

The Sillysheep Pen



finding the lost,
binding the brokenhearted

January 2008

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD! O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy! If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared. I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning. O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption. And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Psalms 130 (ESV)

Dear friends and partners,

What a truly great God we serve! And as the psalmist writes, truly with Him there is plentiful redemption. Oh how good it is to have our hope set upon the goodness of our Lord Jesus Christ. For some time now Jen and I have been meaning to write in greater detail as to how the Lord is working here at UMass. In the past semester we have seen the Lord do some marvelous things, but we want to see more and just as the watchman waits for the morning, we too wait, longing for the dawn. We know that we can accomplish nothing except that the Lord moves, and so we pray that He would pour out His Spirit here at UMass and in all the colleges of Western Massachusetts.

At the end of the summer, the staff began to come together and pray daily for the fall semester. There was plenty to do. But, I got this deep sense that "unless the Lord builds the house, the laborers labor in vain." We can sow, we can water, but growth is from God alone. Jen and I were led to pray and fast in earnest for the students of UMass, for the Spirit's movement here, for the Lord to raise up a group of students who would love their neighbors and share with those who are hungry for God's truth and goodness. Though we see the budding of these things, there is still much work to do, and much to pray for. We do not forget that our adversary prowls around like a lion, looking to devour.

As you read the different stories, we invite and call you, as our friends and partners, to beseech the Lord to continue to work in the lives of our students, in His marvelous way. And to pray that every segment (oikos) of our campus would be reached for Jesus. It may be many semesters before the Lord will accomplish these things, but, let us be faithful in our asking and faithful in our love.

*His servants,
Joe & Jenny Chau*

TAKIN' IT TO THE DORMS

Former campus director Pete Baglow (and Betsy Baglow) has been here at UMass since the early 1990's. "In all our time here we've never seen anything significant happen in Southwest... until now.", said Pete. By significant he is referring to a community of believers (students) whose expressed purpose is to reach out to the lost. Southwest is the crowded dorm area where over 4000 students live, many of whom are athletes. It's known for its parties and for the student riots that have become a tradition. Last year alone the students caused over \$100,000.00 of damage when a riot broke out after UMass lost the football championship. However, in the past semester, both the men's and women's small groups in Southwest are beginning to get some traction, under the leadership of Pete and Betsy. It's exciting to see what God is doing and we can't wait to see more.

Here's just one story. Betsy encouraged Nicole (one of our students who live in Southwest) to invite her roommate, Danielle, to the women's small group. Danielle seemed excited and attended for a number of weeks, even inviting others to come and join. Betsy and Nicole then proceeded to share

story back to Betsy, she confessed excitedly, "I get it now, it's like God was saying to me, just believe!"

Please pray for the small groups in Southwest, that they will thrive and grow and be a light for all to see, pointing all to Christ.


In the north end of campus, where Jen and I spend most of our time, we are also seeing things to get excited about. First, Eli and Jonathan (Remmers) have accepted the challenge to help lead the men's small group. This is a significant step of faith for them, so please pray for them. Also, we are challenging our students to integrate the sharing of the gospel as a regular part of our small group communities in the North campus. So far, we are planning to go regularly to do follow up of the Spring semester surveys (please pray that there will be a great response), having a social event once a month

to invite our non-Christian friends to, and ministering regularly to the homeless on the streets of Springfield and calling non-Christians to join us as we go and share God's love.



the gospel with Danielle, but afterwards, she seemed to lose interest. Then a couple of days after expressing her lack of interest, she was in her room lying on her bed and her poster which hung over her bed fell on her. Over and over again, she would put the poster back up. And over and over, it would fall on her again. Then one time, as she picked up the poster, she realized something. The large poster had just one word on it. It read, "**Believe.**" As Danielle relayed the



After hearing from Shane Deike at the Boston Winter Conference about reaching out into other oikos (or groups) on campus, the women of North campus are praying about whether to reach out to the students on the "2-in-20" dorm (the gay/bisexual/lesbian/transgender dorm program) by serving them in practical ways on a regular basis. Please pray for God to give them wisdom, boldness and faith. 

CALLING STEPHEN

"Does this prayer express the desire of your heart?"

It was the third time I asked Jack, and for a third time during our brief conversation, Jack answered, "Yes."

