



September 2025

"I spent all day yesterday with our new shepherd team... the OU influence is unreal. In Ocean City and Estonia... students from both missions are talking about the impact and vision OU students gave them. Their maturity, godliness, depth, and hearts for God's word and prayer... it was awesome!"

These are the words of a staff member in Southern Colorado who spent the summer with many of our students in Ocean City, New Jersey. 34 students in total from Ohio University went on missions trips this summer to invest in their spiritual growth and in their ability to reach others. They have come back this fall excited and ready to reach their peers. And boy, do we see that happening!

As we've been saying for 2 years now, God is doing something incredibly special in Southeast Ohio. I (Clay) continue to see proof that this is the case after the first two weeks of the '25-26 school year at Ohio University. And over the course of the past two weeks, we've seen God do incredible things:

Last year's number of **930** students wanting more information about bible studies increased to **1020**! We had **351** in attendance at our weekly worship meeting (180) on Thursday night! Individual Bible studies met for the first time week 2. The most freshmen we'd ever seen in that first week was 100. This year the number was **145**!

We know, however, that numbers aren't everything. Here's what I've heard from freshmen that I've met for the first time this fall:

"I don't have any religious background but I want to give faith a real shot." (Contin. on back)



Students "chalking" on campus to advertise

SMARTER GIVING SPOTLIGHT

Are you over 70 1/2 years old? Would you like to reduce taxes on income from your IRA, and support your favorite missionary or ministry? To learn more about this popular option, scan the QR code or visit:

<https://give.cru.org/more-ways-to-give/ira-rollover-charitable-giving.html>



“I became serious about my faith in the last few months and really want to invest in my relationship with God in college.”

“I’ve never read the Bible very much before but I really want to. Is it okay for me to show up if I don’t know anything yet?”

Friends, our God is on the move. More than numbers, His Holy Spirit is moving in the hearts of so many students that we meet. Praise the Lord for allowing us to witness and participate in his work, and thank you for doing it with us.

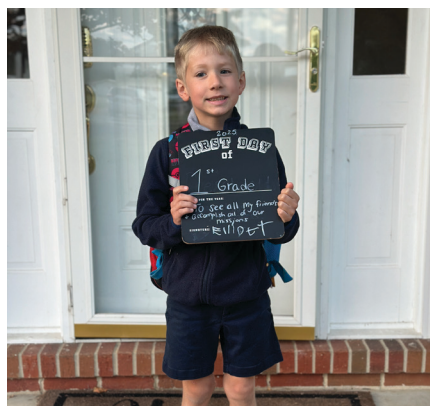
Yours in Christ,

Clay + Emily

FAMILY UPDATE

As the school year has started and schedules get very busy, Emily and I are grateful for the time we all got together as a family this summer. Elliott and Judah went to several VBS programs this summer and had a great time! They have enjoyed going back to their respective schools this week, Judah to preschool and Elliott to 1st grade. Wes has just started to walk in the past 9-10 days and is growing incredibly fast! It seems that we are out of the baby stage and about ready to enter the toddler phase with him.

Emily and I (Clay) had a great time at our national conference in Milwaukee in July. It was an incredible time of reconnecting with the vision of serving the campuses of the world as we play our part in fulfilling the Great Commission. It was good to be recharged and have our cup filled as another academic year begins. Thank you for all of your help in getting us there and praying for our time there.



PRAISE + PRAYER REQUESTS

Special Dates to Pray for

Sep 29 - Oct 3: Emily flies to Denver for her team’s annual retreat.

October 3 - 5: Fall Retreat (very important event for our students!)

- Please pray that our Cru community would bear God’s name well, that we would reflect Christ to all we meet.
- Pray that we and our students would be empowered by the Holy Spirit. The numbers are great, but as Psalm 127 states, “Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.”
- For our family this fall, that by faith we will trust God to meet our practical support needs and our daily spiritual needs.