

The Sillysheep Pen

Finding the lost, binding the brokenhearted

Drowning

“It’s like when I had a cramp while swimming and I couldn’t get enough air and I was going down, that’s how I was feeling”, remembered Larry (name changed), a UMass Computer Science student from Queens, NY. We were seated in a lounge at the back of third floor in the Integrated Sciences Building. I’d first met Larry at our Spring semester Informational Meeting, where we talked about Computer Science and how he had friends from both Cru and Epic. Larry was talking about the direction his life was going. He had been into the party scene in high school, and his grades were slipping fast. He felt depressed and didn’t care about his future, it was very dark.

“But then it was like someone pulled me out and I could breath fresh air. I can’t explain it better than that. Everything in my life began to turn around and I began to seek. I wanted to know who was rescuing me. I read the Buddhist writings and the Koran. They were both good, but there was something missing”, continued Larry. This was our third or fourth meeting. And it’s been a joy to continue this spiritual conversation. All along the way, I’ve been encouraging students from both Cru and Epic to connect with Larry, bring him to church, invite him to their small groups.

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

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But when he saw the wind he was afraid and beginning to sink cried out Lord save me Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him

perfectly to the gaps I had from my searching in philosophy and other religious writings.” We had been going through the Knowing God Personally booklet as part of our get togethers, and as we got to the prayer, Larry expressed that it was the desire of his heart to know God and has been for a while. He wanted to pray by himself over the Spring Break. I encouraged him to do so and to read the gospels, to get a clear picture of who this God is who would rescue sinners such as us. Please pray for Larry and for our time when we get back together after Spring Break.



BLARNEY BLOWOUT

As many of you may know, last weekend UMass made national news for the Blarney Blowout where some 4000 students gathered at an apartment complex just 2-3 blocks from our home to “celebrate” St Patrick’s Day (which is this coming Monday, not last weekend). The event was characterized by drunkenness, rioting and clashes with local police. All this resulted in tear gas and over 70 arrests. Soon after, the Chancellor of UMass wrote an email to the entire school expressing his disappointment at the behavior of students and the shame brought upon the noble institution. Disgruntled students responded with a march to protest police brutality. It is ironic that a couple of years ago, the administration purposely switched the dates of our Spring break so that it would not coincide with St. Patrick’s day. It was a move to avoid just such an incident, obviously to no avail. (continued)



To support our ministry you go to: <http://give.ccci.org/give/0569044>



As we enter our Spring break this week, the scene in Panama City Beach, Florida is not unlike the UMass Barney Blowout. With a spirit of revelry and debauchery, tens of thousands of students will be down “partying” along the 8 miles of beaches there. And each year we go down to attend the Cru Big Break conference (www.big-break.com), where each day our students are equipped to engage in spiritual conversations. It is an act of faith, and an act of surrender as students learn to follow the Holy Spirit and share God’s love with students who are desperately hungry for real life, that can only be found in a personal relationship with God.

Please pray for us (our staff and 50 or so students) as we share each day with the thousands of students in Florida. Please also pray for divine appointments and open hearts and opportunities. This year we are bringing more non-Christian students with us than ever before. Please pray for them as we connect with them in their spiritual journey. All of them have been coming out to our meetings regularly and are open to discovering more about what it means to have a personal relationship with God. 🐑

Summer Update!

As we prepare to go, we are still praying for 5 students from UMass to come with us. So far there looks to be 20+ students from UMass & the Boston area. We have recently found out that our airfare to go will be over \$6,500.00. This does not include the cost of housing and ministry expenses. We would like to ask if you would prayerfully consider sponsoring. If you decide to do so, go to <http://give.cru.org/give/0569044> (please note that our names will not appear since it is a closed country) Thank you!

Prayer Corner

1. Please pray for Joe and Jenny, that we would continue to experience God’s overwhelming love. That we would make every effort to stay in step with the Holy Spirit.
2. Please pray for us as we seek to be wise and godly parents. Pray for our children that they will walk faithfully with the Lord all the days of their lives.
3. Pray for us to lead our team and our students in wisdom, boldness and compassion, so that our team and students will live out the gospel and experience God’s grace and truth in community.
4. Please pray for us as we prepare for our summer in the Middle East. Pray that the Lord will lead us to open hearts, ready for the gospel of Jesus Christ. Pray for safe travels, and for our family and all the kids’ allergies. Also pray that God would provide all the finances for us to go this summer.
5. Please pray for Joe’s time in Florida and for God to move mightily.



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