

THE SILLY SHEEP PEN

FINDING THE LOST, BINDING THE BROKENHEARTED



<http://www.ministryupdates.org/chau>

Missional Team Leader

July 2012

As we had written in our last prayer letter, Joe will be stepping into a new role here at UMass. So, we thought it would be good for us to write a bit about our new role, our new responsibilities and what we are trusting God for in the coming year of transition.

The purpose of a Missional Team Leader (MTL) is to **give leadership to a team of Christ-like laborers who are committed to reaching a defined campus or people group by planting & growing win, build, send movements.**

The four major areas of responsibility are:

- Love the Lord.
- Lead the Team.
- Live out the missional objectives.
- Line-up Resources.

Joe is spending the next several weeks praying over each of these responsibilities. Please join with us as we pray for guidance, strength, understanding, wisdom, and courage in answering the call to our new role in the unique way that God has gifted us.

Love the Lord

Of course as Christians we are all commanded to love the Lord first and foremost. Still it's such a privilege to work in an environment where it is stated outright. Please pray that we will walk in the power of the Holy Spirit. There are many decisions that will need to be addressed as the Fall semester arrives and we want to be completely Spirit-led. Lastly, part of "loving the Lord" for every believer is to richly experience the grace and truth of the gospel. Please pray that we would continually experience God's grace, affirmation and forgiveness as we seek to live in the light, confessing our sins before God and man.

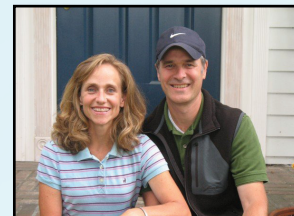
"Faith is an organ of knowledge, and love an organ of experience."
- A.W. Tozer

Lead the Team

We are praying that as we have experienced Christ servant leadership, we would likewise love, serve, equip, and care for the team that the Lord has called us to. We have a growing and diverse team and we believe that God has a wide and multi-faceted purpose for our team.

Team members

Pete & Betsy Baglow - veterans of campus ministry, Pete & Betsy have been part of Cru @ UMass for 20 years. They have served in the former USSR, Central Asia and were at one time the campus director here at UMass. Pete and Betsy have a passion for the South West dorm area which has been for decades the center of the "party" culture at UMass. They also have 5 kids and a dog.

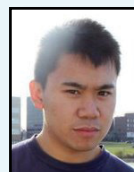


Ric & Allegra Haupt - Ric who has been the MTL here at UMass for 12 years or so, is taking a year off to finish his MDiv from Gordon Conwell. Allegra has served as a missionary to Mexico and is fluent in Spanish. Allegra loves to be surprised by the Holy Spirit and her outgoing personality is infectious. She makes all the women of Cru feel welcome and cared for. They have 3 kids.



Aaron Fears - a UMass AIA grad, Aaron's passion is for the Athletes of the UMass (no wonder, seeing as how his father is a coach for an NFL team). He is also a gifted teacher.

Matt Han - a UMass Epic grad from NH, Matt is a gifted worship leader and passionate evangelist. He longs to live radically for the cause of Christ. His father is a pastor of a Korean Methodist Church.



Jeff Chan - a UMass Epic grad from Boston, Jeff's heart is to restore Asian American students in their life with Christ. A Boston native he is an avid Boston sports fan.

Shannon Mitchell - an UMass grad in management, Shannon is an entrepreneur in everything he does. After graduating, Shannon took it upon himself to train members of his church in evangelism and has pioneered many outreaches.



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Christina Ryu - a Smith Epic grad, Christina is the daughter of a pastor in NYC. She is truly an ambassador for the Kingdom of God and brings healing to others even as she experiences personal healing.



Keith Tan - a UMass Epic grad from Boston, Keith is growing in his faith and trusting God for His plans in his life. He is praying for God to move in his Buddhist family.

Live out the Missional Objectives

Living missionally is trusting God for the impossible. We know that hearts change as the Holy Spirit moves. Not only are we praying for the changed hearts of students, but of administrators and professors. In the next few years we are trusting God for some pretty big things.

Spiritual Movements

In the past 6 years, we've seen a shift in how God is growing our ministry. Not only has God opened up new campuses to us, but with AIA and Epic, we are seeing new student populations open up that would not have been reached as effectively with a traditional Cru movement. We are excited to advance in this direction as the Lord leads.

One of our main goals in this upcoming year is to continue in launching Destino, our Latin American ministry. We are praying for the Lord to raise up a core group of student leader, who will have a passion for seeing the Lord reach the whole campus through Latin American students who are Christ followers.

We are also looking to see Epic more firmly established at Smith College, Amherst College and Mount Holyoke College. While we have movements active at these campuses, we have not been able to get official recognition through either the religious affairs or student government.

There are several distance campus movements (Greenfield Community College, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and Westfield State University, Fitchburg State) that we have pioneered, but are not as yet thriving. We hope to better resource these campuses so that students can experience a vibrant spiritual movement that passionately embrace the gospel and the great commission.

