



The Latest News

We have a lot to be thankful for!

Last week local ACI Board member Paul Ernst had a successful heart transplant!!

Since we last talked a lot of things have happened. Not the least of which **involved one of my local Board members for ACI, Paul Ernst**. Paul and I have been friends for nearly two decades and we **walk together** on Saturdays and usually have lunch together at least once a week. An avid cross country skier unfortunately **years ago he over trained** and it affected his heart. Before I met him, while training, his damaged heart stopped; he collapsed and was rushed to the hospital. Obviously, he survived due in part by his collapsing in front of a house of someone who knew how to give CPR, but those events led to a marathon of ups and downs with his health.

Hoping in the Lord

Recently his condition started going down faster and we had to stop walking together. A week and a half ago he went through tests to see if he could get on a heart transplant list, but that didn't seem likely given his age. Nonetheless, at that time he had to be

hospitalized immediately and was put on the list for transplant! Last week, in answer to prayers, a donor provided a heart **and the transplant took place successfully**. Today he's recovering at home with his wife taking care of him. Some of you knew about this and were praying, others did not; **but we can all thank God for his provision for Paul and continue to pray for his full recovery**. His wife Mary needs our prayers, too, since she'll be the one who will be helping him recover at home and that's going to be quite a task.

In other news

- ♦ Jim gave his "Christ and Academic Culture" talk again, but this time to the fellowship at CSU. One very good result from that is Dr. Tim Shaw, a microbiology lecturer at Belfast University attended. Tim asked Jim to meet with him and help him start a faculty ministry in Ireland, like those I've been developing in our ministry. What a great opportunity the Lord has provided to expand the influence of what we are trying to do with Christian professors world-wide! We're very excited about this. We will provide a link to a video made of the talk, at the end of this letter, in case you'd like to see it.



Snap shot of Issac

Some personal items:

- ♦ This last week Isaac our son's dog of nine years passed away unexpectedly to *undiagnosed cancer*. We thought his lack of vigor had more to do with his aging than with disease. All of us are saddened by our loss—even though Isaac would occasionally take a healthy nip out of us. But love conquers all and we couldn't help but fall in love with him and our loss is deeply felt.
- ♦ That was on Tuesday, on Friday of that same week Phyllis stumbled on a walk, could not get her hands out of her coat pockets fast enough and I could not react quickly enough to catch her. The results were disastrous. She crashed into the sidewalk chin first, fracturing the joints on both sides of her head where the jaw connects to the skull. She also fractured her chin in one place. As I write this we are spending our fourth night at the hospital in a trauma center. After an 8 1/2 hour surgery that repaired what could be repaired, and some recovery ups and downs, **we are hoping to find out today that we can go home.**

This unexpected misadventure, to understate things a bit, was a sudden and major test of our faith in many ways. Determined to trust the Lord no matter what came during the lengthy procedure, providentially God gave me the opportunity to talk to a male nurse named Dave who was preparing her room for her return. **As we talked it became clearer that Dave was a “seeker” who had not yet come to faith in Christ.** That conversation led to his praying aloud to receive Christ as his Savior! That helped the last hour of waiting for her surgery to pass more quickly, and filled Phyllis’ and my hearts with joy for Dave.

We are on the road to recovery. It will be about 6 weeks before her wired closed jaw can be unwired—time for the joints and muscles to heal. We look forward to that day with anticipation and pray that God will restore her completely.

There is much more than can be said in this letter about what the Lord taught us, but length won’t allow us to share. One good thing is that our insurance should cover much of these hospital and doctor costs and that’s a relief!

Thank you so much for your continued prayers. **Please pray for Scott especially because Phyllis’ hospitalizations (running about once every two decades) have always have had an affect on him.** Let’s pray it will draw him more closely to the Lord. Thanks!

Warmly in Christ, Jim for Phyllis and Scott

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Link to video I spoke of above:

<https://www.academicconnectionsgcm.org/video-3/james-cook--intro-to-chris.html>



Phyllis