



MAY 2023

*In all of my time involved with Cru at OU as a student or as a missionary, I've never seen anything like this.*

As I (Clay) have thought about the 2022-23 academic year, there's just been something remarkably different about our movement. We've not just seen growth in numbers throughout the year, but a fervent desire across our movement to know God through his word and through prayer, as well as a passion to share the gospel and reach our campus and world.

No event demonstrates this more than an end of year 24 hour prayer event that was entirely student planned and led. Throughout the event, which started on a Friday at 7pm and went through 7pm on Saturday, there were never less than about 10-12 students in the room, with over 50 total at least coming through! They spent time praying for their summers, their campuses, and the upcoming fall as they seek to reach incoming freshmen.



Some other things to celebrate as the year has come to a close:



We saw around 35 students accept disciple-making challenges! This means that these students will go through specialized leadership training and personal development to learn how to disciple others, lead small group bible studies, and grow in their relationship with Jesus, among other things!

We have over 20 students attending a summer mission trip, either in Ocean City, New Jersey or Bratislava, Slovakia. Students in these locations will engage in regular evangelism and intense ministry training to prepare them for either vocational ministry or ministry in their workplaces/churches after graduation.

As a team, we saw nearly 30 students trust Christ this year! Our weekly worship meeting, 180, grew from an average of around 75 last year to about 115-120 this year and stayed that way all year!

Please pray with us and our students throughout the summer. God is on the move here in Southeast Ohio, and while big things have already happened, we all sense that there is far more to come!

Yours in Christ,

Clay + Emily

# FAMILY UPDATE

Elliott is graduating from preschool this month! For the short term at least, we will begin homeschooling him this fall and are trying that for this next year as we continue to evaluate his needs intellectually, socially, and mentally. He also just turned 5 this month! We had a great time going to the Lego store and the local arcade. He loves his new fishing rod and Pokémon toys!

Judah is doing quite well also. He is more and more regularly speaking in full sentences. He still loves getting into whatever his big brother is doing, as well as playing outside at the playground.

As we all face increases due to the current financial climate, plus seeing some changes with our ministry team, Emily and I have chosen to make a change for this summer. We will spend this summer connecting with current and potential partners about our ministry budget needs. While we will miss being on the Chicago summer mission this year, we are excited about the opportunity to share what God is doing in our ministry at Ohio University. Our goal is to be fully funded by August so that we can continue to be engaged on campus come fall semester.



## PRAISE + PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praise God - we just celebrated 9 years of marriage!
- Praise God for the movement He has done in the hearts and minds of students in Southeast Ohio.
- Praise God for His financial provision for our ministry, both in the past and what we know He will provide this summer as we work.
- Pray for our students, especially those who are living at home in difficult situations.
- Pray for incoming freshmen, particularly those who are not yet Christians. Pray for the Holy Spirit to prepare them to meet with us, that we can “reap the harvest” when they arrive.