



Chris & Karen Cunningham

Bridges International at Penn State

The International Student Ministry of Cru

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We're continuing with our weekly dinners for international students, three of which are held on Friday and the fourth takes place on Saturday evening. We always have new folks showing up, often having heard about the dinner from a friend. If possible, we make an appointment to meet with each person individually to tell them more about our group and see if there's interest in Bible study, etc.

Here are a few stories of how God is working in student's lives... A new believer from **China** is regularly inviting her friends to join the weekly dinner/Bible study held in one of the staff homes. She's also beginning to think about dating and our staff are explaining why Christians marry Christians (and how that affects dating). Another female student from **Taiwan**, attending that same dinner/Bible study, seems to be very close to making a decision for Christ. A Muslim student from **Bangladesh** who regularly attends our on-campus dinner is now meeting weekly with one of our staff for Bible study. L. from **China** is meeting weekly to read through C. S. Lewis' **Mere Christianity**, with one of our staff and the discussions have been good. P. from **Iran** has begun attending our weekly English conversation class called, Chai & Chat (we offer snacks and Bubble Tea), and she's interested in our other activities as well. S. from **Japan** and C. from **Colombia**, also just began attending our weekly Chai & Chat English event and we're building some good friendships. E. from **Ghana** has been witnessing to her two roommates from Central Asia (both Muslim). The one roommate is in an abusive relationship and E. is seeking to point her in a good direction for help and counseling. E. is steadfastly trusting God to use her to be a Christ-like influence in the lives of her roommates. Recently, at our weekly Friday on-campus dinner, we had small group discussions around the tables, including a discussion of one of Jesus' parables – it went well, and questions came up such as, “What about people who have never heard of Jesus?” and “Will everyone go to heaven?” and “What will we do in heaven?”

We (our team) continue go out regularly into the Student Union (known here at The HUB) to talk with students randomly. We try to initiate with international students, but we often end up talking with whoever looks like they're not too busy😊. It's amazing how many people are willing to talk, and we end up sharing the Gospel in some form about 30% of the time. God has been blessing our efforts and this has been a great way to meet new students and let them know about our group -- and yes, some end up coming out to one of our dinners or other activities.

One big thing we're working toward is our annual **Vision Conference** (December 28 - Jan. 1) which is the national student conference of **Bridges International** (the international student ministry of Cru) held this year in Dallas, TX The conference is **both** for Christian international students as well as for those who are *not* Christians but have a interest in

knowing more about Jesus and the teachings of Christianity. Last year we took 20 students to the conference, as it was held in Baltimore, an easy drive from State College. However, it's been a bit more challenging to get students to fly to Dallas. Even with generous scholarships, it's been slow going (14 registered). Prayers appreciated!

My health... I completed my 6th and final treatment of the radiopharmaceutical Pluvicto back in September. This was a radiation treatment that specifically targeted my cancer cells. I had new scans on November 21, to see how effective that therapy was at knocking down my cancer (which, by way of reminder, has metastasized to my bones). **Those scans show that the cancer is quite active, and it has not been knocked down.** As a result, I'm experiencing quite a bit of pain in my left pelvis and hip area. My oncologist is working on a new treatment plan for me and in the meantime has prescribed pain meds and if I stay ahead of things – as in taking the pills before the pain even begins, I'm usually o.k. However, if I wait until the pain starts to rage, it can be quite a challenge to get the pain under control – I'm learning! We're doing well. Our family, friends and our staff team are a great encouragement and help. Thanksgiving was a big joy as **Jonathan & Kelsey** and their two kids along with **Abby & Sam**, and **Jesse & Margee** and little **Christopher** were here with us. It was lots of fun watching all the family interactions and our hearts are full! Jonathan and his little guy **Thatcher** picked up a Christmas tree for us and Karen's now in the process of decorating it. I'm still working, though I'm doing much more online – Zoom meetings, approving staff reimbursements, taking the staff through training modules, etc. and of course, sending out a prayer letter ☺. I participate in some events on campus, but I try not to do too much, or I'll feel it at night.

As you can imagine, we're facing some extra medical expenses so if you're able to send along **an extra year-end gift**, that would be a big help. God has graciously supplied our needs through your giving over the years and we thank God for the way you've carried us along so generously.

Please pray for:

1. My health, healing and pain management!
2. For a good **Vision Conference** experience for our students. And pray that a few more students will register, we're still recruiting.
3. For good attendance at our **upcoming Christmas dinners** and for many students to consider the message that Jesus came to save them from their sins and offer them life in God's Kingdom!

Walking by faith,
Chris & Karen

<p>We are supported by the prayer and financial contributions of individuals and churches that see the value of this ministry. For the past 43 years God has wonderfully supplied our needs through the generous gifts of his people. Thank you for helping to spread the Gospel in this way! https://give.cru.org/acct# 0243220</p>
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