

YOU NEVER WALK ALONE

Engaging the Curious and Equipping the Follower so Everyone can find their place in God's Story



Monkey Minute

Hi friends,

I am now a 7th grader at Roosevelt Middle School. One of my summer highlights was participating in Junior Lifeguards in Oceanside and building my confidence in the water. We had big waves on some days which was scary but my friends helped with through it all. Now I'm learning to surf and trying to keep up with Gavin and Braden.

Another highlight was going to Whitewater camp with my church on the Klamath river. I've never felt so close to God. It was an amazing week.

Until next time — **Teagan**

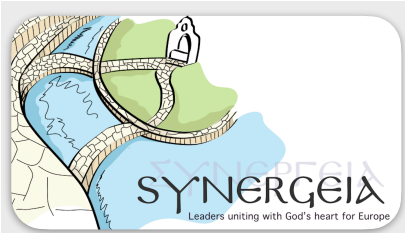


There's an African proverb that says, "if you want to go fast, go alone, if you want to go far, go together." The past month has been truly significant with regards to walking together with a team and celebrating a milestone of walking together in marriage.

In early September, I (Jon) attended my first team retreat in three years at a lake house in South Carolina. We are a new virtual team with City Global living in 8 different states. It was refreshing to be face to face with people and dream about how we work together to connect people to and for God's mission in Europe. Everyone above has been a part of missions in Europe/Russia (collectively, we have over 300 years of missions experience to draw from!).

Specifically, our team focuses on connecting **leaders of influence** to country level initiatives (evangelism & discipleship), coming alongside the **marginalized** (refugees and orphans), engaging the curious on **pilgrimage** (via retreat houses & curating pilgrimages for various audiences), and **caring** for other Cru missionaries serving in Europe.

Overall, I left feeling encouraged about the future and privileged to be running with such gifted people.



"And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together." Act 16:13

There are national strategies in Cru reaching leaders from Belgium to Albania, from the Riviera to Romania, from Portugal to North Macedonia.

We are working to bring together 80 leaders, from the US and Europe, next April in Thessaloniki, Greece for a greater combined impact.

We will be immersing into the story of Paul & Lydia in Philippi and trusting that the Holy Spirit will stir hearts with a powerful synergy as people of influence come alongside God's mission and purposes. *Pray for God to bring those He wants to call into His greater purposes.*



We celebrated our 25th anniversary this month by going to Italy and walking a portion of the Via Francigena from Lucca to Siena (67 miles in 5 days!). It was physically challenging but the Tuscan landscape and food have a remarkable way of restoring you each day. We want to thank those of you who responded to texts and gave us your specific prayer requests. As we walked through fields of abundance we lifted up your requests and thanked God for the abundance He's shown to us through your faithful partnership. We continue to pray for the things you shared.



We also walked the trail with another couple who will be joining Jon's team next year (it was a gift as they both spoke Italian which enriched the experience). This trip also serves as an inspiration for creating a new pilgrimage called *The Way of the Vine* that Jon will be piloting next June with a group from North Carolina.

Walking with the Word

Over the summer Ammie was part of a women's bible study where the focus was walking with other women and reading Scripture aloud together. There's something about the kinetics of having body, heart and mind in motion at the same time (its actually proven that walking improves learning and retention). Imagine all the time Jesus had to walk with his disciples and the conversations that took place.

Walking with the Word engages all our senses and provides a variety of ways to encounter God's presence. For example, as we walked the Via Francigena we took time to taste the grapes, eat the figs and drink the water from local cisterns. Old Testament prophets often used the theme of vineyards in Scripture to symbolize peace, God's blessing and abundance, pointing to a day when, *"each of you will eat of his own vine and fig tree and drink the water from his own cistern"*.

We praise God for how His Word became more alive to us as we celebrated this milestone together.

Gratefully,

Jon & Ammie