



## Chris & Karen Cunningham

Bridges International at Penn State  
*The International Student Ministry of Cru*

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### Ministry Activities Update

We had a bit of fun recently when we hosted our Saturday evening Bible Study and Dinner group for international students at our home. I (Chris) tried to take it easy that day, but I still did manage to play one round of Water Balloon Toss (**pictured below**). The food was good, the games were fun, and everyone seemed to have a good time, even *if* one lady twisted her ankle (turned out to be not too serious) while competing in the Water Balloon Toss. We also played the Cornhole bean bag toss game which was a new and fun experience for most of the students.



On our Bridges Team, here at Penn State, we have three different groups that are meeting weekly during the summer and slowly each group is getting back to in-person meetings as the situation with Covid becomes less of a concern with our students and staff. We plan to have lots of picnics, hikes, and trips throughout the summer.

On June 18, we're headed to the **Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania** (yes, there is such a place, though you must not assume any similarity to the Grand Canyon in Arizona), and then to the **Laurel Festival**, both of which are in Wellsboro, PA. Already a few new students have signed up to join us. Pray for other new students to join us and for warm relationships to be built on this trip.

Our weekly **online English class** is moving along slowly. We skipped a week because Karen and I were on vacation, and when we resumed, only three students joined us. During last night's class, one of the students, a PhD candidate from Ghana, told of how her grandmother started a midwifery business that had some influence on her decision to become a nurse and her sister becoming a doctor. Another student shared how his parents (both Christians) spent countless hours day and night running a restaurant to support their family. Listening to these students, I was reminded that our children, and grandchildren, though we might not realize it, are being greatly influenced every day by the decisions we make as we live out our faith. The way we live out our faith, especially during heartbreak, loss, financial strains, and all kinds of difficulties, speaks to the genuineness of our faith. Those tests, lived out before

our loved ones, validate the faith we proclaim. We pray that God will continually use each of us as His witness to the next generation!

Even with the limitation of not being able to meet in-person during Covid, we have seen God at work. Recently, one of our staff led a student from Canada to Christ after a year of discussions, and Bible study. Another staff member has been able to meet several international moms at her local park. A year ago, I helped to move a young family from Nigeria out of one apartment and into another. Since then, we've kept in touch, and I recently asked the husband if I could drop by their place to have some Bible study and he responded with an enthusiastic "yes!" Another student (not a Christian), who has been coming to our Saturday gathering is meeting weekly with one of our staff for one-on-one Bible study and showing great openness to the Gospel. And another of our students (a Christian) invited his roommate (not a Christian) to our Saturday gathering and he showed genuine interest in the Bible and even asked for prayer at the end of the meeting.

This past year has been slower for ministry, but things are beginning to pick up and we're hopeful that with Penn State classes scheduled to be fully in-person in the fall, that life and ministry will start to get back to feeling more normal.

### Cancer Update

Regarding my cancer, my treatment is still on course, and I am not experiencing any pain from the cancer. The discomfort, which comes and goes, (unexpected headaches, fatigue, occasional brain fog, insomnia, joint pain, etc.), is all related to my treatments/therapy. I have learned that for several days after I have an injection or an infusion, I must take it easy. If I can let others do the "heavy lifting" during those times, I'll be well served. God continues to give strength and comfort and we're confident of God's care and direction each day as we deal with this affliction. As I read God's Word these days, I find myself lingering longer over passages that promise his strength and peace. I'm thankful that God walks with us in the joys of life as well as in the "valley of the shadow of death." He cares, He is near, and He acts with love and compassion towards his children - what a wonderful God we serve!!!

And, as you would expect, treating cancer is expensive and, through our insurance, we are maximizing both our deductible and our out-of-pocket expenses. Thankfully, due to the extra generous giving of folks reading our newsletter, our expenses are being met each month. Thank you for your generous and faithful giving!



In our previous newsletter I promised to share some pictures of our kids who were not able to visit at Easter. Last week, Karen & I spent a week with Anna & Sean's family (**pictured here** at Falls Park on the Reedy, in Greenville) at their home in Spartanburg, SC. We had soooo much fun and it was hard to say goodbye. Their four children are Fiona (9), Nora (7), Kathryn (5), and Everett (7 months).

Thanks for your prayers and ongoing support!