



THE KNOTTY PINE POST

SPRING & SUMMER 2009

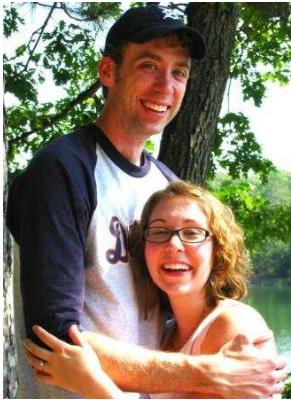
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“For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the GLORY forever! Amen.” Romans 11:36

Dear Friends and Family,

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think...” If there’s one thing I can guarantee, it’s that at this time last year my family never would have imagined just how God would be showing us the truth of this verse this fall. Who would ever have thought that we’d be planning two weddings at the same time, and that my dad would have to give away both of his daughters within three months of each other! Yes, you read that correctly...

We're Engaged!!



The Friday night of Labor Day weekend, my sister and her boyfriend Andrew Wichterman got engaged down at the West Side waterfront! Our family has known Andrew’s family through Barakel for quite some time, and they had been dating for about 10 months. They are planning a May wedding. The night of October 29, Calvin Bradley took me down to the north end of Shear Lake, near where the old tarpaper shack used to be. With tiki torches lighting up the bench and their reflection flickering on the lake, and a mist hanging in the air, he got down on one knee and asked me to marry him!! With all my heart, I said “YES!” We are now planning an August 28, 2010 wedding! Of course, for some of you who didn’t even know I was dating anyone, this immediately begs the questions “Who IS Calvin Bradley?” and “How did you two meet?” So let me explain a bit of our story...



My sister and I have been friends with Calvin since he came on summer staff as a counselor in 2005. From the moment I met him, I knew he was special. It didn’t take long for me to see he has a love for the Lord and for people, a heart for ministry, and a real passion to serve. He also has a joyful, fun-loving spirit. I’ve always had a special affection for Calvin, though for the longest time neither of us saw it going beyond a “brother/sister” relationship. Over the last several years, God has stretched and matured us both a lot, and we’ve gotten to know each other better. Calvin’s being on seasonal staff this last year gave opportunity for us to see each other in longer-term ministry beyond the summer, and we had time to just “hang out” in a more normal life setting. By the beginning of summer, Calvin had asked my dad for permission to pursue a relationship with me with the intention of marriage if that’s the way the Lord led. But because of being on summer staff, he had to wait until August to make it “official”. Since then, every step of our relationship God has confirmed in our hearts that this is the direction He is leading us-to spend the rest of our lives serving Him together! When we look back on the last 5 or so years, we can both see how God was preparing us individually for each other, without us even realizing it! We keep saying to each other “Who would have thought!” We’re thankful God knew all along! ☺



Guatemala Trip 2009!

Wednesday, November 18, seven “Barakel-related” people will board a plane in Detroit heading to Casa Bernabe orphanage, just outside Guatemala City, Guatemala. As many of you remember, this is the orphanage that I worked at last November for 2 weeks, and was our mission project this summer. We raised money to help them build a medical clinic right on their compound. One of the most exciting parts



about the trip this year for me, is that our team we actually be using some of that money to work on the clinic!! (pictured above, as of June). It is so nice to have the opportunity to see in person the physical results of our efforts this summer.

Our Projects: the first few days we will be helping prep for Casa Bernabe’s 25th anniversary celebration on Saturday and Sunday. That will include child care in all of the 8 the houses to enable the staff to meet, plan, and prepare; food prep; and whatever else they ask us to do! After that, we’ll be doing some work on the clinic (electrical, plumbing, dirt and concrete), cabinet building, bed building, and working on mixing cement.

Our Team: Me, Calvin, Kaytlyn and Krystyn Bradley (his sisters), Kathy Curtis (from our full-time staff), my parents Don and Beth, and my sister Melissa and her fiancé Andrew Wichterman will be joining us on Saturday.

How To Pray: please pray for us and the 9 people from Steppin-Out Missions, that we will have safe and smooth travel to and from Guatemala, especially going through customs; pray for health and unity for all the team; pray that we will have pure servant’s hearts as we seek to best serve the staff at Casa Bernabe; pray that God will grow each of us in our walks with Him; pray for success in our projects and the wisdom/discernment to deal with any difficulties that arise; most of all pray the God is glorified!!

Other Things This Fall Retreat Season...



We're thankful for the great group of seasonal staff we had this fall! They were (from left to right): Aaron Jerome, Karen Adams (staying through Aug 2010), Rob McAdams, Kaytlyn Bradley, and my favorite of course Calvin Bradley! All of them were on summer staff this last summer.



A lot of weekends this fall, you could find me helping out at the zipline. I even got to send my family (top left) off the zipline during Labor Day Family Camp!



Calvin and I made and canned 32 pints of applesauce together in the West Side Dining Hall!



A group of men from my home/sending church, Trinity Baptist in Grand Rapids, came to the first Men's retreat! It was so fun seeing familiar faces from home around camp! Even my dad got to join in on the fun as a retreator. 😊



Steppin-Out Missions from Sugarcreek, OH brought a team to get some more work done on Crosscut Lodge, our newest building and last of the 4 "new" lodges. It was great to see John Corley (far left) and Syl (middle back) again, and make some new friends with the other guys.



We had a BIG group of summer staff from this last summer, join us for Lumber Jack and Jill work weekend. They helped us prepare camp for snow and our winter season. In addition, we had a youth group from downstate help paint the floor of the West Side Chapel. Much was accomplished, and lots of fun had in the process!



Our October staff ladies' activity was a "Zip 'n Sip." Jeremy, our camp zip master dressed up in a suit and opened the zipline for ladies' only for a couple hours. Then we went to a staff home for hot cider and cookies!