



the gillespies and the Good News

March 3, 2011

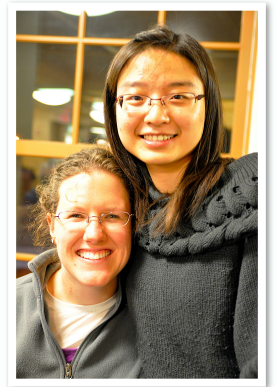
Dear Friends,

**Jenny is not her real name; we've changed it here for her safety and privacy.*

Jenny* first showed up at our Campus Crusade for Christ meeting in the Fall with halting English and a big smile on her face. She stood near the back, talked to few people, and mostly just absorbed the evening. A graduate exchange student from China, she had never been to any kind of Christian meeting before. So why, early in her time at Dartmouth, did she come to ours? When Jenny was an undergraduate in China she had become friends with an exchange student from Holland who was a Christian and had given Jenny a Bible. A few years later Jenny now had the freedom and resources to investigate spirituality and decided to take advantage of the opportunity. Jenny told us in her first few weeks that *she wanted to find out if there was more to life* than the “materialistic” (in her words) and secular perspective embraced in her country.

Over the last six months Jenny has become a regular attender of our CCC meetings and has diligently pursued learning more about Christianity. She previously had almost no exposure to Christian thought outside of her Dutch friend so her questions have been different from the typical questions American college students ask, and she's spent dozens of hours asking them! I (Faye) started reading the Bible with her each week and have been *awed by the probing and insightful questions she's asked as we've read*. They've shown a real spiritual hunger and depth that has said much about the work of God's Spirit in her life.

Jenny's exploration of Christianity has not been solely through the Bible and Christian thought – much of it has happened through relationships she's developed with Christians. It has been truly beautiful to watch the Body of Christ in action as people have pursued Jenny with love. The Christian students in our Campus Crusade group have made up the majority of her close friends at Dartmouth and have sought to get to know her in a genuine and consistent way that we rarely see from college students here! In addition to that, families at our church have also pursued Jenny to provide her a home and a family as she's been so far from her native one.



Last week Jenny told me that she's been discovering some things in the Bible and Christian belief that she really doesn't like, particularly God's willingness to execute judgment. She said that she really thought God should be nice to people and didn't understand how his judgment of people could be loving. Almost in the same breath she expressed a great desire to continue to read and think about the Bible because of *the love she had been experiencing from Christians*. That kind of love from people who were following a seemingly unloving God was very perplexing and so she is continuing her investigation into Christianity, struggling to understand and accept its message, but drawn by its people. What a beautiful picture of the gospel at work in a community!

This past weekend Jenny returned home to China to finish her studies, with hopes of returning to the US someday, but certainly with no guarantees. She is already deeply missed by many, and I feel like there's a hole in my heart with her gone. *Please be in prayer for her as she transitions back to life in China, that God would give her comfort and peace, and that she would search for Him with all her heart (Jeremiah 29:13-14).*

With hope in Christ,

Faye & Jason

JASON & FAYE GILLESPIE :: CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST AT DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

Jason.Gillespie@ccci.org :: (603)715-4471 :: Faye.Gillespie@uscm.org :: (401)441-3456 :: CCC Acct # 0576715