



the gillespies and the Good News

August 13, 2012

TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

People who follow Jesus follow him as he chases after the lost. Central to our mentoring of Christian Dartmouth students is this principle, that disciples of Christ invest in the spread of the gospel with their prayers, with their money, and with their lives.

This summer two of our upcoming seniors, Jacob and Sarah, went on a Cru summer missions project to share about Christ with college students in an Asian country where it is illegal to promote the gospel. We asked them to write to you about what they saw God do in the lives of the college students they were sharing with, and what God did in their own lives as they stepped out in faith and sought to courageously love others from a different culture and country. *For security reasons, they have substituted "East Asia" for the name of the country in which they were ministering.*



SARAH: In the mornings we had language classes, and afternoons were spent on or in the vicinity of the campus. We went out in groups of two or three and introduced ourselves to students and began the process of building relationships with them – having lunch together, shopping, playing ping-pong or basketball, while at the same time hearing their stories and finding out about where they were on their spiritual journey. We intentionally brought up spiritual topics to gauge their interest, and if they were open to further discussion, we would pray that God would give us opportunities to share the gospel with them.

And He did.

One of my friends accepted Christ! After having clearly understood for the first time what it meant to have a personal relationship with the God who loved her, forgave her, and wanted her to know Him, she realized it was a decision she was ready to make.

One thing we appreciated, though, was students' honesty if they weren't ready for that level of commitment yet or didn't have room in their life for God at this point. One girl with whom we shared the gospel later told me she was afraid she had said the wrong thing and maybe we were upset because she wasn't really interested, but we affirmed that it was a personal decision – a very important one, but entirely up to her. We also assured her that Americans tend to be straightforward with each other, even at the risk of hurt feelings sometimes, so we still loved her just as much as before!



JACOB: The two most evident areas of personal growth I experienced during the last month were in loving others and trusting God. East Asian culture is focused around relationships, and the students we met treated us with radical hospitality in welcoming us as foreigners among them.

The eagerness of these students to love us and show us grace and compassion was moving, as I do not actively show love to others so freely or so easily. I learned the need to love people as Christ would: sincerely, graciously, and humbly. I hope to make all of my relationships in the future intentionally become a pouring out of the love of Christ so those who do not know the gospel might not only hear it from me, but see it in how the way I love.

I also learned much about what it means to surrender to Christ and trust in God's promise of the Holy Spirit to move in and through me. After a time of prayer in submitting all my anxieties and worries to God, I went out confidently knowing that despite my weaknesses and inadequacies God's sovereign plan will come to fruition. That week, I met with four students who had been exposed to the gospel throughout their lives and who needed time to consider whether or not to submit their own lives to Jesus. I could hear in their stories how God had used other believers to plant seeds in them that others had watered. I was privileged to see God move in their hearts and rescue them from death as they prayed to receive Christ as their Savior. I now feel confident that I can make my remaining time at Dartmouth and my time after graduation an exercise in trusting God to accomplish his will and believing that he fulfills his promises.

JASON & FAYE GILLESPIE :: CRU DARTMOUTH (Campus Crusade for Christ)

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