



MARCH 2020

A New Normal

I (Emily) sat glued to the TV, watching Governor Dewine detail the measures he was implementing to fight the novel Coronavirus in Ohio. My heart dropped when I got a text message confirming what I knew already to be true. Ohio University (and our other campuses) had closed campus for the remainder of the school year. All of our students would be heading home.

Thus began a flurry of text messages, emails, and Zoom meetings for our team and our student leaders as we began planning what we would do. After a few days, a lot of brainstorming, and even more prayer, we began to launch.

Our weekly meeting would move into an on-line format hosted on Youtube and Facebook streaming. Small group Bible studies would meet through Zoom and continue their content. One-on-one discipleship would resume through Zoom and Facetime. Plans to teach students how to share the gospel with their peers via virtual means were devised. Students came up with incredible ideas for how to continue to form community and keep the ministry going in a time of incredible stress and uncertainty.

It's certainly not the same. It is sad for us when we drive past campus, which normally would be teeming with students enjoying the warm spring weather, only to see it completely empty. But we know that this event is not a surprise to God. He knew this was coming, and He knows the plans He has in mind for how He wants to use this for His glory.

Even now, we are hearing stories of how the Lord is using Cru missionaries stranded in other countries due to border closings and students stuck at home to bring people to salvation! We can't wait to share those stories with you in the coming months. Please pray for His Holy Spirit to be with us.

Like you, our lives have been upended as the Coronavirus Pandemic has raged across the world. Please take a moment to read our following update which includes what has changed in our ministry, what hasn't, prayer requests, and how our team has been continuing the mission on campus.

CORONAVIRUS CHANGES

What has changed with our campus ministry in Southeast Ohio due to the Coronavirus Pandemic?

- Our campuses have all closed and moved to on-line instruction for the remainder of the year. All students living in dorms have been sent home, and most living off-campus returned home as well.
- We cannot meet with students in-person due to the Stay-at-Home order.
- All Summer Missions, both in the U.S. and abroad, have been canceled.

What hasn't changed with our campus ministry in Southeast Ohio due to the Coronavirus Pandemic?

- Our commitment to sharing the gospel with college students!
- Our current assignment of raising more Financial Ministry Partners, which we are still doing as best we can from home.

Yours in Christ,

Clay + Emily

FAMILY UPDATE

SELWAY FAMILY

We have settled into the “new normal” of being under a stay-at-home order in Ohio. Elliott has been spending a lot of time playing outside, and we’ve been taking walks as a family in our neighborhood and along the Athens bike path.

Clay and I have been trading childcare duties since our normal routine with our babysitter has obviously ended. It’s not easy trying to work and care for a toddler who doesn’t understand why the library is closed and why his friends can’t come and play - but we are blessed to be healthy and have the privilege of being able to stay at home and stay safe.



PRAISE + PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for our seniors - they have abruptly finished their college careers without warning. Pray that they would grieve the loss well, and use the last time they have from home for the Lord’s glory.
- Pray for our campus ministry. We are doing all we can to continue the mission, but it is of course very uncertain how all of this will affect our work in the future. Pray for God’s grace and blessing in this unique situation.
- Pray for us as we continue to work on raising financial support. We still have about 15% left to raise to be fully funded. We recognize the unique and precarious situation many people (ourselves included) are in with the current economic state. Pray the Lord would provide for us and we’d be finished raising our support by the fall.
- Pray for Emily’s dad. He is a pediatric pulmonologist (lung doctor for kids). Though his position with kids is lower risk, he performs procedures that are “high risk” for contracting Coronavirus.

WE PRAY FOR YOU...

We recognize that you may have lost your job, had your paycheck reduced, or been put on furlough. You may be at risk for severe complications from COVID-19, or someone you love might be at risk. The future is uncertain. We are praying daily, both individually and as a family, 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!