



THE GROWING NEWS

Spring 2025

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Mark 5 has been on my mind for a couple of reasons. First, Jesus frees a possessed man and a bleeding woman, and gives them peace. I want that for students. Second, the man has a cursed name removed ("Legion"), and the woman is given a new name ("Daughter"). I want this for students, too. Come, Lord Jesus.

JANUARY Highlight—It's hard to stay the course in any endeavor, including campus ministry, so at a regional retreat I taught CCO staff how to write Japanese haibun to capture where God is on the move in their lives.

FEBRUARY Highlight—At the CCO's Jubilee Conference, I got to tell a story from the main stage about the family that students and I visit during our Peru trips. We love this family and they've experienced hardship. In the offering we took, would you believe that the student audience gave \$8,029?! The family called it a miracle.

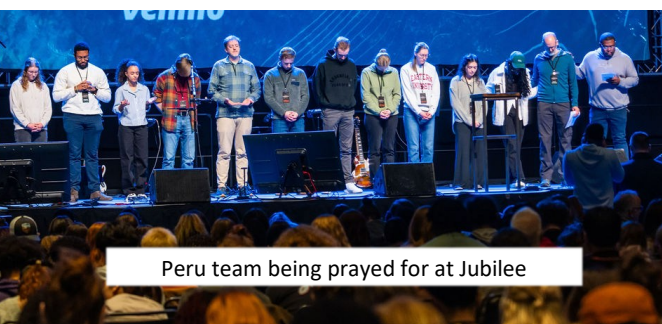
MARCH Highlight—If I told you we collected 3,000 pounds of something on an island during a Spring Break trip to Florida, what would you guess it to be? It took us three days to gather, and it was trash! There's much to say about this trip, but here's what warms my heart: The 10 students cared for each other, asked insightful questions, shed tears, and really leaned into what Jesus meant by his call to love our neighbors. For most of us, this was our third trip together, and our bonds have grown. This relationship stuff is real, and the students say these experiences are life-changing.

APRIL Highlight to come—Jury Duty. Who's a fan?

MAY Highlight to come—We're heading back to Peru! This will be my 6th three-week experience there since 2011, and we'll continue to invest in the locals we've met, including the family receiving the offering. Pray that the 13 students, including Alice, will do a deep

dive into the Scriptures and culture. We want them to return mature and able to reflect Jesus in every area of life. Last week we met with them via Zoom, and it was good to see how God is preparing them. When we revealed the offering amount, their jaws dropped.

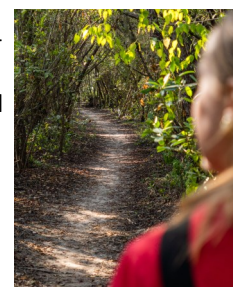
We are ministers, not Messiahs—I could write at length about spring break in particular, and I think I know why. First, I have to say, the trash clean-up and game nights, etc, were top notch. But the rich student interactions I've been experiencing more often are



Peru team being prayed for at Jubilee

life-giving because of what I see in Mark 5. When a student has a breakthrough on a trip, however small, it's like I'm in the crowd as Jesus heals the woman who touches his cloak, and I get to see it happen. But more than that, as I get to know a student's back-story, it's like I'm getting to know the woman in Mark 5, and I have a painful sense of what she's been through, and *then* I get to watch Jesus heal her. Can you see the difference this would make—between watching a stranger get healed versus watching someone get healed whose story weighs on you? But even more *that*, I'm not just in the crowd, and I don't simply know the woman's story personally. It's also that Jesus asked me to invite her to this encounter with him. There are plenty of students who simply want a good time, but these trips allow me to participate in a way that some really need it: as an inviter, a space creator, a listener—and as an introducer. So when a student says, "This week, something has been healed in me," I come undone.

Thank you for helping me be there for those who want and need more.



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