

Dear praying friends,

There is a heatwave across Europe these days – some people love it, others (like ourselves) not so much. But one thing is certain, no one can ignore it. Wouldn't it be amazing, if this continent of around 750 million people would be hit by a "spiritual wave" – a movement of God so powerful that none could ignore it? Yet somehow God has chosen to speak not through the loudspeakers of power like heatwaves and forest fires, but in the still small places, through conversations and transformed lives.



Just down the street from us is a new set of temporary container homes that house refugees. Our neighbors are not happy about this. But we have been praying that the Lord would open a door of opportunity to meet a few of these displaced people. A couple of weeks ago, as Lynette and I were taking one of our favorite walks (to a nearby pond), we became aware of someone walking uncomfortably close behind us. We stopped and turned around. I said 'hello' (in German). We introduced ourselves, exchanging names. It turned out to be a woman, we'll call her "X", who had come to Austria from Somalia, from where she had fled five years ago because her life and the life of her son was threatened. Lynette bumped into X again a couple of days later, and the third time she invited X to tea the following day. X arrived

punctually and with a gift. X speaks broken German and although she has shared some of her story, Lynette and X have only started a conversation. It is already confusing, since she knows where we live, but we don't really know how to find her. Please pray that the Lord will give us the opportunity to get to know X better, as well as others in the new complex. How we long to share the life-giving gospel with them...

Thank you for praying for our travels this summer. In mid-July, Lynette and I drove to Budapest, Hungary, and then south to Timisoara, Romania, for on-site visits with two of my direct reports. One of the reasons for this visit (we usually connect via the internet) was to see where they serve and meet some of their national partners. What a wonderful two days of in-depth conversations with godly and humble Hungarians and Romanians (in addition to my GEM colleagues – which was also awesome!). Our GEM presence in these two countries is very small; and we are praying earnestly for the Lord to raise up more missionaries who are committed to incarnational ministry, learning these difficult languages and coming alongside national partners and current GEM staff to reach the lost in these places for Christ. (Don't forget to join us in praying the Luke 10:2 prayer – we try to do this at 10:02 every weekday morning.)

This past week, Lynette and I joined nearly 400 other GEMers at GEM's annual conference in Portoroz, Slovenia – only 5 hours away by car. It was a good week in many ways. Unexpectedly, our president, Jon Burns, was unable to make it because he had a heart attack one week before the conference while at the airport in Denver getting ready to board a flight for Europe. Praise God he was not in the air when it happened and was able to get help right away. He is doing fine, but facing new limitations – something pretty hard for a guy who is on the go pretty much 24/7. The conference, however, went on amazingly well without him. Our most veteran missionary present (surpassing 50 years with GEM) proclaimed this to be the best annual conference he had ever attended – this from a man who has never wasted a complement. I was also on the go the whole week and got home exhausted – and sick. Thankfully, it was just a passing bug and I am back on my feet after two days in bed.

In closing, please pray as we put our travels aside for a few weeks and focus on preparing for a number of projects this fall, ranging from a new Bible study and outreach in our community, to my research for BAO, plus several regional leadership issues.

Yours as ever, in 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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