## "Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." Mark 10:9

We are married!!! Our wedding was small in attendance and lavish in close relationships. Before our special day we asked God to be in attendance as well. He came. In one picture, as Charlie and I are sitting side by side listening to his Mom share the exhortation, a rainbow perfectly hovered over us. This was a miracle because there was no rain or humidity. It added to the rich beauty of the day.

I am overwhelmed by God and his kindness towards me and Charlie during this time of global crisis. We have enjoyed our friendship, companionship, and unity despite physical isolation from others. I am continually thankful for Charlie's support of me in ministry and openness of allowing me to share this process of dating and marriage with my students. One student said she had never heard the idea of being faithful before marriage, especially not of a man. My life has been counterculture, and I feel the eyes of the next generation on me to see how it works.

For my bridal shower, my maid of honor and only attendant hosted an online prayer call. I was able to include my students, best friends, mentors, and even my roommate from my mission work in Ukraine. It was so sweet to hear the stories, blessings, and even prophetic words from this collaborative of godly women. I felt celebrated, cherished, and rich in relationship.

In praying and planning what ministry will look like for the future, I remember an interaction with God which will stick with me for life. As I was praying, I heard God inaudibly say, "Melanie, do you know what humanity's greatest tragedy would have been? It would have been if I loved humans yet never expressed that love towards them. That is not the greatest tragedy because I have expressed my love generously through giving my Son. So now do you know what the greatest tragedy for humanity is? The fact that I have expressed my love, yet people never hear about it." My response to Him was "God, let me tell people of your love. Will you send me?" I want more than ever to share the love of God with the people around me, especially the incoming generation of students. Thank you for continuing to walk with me as I go where God sends or plants me. May we leverage our resources for eternal influence.

Typically during the summer I have the opportunity to meet with you in person. Since the virus is still a concern, I do plan on setting up FaceTime or Zoom calls so I can reconnect.

## Melanie Otarola

Global Impact Resources Account #138 P.O. Box 3012 Greenville, NC 27836



Rainbow

## **Prayer Points**

- My Influence Continues to Increase
- Solid Student Leader Structure for the fall



My Bridal Shower Call. Valya from Ukraine Joined!

