

The Selways

Clay & Emily

“There are three stages to every great work of God; first it is impossible, then it is difficult, then it is done.”

-James Hudson Taylor



Cru at Ohio U
April 27, 2015

Three years ago I (Emily) was put in charge of leading an Action Group (a Bible study for leaders within the ministry). I was in my senior year of college. I didn't know any of the young women in my group, and they didn't know me. I was tasked not only with teaching them from the Bible, but to build a community for them, encourage them in their ministries and equip them to



Me (far left) with some of the women of my former Action Group. (L-R) Erin, Sarah, Stormy, & Rachel.

be active in sharing their faith, now and in the future. The first few weeks were awkward, forced, and uncomfortable. The girls didn't like each other very much, and I they didn't seem to like me.

I distinctly remember thinking, “Lord, this is impossible.”

As the year wore on, I learned. They grew together. They seemed to like me more. Suddenly, I saw change happening! Even so, it felt difficult. I cried myself to sleep many nights, aching over the complexity and challenges of leading so many different women well. Now, three years later, they are graduating. They are honored leaders on campus and in our ministry. Three of them have committed to full-time missions for the next year. All of them are committed to serving Jesus wherever He takes them. First it was impossible, then it was difficult, and now - now it is *done*.

Taylor was right - every great work of God follows this trajectory. Right now, we are feeling weighed down by the intense difficulty of finding people and churches to partner with us in our ministry so that we can return to campus. Soon, that will be done. And then we will face the impossibility of being on campus - meeting new students, starting new Bible studies, leading new ministries. That will turn into the difficulty of sustaining and enduring in ministry for the long-haul. One day, eventually, even that will be done.

Impossible. Difficult. Done.

God works, even while we struggle and sigh under the weight of the tasks He has called us to. We pray that you, too, cling to God through the impossible and difficult. Look to Him, and don't look back. In the confusion, the doubt, and the struggle, remember that this, too, will one day be done. Today, it feels impossible, and tomorrow it will feel difficult, but one day it will be done. And I'm convinced the joy that we'll feel on that day will be worth every moment of impossible and difficult.

“Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, ‘The LORD has done great things for them.’” - Psalm 126:2

‘Til the whole world knows,

Clay + Emily

Apps we recommend...

“Verses: Bible Memory”

“Waze” (Take it from people who spend a lot of time driving. This maps app with real-time traffic is a life saver.)

Books we recommend...

“Beyond Racial Gridlock” by George Yancey

“The Normal Christian Life” by Watchman Nee

Music we recommend...

“Becoming Who We Are” - Kings Kaleidoscope

“The Borderlands” - John Mark McMillian

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Prayer Requests for The Selways for May

Stick this card anywhere that will remind you to pray!

1. For the women from Emily's former Action Group who graduate this May. Pray that Stormy, Sarah, Erin, and Kaylee would continue to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit for the rest of their lives, and be used greatly by God.

2. For us, as we are continuing to trust God to complete our ministry partner team by August, so that we can move back to campus and begin our ministry as the new school year begins. Please continue praying that God would quickly provide for all of our needs.

3. A few months ago, we asked you to pray for a procedure Emily was having. We ended up cancelling that, but Emily's new doctor believes that her body has responded well to her current medication, and she shouldn't need any other treatment at the moment! Her health looks good for the foreseeable future. Praise God! Thank you so much for praying.

4. For the rest of the staff of Cru at OU.

**If we can be praying for you in any way,
please let us know!**

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