

The Sillysheep Pen

Finding the Lost, Binding the brokenhearted

AMTRAK

Coachclass



One for the Road

June/July 2015

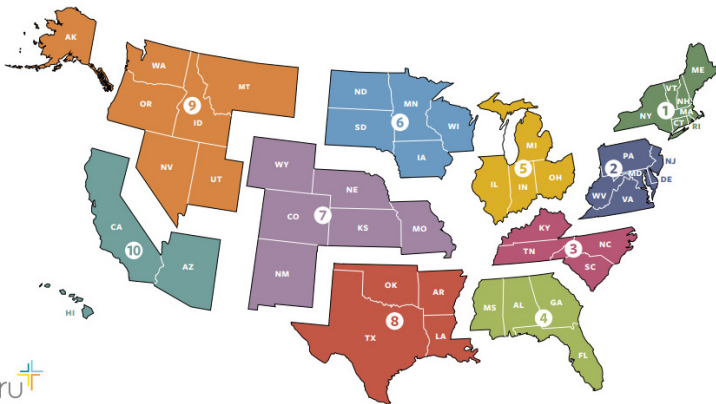
Heather looked at her noodles suspiciously. “You can start your personal relationship with God right now if you’d like.”, invited Jen. Heather, a UMass BioChem student and Jenny were eating at a local restaurant yesterday. In the middle of our crazy packing schedule, Heather had emailed for help. For the last few weeks we have been busy packing up everything in our home, getting ready for our big move down to Orlando Florida, where we will be taking on our new role as executive director of operations. It’s been a time of joy and grieving. The full sadness of leaving our home and all the fond family memories as well as the scores of lives we’ve touched was setting in. It comes in waves, alternating with the anticipation of the adventure what God has for us next, seeing God move in a different and significant way on a national scale.

“I think I really need God’s help”, Heather had written in her email. She was the friend of Lynn, one of our Epic student leaders who had been sharing the gospel with Heather all semester. And now Heather was uncertain about her future, she hadn’t gotten a work visa yet, and if she doesn’t by Friday, then she’ll have to return to Hong Kong and forfeit her dream internship.

“Well, can we trust God, our Heavenly Father, who loves us to have the best job for us? Even if we don’t know what it is yet?”, asked Jen

“Yes.”, replied Heather softly. And with that Jen explained the gospel to Heather one more time. The weeks of sowing by Lynn had softened the soil, and that night June 3, 2015, at the restaurant with the suspicious noodles, Heather invited Jesus into her life.

- 1 Northeast
- 2 Mid-Atlantic
- 3 MidSouth
- 4 Southeast
- 5 Great Lakes
- 6 Upper Midwest
- 7 Great Plains Int'l
- 8 Red River
- 9 Greater Northwest
- 10 Pacific Southwest



Regions of the United States Campus Ministry

As I begin talking with the 10 regional directors across the nation, I’m beginning to get a growing appreciation for what it takes to support all our missionaries in the field, what it takes to allow for Jen and I to do what we’ve been doing for the last 10 years. What was necessary for Jen to care for Heather, right now. There is a complex web of interconnected systems and services essential to running an organization of tens of thousands so that each missionary can stay on mission to share in God’s passion for turning lost students and faculty into Christ-centered laborers. Email systems, financial services, medical insurance, risk management, creative media production, professional conferences, websites, mobile apps, and social media all come together to form a platform of services on which Jen and I have leveraged for the last 10 years for the Kingdom of God here at Amherst.

It was the sweetest ending to what had turned out to be a special day from the Lord for Jen. Two of Jen’s alumni from Mount Holyoke College had come to help pack and reminisce. Sharing and recounting how the Lord has moved in their lives during and after college, it was a sweet time. It was extra special that the women were part of a chain of disciples, representing multiple spiritual generations, each generation laboring in the gospel to see the next generation come to Christ, the core of the Cru DNA to win, build and send.



Jen and some Mount Holyoke Alums

Please pray for Heather and her visa situation, Jen will be meeting with her tonight to do new believer follow up. Pray for us as we pack and leave. Please pray for our transition, physically, emotionally and spiritually.

We will be in the NYC area from June 10-19. Please email or give us a call if you would like to hang out for breakfast, lunch, dinner or whatever!

We've arrived in Orlando!

June 19, 2015, our family landed in Orlando. We spent 20 hours on a train from Washington D.C. to Orlando Florida and then after a 40 minute drive to the house we have rented for this year. At last, we arrived at our new home in this strange new land. Our pods arrived, a little rattled but mostly intact. And little by little, as we waded through the boxes and unpack their contents, our journey neared it's end. What has God got for us in this new season? I've spent this month meditating on God's goodness. Jesus asked the rich young ruler, "Why do you call me good? Only God is good." And indeed He alone is good. The more I think on this marvelous attribute of God's character, the more I am moved, and the more my heart is drawn to my savior.


*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

He is mighty and He is good. My savior, My beloved, My Jesus. And it is His desire that not any should perish but for all to come to repentance. Every student and every professor are His desire, and He's working to bring it about! And it's going to be amazing.



He makes all things new. Sometimes I forget that "new things" mean unfamiliar, uncomfortable, strange. But because He is good, it also must mean loving, wonderful, miraculous, restorative. I was speaking with a dear relative, someone I look up to in my faith. He was concerned with our transition. "You seem to love the work on campus so much...", he asked. And we do, it is true. All I could reply was this, "We have been so privileged these past 9 years. It's been like getting a front row seat to seeing God's amazing work. Now, I guess God's just calling us to watch Him work mightily in other ways."

As we look nationally, issues like campus access*, reaching the lost in post-Christian America** with the gospel and loving the LGBTQ community are just a few areas where we need God to move in mighty ways. I am reminded of Jesus' proclamation from Luke 4.

In just a few days, we'll be in Colorado for our National Staff Conference. This year we will be focusing on our apostolic calling as a missions organization, our commitment to partnering with others for the sake of the gospel and our call to becoming a multi-ethnic organization. Jen and I will be sharing a bit of our story with the whole of the campus ministry. Please pray that the Lord will use our story as part of many others to encourage and embolden our staff. It seems even as we are just settling in, it's time to shift gears towards what is coming up next. I guess that's just what it's like to stay in step with the Holy Spirit. (Feet ready with the gospel) 

* <http://www.thecollegefix.com/post/21394/>

** <http://cities.barna.org/the-most-post-christian-cities-in-america/>



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