



Crough Patrick // Ireland // pc: Caleb A.

“I saw no-one that seemed to be shocked or disturbed by my dark presence. No one seemed to feel himself contaminated by contact with me ... One of the most pleasing features of my visit, thus far, has been a total absence of all manifestations of prejudice against me, on account of my color. The change of circumstances, in this, is particularly striking ... I find myself not treated as a colour, but as a man – not as a thing, but as a child of the common Father of us all.” - Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave, Written by Himself

Encountering Frederick Douglass was not the expected plan on a pilgrimage to Ireland. It was the Way of Patrick, not - the Way of Douglass. Patrick, who after being abducted, trafficked into slavery - escaped - only to return to the land of his captivity to communicate the Way of Jesus to least on this isle - the enslaved and women. This was the person I had read about, but now instead of one, I was encountering the story of two inspiring individuals.

Whenever we take the opportunity to enter into a context, or a story, that's different than our own, the immersion and journey into a country, culture, city, the story of an historical character, or even a piece of art, enriches our life as we explore God's good creation. This immersive journey facilitates a newfound appreciation of the beauty and diversity in the world. At the same time, this journey can reveal - if we are willing to see - the sufferings of the human experience. In the midst of our many differences in language, food, and customs, we still seek to find commonality - a common memory. Finding this common memory is about intentionally journeying to the thin places in community with others to discover and connect with the heart of God - “the common Father of us all” - just as Jesus modeled.



Statue of St Patrick on the Hill of Tara



Frederick Douglass



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As we continue trusting God to guide our staff, those in our local community, as well as our own family in the Way of Jesus, would you prayerfully consider a year-end gift of \$100, \$500, \$1000, or some other amount significant to you? Your generous donations allow us to continue training and resourcing teams and individuals as they find commonality with people within the communities of their host-country through the love of Jesus.

As you feel led, you may give a tax-deductible gift online at www.give.cru.org/0533048. If you prefer to give by check, please make your gift payable to *Cru* and use the enclosed envelope to mail your donation by December 31st to be credited for the 2022 tax year. Some ministry partners have chosen to give directly to us rather than through Cru. If you are interested in giving to us directly, you may give via *Venmo* @**Tricia-Beebee** or, if you do not use *Venmo* or would like to give in another way, please contact us by email or the mailing addresses below. ****This would *not* be a tax-deductible gift.**

Whatever you decide, our deep appreciation for you is unwavering. Whether it has been 1 year or 20 years, we are incredibly grateful for you standing beside us as we, along with our sweet kiddos Naomi, Tosh and Rohan, continue to communicate the love of Jesus to all we meet. Thank you for being our friends, family and partners in ministry.

Much love, **NICH & Tricia**

