



# Christian Associates Europe

## 2023 Annual Report

Dear Friend,

Christian Associates Europe, in cooperation with Christian Associates International (now known as *Communitas International*), exists to start and shape communities of faith that love like Jesus in their neighborhoods. In the face of political unrest, war, severe weather and radical cultural changes, the opportunity to serve in the name of Jesus has never been greater.

Christian Associates churches and church-planting projects are actively transforming lives across Europe, North America, and Latin America, proclaiming salvation and demonstrating grace to those who desperately need it. We follow God's leading around the world and right in our own neighborhoods. There has never been a greater opportunity to send teams of people to love like Jesus in their neighborhoods, in order to see people's lives transformed by the Good News of the Gospel.

There are challenges, too. Post-pandemic, our ability to attract new missionary staff in the Netherlands, across Europe and elsewhere has been a unique challenge. This is not unlike most other mission organizations. We trust God for His provision of new workers and ask for your prayer to this end.

The work of the Stichting would not be possible without you: your prayer and your partnership. The church is the very presence of Christ in any culture, and we believe in the unique calling God has placed on Christian Associates to start and shape life-giving expressions of Christ's church. With every prayer, gift, and story you share, you participate in Christ's Great Commission with us. We are grateful to God for you.

The Board of Directors  
Spring, 2024

## Coming Crawling on All Fours

PISEK, CZECHIA — Communitas and our partners minister around the world to help people see the love of Jesus. Whether young or old, the message of the gospel breaks chains and provides hope for those who are lost.

Jim and Candy minister in the town of Pizek, Czech Republic, about an hour and a half south of Prague. There, the hope of Christ reached deep into the heart of a 19-year-old teenager who had lost her way... but is now choosing to follow Jesus.

Adriana (name changed) had her first encounter with followers of Jesus at a children's English camp led by Jim and Candy. Through Candy's testimony during one of the discussion groups, Adriana realized that there has to be a God.



“Right then, I confessed that I believed in Him, but I did not move forward in my relationship with Him,” she recalls. That fall, she started going to youth group, and she initially went for the people, not for the Lord. “I kept doing bad stuff, smoking cigarettes when I was 13 and 14, drinking underage, and missing school on purpose as I tried so hard to fit in with the cool kids.”

Shortly after her 15th birthday, things took a turn for the worse. She developed anorexia, an eating disorder where she didn't want to eat at all. She lied to her parents about eating at school and at friends' homes. She read pro-anorexia websites, including ones that talk about self harm with razors. “My body slowly became my enemy,” she says, and over time, anorexia and bulimia continued to occupy her mind and habits. Within 3 months, she couldn't get out of bed and cried for one straight week, developing signs of anxiety and depression.

Her mom fortunately got in contact with a psychiatrist and she was prescribed homeopathic antidepressants and sleeping pills. But still, Adriana struggled—some days not wanting to take the pills, even throwing them out, thinking “I can manage without them,” and other days overdosing on them.

“I resigned. I didn't feel like I deserved to be alive. I didn't even feel worthy to ask God for help. I was pretty stubborn on my good days, and I felt like I had to do everything on my own. The only person I was able to open up to at that time was my best friend, and I didn't even tell her everything.”

**As time passed, Adriana realized she could not continue living this way. She realized she needed to come to God, “even if it meant coming crawling on all fours,” she says.**

“I started building a deeper relationship with God. I started reading the Bible and praying. And eventually, I was asked to translate our Sunday services to English for overseas visitors. After one youth program and a lot of prayers, I knew I was ready to take the next step—to get baptized. Who else could have been a better person to prepare me for baptism than Candy? I have been baptized and I have been an official member of Elim Písek church for over a year. Now, I continue to serve others, for example, as a camp leader at the very same camp where I met Jesus for the very first time!”

“I would be lying if I said that life is all roses now. But I know the Lord loves me no matter what. Even though there are some worse days, even though I still take an antidepressant every day, even though I still enjoy earthly things.”

**Adriana is still following the Lord as she is in college now. Her story reminds us how God is at work in the lives of this next generation of leaders around the world. Though they face many temptations, God’s Spirit holds them close as He provides a community around them to disciple them toward Jesus.**

Will you please pray for Adriana and many other teenagers who are trying to find their way? Would you support the churches and communities that are discipling and evangelizing these young leaders around the world for Kingdom work? Thank you for your continued support and prayer as we strive to pour in

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## **Being Available for the Least of These**

SOUTHERN FRANCE — Communitas International starts and shapes communities of faith that love like Jesus in their neighborhoods. In other words, we start churches. And as we do so, our staff across the globe are helping those who are marginalized, defeated, and distraught, to feel a sense of belonging in a Christ-centered community as they experience the love of Jesus.

