



MAY 2021

The forecast had been iffy, but luckily, it had turned out to be a beautiful evening. The smell of a backyard fire and burgers on the grill filled the air. I (Clay) watched as about 20 guys chatted while eating around the fire.

It was intended as a special time to get together before the end of the year, yet something about it just felt so spectacularly normal. This event was not something we necessarily could have anticipated at the beginning of the fall semester just a few months prior. There were a lot of obstacles that made reaching students more challenging than in most years.



Despite everything, this cookout was a chance to celebrate what God had done throughout the year and encourage our seniors one final time as they prepared to graduate. We got to hear from and encourage these men as they left campus life. We got to celebrate their spiritual growth and contributions to the ministry. And many of the ones encouraging them were freshmen. These guys weren't even on campus in the fall!

Some things that we can celebrate:

- We successfully sustained our movements on all of our campuses during a pandemic!
- We were able to reach and challenge freshmen despite various restrictions on campus.
- Normal events such as bible study, discipleship, social gatherings and retreats occurred throughout the year, largely in-person.
- Nearly 20 students are going on a summer mission this year!

Many things about this year were weird, to be sure. Yet, the ability and privilege to see students grow in their relationship with Jesus and help others do the same has only gotten sweeter.



Yours in Christ,  
*Clay + Emily*



*Our amazingly adaptable team (minus Emily & Gabrielle). We are proud to serve with them!*

# FAMILY UPDATE

Elliott is now three! We had a small family party to celebrate, and he was delighted. Judah continues to make progress in physical therapy, where he is getting help with a mild gross motor delay. Emily and I are both well and finishing up the school year.

In less than 2 weeks, we will leave for our summer assignment in Chicago. Here, I (Clay) will be part of the leadership team as the Evangelism coordinator, and Emily will be (hopefully) discipling (mentoring) at least one student. Much is still in flux due to the changing COVID-19 situation, so we'd greatly appreciate your prayers for wisdom, health and safety, and open doors for our ministry.

Additionally, we are feeling the stress of taking two small children with us for 6+ weeks of mission work. We are incredibly excited, *but* we've never been on a summer mission with children, and suddenly we're taking two! Please pray that they would adjust easily and that it would be an enjoyable time for them as well.



## PRAISE + PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praise God for a school year filled with His blessings! We are praising God for a year that was largely uneventful, despite the very eventful nature of the state of our world. Praise Him for the health of our team, for openings to do our ministry, for students walking with Him, and for the financial provision for our work and family.
- Pray for our family as we embark on a summer of travel. We will literally criss-cross the country during our travels for ministry, family vacation, and a trip to see some friends (all of that COVID-19 dependant, of course.)
- Pray for our team. We are in a state of flux as staff leave and join our team this summer. Pray that when we return in the fall that we would have unity, cohesion, and a spirit of deep love and trust.