

The Sillysheep Pen

FINDING THE LOST BINDING THE BROKENHEARTED



<http://www.ministryupdates.org/chau>

Family

April 2013

“So what might be some differences being in Bill Gate’s family versus a drug addict’s family?”, I asked. The lighting was intimate in the lounge at the Integrated Sciences Building where we were having our weekly freshmen men’s small group. There were four students and myself, a few shy of a full house. We were looking at the gospel of Mark, it was my opening question for the evening.

As we went around the room, students offered some theoretical differences. The atmosphere was jovial for the most part.

“So What does it mean to be in a family?”, I continued.

“You share the same consequences.”, replied Toby (name changed). Toby, an English major of Italian American descent, had joined our study towards the end of last semester. He really enjoyed investigating Jesus and the Bible. But now the look on Toby’s face suggested that there was more going on than mere interest. Our discussion about family had hit on something.


“That’s very true, Toby...”, I replied as the others nodded in agreement, they sensed the change in mood as well.

“Actually, my mom IS a drug addict.”, began Toby, I had no

idea about Toby’s mom when I asked the ice breaker question, but it was an inciteful moment into to the struggles of this young man. “I can’t trust her, she’s broken so many promises to change, to be there... I don’t even know where she is anymore she just drifts in and out, and frankly I don’t care.”

Toby is gay, he has a boyfriend and works at the Stonewall Center (the LGBT advocacy office of UMass). That night Cookie (another student) and I got to explain to Toby, that God wants him to be in His family. A loving family. A noble family. A stable family. And that according to the Bible we are all “sinners and abominations” (a term from Deuteronomy that he sees a lot on websites addressing gay and Christian issues), but even still, we have a God who would die for us and love us and promises to transform us and make us whole again.

It is a marvel how the world right around us is longing for, indeed dying from a lack of the knowledge of grace. The incredible message of truth about a loving God who would take the place of sinners.

“My (gay) friends have got to learn more about this! Can we study the Bible together?”, responded Toby. Let’s pray that it would be so. 

Prayer Corner

1. Please pray for Joe and Jenny, that we would maintain a vital relationship with Jesus and that we would make Him our first in everything.
2. Please pray for God’s grace that we will lead our team well as we pursue the lost here at UMass.
3. Pray for our team to live out the gospel and experience God’s grace and truth in community.
4. Praise God for opening doors for the launch of our Latin American Student ministry, called Destino.
5. Please join with us in prayer for revival on our campus
6. Praise God that our students have been fervently in prayer for the revival of our campus.
7. Please pray our extremely busy schedule.
8. Please pray for us as we seek to elevate the importance of leadership with our students and help them “own the mission.”
9. Please pray that the Lord will lead us to new financial partners who will partner with us to reach lost students in western Massachusetts

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if you would like to support our ministry you go to

<https://give.ccci.org/give/0569044>

if you would like to hear more about our ministry

please contact us or go to <http://www.ministryupdates.org/chau>

Grace & Restoration

It felt like the Prom on the beach of Panama City Beach, Florida. Outside the Breakers restaurant, over 60 students and staff from UMass, Smith, Mount Holyoke and Amherst College crowd around one another, laughing, celebrating and reveling in the unity of experiencing God's incredible grace and mission. As the cameras snapped away, Nicole, an environmental studies student at UMass, noticed two spring breakers stumbling towards our merry band. And as we had been encouraging our student to do all week, she responded to the tugging of the Holy Spirit on her heart. "Walk in step with the Spirit! Submitting to the Holy Spirit is not only for times when we are set to go out sharing each afternoon, it is a moment by moment lifetime discipline."

Nicole found her feet taking her in the direction of the 2 young men. As she arrived, one fell down and began throwing up. It was clear that the two of them were drunk. Putting a hand on the fallen student she asked, "Can I do anything to help?"

"Thank you", the other young man replied. Nicole began to call others to help. They got them some water and began caring for them.

"Where are you staying?", Nicole continued. As they began to talk, Nicole noticed a deep look of shame and guilt on the face of the more coherent young man. "We just want to help... We're here with a Christian group... Campus Crusade for Christ... We're here just to show God's love...", she said to him with kindness as the others help the fallen young man.

Still red with alcohol the young man's eyes moved from our group, to his fallen friend, to the sand. "I'm actually the president of a Christian fraternity on our campus", he confessed, his eye welled up.

"We're not here to judge... can I just pray with you?... please?", replied Nicole, her hand on his shoulder. Touched by God's grace he lost his battle to fight back the tears. And Nicole began restoring this young man in the gospel of grace and truth.

As they departed, the president remarked to Nicole and others, "You guys have really show us how a family of Christians is supposed to live" and being reminded of his true identity in Christ, he vowed that going back to his campus his fraternity would be different, set apart. 🐻



Coming Soon

God is moving in exciting ways as we work here at UMass and the 5 colleges. In the coming summer months, we hope to be able to update you more fully on what God has done, where He is leading, exciting opportunities and areas of prayer for the coming years.