



**Commando Cru**

**March 2010**

**"Joe, I went on Commando Cru last night and it changed my life" - Epic student from Smith College.**

With quotes like this one, It's pretty obvious our students were pretty excited as they saw God move in ways they had never expected, never predicted and only heard in stories. But as they put their doubts on hold and they focus on God and others, God was able to use them and grow them in ways that it's hard to put into words. This year as we mentioned in our February Prayer letter, we went down to Big Break (Panam City Beach) with 46 students. 12 of whom were Epic students. It had a completely different feel for us as staff from our previous years, as the growing numbers did not allow for us to connect and shepherd each student as well as in previous years, Our faith was stretched as we had to entrust our students' Big Break experiences to God. Most of them were there for the first time and had never shared their faith before.

As you might expect God was perfectly capable of blowing away our students' minds.

Aaron a Division 1 football player from UMass remembers, "When they said we were going to go on the beaches to share the gospel I was like... Yeah right, people always say they're going to share the gospel... but then I got here and I was like Oh my God! They're really going to make us do this!? And I was terrified!" But

as he and so many others stepped out they found that God was already at work. And fear turned into boldness.



UMass Freshman Paolo & Smith Freshman Julie share the joy leading someone to Christ on the Beach

It is of course impossible to recount all the stories of what God had done during Big Break for our students, both in their hearts and through their actions. But here's just one story I'll share.

It was Thursday dinner time, and the Epic students at Big Break were having dinner together. Halfway into the the dinner time, as we were beginning to share about our week at Big Break so far, John, a Taiwanese student who studies Business, arrives breathless.

"Joe! Can I share?! I've got something to share! You know I went out last night to the clubs with a bunch of us and I ran into these 3 people and we started talking, I **think** we did the survey, and one of them wasn't so

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interested. It was the girl, well there were 2 girls and a guy, but one of the girls wasn't so interested and so Lindsay and Justin stayed. Then after a bit, Justin left too. And I was just talking to Lindsay. We talked for a while, and I got to go through the Knowing God Personally booklet with her. She was totally focused, she really wanted to know how to have a personal relationship with Jesus! After that she said she'd read it again and took the booklet with her and I gave her my number in case she had any questions."

"Well today I got a call from this number I didn't recognize. I picked it up and all I could hear was crying. It was Lindsay. She told me that she went through the booklet again and that she got it. She really got it. She understood and she had just prayed to invite Jesus into her heart. That's why I was late." Praise God! But the story doesn't end there.

After we got back to Amherst, John had something more to share at our weekly Epic leader's small group meeting. Apparently, Lindsay was so excited about her new relationship with the God of the universe that

**"When we started this week I put down a 4 or 5 for how comfortable I was in sharing my faith. Now it's like a 12!"**  
**- Epic student from UMass -**

she sat down and share the booklet with Justin and they got on the speakerphone with John on Monday and talked for an hour then John and Lindsay prayed with Justin to invite Jesus into his heart. John is going to try and connect these two students with a Campus Crusade movement in their community college. But if there isn't one, it's a great opportunity to start one at their school in Cincinnati, OH. 🐑



While we were at Big Break we saw God move in peoples' hearts and **625** people invited Jesus into their hearts!



## Prayer Requests

Thank God for all that He did in the lives of our students at Big Break

Praise God that students are organizing outreaches and taking steps of faith to share the gospel here at UMass and at Smith as a result of Big Break

Pray that students will continue to pursue the lost & apply all that they learned at Big Break

Thank God for 625 new believers as a result of our time in Florida!

Praise God that 5 of the men I disciple are in the process of discipling others. Please pray for me as I coach them in this new adventure.

Please pray for our summer in Wildwood, NJ  
Pray that we would walk closely with the Lord, our faith well for our students & be bold in sharing our faith.

Please pray for our financial support. This summer we plan on spending some much needed time in raising support, lost due to the economy.