



## THE GROWING NEWS

CHRISTMAS 2022

Sam Van Eman

Resource Specialist, CCO-XD



**Thank you. You give, you pray, you encourage, and we are fueled by your support of this little endeavor.**

As I approach 25 years with the CCO, I remember the countless students we've reached together. I sat with a handful recently—representing a dozen events—and they remembered where we went, what we did, even what we ate!

This is the beauty of transporting people into unique and challenging spaces: they remember. Think now of a meaningful trip you took years ago. Its images linger. Of course, if I'm going somewhere with students, I want more than a holiday tour. I want to go somewhere substantial, like maybe, as one author put it, "down and in [where] we will meet the violence and terror we have within ourselves that we project outward onto our institutions, onto our society." I'm not necessarily aiming for encounters with "violence and terror," but the idea that we might travel with Jesus deeper beneath the surface appeals to me, and apparently to students:

*"Thank you for the risks you've taken to bring out the best in groups like ours." -TO*

*"You helped me see gaps in my life that I hope to fill with God." -AB*

*"It's great to be able to learn not just in the classroom, but in our morning devotions, experiences outdoors, and in settings like the Harriet Tubman Visitor Center. There are so many enriching ideas and events I could write about from this week [that] brought clarity and peace to a load of uncertainties for me." -EL*

The healing work belongs to God. I only create spaces, and you help make that possible. Together we provide out-of-the-ordinary moments for young people to see God do new work in their lives: ***"Forget the former things [unhealthy things you still have trouble releasing]; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland"*** (Isaiah 43:18-19).

New things springing up!



**TO ADD A SPECIAL YEAR-END DONATION THIS CHRISTMAS...**

Give online [ccojubilee.org/donate](https://ccojubilee.org/donate)

Give by mail **CCO, 5912 Penn Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15206** (My name in Memo)

CONTACT ME

814.397.5238

[svaneman@ccojubilee.org](mailto:svaneman@ccojubilee.org)

transforming college students to transform the world | [ccojubilee.org](https://ccojubilee.org)



This is Darin.

I spent 13 days with him.

On day 12, I overheard him tell another student, “Today I finally get why Sam took us on this trip.” It made me laugh to myself. Even with the best planning, I can’t control what happens. Jesus works at his own pace, and I’m learning to be good with that.



Of the 900 photos from this trip, this one makes me feel all the feels. It was day 11 and cold, and the bond we forged made these huddles special. I can name each student and something about them that produces gratitude for God's work as well as hope for new life. (Is. 43:19) Please pray...

- ...for TM who is looking at the camera with me. He desires to be seen and it oppresses him.
- ...for EG in light blue who discovered her chief idol and has work to do.
- ...for D in the blue hat who knows “violence and terror” like few of us do. Lord have mercy.
- ...for V in the white hat who is finding her voice.

**Thank you.**

On the home front, Julie and I enjoyed a full nest over Thanksgiving when both girls were home. The four of us hadn’t been together since August. Time was well-spent in all the ways we had hoped: we watched funny videos, built a puzzle, ate some food, did some work, and got to know each other a little more as adults. I liked that last part especially.

Thanks for following along, and for supporting us in the way that you do. Press on.

To:

From:

**Merry  
Christmas!**

