



MAY 2020

It's not all bad news....but it certainly feels like it, doesn't it? Since March, it seems like the news has been filled with nothing but tragedy, uncertainty, and heartbreak. It's tempting to believe that nothing good could possibly come from all of this - but God certainly has other plans. Our ministries have been working hard to come up with creative new ways to share the gospel and continue the work of making disciples of all nations. We wanted to share just one of the many encouraging stories we've heard lately.

*In one Asian country, our staff members, together with partnering churches and disciples, have launched a strategy of distributing 1 million face masks to reach 1 million people for Christ. They are working with a ministry partner who has direct contact with a company that produces face masks.



Each mask is distributed with an evangelistic booklet and a note that says, "If you would like to have true peace, please visit these websites." The three websites have videos, messages, music, and articles to help point the recipients to Christ. One of the sites contains the "JESUS" film in the local language.

After one week, they had given away 700,000 face masks across the country. This initiative brought unexpected results. Since the government had ordered everyone to wear face masks when they leave their homes, the local people saw that Christians were concerned for them by providing this necessity. Some people shed tears when they were approached, as they felt valued and cared for. Plus, this initiative has helped ease restrictions for the church planters and disciples involved, because the authorities saw that the Christians were helping the communities. To date, 850,000 face-masks and booklets have been distributed through 805 churches in 63 provinces or cities in this highly secure country.

Praise God for the creativity He has given our staff! We're still unsure as to what the fall will bring for us and our ministry here in Southeast Ohio, but I am so hopeful that this unique opportunity will push us to find new ways to reach students and be even more effective in our work.

Yours in Christ,

Clay + Emily

FAMILY UPDATE

Like many of you, being at home and self-isolating, there isn't very much of note to report. Elliott recently had his 2-Year Checkup, and is still very healthy and developing appropriately.

Emily is now almost into the third trimester with Baby #2, and other than some struggles with low blood pressure, both Emily and Baby are in good health.



WHAT ARE WE DOING THIS SUMMER?

As reported last time, Clay is currently assigned to full time Ministry Partner Development, (personal ministry fundraising.) We're are very close to being at full support, which would allow Clay to return to working with students full-time in the fall!

We are both also taking a class through the Institute of Biblical Studies called "God, Bible, Holy Spirit". We've been enjoying a deep dive into the person and attributes of God, the history and theology of the Bible, and a deeper understanding of the Holy Spirit in both of these things. We've got a lot to apply back to our ministries!

PRAISE + PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praise God for the way He is using this crisis to continue to bring people into relationship with Himself. Space in this letter fails us to tell you all of the incredible stories we've heard!
- Praise God for His provision for our family and our ministry in the midst of uncertain times.
- Pray for wisdom and discernment for the faculty and administration of the universities in our scope as they consider how and when to reopen in the fall.
- Pray they'd make wise decisions that keep everyone safe, allow for as much freedom for students as possible, and enable people like us to continue our work with students.
- Pray for those affected by the continued unrest in our country. Our hearts are broken over the suffering of our Black brothers and sisters, and we are praying for both peace AND justice.