



the gillespies and the Good News

November 2, 2010

Connecting with Greek Students

Fraternities and sororities, the so-called Greek Letter Organizations, dominate social life at Dartmouth. Over 60% of upperclass students are members of a fraternity or sorority, and it's not an overstatement to say that Greek organizations dominate, and in many ways define, Dartmouth social life and the campus atmosphere. Depending on who you talk to, you'll get a different answer on whether or not that's a good thing. The Greek organizations, historically, exist to promote service, scholarship, leadership and brotherhood/sisterhood among students. In practice, their presence on campus also seems to encourage a culture of heavy drinking and many of the all-male fraternities have a strong reputation for denigrating women.

Because of the "party" atmosphere of the Greek organizations, we have traditionally had a difficult time helping Christian students navigate their own opinions about and participation in Greek life and the social scene at Dartmouth. How is a Christian, who wants to honor God with his lifestyle, to bring the love of Christ and the truth of the gospel into such a culture? Not only does he face his own confusion over what's right to do, but also the inner pulls in two directions--to either jump in and give into sinful temptation or to run away from his fellow students in fear and judgment. The example of Jesus is very helpful to us in trying to advise and support our Christian students in this struggle. Jesus was neither offended by nor afraid of the overtly sinful behavior of people, but chose to love and enjoy them, and call them to follow him (Matt 9:9-13).

Isaiah & Anna



Isaiah is the president of one of the fraternities on campus, the Dartmouth chapter of the national fraternity that Jason was in as a Michigan Tech student. Jason has been pursuing opportunities to connect with and minister to the brothers of $\Sigma\Phi\epsilon$, and meeting with Isaiah has been very encouraging. Isaiah is a Christian, and has found Jason to be one of the few people who can understand and advise him in how to navigate through the complicated world in which he finds himself. He's asking questions like, "As President, do I cut off conversations that dishonor women?", "Am I being unfaithful to God if I don't show my personal disapproval of some of the guys' choices?" and "How do I be a compelling, faithful witness for Christ to my brothers?"

Anna is a senior, and just showed up on our radar this fall when she came to a Bible study that Faye was leading. She is the president of the Panhellenic Council at Dartmouth, the governing organization of most of the sororities on campus. Although Anna went to church some as a kid, it doesn't appear that she's a Christian. Still, she is really wrestling with spiritual questions, and we have had some very fruitful conversations about the gospel and what this life is really about in our Bible study. Anna is in a position of great influence in the Greek community, and it's very exciting that she's coming to discuss these kinds of questions with us.



Good Reports & Prayer Requests

Thank you so much for your faithful prayers for us and for Dartmouth. God has been so gracious in answering your prayers. We've seen a record number of new freshmen get involved with our ministry, our upperclass students have been enthusiastic in their pursuit of others, and we've made some really exciting contact with non-Christian students this fall, both through events and personal conversations. Thank you for praying!!!

- Please pray for Isaiah and Anna, that they would believe and live out the grace of God in every aspect of their lives. Pray that God would give them opportunities and courage to talk about spiritual things, and Jesus in particular, with their brothers/sisters.
- Please pray for the 10 or so other Christian students in Greek houses, that they would be protected from temptation, compelled by love, and courageous in their witness to their brothers and sisters.
- Please pray that God would give us wisdom in our plans and expand our influence as we share the gospel with all students.

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

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