

The Sillysheep Pen

FINDING THE LOST BINDING THE BROKENHEARTED



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

National Football League

February 2013

Aaron, our intern for Athletes in Action was having lunch-time discipleship appointment with a student athlete. It was a time when Aaron could focus on the spiritual needs of an individual athlete, sometimes addressing sensitive issues. It was then that off to the side Aaron caught a glimpse of a familiar face. It was his old teammate, Jimmy (name changed). Not only was it a surprise to see Jimmy, but when Jimmy unexpectedly plopped himself down next to Aaron and his student. Aaron realized something was going on.

Jimmy had been picked up as a free agent by an NFL team. What was going on? Aaron had prayed that morning that God use him in whatever way He wanted to that day.

Jimmy sat quietly while Aaron and his student finished up their appointment. And then Aaron turned to ask Jimmy, how life was going, how was the NFL and so on.

“Not at all well”, began Jimmy, he had been cut from his team, and then he confided in Aaron on how the fame did not satisfy, the Lamborghini, night clubs and women only left him empty. In fact he felt pretty upside-down.

Aaron was reminded of the story of the prodigal son. It really resonated with Jimmy as he heard it, and after Aaron had shared the gospel with him using the “Knowing God Personally” booklet, Jimmy thanked Aaron and knew that he had a lot to think about, and a decision to make.



WINTER CONFERENCE PHOTOS

Spring Break - There and back again

Last year we had 53 students go to Big Break, our yearly pilgrimage to Panama City Beach, Florida, where we engage thousands students from all over the country in gospel conversations. Students come from all over in search of the ultimate party and to fill their emptiness with sex, drugs and alcohol. We will be joining hundreds of Christian students to bring lost students the gospel of Jesus. We are prayerfully hoping for 75 students in all. So far registration has been pretty slow so please pray for more students to join us. Please pray for God to provide the finances necessary for each student to attend (\$650 each). Please pray that God would open the eyes of our students to His power and love. Please pray for our students as they take steps of faith to share the gospel. Also please pray for the lost to have open hearts.



God & Humanism

This year we invited Dr. Greg Ganssle from the Rivendell institute at Yale to lecture on "God and the better part of being human - Why humanists really want the Christian God to exist". The lecture is based on a new book that Dr Ganssle is writing, on how the most cherished values that we all share and experience, beauty, truth, personhood and moral goodness are best explained by the existence of the Christian God. As always a lively discussion followed when Dr. Ganssle fielded a time of questions and answers from attendants and opponents. We are thankful for the response and the contacts who indicated interest in discussing the topic further or a Bible study or more information on a personal relationship with God. 🐑



New Staff Field Trainings

This month Joe had an opportunity to address all the new staff in the Northeast Region and cast vision for multiple movements and ethnically contextualized ministries. These are strategies we are employing, and in many ways pioneering, within our own scope (Western Mass). The need to reach ethnic minorities in a contextualize way so that we reach the whole campus is clear as our universities become more and more diverse. And having multiple movements, or groups of students who have a vision for a particular segment of campus is a great way of doing that. Not only do you have greater access to the various sub-populations on campus and therefore can reach more students, but more students are being trained up, and involved in critical leadership decisions in reaching the lost. In other words it's not only a good way to reach the campus today, but it's also a great way to train up the ministry leaders of tomorrow. 🐑



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. Please pray for God's grace that we will lead our team well as we pursue the lost here at UMass.
3. Please pray for our Spring Break Trip, that it would be well attended and students would return with a vision and a passion to share the gospel.
4. Pray for our team to live out the gospel and experience God's grace and truth in community.
5. Please pray for the launch of our Latin American Student ministry, called Destino.
6. Please join with us in prayer for revival on our campus
7. Please pray our extremely busy schedule.
8. Please pray for us as we seek to elevate the importance of leadership with our students and help them "own the mission."
9. 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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