



SEPTEMBER 2021

“Thanks for inviting me out tonight. Can I ask you a couple of questions?”

These were the words of a student named Mark, a guy I (Clay) had met up with a couple of weeks earlier. This was his first time checking out our community group (Bible study) on Ohio University’s Lancaster campus. We had spent time studying 1 John that evening, discussing assurance of salvation and how someone can know they have a relationship with Jesus.

After the study, Mark pulled me aside and proceeded to ask, *“Is there a difference between **knowing** God and **believing** in God? If I know God, how come I still sin? What we read tonight speaks so absolutely about these things.”*



This is the kind of question that many of our students face, Mark included. Even for those who grew up in church like Mark, it can feel difficult at times to know God deeply or wonder if their relationship with God is real.

Paul tells us in Romans 7:18 that he has the desire to do what is right, but lacks the ability to carry it out. But in verse 25, he thanks God for Jesus Christ our Lord and then declares in 8:1-2 that “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.”

As I shared this with Mark, his face began to relax and he breathed a sigh of relief.

“This is really helpful! I felt conflicted reading this passage and that relieves my anxiety quite a bit,” Mark said, smiling.

Please pray for Mark and others there at our Lancaster campus study, that they would experience assurance of their relationship with Jesus or be led by the Holy Spirit to trust in him!

Yours in Christ,

Clay + Emily

FAMILY UPDATE

Elliott began preschool several weeks ago! After a rough start with lots of tears, he has settled in and is enjoying attending two times a week. Judah continues to progress in his various physical and speech therapies, and recently turned ONE! (How has it been a whole year??)

In lieu of family photos this month, we thought it would be fun to include photos from all the different events we've hosted on campus this past month. We hope you enjoy seeing students enjoy what our ministry has to offer!



Elliott and Lydia (another Cru staff kid) entertain themselves at a student tailgate.



Freshmen playing some cornhole & making new friends (hopefully!)



We had about 30 students join us for a tailgate before the first football game.



"Paintpocalypse", a paint-themed social event, was a HUGE hit!



The Paint Slip-N-Slide was a very popular activity after Capture the Flag.

The Bible blows my mind more than the matrix does

They should have a movie but each section of the story of Jesus should be a different section

I would watch that or if they used different characters and didn't tell people it was the Bible and then told them at end it would shock so many people

"Students Text the Darndest Things" - our new hit TV show?

PRAISE + PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praise God that we've seen as many as 190 students at our various bible studies throughout the week! This has been a huge encouragement to us, as we were unsure what the year would look like since we have virtually no student leaders on any of our campuses due to pandemic making most of campus life "virtual" last year. We see God's hand in how many students are attending, expression eagerness to know God, and creating community.
- Pray for Mark and others who desire to experience freedom from sin in Jesus. So far this fall we've encountered many students with virtually no spiritual background and little to no "Biblical literacy" (aka they know nothing about the Bible or anything in it.) Please be praying that God would use us and our ministry to connect these students to Himself.