



# the gillespies and the Good News

May 15, 2013

## Last Wednesday, Katie's friend, Jerome, was shot and killed on his walk home.

He was two blocks from his house, walking a normal route, coming home from visiting a friend, nothing out of the ordinary. Arielle, our intern, sat with Katie as she exploded with emotions – grief, shock, despair, and anger – anger, because, growing up on the south side of Chicago, this is not Katie's first friend to have been killed. She has been to more funerals than graduations.



*Katie, left, with another student in the Bible study.*

Katie was raised going to church, though she was the only young person she knew who was really trying to follow Christ. Coming to Dartmouth she anticipated taking a “break” from Christianity as she had no expectation that she'd find anything different. But two years ago Faye began to work with Arielle, now our intern, to reach out to African American students who were, in large part, not finding homes in the other Christian groups. Arielle helped start a Bible study aimed at serving the African American community, and this fall she and others invited Katie to join the study.

The Bible study now has 15 students regularly attending and a core of student leadership that is seeking to bring the truth of the gospel into the African American community at Dartmouth, which has traditionally been a place where Christian African American students have languished in their pursuit of Christ and left Dartmouth with an emaciated faith, or no faith at all.

We have been thanking God for providing a home for students like Katie. Though this heartbreak is challenging her trust in Christ, as a part of the Bible study she is being challenged to live in the gospel and has friends in Christ to walk alongside her. Not only this, but Katie has taken up the challenge to be someone who “multiplies” her faith – she has several relationships in which she is seeking to share the gospel, and is already planning for how she will build into new freshman women in the fall who get involved with the Bible study.

*Please be praying with us for Jerome's family, for Katie's growth, and for the continued growth and health of this ministry to African American students.* They will be seeking in the next few weeks to get the group officially recognized by the College.

## Off to Summer Project!

In less than two weeks our family is heading down to Boston to help lead the **Boston Operations Summer Project**. We will be in Boston for six weeks, mentoring and training nine students who will spend their summer interning in our Cru regional office. These students will be volunteering their time and using their technical and creative skills to serve the campuses of the region. Last year they developed Cru specific software to help campus teams track donations and expenses. The students on the project will be gaining a vision for using their talents for the Kingdom, for working hard to the glory of God, and for living their life with purpose. They will also learn to share their faith, be discipled and have relationships of grace and truth as they live together. We are really looking forward to building into these students and being blessed by them as we interact with them as a family.



*Please be praying for us that we would quickly figure out a healthy schedule for our family (as we both have considerable responsibilities), and that God would use this summer as a big step in helping our students to walk with Him for a lifetime.*

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