



Chris & Karen Cunningham

Bridges International at Penn State

The International Student Ministry of Cru

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New Life for a young couple!

Lots of exciting things have been happening in the ministry here. A couple from **Colombia** who have been attending a weekly dinner and Bible study hosted by one of our staff couples, have both made decisions to follow Christ! First the lady prayed to receive Christ and then her boyfriend met with one of our staff because he too wanted what his girlfriend had. It was exciting to see their eagerness to grow in their new faith before they returned home!

S. whose husband is a visiting scholar from **Japan** attended our weekly “Chai & Chat” conversational English class this past semester. Someone saw one of our posted fliers and told her about it. We call it “Chai” because we offered free Bubble Tea and Chat because it was a time to practice English in an informal setting. After several weeks of coming to the class S. started to meet weekly with one of our staff as a Language Partner to practice English. Soon after they started meeting for English practice, they started studying the Bible together! Such a praise. S. has returned to Japan, but we trust that many seeds for the Gospel have been planted.

A creative outreach

In late April, one of our staff created a special outreach for international women called, The Art of Beauty Workshop. She described it this way, “Through the lens of beauty we’ll discuss worth and the intelligent designer.” A friend who is an artist came and led everyone in creating their own piece of artwork. Our staff member shared the Gospel message with the group.

I can’t pray!

During our Bible studies we can have some interesting situations. At the end of a recent study the student leader asked each of us to pray for one another out loud, after everyone had shared their prayer requests. The student from China said, “I can’t.” I asked, “What do you mean?” He said, “I’m a member of the Chinese communist party and I am an atheist, and I am not allowed to pray. He has attended Bible study all semester. We’re praying that the Holy Spirit will touch his heart, and he would choose to follow Jesus.

With the semester coming to an end our weekly Bible studies have become a little smaller as students have graduated, started internships, begun new jobs and started internships. One of our key students has a research position at the Hershey Medical Center and she’ll be moving soon. Another of our students has graduated and now has a research position on campus. And just recently, another student, who is studying Labor Relations, landed an internship in Missouri.

Summer Plans

We will be staying in town this summer, taking vacation, meeting with students for discipleship appointments and hoping to meet new international students who are arriving early for the fall semester. Some of these new students are taking summer classes and others are just settling into their new housing and learning their way around State College. Our team plans to host picnics, hikes and other fun activities for students who are here for



the summer. State College has lots of local parks which are perfect for hosting picnics and helping students take a break from their studies and summer jobs.

(Photo at left: A group of us went to play dodge ball recently, followed by Penn State ice cream. No, I

didn't play dodge ball, but I did eat the ice cream.)

Health Update

Since I last wrote my pain has returned, but it's manageable with Ibuprofen, Tylenol and Percocet. By God's grace I had about 10 weeks of being pain free. I'm no longer on paid medical leave because I've been feeling better, and our summer schedule is not quite as busy. I can attend Bible studies, approve reimbursements for our team, participate in online meetings and meet with students and staff as my energy level permits. Due to my low energy levels, Karen will usually drop me right at the door of wherever we're having a meeting, so I only have a short walk ☺. There *are* those times when I am really hit with fatigue, and I can't wait to get my next transfusion of packed red cells. When I'm in that condition, my activity level as you would expect, is quite low.

Here are a few prayer requests:

1. Pray that our team can meet lots of newly arriving international students over the summer months.
2. Pray for N. from **Bangladesh** and H. from **Saudi Arabia** as they meet weekly with our staff member from Egypt to study the Bible. May they have hearts open to the Gospel. Pray for N. who often comes to Bible study and church knows a lot about the Bible but shows no interest in becoming a Christian. Pray for O. from the **Philippines**, who recently began attending our Bible study to turn to Christ.
3. Pray that my ongoing cancer treatments would be effective, and my doctors would know the next best steps to take. Pray too for less pain for me as all six of our kids and their families will be in for a visit at the end of June.

We are supported by the prayers and financial contributions of individuals and churches that see the value of this ministry. For the past 44 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 Make checks payable to Cru