

# THE SILLY SHEEP PEN

FINDING THE LOST, BINDING THE BROKENHEARTED



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

LAUNCH STATUS: ALL SYSTEMS GO

SEPTEMBER 2012

The fall semester launch is always a challenging time. Students are coming back, new students are arriving, 101 activities are planned and interns are reporting back to campus after months of raising support. It's chaos to say the least. Well, it may seem chaotic to us, but not so for God. As a matter of fact, from God's point of view, everything is going according to plan. Here are just a few highlights from our fall launch.

"Tell me about your family", Matt (one of our Epic interns) asked. He was visiting a student who had indicated interest in talking about spiritual things from a survey that we conducted on the first day of school. Coming back fresh from an Epic summer project, Matt knew that for Asian Americans it can be very significant to give space for students to talk about their family. As Matt waited, Mike's countenance changed. And then the tears started to stream uncontrollably down his face. "My family is so broken!", he sobbed. Please pray for Matt as he continues to minister to Mike. And please pray for Mike and his family as he explores what it may mean to have a personal relationship with Jesus.

For our first Cru meeting we had 70 people attend, which is most we've had for our first meeting of the year. Many of whom are freshmen. We are praying for 20 freshmen men and 20 freshmen women to become involved in our ministry this year. Pray for

our students as we start our new series on living an integrated life, based on the Shema (Deut 6:4-9).



Similarly, Epic had 50 students come to the most recent meeting. Please pray that the Lord continues to increase the number of students in attendance and that students will connect deeply with Christ as we explore culture and faith.

All our small groups have launched this past week. Between Cru and Epic we launched 12 student small

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groups and 3 leaders small groups. That's 15 small groups so far! Please pray for the small groups to grow in depth of faith, to be active in sharing the gospel with friends and dorm mates, and to even launch new small groups!

We saw over 800 students take a survey with us on the first day of school. Of which 300+ responded positively in some way. Please pray for us as we persevere in contacting the various students in order to share the gospel.

"We want muscles!", demanded Matt, a Chinese foreign student. Keith our newest Epic intern was speaking with Matt and a couple other Chinese international students at our Epic Movement Informational meeting. I had met Matt from a survey we were doing. He and his friends had randomly filled out the survey for a chance to win the prize. But with God nothing is really just "chance". Even though Matt had filled things out randomly, it turns out that after talking for a while he was interested in learning about the life of Jesus and then I invited

him to the Epic Informational meeting.

Surprisingly, Matt brought 10 other international students with him. After meeting Keith, who was a kinesiology major, they expressed their desire to grow stronger physically. Now they meet with Keith 3 times a week to work out and grow in friendship. Please pray for Keith as he challenges them in discovering who this Jesus is.

Our upcoming fall retreat will be very different. We plan on having Lifelines Ministry ([www.lifelinesministry.com](http://www.lifelinesministry.com)) come to lead our time of learning. Lifelines is an experiential learning ministry, with most of their activities focused on the outdoors. It will be a very different experience. And we are praying that it really hits home with our students. That through carefully designed teaching activities, students will really connect with the love of the father.

Our faith goal for our Oct 12-14th retreat is 100 students. Please pray for us as we challenge students to come and experience Jesus in community. Please also pray for the many students who will be deciding on coming. As we have seen, it can be a crucial part of their spiritual journey in college. 🐑

## Prayer Corner

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 grace that we will work well with our team. That we will love them and lead them as we pursue the lost here at UMass.
3. Pray for our team to live out the gospel and experience God's grace and truth in community.
4. Praise God that all our interns made it on time. (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 our schedule. As you can imagine we are extremely busy. Please pray also for us as we homeschool our children. Pray that we have a great balance, and that we trust and thank the Lord in giving us the gift of limitedness.
8. 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.