

# Lynette and Jim Hatcher

*Vienna, Austria*



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**Dear Praying Friends,**

**Thank you for praying for us during our 4 weeks in the US, mostly to attend the memorial service for Lynette's sister's husband, Justin Jelincic. The service was a true testimony of Justin's life and love for Christ. With all that behind her, I'm sure Lynette's sister, Pam, would appreciate your prayers.**

**As I mentioned in our last update, after returning to Europe I immediately flew off to Birmingham, England, for my last GEM Leaders Meetings. I was grateful for the good closure that time afforded me, including a few unexpected happy moments. But what**

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has lingered the most since then were two opportunities I had on that trip to interact with ordinary people who do not yet know Christ.

On the 80-minute bus ride from the airport to the meeting location, I sat next to the driver of the van, an original Brummie (native of Birmingham), who chatted with me the entire time. True, I could only understand about 80% of what he said, but we had a great conversation, eventually leading us into deeper spiritual matters. I just happened to have a gospel of John with me and gave it to “D”, who promised to read it. He described himself as a very traditional, working-class Brit, who believed in God somehow, but never really read the Bible or went to church.

After the meetings, I had to wait until the following morning to fly home, so I ended up helping out with an innovative outreach in a local church – a free community meal feeding nearly 100 people from the neighborhood. I served food, joked with the folks coming through the line, and eventually sat down with two different people and chatted with them. They were not believers, but thought the Christians here were really great people. The church was reaching out and the community noticed. Praise God.

Both of these encounters reminded me that we will never have a chance to talk to lost people about Christ if we don’t actually spend time physically with them. So, as soon as I got back to Vienna, I

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**made a lunch appointment with my skeptical scientist friend “G”. We ended up talking about what it means to become mature – as a person and also as a Christian.**

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**One of the great blessings of our lives is to see how our children and their families are flourishing. Erik and Bri dragged our adorable grandson, Lukas, to Vienna just a couple of weeks ago for a wonderful visit. They were here for my birthday. Having us all together in one place was amazing.**

### **Here are a few things to pray about:**

- The Connecting Hearts team, on which Lynette serves, is putting on their fall retreat from Nov. 4-7. This ministry exists to support missionary women with GEM to connect with God and with each other. 30 women are registered to come, which will be one of the largest groups so far.
  
- As I mentioned in our last letter, I will be teaching a workshop at an Austrian conference (Oct. 26-29) that brings Christians together from across the country. The topic is spiritual stagnation and how to help our churches move from being consumer communities to communities of active disciples. I'm in the midst of preparing and would appreciate your prayers.
  
- As of last week, I have started meeting with the elder team at the Kagraan Church. I see this as probably the single most important ministry the Lord is asking me to step into. Thank you for your prayers.



**Thank you so much for your prayers and support for us and our various ministries here in Austria and beyond over these many years. Now that my leadership role in GEM is officially at an end (after 30 plus years), I sense God's calling to focus on serving locally. There are still some open questions, but there is also real peace in this transition. God bless you all.**

**Building the Kingdom in Austria,  
Jim and Lynette**

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