in the spring. God has allowed me to develop contacts with people in deaf ministries all over Holland, and I am eager to see what role He has for me in that area. He took something that I willingly offered up to Him and is returning it to me to use in new ways.

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