



OCT 2022

“I have been addicted to the use of nicotine for two years.”

This was a confession laid on me by one of the guys I (Clay) disciple, named John.*

John became a christian about a year and a half ago and has really sought to walk well with the Lord. However, this was a part of his journey that he only felt comfortable sharing with me just a few short weeks ago.

One day, as we sat in the crowded student center, he made this hesitant confession. I could tell it was a real struggle for him to admit to and talk about. For John, nicotine had long ruled his life. Using a vape pen or a nicotine pouch to get his fix was the first thing he would think about when waking up in the morning. It controlled much of his daily patterns and thoughts. He planned his life around getting more nicotine. Nicotine was in charge.

I asked him what he wanted to do about it. Without hesitation he said, “I want to be done.”

“Where is all your stuff at?” I asked, hoping to seize the moment.

“In my apartment and in my car.”

“Well, let’s go get rid of them right now then.”

So we walked across campus to his room, grabbed every single piece of vape equipment and nicotine, and together, threw them in a dumpster.

While John has had a moment where he relapsed, he came and confessed it to me. It’s not easy for him, but he is growing. It’s been incredibly encouraging to see him give up something that he saw as interfering with his relationship with Jesus and with others! Progressively, John is allowing Jesus to become the Lord of his life, in every aspect.

Discipleship can be a messy process, and often requires us to do things we never imagined doing - such as standing by a student apartment dumpster, chucking vape pens. But it never gets old to see God changing the hearts and minds of students. Thank you for being with us as together we do this remarkable (and let’s admit it, a little strange!) work.

Yours in Christ,

Clay + Emily

*Name changed for his privacy



FAMILY UPDATE

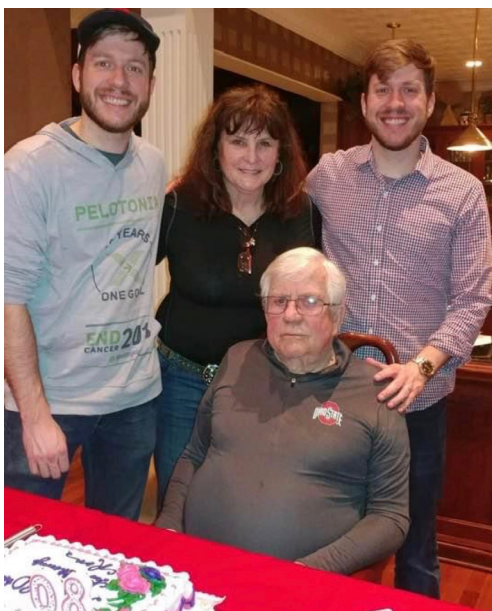
Unfortunately, this personal update has some sad news, as we've experienced a sudden loss in the past few weeks.

On Wednesday, October 19th, Clay's dad (Ron) went from the ER into the ICU with complications from COPD. He quickly improved, moved to a step down unit on Thursday, and we thought that he would be coming home that Monday. Instead, in the early hours of Sunday morning his lungs basically decided to stop working. He went back into the ICU that morning, and died on Monday, October 24th at the age of 82

Dad was a man who enjoyed spending time with his friends and family, and he had a lot of them! He was always checking up on Elliott and Judah, calling every day when he found out they were sick. And he loved to go fast, from building go-carts as a kid to racing drag cars and running powerboats on Lake Erie as an adult.

If you have reached out already, thank you so much for your condolences, care, and support. Emily and I cannot begin to tell you how much we appreciate them and you. And if you are hearing about it just now, thank you for your continued prayers and care for us. We cherish our relationships with all of you.

I take comfort knowing that Jesus gives us hope, that one day death will be no more. And that, as Revelation 21:6 says, *"To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment."*



PRAISE + PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praise God for John's willingness to continue as a disciple of Jesus by giving up nicotine. Pray for him as he attempts to maintain his sobriety and continue walking with the Lord.
- Pray for our students who are beginning Summer Mission applications. We are praying for record numbers to apply!
- Praise God for the gift of my dad's life.
- Pray for our family as we grieve this sudden loss. Pray for us as we attempt to compassionately parent our children as they grieve the loss of their grandpa. Pray for us to minister to our family, especially those who don't know Jesus. Pray that we would praise God even in our pain.