

Dear Praying Friends,

Lynette and I have been back “home” for over a month now. The house and garden were wonderfully cared for while we were gone. And yes, it was great to sleep in our own beds again after such a long hiatus. We did go through a few days of withdrawal, however, missing the daily time of interacting with friends. This has been particularly felt by me (Jim), who, as an extrovert, returned to forced isolation in order to focus on my studies this past several weeks. Thankfully (I guess), life continues to be full of glorious interruptions – those moments, orchestrated by the Holy Spirit, when you touch a person’s life in a critical way. One of those moments came this month when a “promising young man” in our church called up and wanted to talk about a huge issue in his life. Trust was already there between us, so we met and talked and the Lord continued that transforming process, for which we came to Austria in the first place. I was reminded through this, how the enemy turns his attention to those who most desire to live for Christ, in order to sideline and destroy them.

Similarly, our young friends A&F went through a most difficult time this past 6 months, but they have stood fast and the Lord has brought about relief and good fruit, both in their lives and through their example. We met with them twice this month and they are bringing another couple when we meet again on Feb. 12. Please pray that P&J will also find their way toward a deeper relationship with Christ. We are not sure where J is spiritually, so pray for him especially.

I did make significant progress on my dissertation proposal, though not as much I had hoped. The deadline for turning in the proposal draft is March 1. Please pray for this, since we are also traveling quite a bit in February (we had virtually no travel in January, for a change).

As I write this, Lynette and I are in Dublin for four days, watching our granddaughters for two of those days. Tomorrow we return to Vienna, only to turn around the next day and fly to GEM leadership meetings in Lisbon until Feb. 10. I will also be traveling alone to Germany from Feb. 21-24, in order to meet with two direct reports and participate in the GEM Germany’s annual field retreat. This retreat will also be a time to say good-bye to the Germany field’s Field Leader, who will step down at the end of June. This transition and the appointment of a new (albeit interim) Field Leader for Germany has been one of my major strategic issues over the past year. So it is important for me to be at the retreat as part of that transition.

Thank you for your continued prayers for “M”, my Muslim refugee friend. He is much the same as when we left last June: still waiting for his papers, still wanting to read the NT, still not a follower of Christ, but still faithfully engaged in church life. He has made good progress in his German and is earning a little money now, both of which have made him more content as he waits. We picked up where we left off, though I will not be able to meet with him but once every three weeks. In the meantime, he is attending two other Bible studies, each bi-weekly, plus, of course, his Sunday worship attendance. With all of this spiritual input, which he is understanding more and more, some fruit may eventually come. That is our prayer.

Thank you again for carrying us in prayer. This past half-year has underscored once again how vital you all are to us and our on-going ministry in the heart of Europe. We are deeply grateful. In Austria for Christ and His Kingdom,
Jim and Lynette

The words of Jesus for 2018:

"Seek first the Kingdom of God..." (Mt. 6:33) "... for apart from me you can do nothing." (Joh. 15:5)

Die Worte Jesu für 2018:

"Trachtet zuerst nach dem Reich Gottes..." (Mt. 6,33) "... denn ohne mich könnt ihr nichts tun." (Joh. 15,5)

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