

# THE SILLYSHEEP PEN

*finding the lost, binding the brokenhearted*



**ECAASU 2011** by Joe Chau

**MARCH 2011**

No, I've never heard my father's say that he loves me", remarked Charlotte (name changed), an Asian American student from New York City. I was conducting an Asian American spiritual survey from Epic Movement ([www.epicmovement.com](http://www.epicmovement.com)), the Asian American Ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ. The survey is designed to engage Asian American students on spiritual matters. "But you can't really expect that from Asian fathers.", she concluded, the others students in the group nodded in agreement. What an honor it was to tell them about their Heavenly Father's love for them!

When asked about their concept of God, we found that almost all of the Asian American students believed very deeply in the supernatural. They may not recognize that Jesus is God. Many didn't even recognize the Judeo-Christian God, but the supernatural was very real for almost all the students we surveyed. In contrast, when I speak with students from a western cultural background, they often harbor significant doubts as to the existence of the supernatural.

**Did you know:  
Only 1-in-10 Asian  
Americans consider  
themselves Christian.**



Over the course of ECAASU (the 2 day Asian American Student conference) dozens of Epic students from UMass/Smith College/Mt Holyoke/Amherst College engaged in spiritual conversations with scores (maybe even hundreds) of students from all over the east coast, at the information table, in the dinning halls, between sessions, and at the fortune cookie dinner. Attendees were surprisingly open to discussing spiritual things.

Another thing that we found was that many of the students we spoke with had some kind of history with the church. They were invited to youth group or they had been invited to retreats in highschool, but had not encountered a college ministry to answer the many questions they had about the Christian faith in an culturally relevant way. The spiritual journeys of the students we talked with ranged from those who had at one time considered themselves Christians, to students who have decided that the Christian faith was unintelligible and could not be the right way. Charlotte, for example, who is best friends with the president of "Seekers" (a highschool Christian ministry in New York City) at Stuyvesant Highschool, had genuine questions about Jesus (both spiritual and intellectual) that she could not find adequate answers to from anyone on her campus.

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## ECAASU 2011 (cont)

Over the course of the conference, we learned a lot about how to engage Asian American students (both as individual and as a community) with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Looking at our info table, where crowds of students flocked, even the organizers of the conference, (who had no interest in making spiritual matters a part of the discussion on the Asian American experience) had to acknowledge that perhaps there was something missing from their agenda.

We are so encouraged by our experience at ECAASU. And we know that it is just the first step for Epic Movement (both at UMass and nationally) to more intentionally and broadly engage the Asian American student community with the much needed message of Jesus Christ.



## PRAYER & PRAISE

1. Please pray that Joe and Jen maintain a vital connection with Jesus and that we would be abiding in Christ the true vine, without whom we cannot do anything good or lasting.
2. Please pray for Jeff (Epic), Matt (Epic) and Aaron (AIA) as they have completed their internship applications. They are waiting for approval and then they will start the process of raising support. Thank you for your sustained prayers for laborers to be raised up here at UMass. We are excited because they could be the first interns here at UMass for maybe as long as a decade, the fruit of much prayer and nurturing.
3. Please pray for Christina (Epic), one of our student leaders at Smith College, who has also applied for internship with Campus Crusade for Christ in Japan.
4. Dr. Greg Ganssle will be speaking on Science & Faith at UMass on April 5th, 2011. Our original date of February 1st was cancelled due to snow. Please pray that this event will be well attended and would lead to many spiritual conversations and decisions for Christ.
5. Our plan is to focus on outreach in the Spring semester. Please pray for us as we lead and equip our students in the sharing of the good news of Jesus Christ.
6. We are planning on attending IBS (Institute of Biblical Studies) in Colorado this summer. Please pray that the Lord would provide all our needs for tuition, travel and lodging.
7. Praise God for the 57 students and 4 staff (and 3 kids) attending Big Break from UMass, Amherst College, Smith College, Mount Holyoke & Hampshire College this year. As you may remember last year we had 46 students come with us to Big Break, our yearly pilgrimage to Panama City Beach, Florida, where we engage tens of thousands of students from all over the country in gospel conversations. Students come from all over the country in search of a good time. They come looking to fill their emptiness with sex, drugs and alcohol. We on the other hand join with hundreds of Christian students from around the country to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to lost students on spring break. Please pray that God would open the eyes of our students to His power and love. Please pray for our students as they take steps of faith to share the gospel and pray for those who are lost to have open hearts. Please pray for many divine appointments on the beaches and at the nightclubs.

