

# HOLY MOMENTS

Uniquely Restoring Communities with the Good News of Jesus



## Monkey Minute

Hi friends,

It has been a very full couple of months. I was captain of the JV volleyball team this Spring and a highlight was our team placing 2nd during the best of JV tournament in San Diego county.

With all the rain we've had, I postponed my 16th bday (in Feb) beach party till April, which was a lot of fun.

I enjoy my engineering classes but not so much AP History. Looking forward to summer beach volleyball and going to camp with North Coast church.

Until next time -- **Braden**



Sharing holy moments over a pizza dinner in the Boyne Valley

Restoring communities with the gospel is at the heart of what we do within the City ministry of Cru. Communities are made up of individuals in various places on the spectrum of faith. How they are being restored in their relationship with God, themselves, and others is the context in which we live and minister.

**Every individual has a story and each person's story is sacred.** Jill Weber with 24/7 prayer writes in her book, *Even the Sparrow*, that stories are "doorways to heaven, places of convergence where the eternal crashes into the now. Stories call us upward, looking beyond the ground under our feet to a more expansive horizon. They can transport us and others to another realm".

Last month I guided a community of people from Denver on a pilgrimage to Ireland to reflect on their story in the context of the life and story of Saint Patrick. As a form of lateral thinking, seeing how earlier Christians, in very different circumstances, faced the trials of discipleship is part of a process of problem solving for our lives today. This can spark ideas in our minds, give us fresh perspective, and help us make connections we had not thought of before. It also gives people the opportunity to dip their toes in a different tradition of faith such as Celtic Christianity and explore new spiritual practices such as Lectio Divina, the Daily Office, and silence during a meal together.

### Podcast



God is accomplishing His global mission. The world has changed. So how should missions shift? What is the US church’s best contribution now? **Mission Shift** is a podcast our team produces that explores the changing face of global missions. Check it out!

### Short-term Sending Resumes

The pandemic disrupted missions in a dramatic way. As restrictions have eased, over 100 people were sent on some type of missions trip with City Global in 2022. We anticipate this number to triple in 2023.



Each person came into the week at different places and were invited into the three movements of pilgrimage; *detaching* from what’s familiar or weighing them down, paying *attention* to their inner life and *connecting* with God, others and creation. One participant shared about her mental health struggles the past year and how angry she was at God. Another shared how she was in the process of deconstructing her faith and her overall disappointment with other believers. Others shared how they were operating in a constant state of anxiety.



What I enjoy most about facilitating these pilgrimages is setting the table for others to encounter the heart of God through creation, content and conversation. Table fellowship anchors our daily interactions and intentional discussions. The richest time comes at the end of the week as people share the holy moments they experienced during the trip.

Some of these moments happened as we climbed to the top of Croagh Patrick (where Patrick fasted), in a cathedral, during conversations or in the midst of suffering (unfortunately, one woman broke her wrist during the hike). One woman shared, *“What I needed most from this experience - rest and heart refocus - was met in abundance”*. Another man shared, *“Taking the time to trace the themes of Patrick’s life while examining my own set the table beautifully for experiencing God in a powerful way.”*

This community now has a shared experience from which to draw upon as they seek to restore the communities around them in the city of Denver. Please be praying for them as they process their week and apply what they’ve learned. Pray also for Ammie as she heads up to Tulare to do an Enneagram workshop for a church staff team on May 17th. Thank you so much for your faithful prayers and partnership.

Gratefully,