

HATCHER UPDATE - September 2021

Dear Praying Friends,

After a year and a half with very little travel and life at a much slower pace, these last two months have felt like a whirlwind. Here are a few highlights since mid-July:

- July 18-23 - Lynette and I help with English camp for children in Vienna - about 100 kids had a chance to hear the Gospel and have lots of fun. We help on a couple of days and host other workers.
- July 25 - Kristiana, Cory, Rylynn, and Melody Miller arrive in Vienna on July 25! Red letter day for us, but still under a cloud of uncertainty re. visas (please keep praying).
- July 30 to Aug. 1 - Jim is in Frankfurt to meet with GEMers about leadership changes.
- Aug. 8-18 - Erik and Bri arrive from Baltimore and all 8 of us drive to Switzerland via Germany to celebrate our 40th anniversary. This is the first time we have all been together - ever! Outside of getting locked in the parking garage twice, it was an incredible time with the family, great weather, and incomparable scenery. After a week with the family, Lynette and I spent a couple of extra days exploring.
- Aug. 25 - Jim makes an emergency trip to Budapest to visit a GEM colleague, Rick, who is in the hospital. The situation is serious, but God works a minor miracle and Rick is now in California getting treatment for liver cancer, but not until after brain surgery in Hungary. Yes, it was complicated.
- Sept. 9-12 - Lynette and I drive to Romania, visiting GEMers in Hungary both directions. In Romania we celebrate with the GEM team and especially with one colleague who is launching his book on worship. It is clear that this ministry of training worship leaders has had a huge impact across the entire country. On the way home, Lynette and I visit with a young GEM couple pioneering ministry in an isolated community with very few Jesus followers. Their courage and hard work inspire us. But things are tough on the spiritual front. We have a chance to encourage them.

In the midst of all this activity, we are finding ourselves balancing ongoing ministries, such as Bible studies, preaching, and helping my team with a myriad of ministry and leadership challenges, with life in a very full house (the Millers and us have been living under one roof for 8 weeks now). Here are a few pictures from the past two months. After the pictures I will share a couple of prayer requests and a preview of what lies ahead.



Sharing the gospel during English camp.



Hatcher clan together for the first time: Erik, Bri, Lynette and Rylenn, Kristiana and Melody, Cory, and Jim



Jim praying for GEM colleague in Budapest.



Jim with several GEM colleagues in Romania celebrating with Richard Mauney (third from left) on the launch of his book on worship (in Romanian).

Our two biggest prayer requests continue to be

- Residence visas for the Millers. We are waiting for a judge to decide if they can stay in Austria. However, even if the decision is positive, if they do not hear soon, the entire family will have to leave the Schengen zone (most of Europe) around the second week of October. This will mean taking Melody out of Kindergarten and Rylynn out of second grade. (Getting Rylynn into school was another minor miracle. She was able to get into the class with the very same teacher Kristiana had almost 25 years ago - a real answer to prayer!) Please pray for a quick and positive response - and for peaceful hearts, if they do need to leave.
- Our church here in Vienna has been looking desperately for a new location, but with little success so far. In about 2 months we will probably move to a hotel as a temporary solution until we find something else. There is a building we are looking at in a very good location, but there are also a number of negatives and many huge hurdles. Please pray.



Kristiana and Rylynn with Christian, Kristiana's first teacher (first to fourth grade) and now Rylynn's second grade teacher.

Here is what is happening in the next several weeks:

- September 25 - Jim co-teaches a BAO seminar for training course facilitators.
- October 2 - Jim graduates with his PhD from Columbia International University - Germany branch in Korntal, Germany (near Stuttgart).
- October 22-24 - Annual retreat for the Central Europe Leadership Team (Jim's team plus a few other leaders) in Budapest. Jim leading
- November 11-19 - Lynette in Athens for Connecting Hearts ministry to GEM women.

Thank you so much for partnering with us here in Central Europe.

Yours in Christ,

Jim and Lynette Hatcher