

Dear praying friends,

I'm a bit bleary-eyed as I write today. Lynette and I had a crazy infestation of bees in our bedroom last night and did not sleep much. This morning I preached in our church, feeling neither rested nor well prepared. I mentioned the bees at the start of the message, and after church one of church family members approached me. "I understand the bees," she said. "That message was direct from God, and Satan wanted to keep you from it." Another told me that this supports Paul's statement in 2 Cor. 12:9ff: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness... *For when I am weak, then I am strong.*" Well, praise God. He has his own mysterious ways! In the meantime, what to do about those bees...

*These last few weeks have had their fill of adventure for us. In spite of the limitations, we were able to invite some of our neighbors over a couple of weeks ago for hickory smoked BBQ baby-back ribs, complements of our GEM colleague, Kevin Flierl, who lives on the border between Germany and Switzerland, but mostly serves in Zurich. Kevin came to Vienna to meet with his supervisor (me), but the main thing was the outreach we had. Three of our neighbors were able to come, sitting at separate tables in our garden, enjoying great food, fun music (Kevin is an amazing autodidactic pianist), and conversation that led to the Gospel. One neighbor, a professed atheist who has become a friend, enjoyed the evening so much, she practically begged Kevin to return soon for a second event. It was, she later said, the best time she has enjoyed in many, many months. Please pray for S, her husband F, and our third neighbor ST. Thanks.*

*Another of Kevin's many talents is the making of videos (Vlogging). He worked on several while in Vienna, roping me into helping him. We had fun together, and in the video linked below, you can hear a little about our outreach. We did not take pictures of our guests, but I think you will get a little flavor of the event, plus the fun that Kevin and I had together.*



*Thank you for praying for my work on the BAO project (my dissertation) during July. I made some good progress, though not as much as I had hoped (isn't that always the case!). Please continue to pray for me in this, but also that the Lord would send us workers to help with this vitally needed Kingdom endeavor.*

*Thank you also for praying for Kristiana, Cory, and those precious girls. Rylynn started first grade (virtually) in her local school in Wheaton. Melody is busy learning her letters, too. The big news is that their final visa rejection in Ireland has led to some soul searching and much prayer. We are thrilled to share with you that they are planning to apply for visas to come to Vienna, as soon as the Austrian embassy starts accepting applications. While we grieve with them about Ireland – and this was an incredibly difficult blow – we rejoice over the prospect of having them close. Please pray that they will soon be able to apply and all will go smoothly.*

Finally, I would like to ask prayers for our respective families. Both of us have close family members who are battling cancer.

Thank you all for your participation in our lives and ministries. We love you and depend upon you.

Yours in Christ,

Jim and Lynette