



JANUARY 2021

We haven't had anyone (except close friends & family enlisted to help with childcare) in our home in exactly 303 days.

303 days without a college student over for dinner. 303 days without an Action Group (leader's Bible study), Community Group Bible study hangout, discipleship (mentoring) appointment, or any other ministry activity. 303 days without a student dropping by to say hello. 303 days.

That is a LONG TIME, especially for a house that had become so used to those activities happening nearly daily.

And yet, while our home may feel rather empty, our hearts have been full as we have continued to connect with students in new, unique ways. We've enjoyed seeing them sitting in their childhood bedrooms, sharing the love of Jesus with their families. We've treasured the rare opportunity to sit outside with them, even if we were 6 feet apart and wearing masks. I've felt such pride as I've watched former disciples who graduated in 2019/2020 approach their first few years of true adulthood with such faith in the Lord, despite circumstances that would make a seasoned believer shake.

God still has plans for college students at Ohio University. And with your partnership, we plan on being a part of those plans for a lot longer than 303 days.

Yours in Christ,
Clay + Emily



Much has been said about the events of January 6th, and to add our voices to the cacophony would simply create more noise. Instead, we want to humbly ask for your prayers. We know that the both our Christian and non-Christian students are confused, afraid, and hurt. We know that day, and the events surrounding it, will likely surface many times in our discipleship and evangelism conversations as we return to campus in just a few short weeks. Please pray that the Lord would give us the words to speak His truth and love into every situation.. Pray for fruitful evangelistic conversations out of these discussions.

While many students can return this semester, most classes will still be designated as online instruction only. Please pray that we will find ourselves in positions to reach these students in the coming weeks.

FAMILY UPDATE

As the COVID-crisis drags on, and we now have a young baby who is vulnerable to the flu and RSV, we have largely remained at home doing a whole lot of nothing exciting, and will likely remain so for the foreseeable future. Both boys are healthy and doing quite well, and Elliott's eye continues to heal well from his surgery in November. Emily and I are healthy, if not a little stir-crazy - but we're grateful that we can stay safe at home.



PRAISE + PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praise God for a successful surgery for Elliott's eye.
- Praise God for the continued health and well-being of us and our family.
- Praise God for His continued kindness and blessing on our ministry here.
- Pray for students as they return to campus, that they'd rejoin the rhythms of Cru activities despite so much time away from campus.
- Pray for non-Christian students. We hope that the Lord will use current events to stir up their hearts to long for hope and comfort, and that He will use us to show them that those things are found in Him.