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Lake Wales, FL 33859
July 24, 2026

Dear Alumni,

I want to share a very personal and still-unfolding story that I feel is important to communicate to the alumni of Warner University.

If you're not already aware, my husband, Kevin, who also serves as Warner's Vice President of Student Life, was recently diagnosed with an inoperable malignant brain tumor that caused paralysis from his shoulder down on the right side of his body. Active and healthy at 48, he went from working on a house project over the weekend to being paralyzed on Monday. It came as a shock to all of us.

The story I want to share is a story of your alma mater and its response. It is important that you know this because each of you has contributed to shaping the culture of Warner University as a Christ-centered place. As alumni, you are linked to this place. Even if it has been decades since you were last on campus, you are part of this story.

While it is not uncommon for communities to rally when personal tragedy strikes one of their own, the generosity shown by the Warner community has been incomprehensible. We spent 20 days in a hospital in Kissimmee. The people of Warner visited us, sent food, offered places to sleep, paid for our gas, and fed our children. Colleagues donated their own sick time—more than 700 hours—to make sure Kevin could focus on his recovery without worrying about returning to work right away. They visited us, sat with our daughters, and ministered to them. One colleague organized dinners for our family for an entire month. The chair of the Board of Trustees cooked and delivered dinner herself. I have worked in education for 20 years and have attended countless dinners and events along the way. Never have I met a Board chair who personally served me food through the labor of her own hands.

What has moved me most are not the gifts or acts of kindness, but the way this community has lifted up my husband and our family in prayer. The Warner community has gathered daily for nearly two months to pray for healing. Spontaneous worship has arisen. New friendships are being formed. Prayer is extending far beyond one man. Unity is growing.

To be sure, we did nothing to deserve this kind of care. We haven't been long-time members of the Warner community, and though we work hard, we haven't accomplished anything that would explain why so many people have been so eager to help us.

On behalf of my family, thank you for allowing me to share with you the way your school has so profoundly impacted my life. We have three daughters, each in a different place in her faith journey. They have witnessed the generosity poured out on their dad and our family. They have heard the prayers of people who were strangers to them, people speaking their names before the Lord.

And I believe they will remember this.

They will remember that when our family was hurting, the people of Warner showed up. They will remember that people they barely knew brought meals, gave their time, opened their homes, and prayed. Most importantly, they will remember that they were surrounded by a community that believed in the power of prayer and trusted in a God who is still at work, even in the midst of suffering.

That is the legacy you have helped create. This is what your alma mater has given us- not just a job, but a community shaped by faith in Jesus. It is a community that carries one another when the burden becomes too heavy to bear alone. I am deeply grateful to be part of it, and I am grateful to each of you who helped make Warner the kind of place it is today.

With gratitude,

Angie Abel