I couldn't believe it. We had gathered that Friday afternoon to follow up on the last of the surveys that we had from the beginning of the semester. Finals were almost here, and with me was Stephen Ta, one of the students who are committed to launching Epic (the Asian American focused ministry of Campus Crusade) at UMass this Spring semester. I remember sharing with Stephen, that over 90% of Asian Americans were unreached. He looked at me thoughtfully, nodded and replied. "I know that God has called me to reach the Asian community here at UMass. My dorm is mostly an Asian dorm, and on every floor there is at least one person who used to come to my church. Whether they knew the Lord or not, they're not walking with Him now. Last year I noticed them, but now I know that God's put me here at UMass to reach them."

It was the first time Stephen had come with me to



share the gospel. As I talked with Jack, he watched and listened. And when we prayed with Jack to receive Christ, it was just another confirmation for Stephen that the Lord has called him. Before we left for the winter break, Stephen wrote me to tell me how much he was looking forward to the upcoming semester and the start of Epic.

Please pray for us as Jen and I take our four Epic students to the Epic East Coast Conference (Feb 1-3) [www.epicconference.com]

Please pray for our Epic small group next semester, as we address spiritual issues that matter to Asians and as we equip our students for reaching other students.

Pray for wisdom, open doors and boldness as we launch Epic. Please also pray for Jack as he starts his new life in Jesus Christ. 🐑

MERTON MAIL

I remembered that my heart sank as I read the email. I had been praying for Merton all summer. I knew that as the students left for the summer, many of them returned to homes where Christ was not welcomed. Merton had come to receive the gift of salvation during the fall semester of 2007. And he had grown as he attended my men's small group. After spending a week in New Orleans over the Spring Break with us, Merton was excited about about God and about going on a summer mission trip. But, as the deadline approached to apply for the Yellowstone Summer Project with Crusade, he became distant. And finally he decided not to go. Though it would have been a great opportunity for him to grow, there would be others. But then over the summer, his mother called our director to stop sending her son any more propa-

ganda or else she would report us to the school. We had sent a monthly letter of encouragement and an article, to encourage our students in their walk with the Lord. Just before the semester began, I recieved an email from Merton, telling me that he would no longer be involved with Crusade and not to contact him any more. It was a poignant reminder that the spiritual battle was real.

Please join us as we continue to pray for Merton who we are sure came to a saving knowledge of Jesus. That the Spirit would rekindle his desire for Him and that his family may come to know Jesus as well. 🐑



Family matters

First, we would love to just thank God for our wonderful family. Lydia is growing up so fast, and this year she's been going to a Christian preschool, which she LOVES! Priscilla is definitely in her "2-year old" phase, questioning everything. And Nathan is definitely a boy. He loves to jump in his jumper and can't stop splashing in the tub. (It's a bath for all parties involved). What Joy! However, we would also like to ask for prayer for the health of our family. As many of you know, Lydia and Priscilla have many food and environmental allergies. Lydia has it especially bad.

Her allergies cause her skin to itch and she often scratches until she bleeds. She's also had several asthma episodes recently, from environmental allergies and other causes. Please pray that the Lord will heal Lydia and Priscilla. Jenny has been having more dizzy spells. Though she has not fainted again, we would ask that you keep her in your prayers. Lastly, we are hoping to find a new home where our growing family can have a little more room, and where we will have room to host various social and spiritual events for our students on a regular basis. 🐑

Odds and Ends

Obviously, it's impossible for us to write about all the things that God's been doing. But, here's a couple of things we didn't want to leave out even though we're running out of room! (Psalms 40:8-10)

- Over 200 students attended the Veritas forum, where Dr. Greg Ganssle (a lecturer from Yale and Crusade staff member) addressed the question of God's existence and how faith and reason are both used in our pursuit of this question. The turnout was beyond our expectations, the room was completely packed and many students had to leave because there was no more room to sit or stand. Please pray for our next Veritas Forum as we invite Dr William Lane Craig of Talbot Theological Seminary to UMass.

[go online to <http://tinyurl.com/2hd4gf> to read the UMass School Newspaper article about the event]

- We've seen more students attend the fall retreat and Boston Winter Conference, than any time in the last 8 years. Praise God! Join us as we pray for students to go on Summer Projects this year, where they can spend the summer growing deeper in their walk with the Lord and get lots of opportunities to share their faith.
- Can you believe that at the beginning of this fall semester, we had no students who could lead worship? Now there is a full worship team! We're just amazed at how bountifully God has provided. 🐑



If you would like to financially partner with our ministry, give us a call or send your check to the address below. Please make checks out to "**Campus Crusade for Christ**" with our staff account number (**#0569044**) in the memo.

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