

Dear praying friends,

Yes, we are still in Wheaton, Illinois, just like we were one month ago. But we have clocked over 9,000 flight miles and 2,000 driving miles in that month (see record ticker below for cumulative numbers). Thank you for praying for our safety while traveling. All has gone well.

The first part of August, we attended GEM's annual conference in Slovenia and were able to meet with most of the people in our spheres of responsibility, including meetings with the regional and senior teams before and after the conference respectively. The two days before our pre-conference meetings we spent with Kristiana, Cory, and the girls in Venice (2+ hours from our hotel in Slovenia and the closest international airport). It was a great time together in spite of the heat and no air conditioning. During the annual conference for the adults, Kristiana, Cory and their team led a teen conference in another hotel nearby. This was a very critical week in the lives of many of the teens from GEM families – lots of discipling, counseling, times of spiritual renewal and spiritual battle. After the teen conference (GEM-K conference) Kristiana wrote how God confirmed to them that this is what they are called to do with their lives. It was a powerful time from all accounts.

After returning to the Chicago area, Lynette and I spent a week on the road, visiting family and friends in southern Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. I was asked to preach at my cousin's church in Tulsa last Sunday evening. Many thanks to each one who hosted us and put up with our sniffles (we were recovering from colds).

Record Ticker – Hatcher's HMA

Cumulative totals from June 29 to Aug. 26, 2017

Distances traveled overland	4,670 miles
Distances traveled by air	18,248 miles
# of Flights (take offs/landings)	6 (8)
# of Beds slept in	20
Countries / US States visited	4 / 10

Please continue to pray for the Kagan Church, for "M" (our Muslim friend/refugee in Vienna), for our safety and us to be a blessing and encouragement to others while traveling, and for Kristiana and Cory as they are having difficulty renewing their visa for Ireland.

Next month includes:

- Trip to Indiana/Michigan (Sept. 5-9)
- Focused work on dissertation research at the two libraries of Wheaton College and Billy Graham Center (Jim).
- Numerous appointments with individuals and small groups.

Finally, in case you haven't heard about this, a close Austrian friend in Vienna (elder in Kagan and musician) has written a beautiful chorus celebrating the 500th year of the reformation. The

chorus is easy to sing in worship and consists entirely of the five “solis” (Luther’s 5 “only-s”): faith alone, scripture alone, Christ alone, grace alone, and only for the glory of God. The song is currently in Latin and German (one verse each), but could easily have an English verse, if anyone wants to try their hand at it. I would encourage you to listen to this song and find a way to use it, if possible. Here’s the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DmzzaJi9a2Y> (or search in youtube.com for Phil J. Riegler Sola). If you are interested in using this song, zip me a note and I will pass on Philipp’s letter of permission for English users.

Thank you for lifting us up to the Throne of Grace.

Jim and Lynette Hatcher

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