



# Clay & Emily Selway

SERVING WITH CRU IN SOUTHEAST OHIO

January 31, 2017

As it is the beginning of a new year, we thought it would be a good time to send out our yearly “personal” update, in addition to some ministry updates. If I had to assign one word to describe this year, I would say it was “abundant.” Abundant tears, abundant struggle, abundant joy and abundant laughter! It really has been everything all rolled into one.



This year has also obviously been one of great change for us! A little over a year ago we finished our initial Ministry Partner Development and were allowed to move and report to our assignment in Athens, Ohio. We found a small rental home to move into, and have enjoyed settling in and making Athens our home.

We live on the West Side of Athens, about an eight minute drive from campus (hallelujah for short commutes!) We’ve really enjoyed getting to be so close to campus as it makes it easy for students to come over for Bible studies, and to drop by on weekends to spend time with us. And while on the subject of housing - we have been in the market to buy our first home. The housing market in Athens can be a tough one, so we’ve actually been looking since August but haven’t found the right one yet. We’re not in any hurry, but we’re excited to find a place to that will serve as a welcoming home for both us and our students.

This year has also brought some challenging health difficulties our way. In March, Emily experienced what is called a “flare” of her autoimmune disorder. This means that the disorder, previously in “remission” (not active) became active once again and began causing a lot of pain and discomfort for her. Fortunately we have a great doctor who knows what to do and he was able to bring it back into “remission” before we left for Summer Mission. Additionally, towards the end of the summer we realized that the grief of the death of a close friend and the stress of ministry and family situations had been affecting us more than we wanted to admit, and we decided to seek out help. We’ve been seeing a Christian counselor since we got back from Summer Mission, and while it’s been incredibly difficult processing through some of the losses we’ve experienced in recent years, it has been really helpful. (It’s scary just to even admit to you that we need to seek counseling!) We would be comforted by and appreciate your prayers as we continue to seek health, both physically and emotionally this year.

As we have settled into Athens, we’ve chosen a church to be our church home while here, and actually just last Sunday we were welcomed in as new members. We really love being in Athens, and are grateful that the Lord placed us in a place where we truly do feel at home.

On the more personal side, settling in has been as tough emotionally/spiritually as it has been rewarding. I think we’ve both experienced the strain of adjusting to the pace of ministry as well as the stress of trying to get our feet under us as we lead. There have definitely been moments when we’ve crawled in bed at night feeling quite defeated. But, in all of this, I think I can also honestly say that we’ve felt the Lord’s care for us and experienced more of his love and kindness than we knew was possible. Space on this page would fail us to even begin to list all the ways, big and small, that we’ve seen God care and provide for us this year. And you are definitely one of those - when things start to feel really tough (which it often has this year, if we are totally honest), I know that it is only by the care and prayer that you provide for us that we are able to continue on in this work. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

‘Til The Whole World Knows,

*Clay + Emily*

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