

The Sillysheep Pen



Finding the lost, binding the brokenhearted

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

Summer in Colorado

June/July 2013

Thank you all for your many prayers for our time out here in Colorado. This past month in Colorado has been both challenging and refreshing. As part of the MTL (Missional Team Leader) track, I've had opportunities to hear from some seriously amazing speakers with incredible vision, experience, and knowledge. Their love for the Lord, humility, vulnerability, and faith flows from a life long commitment to lead others to the foot of the cross. Listening and reflecting on the many lessons, aimed at our hearts, heads and hands, I feel equipped and overwhelmed all at the same time. I am reminded anew of the honor, hope and weightiness of the call to make disciples which is upon every believer.

Jenny has been having an incredible time in her Christian Worldview and Christian Ethics classes, too. She's been wrestling with how to engage our post-secular culture with the gospel of Jesus Christ. From issues like the poor, LGBTQ, the sick, to philosophies like atheism, nihilism, and existentialism, Jen has been soaking it up and asking questions like "How do we intentionally weave meaningful demonstrations and proclamations of the gospel into everything we do?"


We've been having some awesome discussions and "what if" sessions. As we gain a bigger and fuller vision of what God is calling us to, we look forward to seeing the Lord completing the wonderful work He's started at UMass and Western Mass. Of course it will take years of prayer and loving labor to see things come to pass, but we are seriously excited.

We are reminded that 7 years ago when we first arrived at UMass there were barely 12 students involved. But now there are as many as 120 students involved with our growing movements (Cru, Epic, AIA, Destino, etc) at UMass, Smith College, Mount Holyoke College, etc. While we've often rushed ahead of God's Spirit or lagged behind His leading, He has been moving with stately purpose and we stand in humble reverence of His Majesty. We are left asking what could happen in the next 7 years? What would we dare to trust God for together in His sovereignty and goodness? Thank you so much for praying for UMass, for us as a family, and for your generous financial sponsorship.

"He has been moving with stately purpose and we stand in humble reverence of His Majesty."

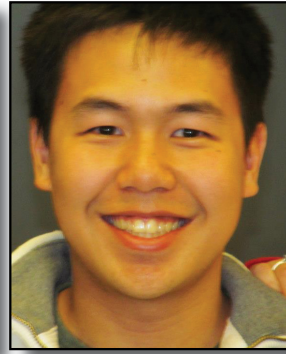
Some ideas that's surfaced in our "what if" discussions are:

- Faculty ministry - We often hear horror stories of how many professors at secular universities are against God or Christianity. While this may be true, we know that God loves professors and they desperately need the gospel too. But not only this, in our recent conversations with some professors, we are sensing a deep hunger for spiritual things.
- LGBTQ ministry - Most students from the LGBTQ community feel that God is inaccessible and unapproachable. Because of their orientation, they feel certain that a relationship with God is not an option. We want to see a safe space for students with questions about their sexual identity to encounter the gospel and experience a community of grace and truth.
- 100% Sent - This summer as part of the National Staff Conference we heard from Dr. Gerry Breshear speak on the Biblical concept of "shalom" and "righteousness" and how these principles inform our calling as disciples and disciple makers. We want to see every student graduate with a sense of mission and calling for how they have been uniquely gifted to proclaim God's kingdom in word and deed.

In August, we'll be planning for the Fall semester. Please pray for us as we gather with staff and dozens of student leaders for a time of planning and coaching. One of our goals this year is to see more student leaders "own" the mission of reaching every student on campus. 



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This summer we had the joy of attending the commissioning ceremony of 4 of our interns who have move on to join staff full time with Cru. We have walked with them since they were undergrads and have watched as they have grown in spiritual maturity and living out their calling. Of course we have graduated many who in their various fields of study or chosen occupations have gone with “feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace”, we just want to celebrate our new staff who will be going

to North Carolina, Austin TX and New York City! Please pray for them as they follow God’s leading.

We also celebrate the return of our interns Shannon Mitchell and Keith Tan! And our new intern Esther Lam, from Amherst College. Please pray for them as they raise their support this summer. 🐑



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. Pray for our movements (Cru, AIA, Epic, Destino) as we seek to reach every segment of campus.
5. Please pray for our student leaders time in mid-August as

6. we gather with our students for prayer and planning.
7. Prayer for revival on our campus(es).
8. Thank God for our 3 interns next year, Shannon, Keith, Esther.
9. 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.
10. 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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