



A Few Updates

Time to Catch Up on a Few Fronts

Dr. Timothy Shaw, Lecturer at Queen's University, Belfast, Ireland.

An interesting development, Dr. Tim Shaw who is a visiting scholar in microbiology from the Queen's University in Belfast, Ireland spoke to one of our groups recently on the topic reaching the worldviews in Europe for Christ. I mentioned that briefly in my last update and there's more to say. By the way, you can catch a video I made of his presentation to our group at:

<https://academicconnectionsgcm.org/video-3/dr-timothy-shaw.html>

A Little About Tim

Tim grew up in Northern Ireland in a strong Christian home and he kept his faith when he went to college. Indeed, he has banded together with other Christians educators in Europe to try to reach academic centers there for Christ. Besides that he is very interested in explaining and defending the truth of Christianity among his colleagues. His talk to our group, should you listen to it,

details some of his preliminary work he has with this effort. Being an insider at a university by teaching there is a strategic part of what it takes to influence an institution from the within and with respect to that, he has his tenure to earn. That is to come and is one of his most important goals for him in order to stay in the academic world for Christ. Please pray for that.

You can imagine how excited I am about meeting someone of his caliber and vision at this stage in his career and we have talked via Zoom, had lunch together and at various times discussed how ACI might serve what he wants to do in Europe. (That's part of our international vision for Academic Connections, International.) Tim has been most receptive. Before he returns to the Queen's College we will plan to talk a great deal more about how I think God can use him and how we might be able to serve him. In May, Phyllis and I plan to meet his family and have lunch together on a Sunday afternoon.

Please pray that **God will show us both if we are to work closely together in the future.** We seem to have the same interests and vision for the university and he seems to have great potential for the Kingdom.

In Other News

We asked you to pray last time or our good friend and local ACI Board member Paul Ernst. As we shared last time, Paul has had heart failure and nearly died. More recently he was going downhill again, but in a miraculous way our 75 year old friend was able to get on a heart transplant list and about two months ago he received a new heart! Let me give you an update on his progress.

He's been in recovery from that transplant for the last 7 weeks and is making excellent progress! His doctor insists he is doing better than any patient he has had at this stage following surgery. To God be the glory.



Spring has sprung in our part of the country!

Phyllis is recovering, too. In some respects her recovery is doing quite well. Last Thursday she had the wiring removed that kept her jaw shut, and in two weeks she'll have the anchors for that wirings taken out, too. In answer to prayer her jaw's fractures and repairs are healed enough to move on.

However, she is still having headaches each day (sometimes more than one) from the mild to moderate concussion she received from her fall. This is longer than expected. Also, her teeth were "moved" out of place, both the uppers and lowers, and that makes chewing all the more difficult because her teeth don't yet meet properly. That chewing may get better over the next two weeks. It does look like in the longer run she'll have to have a good deal of dental work done (maybe including braces), but we haven't been able to pursue that yet and won't be able to do so for another two to three weeks, even for diagnosis.

So, she continues to have mostly a liquid diet with some partially "solid" foods that are mashed up pretty well. In short, we have a long way to go before we arrive at a "new" normal and can better understand what she can do. In the meantime, keeping her weight up is very hard to do because she feels nauseated and is generally worn out and mildly depressed.

However, there is **good news**, too. Her jaw reconstruction went as good as we hoped and prayed and according to the CAT scan, is anatomically "accurate and in-line." All of the swelling and bruising is gone, too, and she faces no facial disfigurement. Her pain levels from the surgery are mostly minimal.

Today we celebrate our 47th wedding anniversary! My how time flies. They have been wonderful years together through thick and thin. The challenge we are facing is not unlike other challenges we faced through the years with two other of Phyllis' hospitalizations, with Scott's brain injury and the repercussions from that and with my cancer surgery and recovery some 23 years ago. All have been in some sense enduring trials, for which we give thanks and praise to God.

All of these things and many more good things were traced on our dial by the Lord and came as no surprise to Him. These things remind us of the transient nature of life in this world and all the more we value our life in God and living in His hands.

Thanks for your prayers. They are certainly being answered by Him. We pray God will bring more good for Him and His kingdom through us as we trust Him and in Him alone.

Warmly in Christ

Jim for Phyllis and Scott