

Dear praying friends,

Do you remember our neighbor S, with whom I spoke in passing a couple of months ago and who had never read the Bible, but seemed interested in my offer to read it with him? Between that “chance” encounter and two days ago, I had not seen S, though I did pick up an extra NT, thinking of him. Then Wednesday morning about 9am, as I was out front fiddling with the car, S walked by. I hailed him and he stopped. “Not at work today?” No, he was on his way to the funeral of someone who lived not far away, someone I did not know, but who happened to be the father of another neighbor I did know. Since I did not have any appointments that morning, I asked S if I could tag along to the funeral. This led to a chance to express my sympathies to our neighbor, see another neighbor, with whom we have been building a friendship (and is an atheist), plus chat with S. I told him about the NT I had for him, which led to an unexpected visit over coffee after the funeral and a look into the Bible. “What are those little numbers?” (the verses) “Where do you start?” “Can a normal person understand it?” Then S told me his son was also interested in the Bible, especially the Old Testament. I happened to have an extra (imagine that). So, S went home with a NT for himself and a whole Bible for his son, and with an invitation to talk about it and read it together after Christmas. As he was leaving, S said, “I don’t think this was a coincidence, that you were outside when I walked by this morning.”

Thank you for praying for us this past month. We are both doing well. Lynette’s encounter with cancer in the spring seems like a distant memory, and we praise God for His healing and grace. These past few weeks have been busy with a 4-day working trip to Spain (Jim), local Bible studies, mentoring, preaching, administrative and leadership tasks for GEM, and meeting with key church leaders in conjunction with my research. My interview yesterday reminded me how God is using this project to encourage these folks and refresh in them a powerful vision for Austria. Please pray with us for our adopted country, where the needs are huge, but the workers are often discouraged and progress seems slow.

In about a week, Lynette and I will be heading to Ireland for Christmas with Kristiana, Cory, and those precious little girls, Rylynn and Melody. After Christmas, K and C fly to France for their GEM-K ministry, where they will be co-leading a retreat with 30+ teens of missionaries. Lynette and I will be watching the girls back in Dublin. Please pray for K and C, and for us staying behind. The last time we did this (2 years ago), we all got terribly sick. Also, please pray for Cory, whose remote job has gone away. They are about half funded through GEM as missionaries and rest through Cory’s job, making it possible for them to live and minister in Europe. So please pray that Cory would find another position soon; one that would be flexible enough for their ministry. Thank you.

Lynette and I wish you a very blessed and joy-filled Christmas. Thank you, every one, for your faithful prayers and support of our ministry. We could not be here without you partnering with us!

In Christ,
Jim and Lynette

“And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:7

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