

Dear praying friends,

Thank you so much for your prayers for us, especially Lynette, these past months. Her radiation treatment ended just in time for us to go ahead with our long planned trip to Ireland at the end of May. God blessed us with good weather (unusual for Ireland) and a great visit with Kristiana, Cory, Rylynn and Melody. We anticipated that Lynette would be too worn out to do much, but she rebounded so well and quickly that within about a week she was wearing me out (at least for a few days). It was so good for both of us to get away from the stresses of work and illness – finding ourselves refreshed and invigorated. Bottom line on Lynette's health: there does not appear to be any traces of cancer left and no further treatment is anticipated. Next check-up will be in September. Praise God.

You have prayed for our Kagran church. Please continue. Last Sunday we had a congregational meeting, which seemed to settle for the status quo – not exactly what we had hoped for, but we see this also in God's hands. Pray that the Lord would grant supernatural wisdom to our leaders so that real change may be possible. Pray for us, that the Lord would help us to know how we can best serve in this situation.

In the meantime, we continue to be involved in several small groups and preaching occasionally. Our discipleship group met last night and it was such a joy to explore the Gospel with them. The newest member of this small group is still on a journey toward true faith. Every time we meet, he thanks us effusely for taking the time to teach and lead them. I (Jim) am also helping with a young adults group of nearly 20 year-olds. It is great to see them take God's Word seriously. These are some of the small rewards, even in the midst of turbulence in the church at large.

Of course, my primary ministry is in mission leadership for the region. I woke up Monday morning to an email and a "minor" crisis, which has taken many hours this week, hours I should have been spending on other things. In the coming weeks, I will be making on-site visits with GEM staff and field leaders in two of my countries (Hungary and Romania), and connecting with others via Skype, taking the time to lead, develop, and care for those who report to me in ministry. Last week I was with the Europe Leadership Team near Paris for a quick 24-hour meeting. (No sightseeing, I'm afraid.) I am really encouraged by the quality of people in leadership in GEM, and it is a privilege to work alongside them.

A final note for prayer: I will soon start to schedule interviews for my dissertation research. My goal has never been to simply "further my education" (though I strongly believe in life-long learning!), but rather to build the Kingdom of God in Austria and beyond, with a focus on effectively training leaders. This has been our calling from the beginning of our time in Austria, when we came to work with a brand new ministry called BAO. My project is all about how BAO has contributed to Austria's evangelical movement over the past 35 years and what must BAO do to be effective in the future. Next week our BAO team will be moving our offices to a new location. This move coincides with starting a new BAO chapter. Please pray for us as we work toward renewing ourselves as a ministry and at the same time promoting renewal, revival, growth, and spiritual maturity for God's people in Austria.

Thank you for partnering with us in the name of Christ,  
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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