

Dear Praying Friends,

"M" was in church the last two Sundays, the first time since February 25. Thank you for praying for him and please don't stop. The other side of this story is that the two women, whose unkind words to him in February led to him leaving and also to his refusal to read the Bible anymore (he returned his copies to me that week)... those two women have also not returned to the community of believers. One of them is a friend who has not returned our calls. It is great to see M back in contact with believers and experiencing the community in worship, but it is heartbreaking to see friends turn their backs on God for whatever reason. Is it disappointment or hurt? Is it pride? I love Psalm 119:165: "Great peace have they who love God's law; nothing causes them to stumble" (or "... nothing shall offend them"). Oh, how we need to treasure the Word of God, know it's liberating truths, and live daily by its precepts.



Today was day 15 for Lynette's radiation treatment. Only five more to go! She seems to be handling it pretty well, but is increasingly tired and sore. Mornings have been a bit more difficult than later in the day. We were so thankful that Kristiana (and Melody) came from Dublin for a week to help Lynette while I was in Germany for three days. What a wonderful pre-Mother's Day gift that was. We are also humbled and grateful to several women in the Kagran Church and several GEM colleagues who have brought meals and another couple from church who came over to help clean and work in the yard. They have been the hands and feet of Jesus these past couple of weeks. This

has been a huge blessing, not only because of Lynette's condition and my schedule, but also because we have had the pleasure of having wonderful friends visit us during this time (besides Kristiana and Melody).

You have also been praying for my studies. I successfully defended my dissertation proposal last Tuesday in Germany, and after a few minor adjustments, I will be able to start my empirical research. The proposal was about 100 pages which not only detailed my research plan, but also contained a review of God's work in Austria over the past few decades and some of the distinctives and history of BAO (our leadership training ministry). The dissertation committee confirmed that this project has the potential to not only help BAO have a greater impact for the Kingdom in the future, but could also contribute to an on-going discussion about the most effective way to raise up and train leaders for local churches in Europe and beyond. Thank you for your prayers for me in this.

In the meantime, I continue to lead the Central Region for Greater Europe Mission, meeting this past week with field leaders from both Germany and the Czech Republic. God is answering our prayers as we transition in Germany to a new field leader (this is going exceptionally well), and as we pray for the Lord to bring new workers for the harvest in the neglected and difficult field of the Czech Republic. I have my alarm set every weekday to buzz me at 10:02am, to remind me to pray the Luke 10:2 prayer – that the Lord of the Harvest would send workers into the harvest. Would you join us in praying that God would raise up a new army of servants, eager to make disciples of all nations? The need is greater than ever.

Finally, thank you for your continued prayers for the Kagran Church and our current challenges, which I mentioned last month. Yesterday I preached on faith, doubting, and prayer. One of the young men in our discipleship group ("J"), who is facing a big discouragement in his life, was deeply moved through the message. Times of trouble are potential times of great growth. That is our prayer for all of our friends in the Kagran community.

Thank you for your prayers and partnership with us in the Gospel!

Yours in Christ for Austria and beyond,

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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