



## **Chris & Karen Cunningham**

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### **Seminar Update...**

Thanks for praying for the virtual outreach we hosted for our international students entitled, **“Understanding Emotional Intelligence”** on April 10. While the Christian businessmen and women who hosted this event did a very nice job of teaching, illustrating and explaining their concepts, it seemed that our effort was not so successful.

Unfortunately, many of our students who signed up for the seminar did not actually attend on the day of the event and the few who did attend seemed to have difficulty keeping up with all of the material being presented. I still think this type of outreach has great potential as it is so valuable for our students to have conversations/mentoring sessions with Christian business professionals, but we’ll have to make some changes in how we do things next time. Perhaps the presenters should have covered less material and used more visuals because English is a second language for our students. We’re still giving this some thought.

BTW, a dear friend from my years at the University of Delaware, who is also on our support team, contacted me to volunteer his services with our students for Leadership Development and EQ Training as he’s had lots of training in these areas. That’s a really great offer so hopefully we’ll be able to try something with him in the fall.

### **Our Ongoing Small Groups**

Now that the shock of my cancer has passed and things are being managed (see below), Karen and I are easing back into ministry. In addition to hosting our weekly staff meeting, and having a few appointments, we are back to our Saturday evening gathering called, **“Second Family”** that involves a dinner, and a Bible study. And with the weather becoming warmer we’re excited to soon be hosting outdoor activities such as picnics and hikes.

Every week we have different small group Bible studies that meet either online or in-person. However, a few times each semester, our different groups all come together, as we did last Friday, as one big family. Friday night we heard the compelling story of a young Chinese couple who came to U.S. for their education and they eventually became Christians and are now involved with one of our small groups. The husband shared how he had become addicted to Bitcoin (digital currency) trading and it was the power of Christ that set him free from this behavior. Such a wonderful testimony!

### **Cancer Update...**

My recent cancer diagnosis has been such an amazing experience. Let me just give a brief recap of things... We learned that on March 18, that I have prostate cancer that had spread from my prostate to my spine. A subsequent bone scan showed that the prostate cancer had migrated more than originally thought -- to a number of places on my spine and skeleton.

My first course of treatment involved radiation directed at one particular cancer lesion on my spine (L-2 Vertebrae) which was causing me a lot of pain. That targeted radiation treatment worked like a charm and provided immediate relief from the pain I was feeling in my back. I am now on hormone blocking therapy because it is the hormone, testosterone, that feeds the prostate cancer attacking my bones. By controlling the testosterone, the doctor tells us, we can control the cancer. So, I’m on drugs to control my testosterone, and I’m also receiving an injection every month to help me take up more calcium, in an effort to strengthen the bones that have been damaged by the cancer lesions.

I am not in any pain. That’s a big praise!!! Yes, there are some side effects from the medicines but that’s to be expected. My cancer doctor feels like we are on a good path going forward and he will continue to evaluate how I’m doing to see whether we need to be more aggressive as time goes by. A few of you have asked if I’m having chemotherapy. At this time, no chemotherapy has been scheduled, but that could change. We’ll just see how things go and we’ll ask the Lord to guide us each step of the way.

Thank you for your outpouring of love and support! Your response to this affliction we are facing has been overwhelming! I had no idea that cancer had touched so many of your lives. Thanks for sharing your own words of hope and encouragement with us - it’s been such a great help - we cherish each and every note/card that has come our way.

**A few thoughts I’ve had on this cancer journey so far...**

--Life is truly fragile. One day I was feeling pretty good, the next, I'm full of cancer. My life is in God's hands and He's the one who keeps me alive and sustains me. Each of us lives and moves and breathes because God allows it.

--The Body of Christ has been our lifeline! The support we have received from God's people has been a true gift that has carried us along and encouraged our hearts. A timely text, a word of encouragement - God has used His people to bless us in ways that have ministered to us deeply.

--God loves me and hears my cries. Whenever I've faced a fear or an anxiety related to this cancer diagnosis, He has allayed my fears and reminded me that He is in control and shepherding me through this whole process by answering specific prayers! A couple times when I had an urgent need for his help, He met me in a specific and real way. He is so good!!!

--I may have a short time on this earth, or I may have many more years. Regardless, the most important thing is still to know Jesus and to make Him known to as many people as possible! Let me labor to get as many people as possible into the Kingdom while I can!

--I'm moving around more slowly these days. Getting in and out of the car, going from sitting to standing, and other movements are not as fluid as they used to be (side effects of the medicines). I am now much more sensitive to others' physical limitations and the pain and discomfort others may be experiencing on a regular or chronic basis. I'm more sensitive because I am them!

--My decision to marry Karen was one of the best decisions I ever made ☺. Oh, how I thank God for a godly wife who is a partner with me in sickness and in health. What a comfort and blessing Karen has been to me and to our whole family. And our kids have been a great blessing too - trusting God to heal and strengthen me.

### Photos

Below are a few recent photos of those who were able to come in on Easter Sunday. Unfortunately Anna & Sean's Family and Josh & Eliza weren't with us but I'm sure we'll have more photos in the future ☺.



As always, thanks for your prayers and your support. Join us in praying for healing for Chris, for open doors for the Gospel among the many international students at Penn State and for God to use us to make disciples who will take the Gospel back to their home countries and to the world!