

jared & micah bailey

HOPPING INTO THEIR 2013 SILVER CHEVY IMPALA to begin a 40-minute commute to West—35 minutes on a good day—twins Jared and Micah Bailey, who were born 60 seconds apart, jam out to Coldplay or Ariana Grande, depending on which one is driving.

“Really, there’s not a huge difference from being a twin,” Jared said. “A lot of people think twins have the same interests, but we are like the polar opposites.”

Jared described himself as “aggressively outgoing,” but Micah qualified that, saying he was “casually outgoing.”

“It’s just like having a sibling that happens to be your own age,” Micah said.

Raised in a Christian home, Jared and Micah said they strengthened their bond with God after their mother was killed by a drunk driver in 2008.

“I never processed what happened until a few weeks later,” Jared said, “because being so young you don’t think about that your mom’s actually gone.” Micah added, “Even now, my family will talk about how the whole situation was perfectly orchestrated. The timeline was perfect for how God let that happen. It’s cool to see how God made it all work out.”

After the accident, Jared took his faith into his own hands.

“At first, I was hating [God] and wondering why he would do this. Part of why I got baptized in 2015 was because I realized I was nothing without God,” Jared said. “He put that experience in our lives because he knew we could handle it. But we couldn’t do it on our own, so that forced us to rely on [God] for help, instead of just banking on our own ability to work through it.”

Their parents have promoted a Christian religion, they said, but have given them some “freedom” as well.

“They educate and encourage us in religion, but it’s free will,” Micah said. “It’s more guidance and encouragement. It’s not forced.”

Despite being a twin, Jared said he hates dressing the same as Micah.

“I will change right away,” Jared said. “I like being unique. There are so many identical twins and they dress alike some of the time, and I don’t want to be like a twin who dresses alike.”

When he’s not changing clothes, Jared is often volunteering at Melrose Meadows, a senior living center, and has exceeded his goal of 200 hours.

“I thought the idea of a silver cord was kinda cool at graduation,” he said. “But what I didn’t realize going into it was how much I’d actually enjoy it.”

After graduation, both will attend Iowa State University, and they know exactly what they want to study.

“It’s a great engineering school, so that’s why I am going there for aerospace,” Micah said. “We have a ton of family and friends out there, and it’s where our mom went and all of my mom’s family.”

For Jared, volunteering got him interested in physical therapy as a career.

“I didn’t really have an idea of what [physical therapy] would look like, and after volunteering at a retirement home, I met with a physical therapist and actually did some exercises with the residents,” Jared said. “That kind of opened my eyes to the possibilities of that career path.”

Asked about rooming together next year, both immediately shouted, “No!”

“We will probably hang out sometimes,” Jared said. “But I am very much looking forward to the experience of freedom.”

Micah added, “All of our lives so far, our friend group has been the same. All of high school, we’ve had the same core friend group. So it will be nice next year to make new friends that aren’t necessarily mutual. But I am sure we will still have some mutual friends and hang out together.”

—By Sidney Kout



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