

Jim and Lynette Hatcher



Spring 2017

Dear Friends,

Greetings on a beautiful spring day in Vienna. This morning M came over for his weekly time with Jim as he explores the Christian faith. M is an Iraqi refugee from Syria. His family lives in Aleppo. M is a devout Muslim who came into contact with us through our church's ministry to refugees in a nearby shelter (now closed). He responded to the kindness of some of our church folks, especially Waltraud, who found Christ several years ago, in the context of a Bible study in our home, and now, at 75, is an example of Christ's love for those in need. She led the team serving meals once a week at the shelter. M is 33 years old and calls Waltraud "mother" to show his respect and affection. He calls me "Herr Jim" and thinks of me as his teacher and brother. Today we read Romans 3:21-26. We talk about the Gospel nearly every week in one way or another. M loves Jesus, but only as a great Prophet. We are on a long journey. Please pray for him.

This letter has three purposes:

- Firstly, you deserve a little update on what we are focusing on in ministry and life. Most of you have been receiving our monthly email updates, so you are probably pretty up-to-date. But if you haven't, this letter should fill you in on our current responsibilities.
- Secondly, to let you know that we are preparing for a six-month trip to North America starting June 29. This is a "trip" not a "stay", since we will be on the road almost constantly. We want to give you an overview of our itinerary with the hope that we will get to see almost everyone.
- Thirdly, we want to express a big thank you for your kind and generous support in both prayer and finances over the past year or so. We have experienced God's faithful provision in so many wonderful ways. Thank you for being part of that.

Ministry

Jim's job has shifted over the past two years. While we continue teaching on occasion and love discipling others (such as the young couple in the picture to the right), Jim is now serving as regional leader for Greater Europe Mission in Central Europe, which includes seven countries and around 75 missionaries, half of whom are in Germany. This involves on the average one trip per month. And, for the moment, he also continues as field leader for Austria. Since raising up leaders has always been our calling, we are seeing this as another way to live out that passion.



Fogii and Anna's wedding atop a castle on Garda Lake in Italy - Jim presiding

Up-coming Travels in North America

Every five years, the Austrian and US governments require us to leave Austria for a minimum of 183 days (six months) to comply with a taxation treaty. Since our last 6-month trip was in 2012 (for Kristiana and Cory's wedding), we have made plans for another extended trip to NA. This will be a great opportunity to see many friends and family, share about the ministry, and cast a vision for those God may be calling to join us. Here is our itinerary:

June 29 – Fly from Vienna to Washington D.C. and spend a few days with Erik and Bri in Maryland.

Block 1: Pacific Northwest and Colorado (July 2 to 22)

- July 2-12 – personal and ministry visits in Seattle, Vancouver, Portland, Eugene
- July 12-22 – personal and ministry visits plus GEM meetings in Colorado

Block 2: Midwest (July 22 to September 27) – personal, ministry and family visits

- Wheaton area – College Church in Wheaton
- Michigan, Wisconsin (road trip – dates not yet firm)
- Southern Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas (road trip – dates not yet firm)
- (GEM annual conference in Slovenia – Aug. 1 to 11)

Block 3: East Coast USA (Sept. 27 – Oct. 15)

- Visits in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, New Hampshire and Maine. (Road trip from Atlanta to York, Maine – Oct. 3 to 11)
- Reunion of Lynette's college suite-mates in New Hampshire (Oct. 12-15)

Block 4: Northern California (Oct. 15-24)

- Personal, ministry and family visits (Bay Area, Sacramento, Chico, Philo, Santa Cruz)
- Oct. 22 at High Street Community Church in Santa Cruz

Block 5: Back in Europe, but not in Austria (Oct. 25 to Nov. 6)

- Connecting Hearts retreat in Italy (Lynette) – Oct. 26 to Nov. 3
- Field visits (Jim) in the Czech Republic and Germany
- Central Europe Leadership Team retreat (Jim's team) in Prague – Nov. 3-5

Block 6: Southern California (Nov. 6 to Dec. 20)

- Personal, ministry and family visits in Orange County (mostly)
- Calvary Community Church of Brea
- Short trip to Bay Area (High Street Community Church)

Christmas with Erik and Bri in Maryland

December 31/January 1 – return to Vienna

Whew! Planning this trip has been complicated, but we are so excited to see so many of you! In the meantime, please pray for us as we wrap up a number of things over the next few months, including a major hurdle in Jim's doctoral program. With Love and Gratitude,

Jim and Lynette

Greater Europe Mission

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w/ Granddaughter Rylynn in Ireland

If you do not yet receive our monthly email updates but would like to, please zip us a note. Thank you.