

Disappointment turned to thanksgiving

Aaron and his girlfriend, Mel, were looking forward to spending Thanksgiving with Aaron's family. But like countless families this year, plans had to change. Aaron's grandmother tested positive for COVID-19 and his dad was exposed, so they reluctantly decided to head to Mel's family for the holiday to keep their distance. They were sad and angry.

Aaron serves as president of the Cru movement in Whitewater. Mel came to Christ the spring of her freshman year, through a Cru student she met. This new friend, Maggie, spent much of that year talking to Mel about Jesus and inviting her to Cru meetings on campus. Mel was ready to respond to the gospel.

All three have grown in their relationships with God and want others to experience Him like they do. Therefore, it's no surprise that the morning after arriving back home, Mel started a conversation about faith with her sister, Erica. Erica had demonstrated some interest in Christian Tik Tok videos on her phone, but wasn't clear on what she believed.

Aaron and Mel spent a good amount of time that night talking with Erica about God and gladly answering her many questions. Eventually, they wrapped up the conversation, thinking they were done for the night.

After leaving, Aaron talked with Mel and said he felt they needed to go back and invite Erica to take the next step to respond to Christ. When they returned to Erica's room, Aaron asked if she wanted to accept Christ, and Mel didn't hesitate to say, "Yes." The three of them prayed with Erica as she accepted Jesus.

At that point, Aaron's and Mel's perspectives changed. They were thrilled for what God did in Erica's life that Tuesday before the holiday. Their disappointment turned into a great Thanksgiving.

"Now, the best part of this situation was obviously Mel's sister Erica coming to Christ. But, what made it EVEN COOLER was the fact that we weren't even supposed to BE at Mel's house that week," Aaron recounted.

Seeing students like Maggie, Aaron, and Mel take opportunities to spread the hope of the gospel on and off campus is central to our team's mission. As we navigate COVID realities and optimistically plan for future opportunities here in Wisconsin and in various countries across the globe, we continue to trust that God is sovereignly working through disappointments to "*let the nations be glad and sing for joy.*" (Psalm 67:4a)

Your partnership continues to be significant,

The Southern Wisconsin Cru Staff Team



Spending a September afternoon pontooning with our Whitewater's Core student leaders. Aaron and Maggie are the middle two.