



Clay & Emily Selway

SERVING WITH CRU IN SOUTHEAST OHIO

July 26, 2016

Jenna sighed, looking at me over her tea with a tired expression. "I know it's not true, but I just keep thinking 'What's the point? Why am I here?' you know?"

"Oh man, Jenna, I feel like I could be talking to myself today." I said, I imagine with the same tired expression on my face that Jenna had.



Jenna and me.

It doesn't make for the best of prayer letters, but conversations like this happen in our ministry frequently. Students and staff alike quickly grow weary and discouraged in the day-to-day rigors of ministry. When I had this conversation with Jenna, a student I was discipling (mentoring) at Chicago Summer Mission, her confession of doubt mirrored my own.

I was exhausted. I'd had food poisoning earlier in the week. I was aching for privacy I couldn't find while living in a small, shared apartment. My evangelistic conversations on campus never seemed to go anywhere, and the women I was discipling didn't seem to be growing at all.

I'm sure it was no coincidence that the book all of us on Chicago Summer Mission were studying was 1 Peter - practically the handbook for the Christian on how to endure doubt and discouragement in the midst of suffering in the Christian life.

And to be sure, the suffering we were experiencing was minimal in contrast to what many others experiences - lack of sleep, cramped living spaces, being rejected or made fun of while sharing our faith on campus. But it was still suffering.

But what a blessing that we all got to learn how to live out our faith, even when we didn't necessarily feel like it. To experience what it means to "rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings..." (1 Peter 4:13). To live surrendered lives of obedience to God. And somehow - God always seems to bring fruit out of our ministry, in the end.

Ministry is not always easy or successful. Much of it is hard, painful, and uncomfortable. But I am grateful for how it shapes me. And as for Jenna? "Things are going great!...I want to make the most of my time here!"

'Til The Whole World Knows,.

Clay + Emily



After summer mission, we took a vacation with Emily's family in northern Michigan. We camped and kayaked at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, took a day trip to Mackinack Island, and spent time relaxing by the lake. Back in Ohio, we spent a weekend in Columbus visiting with our best friends from college. P.S. - Emily made a video of our Michigan adventure that will be on Facebook if you'd like to see!

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Prayer & Praise Requests for The Selways for August

Stick this card anywhere that will remind you to pray!

1. Our staff planning for the fall semester is from **August 14th - 18th**. Please be praying that the Lord would give us wisdom and discernment in how to best use our time, resources, and talents this fall.
2. Classes at OU begin on **August 22nd**. On the **21st & 22nd**, we will be doing questionnaires. These are a vital way we meet the incoming freshmen and get to share the gospel with them. Would you pray that students would respond, and that the Holy Spirit would move in their lives as we do this?
3. We will be hosting our first Bible studies and our first weekly meeting on **August 23rd & 25th**. Please pray that students would get connected through those events and that the gospel would be clear.
4. We will be doing questionnaires and having our first Bible studies at Hocking College on **August 29th & 30th**. Please pray that Christian students would quickly get connected, and that non-believers would accept Christ.

We'd love to pray for you. Please share your prayer requests with us!

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