Lastly, there are new pockets of students that our student leaders or staff are experiencing some openness. They are the greek system (Fraternities and Sororities) and the Jewish student community. Last year Jeff Chan and Jenny pur-

sued relationships with students who are involved with the Asian greek houses (ΠΔΨ, ΚΦΛ). We are closer to launching an Asian greek movement. This past May, Jeff L., a student leader from Cru began a bible study with one of the Frats (ΔΥ). Establishing a foothold among the greek houses would be incredibly strategic for the gospel here at UMass. Secondly, Larry the director of Religious Affairs at UMass has asked Epic would be interested in doing something like Habitats for Humanities with Hillel (a reformed Jewish organization). Many students involved with Hillel are apparently not interested in spiritual matters, and Larry wanted to see if another ethnic spiritual group might be a good platform for spurring them on interest in their spiritual heritage. What a great opportunity for our students to share their spiritual journey as Asian American Christians!

Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

-Eph 6:14-15

Student Leaders & "100% sent"

I've often explained to students that they come to college with an expectation that they would grow intellectually and academically. How disappointed (even angry) would they be if they didn't grow? If they didn't learn anything? If they weren't ready for some occupation or further study? All that time and effort invested with no return. I know I would feel betrayed, disappointed and angry. And yet students often have no such expectations when it comes to their spiritual life. The truth is college is an incredible opportunity to grow spiritually. It is a crucial time to invest 4 years, stepping out in faith to experience God's transforming grace and truth. A time for getting equipped to become a passionate and productive members of the body of Christ. Like many who have a vision for their careers or academic studies at the beginning of their college years, followers of Jesus need to come to college having a vision for their spiritual growth, expecting to be laborers committed to the Kingdom at the end of their journey.

Our model for equipping and raising leaders in our movements has been personal discipleship. As effective and

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rewarding as this labor has been, we want to see every student sent into all walks of life passionately pursuing God's purpose for them in their intended career field. Our desire is that every student would see themselves as missionaries in corporate America, medicine, law, accounting, engineering in Asia, journalism in the Middle East, or science, etc. We are asking God for wisdom for ways we can improve so that the number and quality of students would grow whose feet are ready with the good news when they graduate.

*Only if God can say things
that make you struggle will you
know that you have met a real
God and not a figment of your
imagination.*

- Tim Keller

Line-up Resources

As our team pursues the entire scope of Western Massachusetts requires human, financial, intellectual, and technological resources. While Jen and I have developed a team of ministry partners who regularly pray and give to our personal ministry, the needs of our missional team are quite different. We are starting to build a vibrant ecosystem of churches, volunteers, alumni, students and staff who will resource the mission here.

Build Alumni base

Cru has been at UMass since the early 1970's. Currently we have a very small alumni base for prayer, finances and mentorship. Part of helping students live missionally after they graduate is having a network of alumni and churches that will help graduates plug into churches and ministries focused on living and proclaiming the gospel.

Connecting the dots

We believe that God has placed His people in various positions on our campuses. Whether they are students, administrators, local church members with a heart for the campus, they can be connected to God's awesome plans to reach the lost.

As we take on this new role, the journey is just beginning to proclaim the coming of the Kingdom of God. We wholeheartedly covet your prayer as we wrestle with our new role. We want to walk in faith and love, leading from an overflow of the Holy Spirit. 🙏

Prayer retreat

In 1806, Samuel J. Mills entered the all-male Williams College at the age of 23. Like many colleges in the 1790's, the spiritual and moral conditions at the school were tough for Christians. Believers were often ridiculed and ostracized from the social life of the campus. The French Revolution and Enlightenment ideals ushered in a wave of skepticism towards God and the Bible. Alcohol flowed freely on the campuses and wild parties were common. Several church-based colleges completely lost their theological moorings.

One pastor wrote, "It seemed as if God had almost entirely withdrawn His gracious influence. We were left to mourn an absent God, barren ordinances, an unsuccessful Gospel and cold hearts."

But it doesn't end there. Samuel along with 4 other students would pray for God to change their campus and their nation. And God would answer that prayer! 6 years later because of those prayers the very first missionaries would set sail from America to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to foreign lands. (Read more at <http://www.absc.org/resourcesmedia/49-haystack-prayer-meeting.html> or <http://mcoopjr.blogspot.com/2007/12/haystack-revival>.)

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1. Please pray for Joe and Jenny, that we would maintain a vital relationship with Jesus and that we would make Him our first in everything.
2. Please pray for God's wisdom and faith for us as we take on this new role to lead our team.
3. Pray for our team to live out the gospel and experience God's grace and truth in community.
4. Please pray for all our interns as they raise support for next year. (Matt, Jeff, Aaron, Keith,

Christina, Shannon)

5. Please join us in praying for revival on our campuses.
6. Please pray for the launch of our Latin American Student ministry.
7. Please pray that the Lord will lead us to new financial partners who will partner with us for UMass, Smith College, Amherst College, & Mt Holyoke College.

Prayer Corner

Praying retreat (Cont)

As we look forward to the fall semester Jen and I took some time to visit Williams College (which is in our scope) to pray and to get into the Word. Taking inspiration from the events 200 years ago, we long to see God move through faithful, courageous college students who are convinced and unashamed of the truth of the gospel.

Our prayer is that while the Pioneer Valley is one of the least churchied regions in America (1.5%), the Holy Spirit would move mightily to bring about revival and see a generation transformed by the gospel of grace to become faithful laborers for the proclamation of the Kingdom of God to all nations.

We recognize that “Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain.” So thank you for joining us in continued prayer for the Lord to move, to bring about repentance in the lives of students and faculty.

Thank you for Journeying with us as we seek to stay in step with the Holy Spirit. 🐑



Joe & Jen at Missions Park (Williams College) at the site of the haystack revival, “the birthplace of American Missions”.



Joseph & Jenny Chau

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