



JUNE/JULY 2022

Fall semester is here! Right now, Southeast Ohio is once again swarmed with students coming to campus. The local Walmart has been overrun with parents buying last minute items for their kid's dorm room. New students are wandering, confused about what buildings are where. Traffic is insane, especially because people won't know how to use the roundabout on Richland Avenue (it happens every year!).

While the reality of such events can be exciting, overwhelming, or even somewhat amusing, the spiritual reality is much different. In the search for personal fulfillment in an era of extreme individualism, many young Christians can lose their way, and many non-Christian students have no one in their lives telling them about Jesus.



### By the numbers:

The percentage of unchurched adults has grown dramatically over the last several decades. Roughly **30%** of adults have no religious affiliation. We're seeing these translate to the student body as well.

- Research done as recently as 2019 indicates that 64% of young adults (18-29) will either stop going to church for a time or altogether, with this happening to many during their college years.
- Even in a time of spiritual decline, 90% of Americans, regardless of religious affiliation, believe in the presence of a higher power.
- According to Ohio University, as of June nearly 4700 first-year students showed that they intended to enroll in the fall. That would make this the largest freshman class ever, and the first class of over 4,000 since 2015!
- Every year, we pass out both paper and digital questionnaires, with somewhere between **4,000 and 5,000** students filling one out. This accounts for 20%-25% of the student population on campus that we connect with in just 2 days!
- Annually, nearly **50% of students will request more information about a relationship with God, a Bible study on campus, and articles on God's existence, among many other things!**
- We have a team of 7 full-time staff, 3 part-time staff, 1 hourly staff, 3 full-time interns, and 3 volunteers

Would you pray with us over the next 2-3 weeks as we meet these students?

Yours in Christ,

Clay + Emily

# Sabbatical/Summer by the Numbers

As you may remember, Emily spent her summer on a sabbatical, focusing on finding spiritual and emotional rest before another fall of ministry. During her sabbatical she read *24 books*, read through *14 books of the Bible*, hiked *54.1 miles*, and ran *175.4 miles* in preparation for her first marathon in September.

In July, we attended Cru's biannual national conference in Milwaukee, where nearly 5,000 staff gathered to hear from our executive leadership about the direction of our ministry. We had a great time and left incredibly encouraged as we continue to move forward as a disciple-making and Great Commission ministry.

I (Clay) finished my Church History class near the end of June. I have now finished all 11 of my continuing education courses with Cru! I'm not sure what will be next, but I don't want to be done learning!

Elliott and Judah had a great time this summer, mostly playing by the lake at their grandparent's house or at the local pool. Overall, they spent nearly *206 total hours* outside! Elliott has just started preschool again this week and Judah will be turning 2 years old at the end of the month!



## PRAISE + PRAYER REQUESTS

- That we can follow up with as many students as possible in the first 2-3 weeks, and that those we meet with would have ready hearts to hear the gospel.
- That our returning student leaders would be eager and ready to engage in evangelism, discipleship, and excited to build the Cru community on campus.
- For Elliott as he begins his second year of preschool, that the return would be an easy adjustment for him to make.