

Dear praying friends,

Los geht's! That means it's time to get moving. In just 11 days, Lynette and I will be winging our way across the ocean to begin a six month journey, which we call our "home ministry assignment." As our last letter hinted, we will not have a home base during this trip, but will be on the go, visiting with many of you, sharing with you the joys and challenges we have experienced over the past few years. (Itinerary attached) While we travel, I will be continuing in my responsibilities over GEM's central region, mostly from a distance, though two trips back to Europe, one in August and the other in October/November will also be necessary, the second trip also for Lynette's Connecting Hearts ministry.

Before we can board that plane, however, I will need to spend a week in Germany (leaving today), finishing my third and final research course for my studies. Praise God with me that I was able to complete the paper I was writing on time (turned in yesterday), and am more or less ready for this week's qualifying exams. My proposal will have to wait until Lynette and I return in January. One thing at a time!

Today my young friend, Jonathan, and I will wrap up our young adults Bible study experiment at church. It has been fun to see young people, who generally like to sleep in on the weekends, show up at 9 a.m. on Sunday for prayer and Bible study. We have seen God work in the lives of those who have been coming. Jonathan is hoping to continue after a summer break and is looking around for a co-leader.

Please pray for our church here in Vienna. We just returned from our annual church retreat, where God spoke strongly to all who were there about the pride which so easily entangles us (to borrow those words from Hebrews 12). Pray that the things keeping many from growing in their faith will be laid in humility at the feet of Jesus. Two of our key leaders will be moving out of the area this next year. So we are praying that the Lord would raise up those who will stand in the gap, esp. since I have also had to pull back because of my many travels.

One thing it will be difficult to leave behind while in the US are the sweet times we have enjoyed with our young friends, Anna and Fogii. They have grown amazingly in their faith, with Fogii taking on more responsibility in church and having many opportunities to come alongside searching and struggling people. Please pray for them. A couple of students in Lynette's English class wanted to know why she knew so much about the Bible, opening the door for further conversations. Please pray that this connection will bring fruit. Also pray for our Muslim friend "M", with whom I have been meeting regularly to read from the Bible and discuss the things of God. He was sad when he heard that we are leaving. His future is still very uncertain as he waits to find out if he can stay in Austria, or if he will be sent back to Syria or Iraq. May God do a wonder in his heart while we are gone.

Finally, we would ask you to pray as we travel, not only for safety and good health, but also that God would use us during this time to build the Kingdom. We want to encourage those we encounter along the way, and we hope to connect with those God may be calling to come and join us in Austria. We have been praying the Luke 10:2 prayer over the past couple of years and long to see our team grow. More on that in future communications.

Thank you for your prayers and generous support of our ministry. God bless you all and see you soon.

Jim for us both

P.S. As I write, all of our children and grandchildren are together in Dublin. This is Erik's and Bri's first visit and they are having a great time. Wish we could have joined them, but we did enjoy a good visit from Kristiana, Cory, Rylynn, and Melody last month here in Vienna, and we will soon see Erik and Bri when we land stateside.

Jim and Lynette Hatcher

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#### Hatcher's 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
- (GEM annual conference in Slovenia – Aug. 1 to 11)
- Southern Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas (Aug. 16-23)
- Michigan, Wisconsin (road trip – dates not yet firm)

Block 3: East Coast USA (Sept. 27 – Oct. 14)

- 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. 12-14)

Block 4: Northern California (Oct. 14-24)

- 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, possibly over Thanksgiving (High Street Community Church)

Christmas with Erik and Bri in Maryland

December 31/January 1 – return to Vienna