



RCA Global Mission

2020 Year in Review



Doug and Dianne McClintic - Hungary

Our goal in 2020 was to form and activate the European Church Planting Partnership which has only partially been realized due to the pandemic. Doug serves as the planting director of the partnership. A sub-goal was to relocate to Europe and station ourselves in Hungary. We were able to do this in late January, then had to return to the US due to a family emergency (March through July). We were able to return to Hungary in early August. COVID-19 prevented us from having our first ECPP Summit originally scheduled for May and then rescheduled for October. Both events were eventually canceled. We were able to develop the website for the partnership, europartnership.org and three new churches held their first worship services. Anchor Church in Dallas, Romania; RELISH Church in Hanover, Germany; and Crosspointe Church in Szeged, Hungary. We helped three church planting teams develop the beginnings of a five-year strategy.

Blessings of 2020

We were able to adopt a church in the Netherlands as a restart. The Filadelfia Church in Apeldoorn began a process of restarting and relocating its services under the direction of Pastor Christiaan van Dijk.

We hosted a “virtual” mission trip with the Hungarian Church Planting Collaborative and assisted by Global Mission Staff. This event was held in October and included members of Harbor Churches, Fifth Reformed Church of Grand Rapids, Centerpointe Church of Kalamazoo, and Community Reformed of Zeeland, as well as Hungarian Pastors from the Urreti Reformed Church of Debrecen, the University Reformed Churches of Debrecen and Szeged, and Crosspointe Reformed Church of Szeged.



Dianne and Doug meet with re-start Church Planter, Christiaan van Dijk in the Netherlands - February 2020

Challenges of 2020

COVID-19 was the single greatest challenge of 2020. This caused the ministry of most of our partners to face significant problems, difficulties, and financial shortfalls. All European countries faced lockdowns, curfews, and restrictions for public gatherings. Travel to visit our church planters in countries outside of Hungary was completely restricted. We are grateful that we were able to be with planters in the Netherlands in February before the lockdown.

The deaths of Dianne’s sister on March 30 and Mother on May 6 had a deep impact on us. Complicated by COVID-19 and travel restrictions, we were hampered in our ability to keep in contact with the church

planting teams. The limitations of Zoom were deeply felt, even though we were grateful for the use of this technology during our long absence from Europe.



*University of Debrecen Church Planter
Dóra Kovács-Szécsi and Dianne
McClintic meeting together in
Debrecen - August 2020.*



*We were welcomed by Flora
to the home of her parents
Gábor and Melinda Czagány,
Church Planters in Szeged,
Hungary. September 2020*

Learnings from 2020

- One of our partners, the Reformed Church in Hungary, Transtibiscun Region, has been a great model of denominational leadership during COVID-19. Their emphasis on safety and their cooperation with the Hungarian authorities has been a great model of how the church can work with the government.
- One of our partner churches has leaned into relational evangelism during this past year. They developed a pipeline that consists of the Alpha Course, Discovery Bible Studies, and local church connections to help secular Dutch folks consider becoming disciples of Jesus.
- A collective of church planter trainees have developed an eight-part video series that introduces the basic concepts of Christianity in Hungarian to help reach people with a far more secular than religious background.
- One church plant (pre-COVID-19) developed a series of TED talk-like events that introduce life-on-life topics through well-known speakers. These events ranged in attendance from 120 to over 500 people and ticket sales were used to help fund additional ministry staff.

Hopes for 2021

- We will plan and hold a church planting week in the fall here in Europe that includes all the planters, the representatives from the existing partner churches, and five to ten additional church representatives who are potential mission shareholders or project partners. This event will include an RCA network weekend, some Europe-wide events (i.e. Exponential/CTC/etc.), and specific visits to planting sites for North Americans.
- Redevelop the Holland-to-Holland initiative to include Filadelfia, Turkish Church-in-a-Church strategy, and expansion upon the Pioneers project (Taste!).
- Work on the selection of a church planter for the English Speaking project in Debrecen to have the planter on-site in fall 2021 or early 2022.



*Global Church Planting Summit - Orlando
Florida - January 2020*

- Exploratory conversations with planters in Spain, Portugal, and Albania.



The initial congregation of Cross Point Church in Szeged, Hungary - January 2020



Christmas lights, but no annual Christmas Market, in our home base city, Debrecen, Hungary - December 2020

How We Can Pray

- We need prayer for God to protect our physical, mental, and spiritual health during the upcoming stage of the pandemic. We continue under curfew until at least March 1.
- We need prayer for strategic guidance from God as we continue to meet church planters and develop planting projects.
- We need prayer for the whole of the European church, especially as new leadership is selected in denominations and networks with whom we work. Pray that these groups will see beyond their Christian heritage and culture and select leaders who are passionate about renewal and the spread of the gospel.

Additional Needs

- We are seeking additional PIM Shares to round out our support and put us on a solid foundation as we start to travel again and incur those expenses.
- Church planting projects need direct support from North American partners. New church starts are often a low priority for European denominations, and networks and partnership with the rest of the world are crucial.
- Please consider joining us in Europe this fall (if travel is permitted and wise) for our Church Planting Week. This will be a chance to see our church planting efforts, the larger European church planting landscape, and specific local contexts up close and in person.
- Church mission teams are always welcome! Worship bands, choirs, creative arts groups, and English teachers are especially encouraged to come.

Thank You

Without our partners, we would not be able to do any of this! We have especially felt the support of churches that reached out to us to say that they were hanging in there with us financially and some that even increased their support. The cards and Christmas remembrances that we have received have been very encouraging.

Our project partners have provided lots of direct support and encouragement to church planters and their teams on the ground. These relationships, often through social media, have been a tremendous lifeline for church planters. Thank you!