

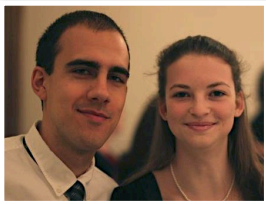


the gillespies and the Good News

March 27, 2013

...And they shall become one flesh.” *Genesis 2:24*

This spring term we welcome our ministry's first married students (that we're aware of)! During the first weekend of Spring Break, **Jacob and Alyssa**, two of our student leaders, tied the knot. We want to share with you how the Lord has worked in the lives of these two students, changing them *“from lost students into Christ-centered laborers.”*



Jacob came to Dartmouth wrestling with God regarding some of the events that had happened in his life – he had a difficult family situation and his mom had passed away before he graduated from high school. He really struggled to believe that God was good or trustworthy; there was so much he didn't

understand about these painful circumstances. During his freshman year a friend challenged him with the idea that God often treats us like His kids and doesn't explain everything, even though He loves us, because there are some things that we just can't understand, like children. This seemed reasonable to the ever-logical Jacob, and considering this explanation gave him the freedom to pursue learning about God, Himself, without having answers to all of his questions. As you may recall, Jacob went with us on a spring break trip in 2010 and during that week had his life transformed by the gospel. He began to really understand God's love, not just with his head but with his heart, and discovered that sharing Jesus with others was not a dutiful obligation, but rather an act of love.

Alyssa, too, came to Dartmouth with a broken heart from a dysfunctional family and much baggage about Christianity. Even during her freshman year at Dartmouth she was burned badly by a friend who claimed to be a Christian. Alyssa is, and was, quite shy and reserved, but God was out to win skeptical Alyssa's heart. He surrounded her with several persistent, loving Christian women who drew Alyssa out and cared for her deeply, and over time Alyssa came to believe that the gospel she was experiencing through these believers was actually real.

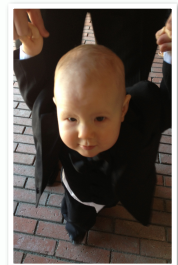


Jacob and Alyssa's lives have been changed by Jesus. Jacob who came into Dartmouth determined to make a name for himself has become someone who is passionately committed to making Jesus' name known, and has shared the gospel, personally, with nearly 100 of his friends here. Alyssa, shy and fearful, spent several months serving in an orphanage in South Africa and has led several different Bible studies, huge steps for her. Not just individually, but also as they've dated and been engaged this last year, Jacob and Alyssa have shown the fruit of changed lives in how they've approached their relationship with one another. We've had first-row seats to watch the beautiful ways they've sought to give grace to one another, grow together, serve one another and, together, leverage their relationship to bless and serve others.

Please celebrate and pray with us for Jacob and Alyssa. They have just 2 1/2 months left at Dartmouth, and then are heading to Oklahoma for a teaching program with underprivileged youth. Pray that they'd trust the Lord through these big transitions and love one another well!

The Birthday Boy!

We would be remiss if we did not share with you that Isaiah will celebrate his first birthday next week! He is a sweet, curious, healthy boy who loves to eat, climb, read books, and explore. He continues to reveal that he is a great extrovert – Faye recently flew home to California and during each flight he walked the aisles (with assistance), stopping at each and every row to say hello to anyone who would pay him attention.



Isaiah the ring
bearer

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