Marco and Marie\* are Communitas missional staff, serving in France. Their community of faith includes a development ministry serving at-risk children and teens. One of the students they serve is Nari\*, an eleven year-old girl whom they have been ministering to since 2015, when she was four.

Due to the violent abuse Nari's mother endured when pregnant with her, Nari was born with a brain injury and continues to struggle with ongoing medical and cognitive issues. Despite her

learning difficulties, however, she has managed to master reading, writing and math (currently at 3rd grade level). However, she has been aware for some time that she can't keep up with her peers academically or physically (her head injury means that she even has to be careful when playing). This is quite frustrating for her, because although she is slower than others to master skills, she is intelligent, capable, and very much aware of what's going on around her.



In September 2023 she will be in 6th grade, and she will begin going to a special school for kids with disabilities. Recently, Nari asked Marco to go to a meeting with her, arranged by her current teacher to introduce Nari to the principal of the new special school, to talk about her transition. Nari's mom is very unavailable, being very abusive and neglectful. She did not attend the meeting (and no-one knows if Nari's father is even alive). Marco and Marie were very moved that Nari invited them into this moment with her,

and of course Marco agreed to help this precious girl during this critical moment in her life.

At the meeting, Marco discovered that for several years, Nari had been telling her teachers at school absolutely everything about himself and Marie, their personal lives, their ministry and camps, and all that the ministry has done for her. She had told the school of her reading the Bible with them, that she prays to Jesus, and how much she loves the people and staff at the ministry!

So for the first half of the meeting, the two principals and Nari's teacher were simply curious to talk to Marco and question him intensely to learn more about his story, what their ministry is about, and why they do the work they do.

Marie was relating this story and mentioned, "Our ministry is a safe haven, where every day we are hoping to bring Christ's life, love, light, hope and healing to so many children. The reality, however, is that it's also just a lot of hard work everyday—being present, being consistent, being patient, showing up, making sure there's food, that the bills get paid, that the government paperwork is correctly filed, that everyone's birthday is celebrated, and that we show up to meetings at kids' schools because if we don't go, no-one else does. Sometimes in the daily struggle of the endless lists of everything that needs to be done, it's easy to forget the impact that God is making through you and the ministry."

Marie continues, "Sometimes I forget that for all of the kids we work with, our ministry is literally their entire world; it's the most important thing in their lives and it's the reason why they keep showing up every day!"

But through moments like these, people like Marco and Marie are reminded that God is at work and moving in the lives of those they are reaching every day. Sometimes just being present and available and helping others feel a sense of belonging is all that's needed to bring people into a relationship with Jesus.

Marie relayed this story, and noted that Nari wasn't upset or surprised that her mom didn't attend the meeting—she was simply proud, happy and confident that Marco was there for her. Her faith in Jesus, because of ministries like this one, has given her the love, joy, and belonging she needs to continue to grow in her life and in her walk with God.

Please continue to pray for Nari, and so many others like her, who are looking for people to show them the love of Christ and help them know they are cherished, valued, and worth the time.

Please continue to pray for Marco and Marie, and those around the world reaching out every day in the name of Jesus, who are relentlessly serving and standing in the gap for those who truly need it.

(\*Names changed for privacy)

## 2023 Report of Activities

For the year 2023, the board of directors of Stichting Christian Associates Europe consisted of Andrew Perriman of London, UK (Chairman), Eric Curtiss of Colorado Springs, USA (Secretary), Nicholas Webb of Shrewsbury, UK (Treasurer), and Geoff Rinehart of Cour d'Alene, USA. Mid-year, the board elected Stefan van der Veer of Roujon, France as a Director. The board met as required in regular meetings during the year and approved financial statements and conducted such other business as was necessary.

Two employees and one volunteer served the organization in The Netherlands. Nine families served as missionaries through the organization, with work in The Netherlands, France, Spain, Sweden, and Germany, with a global presence in many more countries through the Christian Associates network. Missionaries worked to complete the purpose of the organization as laid out in the Policy Plan and the Articles of Association.

Detailed financial reports were compiled by the Finance Director at the end of the year. Summary reports were approved by the Board of Directors for publication online, showing income of €402.188 to expenses of €400.433 for the year, compared to prior year income of €438.466 and prior year expenses of €378.374. Assets of the organization increased from €35.329 on December 31, 2022 to €36,663 on December 31, 2023.

Respectfully submitted on 16 May, 2024,



Eric Curtiss, Secretary

Stichting Christian Associates Europe  
KvK #41206382