

The Sillysheep Pen

Finding the lost, binding the brokenhearted



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

Tradition


April & May 2014

How long before a repeating pattern becomes a tradition? Mount Holyoke College, oldest of the seven elite colleges originally established for women and dubbed the “Seven Sisters,” is rich in tradition. And if present trends continue, a new tradition involving Big Break could be getting established there.

Jessica, a Mt. Holyoke junior psych major with no religious background whatsoever, spent Spring Break ‘14 with Cru as they evangelized the beaches of Panama City. The trip down, the inspirational talks, and the personal interaction with Cru & Epic students and staff all culminated in a moment of clarity for Jessica the final morning of Big Break. She took the rest of the day to ponder God’s love, her brokenness, and Jesus’ sacrifice. That night Jessica knew she had to take a leap of faith, despite her fears of believing in something she couldn’t tangibly acknowledge. “Once it all soaked in, I felt pure relief, like I was onto a new chapter in life.”

So how was it that Jessica decided to head south for a week of sharing the gospel when the gospel had yet to become real for her? Two years ago another Mt. Holyoke student, Jenny, took the Big Break challenge of listing and praying for 5 of her friends to come to Christ. Jessica was one of Jenny’s five. Maybe that’s why earlier this year Jessica started feeling like her life had no purpose. “Romantic relationships, academics, sports, friends - I began to realize that all the things I’d sought after were outrageously unstable. I went to Big Break searching for my purpose in life. I found it when I accepted God into my life.”

It was five years ago when a Mt Holyoke student, Yejin, first took on this Big Break prayer challenge. Yejin’s list included Olivia. Incredibly, Olivia also joined us to Big Break where she understood and accepted the gospel.

Will the tradition continue? Reading Jessica’s story, I’m betting “yes.” Summing up her Big Break experience, Jessica says, “I learned that God will guide me and work through me to spread His message.” Whoever is on Jessica’s Big Break list of five - watch out! 



Jenny Han

Jessica Craig

On Thursday March 20th, the last day of Big Break, I woke up early to discuss a story in the bible with three of my friends and just to reflect on the week. During that time, something clicked where I felt a glimpse of clarity in understanding those four spiritual truths. I remember saying, “I get it! I get it!” And that’s when it hit me that I couldn’t go back without accepting Christ into my life. I couldn’t go back carrying all of the things that I learned and not doing anything with them. That life that I was living back on campus wasn’t true living, it was suffering through it. Now realizing that this is what is going to give me meaning, that this is everything I’ve been looking for was amazing yet overwhelming and terrifying. I didn’t grow up with religion in my family so having faith and believing in something that I wasn’t able to tangibly acknowledge was frightening. But after thinking through it the rest of the day, confiding and conversing with friends, I knew that I had to just take that leap of faith. That night I accepted Jesus Christ into my life. There was a lot of crying and embracing and honestly I didn’t know what to feel. Once I took a moment to soak it all in though, I felt pure relief, like a weight was lifted off of my shoulders, like I was onto a new chapter in life, that I was no longer in control, that God is now working through me.

My name is Jessica & I am restored.

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



Please join us in prayer that God in his goodness would change the destiny of this nation. Please pray for our team as we go, to give us divine appointments and boldness.

And now, Lord ... grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.

Acts 4:29-30

The date is May 12th and in a mere 10 days we'll be reporting for our staff briefing for Breakthrough. Our flights leave on the 25th and we are excited and so humbled.

Our prayers and our hope for this Middle Eastern city is that God would have mercy and change the course of this nation. We know that our trip is but the beginning as we seek to mobilize students from UMass (and western Massachusetts) to reach the Muslim world, both here and abroad.

Please pray for us as we learn a new culture and language. And that God would grow our love for the people of the middle east. Our hope is that as a result of this trip we would get a better vision for this part of the world and that we would be better equipped to mobilize students to go and share God's love and grace with the people of this Middle Eastern city.

We still need to see a significant amount of financial sponsorship for our trip. Please take some time to pray about partnering with us for this trip. (go to <http://give.cru.org/give/0569044> - **NOTE:** it will only say 'international staff' and not our names for security reasons) 🐑

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.



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