

Dear praying friends,

Yesterday I had the unexpected privilege of preaching in our church here in Vienna on the topic “God is good.” I was scheduled to preach next week, but our planned preacher fell ill and I had told our church leaders that if they urgently needed someone, call me even at the last minute, rather than go without. Our people desperately need to hear God’s Word (not just on Sunday, of course, but certainly then). So, after a really full week, as I was taking a badly needed day off and was running some errands with Lynette on Saturday, I got a text from one of our elders at exactly 11:18. That started what I call a 24h Spirit-enabled endurance run. Looking back, I can see that this was exactly what God wanted for us and for our church.

News on the personal and family side of things:

- The last 6 weeks have been a whirlwind for Kristiana and Cory. First, as you know, Cory’s job went away in December and he applied (along with 300 others) for a new “remote” position. The Lord graciously granted him that job, which he started two weeks ago. The day before he started, they heard from their landlord that they would have to move. (Praise God, he already had the new position.) Long story short – last Wednesday they found and signed a lease on a new place and were completely moved by Friday, avoiding paying double rent for February. In spite of the stress, it was all an amazing gift from God. This coming Wednesday, Lynette is flying to Dublin to help with the girls for five days while Cory is away because of his new job.
- Lynette went in last week for her first significant checkup after last year’s surgery and treatment. Everything is looking great! Praise God for this.

Thank you for praying for “S”. He works at the local grocery store and Lynette bumped into him today. He is struggling with some family stuff and, though he tried to read the Bible I gave him, he doesn’t understand it. The current plan is for us to get together when Lynette is in Dublin later this week.

The new year has involved some travel (Dublin over Christmas and New Year’s; and one week of GEM meetings in Portugal). But after Lynette gets back from Dublin next week, we will have a travel-free month, for which we are grateful. In the meantime, Lynette and I continue to divide our ministry time between local ministries of discipling and teaching, and broader ministries, which include Lynette’s involvement with Connecting Hearts (a ministry to GEM women – she is on a call now as they get ready for their April retreat) and my ministry as GEM’s regional leader for Central Europe.

In addition to these things (and to my on-going research for BAO in conjunction with my studies), for the past 6 months, I have also picked up a new responsibility as I spearhead the start of an “affinity group” in GEM for theological educators. GEM has nearly 2 dozen theological educators scattered across Europe who are a significant

resource for the mission family and the building of the Kingdom of God. Bringing us together has opened up some new doors for effective ministry.

Thank you for praying for us, our various ministries, and our children and grands. God is good, through good times and occasional tough ones. We have so much to be thankful for.

Your partners in ministry in Austria and beyond,  
Jim and Lynette

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