

# The Sillysheep Pen



Finding the lost, binding the brokenhearted

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

## Lifelines

October 2013

“Keith, What’s this ‘personal relationship with God’ Dan was talking about?” asked Zihao, an international first year student at UMass. We were driving back from the UMass-Cru Men’s white water rafting trip in Maine. It had been a longer than expected drive up to Maine, but after camping near the river, fireside chats, a good night’s sleep and a hardy breakfast, we were more than ready for the class 5 rapids that awaited us. Our guides (Dan & Dan) were from Lifelines (the outdoor ministry of Cru). Throughout our 14 mile journey our guides barked out orders as our rafts were tossed and buffeted by the waves from every direction. The rafts filled with water over and over again. But, working as teams, each raft managed to navigate the treacherous river.

Throughout the trip, Dan (our Lifelines guide) had connected our rafting experience with our personal relationship with God. Zihao, had never heard of this before. How could we have a personal relationship with God? And so, on our trip back, He asked. Keith, our Epic intern and Zihao’s small group leader, was driving. “One thing you learn as an intern is always be ready”, remembered Keith. So, he reached into his pocket for a KGP (Knowing God



personally booklet) and handed it to Aaron, a sophomore who had just come back from Epic summer project, where he had a great deal of experience presenting the gospel. Over the next 2 hours, Aaron and Keith would share the gospel with Zihao. Zihao still has many questions, but he has been faithfully coming to the Epic weekly meeting and small group. He also invites his friends to come on a regular basis. This weekend he’s planning on coming to our fall retreat. Please pray for Zihao and his spiritual journey, that he would be able to place his trust in Jesus and experience the joy of a personal relationship with God. 🐑

## Signs of New Life

Last month I wrote about Qiuye, a student that I had shared the gospel with. I’m happy to report that Qiuye has accepted Jesus as his savior. For 3 weeks now I’ve been following up with Qiuye and he is hungry for the scripture, as well as to learn more about his new faith. The week he accepted Christ, I gave him a bible and marked out the 4 gospels, 1 John and Galatians as good starting points. The following week when we met he told me he had read (or started reading) all except the gospel of John. And he had lots and lots of questions! He’s started attending a small group bible study with UMassCru and has even been inviting his dorm floormates out to small group. He is hoping to attend the fall retreat this weekend and connecting more deeply with God as well as the community here at UMass and the 5 colleges. He’s also been having a great time going through Life Concepts, our new believer material. A series of 5 short lessons to help new followers

of Jesus to get started in their faith. (for more go to [cru-pressgreen.com](http://cru-pressgreen.com) and search “life concepts”)

After our first Life Concept he actually said, “This was really helpful, can we do all 5?” Please pray for Qiuye to continue in his growth. And for God to protect him as he is young in the faith. 🐑



## 1.5 Generation

"I've never met Christians who are Asians before", Soun said. We were having lunch at the Oak Room, a dining facility that serves mostly Asian foods. "Why would you choose to be a Christian if you are Asian?", he continued to ask.

For Soun, who came to America in his early teens from Cambodia, the Christian faith was a western religion. Over the next 2 hours, Keith and I would explain how faith and science were not at odds, and how the Christian faith offered a better explanation for our human existence and a better hope for our human flourishing than any other worldview. At the end of that conversation Soun realized that if he were to adopt the Christian faith, "everything would have to change". He was referring to the fact that to shift world views is a complete reorienting of what you trust to be at the foundation of reality.

What I didn't understand in that initial 2 hour conversation was that Soun was struggling deeply with his own identity. Having moved from Cambodia and being at UMass, he felt the schism of eastern and western cultural values at odds within himself. This is very common among those who immigrated here before high school. (the 1.5 generation)

In a subsequent 4 hour conversation, Soun used words like, empty, hopeless, powerless, purposeless, and depression to describe his struggle. I explained how putting Jesus at the center allows for us to properly adjudicate between the many facets of our identity, be they eastern or western in origin. We also talked about how the quality and depth

of our relationships makes up a large part of our happiness and satisfaction in life. And how having God as our primary relationship, especially a triune God, makes this even more true.

"I'm afraid", said Soun as we said good bye. There is an aspect of the unknown in embracing God that is different than all he had known before. And there is a fear to hoping again when for so long one has been without hope. But none of the advisors, professors, or healthcare professionals that he had talked to had touched him as the Spirit had done in our conversations. Please pray for Soun as I will keep following up with him. I am reminded of another Cambodian student 5 years ago, who was so close to accepting Christ, and decided that it was a western religion and therefore could not be for him. Let's pray that God will open Soun's heart and that he will come know that God is indeed for him. 🙏

## Fall Retreat Prayer

1. 80+ Students would come from UMass, Smith, Amherst College, Mount Holyoke, GCC, HCC, STCC
2. Students would grow in love and abandoned to Jesus
3. Logistics of Retreat would go smoothly
4. Students will be excited to share the gospel after the retreat
5. Students will consider summer project or internship
6. Students will be more consistent in quiet times and prayer after the retreat.

## 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. Pray for us to lead our team and our students in the power of the Holy Spirit, with love and wisdom.
3. Pray for our team to live out the gospel and experience God's grace and truth in community.
4. Please pray for our Fall Retreat, that God would meet with each individual student and impact their lives in a unique way.
5. As we mentioned in the last prayer letter, we are earnestly considering leading a 6 week summer project in 2014 to share the good news in the 10-40 window. Please pray for us as we seek the Lord. And pray for our family as we will need to raise quite a bit of extra funds as well as prepare for our children's many food allergies.
6. 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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