

The Sillysheep Pen

Finding the lost, binding the brokenhearted



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

Celebration Time! BY JOE CHAU

Dec 2013 - Jan 2014

As we met together for the last time this semester, there was a lot for our staff team to celebrate. Seated together in the cozy basement den of the Baglow's home (who have been on staff with Cru for 30 years!) we went around one by one and shared stories of students accepting Christ, significant faith steps of various students, the pioneering of Epic Movement at Amherst College and the launching and growing of Destino at UMass. There was a lot of joy and wonder and what God is bringing about.

Likewise, our Latin American ministry (Destino), has been moving forward. This semester, Shannon (our Cru intern) has been leading the Destino Bible study and exploring Latin identity and faith. We are so thankful for students like Henri, Ricky, Marjorie, Alyssa and Orlando who have a deep desire to reach all the Latino students at UMass with the gospel of Jesus. Please pray for them as they set faith goals for evangelism and step out in faith and plan their first outreach event.



Another area of growth has been the men's ministry. For a number of years, now we've felt that there's more that can be done to gather and grow men of faith and character. Men often experience isolation and commitment issues. This semester we've pioneered a number of outdoor adventures (e.g. white water rafting, caving) with spiritual lessons, that seems to have hit home with many of our men. We're looking forward to continuing this strategy and cultivating greater fruitfulness in the area of helping men to treasure Jesus, and loving one another in Christ.

This semester at least 9 students have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Celebrate with us, and thank God for Qiuye, Molly, Jimmy, Ashley, Madeleine, Nikita, Zihao, Julie, and Kate, who all joined God's family this semester. We also thank God for Sunny, Xin, May, James, Matt and others who are close to making a decision to follow Jesus.



Also this semester, Esther Lam (one of our Epic interns and Amherst College Alum) has started a weekly Bible Epic Bible study at Amherst College. She has also been putting on weekly social outreach events where students who are interested in matters of faith and culture can come and engage in conversations over bubble tea, sushi or wontons. She's seen a healthy attendance at both venues, and almost all the students she is meeting are students who are seeking. Her weekly Bible study has 5 regular members and 4 of them are seekers. They are very engaged and the Lord is drawing them closer towards a personal relationship with Him. We look forward to what God's going to do next at Amherst College!

We are so excited for the beginning stages of our Faculty ministry. Professors from UMass and Smith College, have had significant contributions to our ministry with students this semester. They have been involved in our Fall retreat and in helping to disciple students in their faith. Please

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pray for us as we continue to explore this new area of ministry. We long to see a vibrant body of believers, made up of university faculty and students. Our vision is that faculty would take steps of faith to challenge fellow faculty members with the message of Jesus and also share their faith with their students. And we hope to see students reaching out to their professors and share the gospel message with their professors, who also desperately need a Savior.

Lastly, we celebrate the latest development with our international partnership city. For the last 3 years we have sent a total of 4 students to a large city in the middle east,

where only 0.002% of the population know Jesus! This coming summer our family will be going and we hope to bring a group of 5 students with us. We look forward to going and learning more about their culture and spiritual climate so that we can better raise up more laborers to go and share the good news with this nation!

Come let's celebrate because God is on the move! Thank you so much for your vital role in God's ministry here in Western Massachusetts. Thank you for your prayer and financial support, which allows us to keep sharing God's amazing love with the lost. 🐑

CRU WINTER CONFERENCE 2014

Each year hundreds of students from campuses all over the Northeast come together to worship God, learn how to walk more deeply with the Lord and share their faith. This year, we are praying for 50 students to attend one of our

3 winter conferences (Cru in Albany, Epic in NJ, Destino in Los Angeles). It's a important conference for our students, especially for those who do not have a home church, having recently come to faith.

This year the Cru Winter Conference in Albany will be a focus on relational evangelism. Joe will be giving 2 seminars. Please pray for Joe as he prepares, and that God would use him to bless students.

Lastly, **we will be in Albany from January 16-20, 2014** (for the winter conference). Please come visit with us at Barnes & Noble on Wolf Rd. 1/16/14, noon-2pm and 1/20/14 3-5pm (Martin Luther King Day). 🐑



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. Praise God for all that he is doing and the new believers we are seeing added to our midst, seemingly on a weekly basis. Please pray that they will mature and be rooted in their new faith.
5. Please pray that many students will take the opportunity to be part of our Winter Conference(s).
6. 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.
7. 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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