

Clay & Emily Selway

SERVING WITH CRU IN SOUTHEAST OHIO

September 30, 2018

Ministry of Motherhood

Feed, change, play, nap, repeat. Don't forget the mountains of laundry, the endless drying of tears, the rocking and bouncing and shushing, the cleaning, the bathing - the work of caring for a very small child is predictable, but never ending.

Even as I write this prayer letter, Elliott is sitting on my lap trying to grab the keys (and crying because I won't let him.) The rhythms of our lives have changed significantly with Elliott's arrival, especially for me (Emily.)

As expected, I have had to rearrange my ministry to care for Elliott. I do as much as I can from home, doing the "behind the scenes" administrative work to keep things running like updating our social media, designing and printing any materials we need, and ordering supplies. I also am helping to lead a Freshman Community Group on West Green on Monday nights.

While I enjoy those parts of my job immensely, and am so glad to get to do them, it can be easy to feel like the important work of evangelizing and ministry is happening on campus, while I am stuck at home doing something relatively unimportant, like changing the 1,000th diaper of the day.

The other day I was trying to prepare the Bible study lesson for my Freshman Community Group, but was continually interrupted by Elliott. After re-reading the same sentence of the passage for what seemed like hours, I lost it.

"Can't he just give me 10 minutes to write this Bible study? This is important to my ministry!" I thought to myself irritably. At that moment, the Lord stopped me in my tracks and the thought occurred to me - "This is ministry, too."

I'd been thinking that the important ministry was "out there" - showing mercy to lost college students and evangelizing to the unbelieving. But in this season of my life, the ministry is also "in here." Right in my own home, I AM doing ministry.

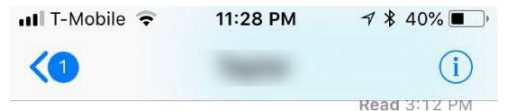
All day long, I am displaying what God is like to Elliott as I care for him. When I clean him up after a dirty diaper, I am displaying the same mercy that God shows to us when He cleanses us from sin, which we are unable to do ourselves. When I feed him, I provide for his daily need for nourishment the same way God provides for us. The parallels abound. It's a mercy to care for a college student, but it's also a mercy to care for a child.

And of course, it's easy to forget when he's this small - but right now I have a tiny unbeliever in my home who has just as much a need to be evangelized as the college students I meet on Monday nights!

It's a challenging season for me as I learn to balance the ministry of motherhood with the ministry of missions, but I am grateful for the opportunity. We are grateful for your prayers as we adjust, and ask you to keep lifting us up to the Father in our ministry - both at home and on campus.



We threw a "Paint Party" last week, which was both incredibly fun and incredibly messy!



Today 11:23 PM

Hey Emily sorry to bother you so late but Jen has a quick question and I don't know the answer. Is the Grimm Reaper mentioned in the Bible?

Working with students with no Biblical background always means some interesting questions pop up. This is a question my teammate Emily was asked late one night by a student who was talking about God with a roommate.

Turn over for Prayer requests & Family Update on the back!

*Til the Whole World Knows,
Clay + Emily*

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Family Update & Prayer Requests

We have had a busy month! Elliott is closing in on 5 months and continues to pack on the pounds. He is about 25 inches long and (we think) about 18lbs! He is very active and working on crawling. We've tried to include him in ministry activities as much as possible, including going to campus to meet Daddy and "help" pass out spiritual interest questionnaires to freshman on the first day of school. We've also shifted to inviting students into our home more often, so that I (Emily) can participate even as Elliott naps and plays. It's been a joy to see students love and play with Elliott.



We've also spent a lot of time traveling and visiting family. Elliott's Aunt and Grandma came to visit, and we also traveled to visit two of Elliott's three great-grandpas. We spent a day visiting Grandpa Selway, which included meeting all of the horses (Clay's dad and step-mom breed race horses). Elliott was equal parts thrilled and confused by the horses.



Prayer Requests

Our Fall Retreat is coming up on October 12th - 15th. Please be praying that the Lord would use it to bring unbelieving students into a relationship with Himself, and believing students would be challenged to grow in their faith.

- We are launching a large outreach the week of October 15th called "Perspectives." Please be praying that the Lord would bless it, and we'd see many students come to Christ as a result.
- We've had a number of unexpected expensive home repairs as well as unexpected illness among close friends and family over the past few weeks, which has been very stressful. Please pray we'd abide with the Lord and rely on His strength.