

The Sillysheep Pen

finding the lost, binding the brokenhearted



Night Hike


October 2011

It was drizzling up at the top of the "notch", an outcropped overlook on the Holyoke mountain range. As the wind blew gently in the darkness, twenty or so freshmen and new students looked down far below at the UMass campus, lit up like a city miles away. As Bill, one of our student leaders, led the discussion on how our spiritual journeys here at UMass can be very much like a night hike (asking questions like "How would we do with out each other?", "How would we do with out flashlights?"), I spot a new freshmen with a startled look in his eye and a smile.

"I didn't know this was a Christian thing.", whispers Mike as I get closer to him. Not knowing if that was a good thing or not, I ask him about his spiritual background. Mike had come at the invitation of two of his friends on his floor who had seen our "Night Hike" posters and invite Mike with them. "They're not Christians, you see", continued Mike.

"Do you know Jesus personally Mike?", I asked.


"Yes, I became a Christian just this year and I had been praying just this afternoon that God would lead me to other Christians who lived near me, in my own dorm area", he smiled as he marvelled at the goodness of our God. "It can be so hard to be a Christian here, and I know I need others"

Praise God that he has been regularly attending one of the small groups that I coach. Please pray for Chris O and Charlie S as they lead that group of freshmen, helping them to know how to be a salt and light here at UMass and to love their fellow students and share the gospel. 

Ashamed

"How do you think God feels about homosexuals?", asked a freshmen woman, as she, Betsy (one of our staff members) and Kayla (a student leader who had just come back from summer project at Wildwood NJ) were meeting at the Bluewall (a cafe at the student union here at UMass). They were meeting up because this student had indicated that she would like to discuss what it might mean to have a personal relationship with God on our lunch line survey. "I've prayed that God would take away those feelings", she continued, "and I was praying just last night asking for God to just please speak to me."

"Well, don't you think that's why we're here with you now?", replied Betsy. After Betsy and Kayla shared what it meant to have a personal relationship with God this young woman prayed right there to invite Jesus into her life.

Please pray for her to experience freedom in Christ. Also know that satan is at work warring for the heart of this young woman. There are leaders and members of the stonewall center (the UMass funded LGBA education center) who are pursuing her. 

1. Please pray for Joe and Jenny, that we would continually fall in love with our precious Jesus, who is the way, the truth and the life.
2. Please pray for Jen and the baby as Jen has developed gestational diabetes. Also please find our baby registries at Amazon.com & BabiesRUs.com - search for Joseph & Jenny Chau)
3. Please pray for our Epic movement and our interns Jeff & Matt. As we have been trying to break new ground and reach other pockets of students within the

Prayer Corner

Asian American community (Hip Hop Culture & Fraternities) we've been experiencing spiritual battle. (confusion, division, fear, doubt, selfish ambition etc). Please pray for God to work in us so that in all circumstances we are an expression of His great love.

4. Please pray for our upcoming fall retreat. We are praying that we would all experience God in an incredibly intimate way both individually and corporately. And please pray for many students to register and come to experience what God has for them.

• Joseph & Jenny Chau • Campus Crusade for Christ @ UMass • 162 Farview Way, Amherst, MA 01002 •
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