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For God alone my soul waits in silence;
from him comes my salvation.
He alone is my rock and salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken. Psalm 62:1-2

Dear Praying Friends:

God has taken us down a new path recently...

A Cancer Diagnosis

After six weeks of general low-back pain, and thinking I had strained something, I was awakened at 3am on Thursday, March 18 with a new *excruciating* back pain. A trip to the ER and a CAT Scan, revealed that my pain was due to **prostate cancer that had spread to my spine**. Within days I began receiving radiation treatment for the one cancer lesion on my spine (among others), along with hormone therapy.

Processing all of this has been a surprise for sure, but the Lord has been with us each step of the way. Those times when I have felt discouraged and anxious/fearful -- those are the times when the Lord has brought someone by with a word of encouragement, a story of God's provision, and a reminder of God's faithfulness for whatever the need. This cancer has caused pain in my body but the drugs/therapies and prayers of God's people have made all the difference. There's another battle playing out sometimes in my mind. It's the temptation to fear and be anxious about the future. I must daily "set the Lord at my right hand so that I will not be shaken." Your prayers are appreciated in this regard – to steadfastly trust Him!

As I was thinking back, over the years of God's faithfulness I was reminded that whenever our car would break down (which was, to be sure, infrequently), it would always happen at a fairly convenient place. The Lord always took good care of us. As I was reflecting, it was as if Jesus said to me, "Chris, I've taken care of your cars over the years, trust me, I've got this body of yours too! The *vehicle* that has carried you through this life of serving me -- I'm going to take good care of it. I have created you; I have redeemed you, you are mine, and I've got you." And this is just what we're seeing. Every step of the way, we've seen His hand guiding us and comforting us. Our friends, our church, our family – everyone has been such a blessing and we are grateful!

Karen has been a rock through all of this – encouraging, serving, managing, ministering to me in countless ways. The rest of our family is doing well, and our kids have been a great encouragement too! BTW, a fun and exciting bit of news about **Jesse & Margee**. Margee is now working as an RN with Penn State Hershey Women's Health and Jesse has left his engineering job and is now in the State Academy training to be a **Wildlife Resource Officer** – that's a Game

Warden to the rest of us! He's in a 9-month training program that will eventually place him in one of Pennsylvania's 67 counties as a Law Enforcement Officer.

There's a long road ahead with this cancer diagnosis/treatment. After radiation, there's hormone therapy and then there will be further assessment and the possibility of chemotherapy – we'll see. We covet your prayers for:

1. Complete and total healing and restoration
2. Pain management
3. Wisdom moving forward with treatments/options
4. For Christ to be glorified through our lives.

Thankfully, in our ministry, we're part of a team and our co-workers are handling things nicely while we take time to manage this affliction. While I've missed a couple weeks of activities, I hope to re-engage in a limited way again soon. When I told one international student (who is not yet a Christian) about my cancer diagnosis, he texted me, *"I am so so sorry to hear about that! I nearly cannot believe that...as you have been a strong and enthusiastic man and can overcome any challenge. But I prefer to think that Jesus gave you this challenge in order to test you before Jesus assigns one more very important task for you to do..."* His words, along with those of many others have been very encouraging and we're trusting that God will use all of this for His glory in the coming days, etc.

Upcoming Outreach Seminar

On Saturday, April 10, we're hosting a special online seminar called, **"Understanding Emotional Intelligence (EQ)"**. This seminar is being run by a group of Christian business professionals who are using their expertise to help our students to better understand themselves and make greater contributions in their future careers – it's a professional development seminar. In addition to the seminar on April 10, each student will have an opportunity to meet one-on-one with these Christian businessmen and women to discuss their future, career goals, and spiritual matters too (Lord willing). Please pray for lots of students to sign up and for good success!

A Request for Prayer

As we move down this path of dealing with cancer, we are cognizant of the fact that many of you have faced similar, and even much greater, trials in your personal lives. Our lives on this earth constantly bring us in contact with pain and suffering and loss – it's the broken world in which we live. You have wrestled with God; you have had those quiet times in the night when you asked the hard questions. I am learning that I must want His will more than my own. Would you pray that I would be fully yielded and surrendered to Him? Would you pray for me as you have learned to pray for yourself through your own trials and afflictions and fears?

We thank you for your faithful partnership with us in the Gospel. Your prayers and giving sustain us and provide for us the best medical care. Thanks for your partnership now more than ever.

Until next month we remain, your faithful servants,
Chris & Karen