

Dear praying friends,

As things here in Austria start to open up just a little, we are beginning to breathe a bit easier. One of our small groups (6 of us plus 2 one-year-olds) met face to face for the first time in two months. There were no hugs, no hand shaking, no kissing – we did our best to keep the proper distance. But we were together and that was AWESOME! I hope I haven't stirred up any unhelpful thoughts and feelings. Learning to give up my drive for control, to let go of things I long to hold tight, to trust God with a future I cannot plan... These have been tough (and on-going) lessons.

The big news from us is that we have decided **WE WILL NOT BE COMING TO THE US THIS AUGUST** through October. When we shared this decision with our son Erik, we all felt the heavy weight of disappointment. We are missing our kids these days so much. It will also mean missing my brother's marriage celebration in August and much more. We have been planning and praying and eagerly anticipating being with many of you. In so many ways, you are a lifeline for us. We long to sit with you over a cup of coffee and soak in the joy of being together. Yet God has clearly led us. So here we will stay for now. Thankfully, Austrian Airlines has allowed us to change our flights at no cost. For those of you who like planning ahead (like I do), our new US travel dates will be, Lord willing (and I mean that!), next year (February 24 to April 7, 2021). This will be a much shorter trip. We'll keep you posted.

Virtually all of our ministries continue online, reducing travel but increasing stress. I (Jim) preached last week on Mother's Day, discovering the huge challenge and cost working outside of my gift-mix. Thankfully, I have a friend who was able to splice the pieces together to get it out Saturday morning. Here's the link, if you want to get a peek at this part of our lives: http://www.evangelikale-kagran.at/predigten/200510_JimHatcher.mp4.

Thank you all for your prayers for us. We are so grateful for your continued support in these uncertain times. Please keep up your prayers for Kristiana, Cory, and the girls, who do not know where they will be after June – particularly difficult, because Rylynn needs to start 1st Grade in September.

Much love and warmest greetings, yours in Christ,

Jim and Lynette Hatcher

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This is my life: GEM's Europe Leadership Team meeting - can you find Jim?