

The Sillysheap Pen

finding the lost, binding the brokenhearted



Pursuit

August 2011

"I don't have a problem with the Catholics, but you know who I really hate, Joe?", said Sean, as he leaned in, looking straight at me. His tone had changed, the conversation had been jovial and at times serious, but now it was completely serious.

I had come to the Franklin Dining Common to drop off a copy of "Jesus without Religion" for Mike (who used to rip down our signs all over campus) and sitting at the table was Sean, whom I've never met before. We struck up a conversation about life, graduation, jobs, hope, and Sean's spiritual journey. I had just guessed correctly that he grew up in a nominal Catholic home, his rejection of God and Christ had led him to practice various forms of satanism but as a philosophy major here at UMass, he had become convinced that there was only atheism.


"Who Sean? who do you really hate?", I asked meeting his gaze.

"Evangelical missionaries, that's who I really hate, I can't stand them, Joe.", Sean sneered.

A bit surprised, I replied with a smile. "Sean, I am an evangelical missionary, I am on staff with Campus Crusade for Christ and a chaplain here at UMass."

Shocked, Sean looks down to see the book in my hand. "You're not anything like I expected, I totally didn't get that creepy vibe, I usually get?!", stammered Sean.

"And this is no 'chance' meeting, Sean.", I thought to myself. I silently asked for the filling of the Holy Spirit and started to share the good news. At the end of our 2 hour long conversation, Sean was still closed to the gospel (and still shocked), but it was pretty clear God was pursuing Sean and loved him.

Please pray for Sean as I know that God is pursuing him. Pray that Sean may come to repent and know Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. 


Preparation

After a full summer at Colorado State University where we took courses and enjoyed the teaching, worship and fellowship of the National Staff Conference, it's finally time to start our preparation for the upcoming semester. There are many new things to consider this year as Jenny and I are expecting our 4th child in mid-November. We also have (hopefully) 3 new interns who will be joining us as soon as they are finished building a team of prayer and financial partners. Matt, Jeff and Aaron have been working diligently over the summer to raise up their individual teams, and are close to the finish line. Please continue to pray for them as they finish, that God would lead them to people whom He has called to be part of their team.



We are excited for the upcoming year as we take steps to plant a new spiritual movement on campus targeting the Latin American students on our campus. Please pray that we will have insight as we start Destino. We continue to pray and prepare for the other three movements (Cru, Epic [Asian American] and Athletes in Action). and pray for all of our students in all our movements to love the Lord and to proclaim His great name.

For 2 years now, I have been praying for God to show me who the "poor" are on campus. As you may know, most college students have few physical needs. The Lord has opened my eyes to the students who are in depression and suicidal. Last I heard, there is an average of 11 known attempts per semester. Please pray for me as I begin this year to find ways to love the campus in this way.

We are trusting God for 20 new freshmen in each of our movements (Cru/Epic/AIA). That's 60 in all. Please pray that God would send freshmen who love the Lord and who will be the future leaders on our campuses. 

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- if you would like to support our ministry please email or call us at joseph.chau@uscm.org or 413-230-0189 •
- Please make checks payable to "Campus Crusade for Christ" and put "0569044" in the memo •
- You may also go to <https://give.ccci.org/give/0569044> to give online •

Name Change

As I am sure many of you are aware, Campus Crusade for Christ recently changed their name to “Cru”. The two main reasons are:

1. As an organization Campus Crusade for Christ represents over 50 different ministries including ministries to families (Family Life), Athletes (AIA), humanitarian aid (GAIN), the Jesus Film Project and so on.
2. The other reason we have changed our name to “Cru” is that the word “crusade” is an offensive word to many.

In light of this many have asked why we have taken the word “Christ” out of our organization’s name? Is this a move towards political correctness? *I assure you that we will never back away from the proclamation of the incredible, life giving and sometimes hard message of the gospel, both personally and corporately.*

However, I realized that at UMass (and surely on campuses all over the nation) when a student hears the name of Christ, they may be hearing a very different meaning than what you or I think of when we hear the name of Christ. And so, I would like to offer up another point of view to consider. Simply stated, just as the word “crusade” now carries a negative connotation, the word “Christ” is also increasingly carrying a negative connotation on the university campus (and beyond).



For many of us, the name of Christ is a beautiful name which floods us with a sense of being loved, accepted, and forgiven. But if this is so then why is it true that when surveyed only 4% of those born 1990 or later, would even consider setting foot in a church when seeking to meet their spiritual needs. Why would 20% of people who are open to spiritual conversation choose to walk away when they learn what our name is? You may reply, “oh they are against organized religion, or think Christians are closed-minded.” and that is right to some extent. But now let’s, consider the following.

3 years ago Jenny took the necessary courses to be officially certified for the rape crisis counseling hotline here at UMass. It was

taught by the university that the Bible permits rape. Jenny was able to bring the Bible into class and show what our God really thinks of rape. But this error had been taught for decades and in all likelihood will remain part of the curriculum.

As you may remember from our September 2009 prayerletter, every residence assistant (RA) at UMass is required to take a day-long seminar on how to limit Christian influence in the dorms. The assumption is that Christianity throughout history has been a source of discrimination, repression and bigotry of all kinds. At Smith College one of our Epic students had serious misgivings about evangelism because she had been taught that evangelism was just a part of western imperialism.

Put it all together and you begin to see what the name of Christ increasingly connotes on the campus today. Christ is seen as coercive, allows rape and bigotry, treats the poor with injustice and supports the exploitation of women and non-western cultures. These are lies that have been sown for decades. They have taken root and are undeniably increasing in influence. No wonder the last place students look for their spiritual answers is the church.

As much as it hurts to know that the name of our beloved Savior is thus maligned, the truth is that our calling and mission is all the more urgent. We are speaking the truth of love, constantly, repeatedly, wisely, forcefully, and relevantly. We will pray that the father of lies will be silenced. And we labor demonstrating the truth as we reflect the light of God’s unconditional and sacrificial love in our communities.

When we share the gospel overseas, we do so in the language of the hearer, so that they can understand. More and more we are the “foreigners” on our campuses. We need to share the gospel in the words and customs of our intended hearer so that our message can be understood. Let’s pray for wisdom so that nothing is lost in translation. I believe that God has lead our leaders to change our name as part of our collectively speaking this new language, so that God’s message of grace may be understood and received. Our heart is and always has been to reach the lost. If changing a name or method without watering down the gospel will remove the barrier for us to share the gospel with the one-in-five seekers who would otherwise walk away, then why wouldn’t we do so?

for more info visit: <http://www.ccci.org/about-us/donor-relations/our-new-name/commitment-to-christ.htm>



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 the continued development of our new son as God knits him in the secret place. He is due in mid-November! [\(find our baby registries at Amazon.com & BabiesRUs.com - search for Joseph & Jenny Chau\)](#)
3. Please pray for our team as we prepare for the upcoming semester. Most of all, pray for God to continue His

Prayer Corner

- mighty work and for us to stay in step with the Holy Spirit and to trust in His inexhaustible power!
4. Please pray for the students at UMass, Smith College, Mount Holyoke College, Amherst College and Hampshire College who God has already prepared for us to share His love with. Pray that God would open their eyes to His splendor and majesty, to their sin and to the generosity of our Lord’s amazing grace.