



DINING HALL CONFESSION BY JOE CHAU

May 2009

"Slaying the Giants" week is a week where we encourage our students to trust God in areas of their lives where they know that only God can bring healing or victory. Whether struggling with sin, a relationship, a tough situation or sharing the gospel with a friend, the key is trusting God to slay the "giants" that we could never overcome by ourselves.

As part of this week of faith (last month), eight of our students published their personal faith journeys and copies appeared at every dining table on campus. Below, we've included Sarah's story as it appeared in the dining halls here at UMass. The challenge was to identify with Christ publicly and to give glory to Jesus for what He's done in our lives. Our hope was that God would further use our testimonies to

give hope to those students who are lost and cause them to consider Jesus as the way, the truth and the life.

During our week of faith, Sarah, a sophomore majoring in biology, had been praying for an opportunity to share with Olivia, one of her friends, who had distanced herself from Sarah, when Sarah stopped smoking marijuana and began to walk with the Lord. What Sarah didn't know was that this friend had sat down for lunch at one of the campus cafés and read Sarah's faith story. Soon after, Sarah got a text message on her phone. Olivia expressed how inspired she was by what God had done in Sarah's life and wanted to get together for coffee and hear more about the changes in Sarah's life. ➡



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Sarah's Spiritual Journey (Umass Sophomore)

Intellectually, I always knew who God was and that He existed, but had never experienced Him in a personal way. Growing up I didn't know anyone else my age who did so I lived like God didn't really exist in my life.

All through high school I was with the popular crowd and involved in the party life. Around the beginning of my senior year, I started smoking pot with my friends on the weekends. I started lying more and more to my parents about where I was going, who I was with, and about the fact that I was high. By the end of the summer after senior year I was smoking everyday, and lying about everything.

At UMass, I was constantly high, and I used weed to keep myself from thinking about how unhappy I was and how unfulfilling my life felt. I gained weight and was very unhappy with my self-image. At the time, I didn't realize that God was trying to get my attention.

I heard about a fall retreat with Campus Crusade for Christ, and went on the trip to NH. It was my first time in months of being at UMass that I felt really happy and loved. Over winter break I went to a conference in Boston where God showed me my worth in His eyes, and I felt His love in such an incredible way that it drastically changed the way I saw myself.

It was over a spring break trip that I finally surrendered my whole life to God. I vowed to give up smoking and all of the things in my life that I knew were clearly wrong in God's eyes. I struggled a lot (and still do) with giving up pot but it was well worth it in every way. Since spring break, my life has completely changed. I no longer define myself by worthless desires like smoking. I have a whole new identity in Christ and I have never been happier.

DINING HALL CONFESSION (CONTINUED)

It's been so encouraging to see our students stepping out in faith. Some have decided to go on summer missions despite their non-christian parent's opposition, others have invited their friends to a Crusade function for the first time.

Since spring break, we've seen nearly all of our Big Break students openly engaging in spiritual conversations and taking the initiative to share the gospel with their peers and professors.

Lastly, we had a ton of fun sharing the gospel in the UMass campus center using the soularium (<http://www.campuscrusade.com/WSN/soul.htm>) and a little creative interior decorating. In all we were able to engage in over 50 significant spiritual conversations over the course three days. It was a student idea, manned and executed by our students (with just a little staff help). Over 10 students were involved in sharing their faith and setting up each day and coordinating with the university administration. Praise God!

Please pray for our students to continue to step out in faith own the vision to give every student at UMass the opportunity to respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ. 🐑



"Step into the Soularium" : crusade students at the UMass campus center use the **soularium** evangelism tool to engage peers in spiritual discussion and share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Happy Birthday Nathan and Priscilla!



Prayer Requests:

- 1) Please pray for our Church Maple Ridge Community Church (mapleridge.net). We have been trying to work with the town on various building issues for the last year. The long transition to a stable location has taken it's toll on the members.
- 2) Praise God Amanda Hoyt is joining our staff team as an intern next year. Please pray for Amanda as she raises support. Also please pray for all our students raising support for summer project (Nick, John, Eileen, Kate, Chris).
- 3) Please pray for opportunities for us to connect with our neighbors and share the gospel with them.
- 4) Jen's mom was hit by a car while riding her bike. Please pray for her recovery.
- 5) Please pray for our road trip to Colorado this summer and our time at Fort Collins, taking Bible Courses.
- 6) Please pray for us as we home school Lydia and Priscilla.

If you would like to financially partner with our ministry, please give us a call or send your check to the address below. Please make checks out to "**Campus Crusade for Christ**" with our staff account number (**#0569044**) in the memo.

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