



MARCH 2019

## “I FELT A HUGE PASSION TO SHARE THE GOSPEL”

The skies were overcast, but the warm breeze and the smell of salt on the air made it seem warmer than it was. Up and down the coastline, college students sat in circles, lay out on towels, and played volleyball while speakers blasted pop music. It was officially spring break season in Panama City Beach Florida, and we were there to welcome it in.

Abby\* walked down the beach tentatively, nervous about approaching other students to share her faith. Armed with the training she had received just hours before, and backed up by her “sharing partner” though, she continued walking. Up ahead, she saw a woman who looked about her age. She and her partner approached, smiling.

“What’s your name?” she asked.

“Abby,” the woman responded.

“Mine too!” Abby said.

As they talked, the conversation drifted from the “Quest Survey” they had initially started out with to other spiritual topics. Abby was surprised to find herself enjoying the conversation that she had expected to find awkward and uncomfortable. Instead, she thought it was “beautiful.”

Later in the week, crowded into our condo with the rest of the OU, OUL & Marietta college students, Abby smiled as she shared what God had done in her life that week.

**“This was my first time intentionally going out and sharing my faith with strangers. God totally placed this one girl named Abby [in my path], and we had a beautiful conversation...It was the first time I felt this huge passion in me to share the gospel. It was cool to see God working in my heart.”**

\*Fun fact - I initially met Abby and shared the gospel with her when she was a freshman a few years ago. She kind of dropped out for a few years, so it was a joy to see her back and on fire again!

Yours in Christ,

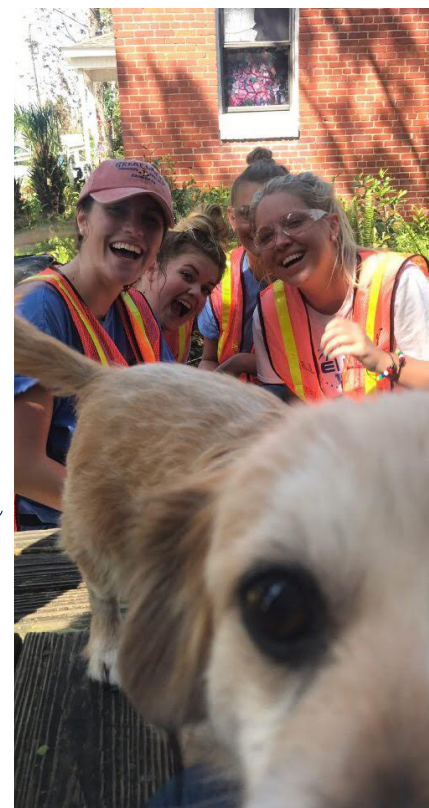
*Clay + Emily*



Our students enjoyed the conference, which had morning & evening sessions where they learned from the Bible.



The calm before the party (& the gospel!) took over the beaches. It was overcast most of the time, but we got some sun!



Students (and a puppy apparently) spent some time doing hurricane cleanup with GAIIn, the humanitarian ministry of Cru.

# FAMILY UPDATE

## ELLIOTT AT PCB

We decided to take this Spring Break trip as a family. Emily really didn't want to miss out on the ministry time, so we went for it. It was, quite honestly, difficult. Having a 10 month old in a condo full of breakable things, juggling very full days of evangelism & teaching, and being out of Elliott's element for 7 days was hard. Ultimately though, it was worth it to keep with our goal of involving our family in ministry.

## BEACH TIME

We did get to enjoy one day at the beach as a family, which was amazing as it was Elliott's first time seeing the ocean. (He did not appreciate it - too sandy, too cold.) He ate a lot of sand, we got sunburned, and there was lots of ice cream eaten. Good day all around!



## FAMILY TIME

To be entirely honest, this past month has been very difficult as a family. Elliott is developing rapidly, and is quickly learning to walk. We're not sure whether it's the developmental leap, teething, or just oncoming toddler hood but he has been very crabby and has tested our patience. There's also just been a lot on our plate personally on top of ministry, so we've felt pretty exhausted. We're trying to "count it all joy" and take it one day at a time!



# PRAISE + PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praise God for Abby and her step of faith!
- Pray for our student leaders as they begin to select and train underclassmen to become next year's student leaders.
- Pray for our Cru at OU staff team; some very difficult personal things have happened for various members of our team. Pray for unity, strength, and that we'd show each other the love and care commanded in John 13:34.
- Please continue to pray for our international partnerships in Ljubljana, Slovenia and Gateway, South Asia.
- Praise God with us that we've secured housing for Colorado, have gotten childcare for Elliott worked out, and have registered for our coursework. Thank you for praying with us as we worked out the many details!



*It's a **ONE** derful world*

# ELLIOTT'S 1ST BIRTHDAY PARTY!

MAY

**11**

2019

1PM

47 CONNETT RD. THE PLAINS, OH 45780

RSVP **ACCEPTANCES ONLY** BY **MAY 1ST**

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NO PRESENTS, PLEASE