



JULY 2020

Planning for the Unplannable

“Now listen, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to this city or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money. Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are like a mist that appears for awhile, then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live to do this or that.”’ (James 4:13-15 NIV)

Clay opened with that scripture for our three day “Planning Trip”, more so joking than anything, but it felt apt. Rarely has there been a time in my life where this verse felt so close to my daily reality. When I heard, “You do not even know what will happen tomorrow.” I thought ‘You got that right!’

But I know that the Lord knows. I know that His plans are still in motion, and He will not be thwarted. So, with that confidence, we plunged forward with our First Inaugural “Selway Planning Trip”

We spent three days by ourselves (Elliott was with my mom) to pray, reflect, and plan for the next year of our lives, in all areas - Ministry, finances, health, spiritual growth, our marriage, and our family. We set goals, came up with action steps, and prayed for the Lord’s blessing over our plans.

In two weeks, we will begin our annual “Staff Planning”, when the SE Ohio Cru team will come together to do much the same - pray, reflect, and plan for the next year of ministry. And just like the first readers of the book of James, we too, “do not even know what will happen tomorrow.”

But again, the Lord knows. And what I know about the Lord, is that He deeply loves lost college students, and desires for them to come into a relationship with Himself. We will do whatever He asks, whatever it looks like in this strange new world, to be used to make that happen.

Please pray for us as we plan, prepare, and launch into a very different Fall Semester this year.

WHAT’S HAPPENING FALL SEMESTER?

Last week, Ohio University announced that on campus, in person instruction was being postponed until at least September 27th. After that date, students will be “phased back in” slowly, in accordance with how the virus is currently spreading. I imagine that the other four campuses within our scope will do something similar.

While freshman and sophomores, who are required to reside in the dorms, will not be here, many of our upperclassmen students have told us that they plan in living in their off-campus housing, and thus will be in town.

We’re still working out details, but our hope is to be able to very carefully and cautiously do “in-person” ministry with those students, while finding a way to engage the underclassmen in creative, virtual ways until they return.

Yours in Christ,

Clay + Emily

FAMILY UPDATE

BABY #2 COMING SOON!

Emily and Elliott spent much of the summer in Northern Michigan, with her mom (affectionately named “Gogo” by Elliott), while Clay remained back in Athens. This was our “creative solution” to not having childcare, and it mostly worked pretty well.

Now that Emily is in her final month of pregnancy, however, she has returned back to Athens to prepare and await the arrival of Baby! So far she and baby are healthy.



PRAISE + PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for our upcoming Staff Planning, August 17th-20th. Pray for God’s wisdom and guidance as we plan for how to continue to reach college students, even when they aren’t on campus.
- Praise God, we are nearly finished with our first goal for raising up more Financial Ministry Partners. This means we will be allowed to return to working directly with students full-time this fall.
- Pray for our family. This past week, Clay’s grandfather went home to the Lord. Pray for us as we grieve and attempt to care for our family well during this time.
- Pray for a continued safe pregnancy, safe labor & delivery, and a healthy baby and mom.

WE PRAY FOR YOU...

These past few months have been hard ones for many people. We pray often for you, that the Lord would bless you, comfort you, and care for you.

Please, please, please - let us know how we can be praying specifically. You can reach out to us via email at clay.selway@cru.org, or through a phone call or text message at 330-407-3217. We want to hear from you!