



The Sillysheep Pen

Finding the lost, Binding the Brokenhearted

November 2009

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by Joe Chau
Putting it in Reverse


"Mike W?", The name popped up on my fall retreat registration screen. "Who could that be?", I wondered to myself. The name looked so familiar but after a while of puzzling I resigned, as I continued my work on the fall retreat. I soon got lost in the endless details of organizing our annual fall retreat at Camp Spofford, NH. Students to signed up, rides to organize, speakers to coordinate, seminars to prepared, food and lodging to finalize, games, small groups, worship equipment, prayer, to put into place.

I remember as I arrived at Camp Spofford, the set up team was a whirlwind of activity as I was barking out directions, and Ric, our Campus Director, runs up to me excited, "I've figured it out!" Distracted, it took me a moment to catch what Ric was saying. "What?", I finally replied. "Mike W, I know who he is!", Ric repeated excitedly.

"Who?", I asked, more than just a little curious. "Remember Baker 2nd floor 2 years ago?", hinted Ric. "No Way?! Oh my God! It is?!!", I marvelled and with that a deep joy filled me along with a deep knowing that God, my God, is in control and His plans are great indeed.

2 years ago, Ric and I knocked on Mike's door. He was the most antagonistic student we had ever followed up. (see our prayer letter for Oct 2007) He told us that he went around ripping down our posters and hated everything Campus Crusade for Christ stood for. I watched Mike that weekend, at each session as he heard the gospel. I rejoiced to see how deeply moved he was to hear that God was a father longing for his children. It was also the first time Mike had experienced Christian community and it has completely changed his view of what it meant to follow Jesus.

On the ride back, he remarked, "If everyone experienced what I experienced this weekend, I don't know why they wouldn't become Christian. And if people experienced what I just experienced, I don't know why anyone would ever leave Christianity!"

A few days after the fall retreat I found Mike on Facebook. I read his status and smiled. It read, "Christianity is lovely." 



"I wasn't planning on sharing this but...", began an Epic student from Smith College as we entered into a time of sharing and prayer. I had just shared several verses about the promises of God with respect to prayer.

"It's like God is inviting us to ask him for the impossible.", I had remarked.


And one by one, they began to share: the distress of a father betrayed, the awkwardness of a remarriage, the shame of a brother arrested, the pain of broken families under the façade of harmony. Would God really mend the broken?

It was the weekly Epic Leaders small group. After a meal and an ice breaker or a time of worship, every week we spend an hour or so, nurturing our 8 leaders, and equipping them. More and more each week the atmosphere reminds me of that passage from Acts 2, when the nascent



church met in great hope for what God would do next. Between them, our leaders lead 3 small groups, and we are planning on launching 2 more small groups soon. We go out with our Epic students regularly to share the gospel and last month, we used the "CoJourners" material from CruPress (<http://cojourners.campuscrusadeforchrist.com> for details). Join us as we pray for opportunities to come alongside the spiritual journeys of friends and classmates, as explorer, builder, guide, and mentor trusting the Lord as He leads.

It's exciting to see the Lord at work. Our hope is that our Epic students would experience truth and grace in community. That they would experience God's love deeply so that they can share God's deep love.

We are hoping for 8 students to go on Big Break with us this year (Please pray. Updates to come.) 

Prayer Requests

Please pray that we will maintain a vital connection with Jesus and grow in wisdom in raising our children.

Please pray for Jenny as she visits family in Taiwan.

Please pray for the various student led small groups, that each of our student leaders will lead out of the richness of their daily encounters with Jesus and the cross.

Please pray for the Boston Winter Conference in early 2010. We are trusting God for 25 students from UMass to attend. Praise God for nearly a thousand dollars in funding so far for students to attend!

Please also pray for our financial support as we trust the Lord for the new financial partners that we need.

