



SUMMER 2024

**THOMAS'S
REFLECTIONS ON
MISSION**

PG 4

"I trust that, if God's calling me to do something, it's the right thing at that moment[...]" (Read more)

LIVING MISSION IN COMMUNITY

How NET missionaries minister through a joyful witness of community

PGS 2-3



Living **MISSION** *in* **COMMUNITY**



Mission flows from community.

Since the very beginnings of NET Ministries in 1982, NET's mission has always been done in teams. The reason for that is simple: a joyful community is attractive and life-giving, and if you've had an encounter with a NET team you've likely witnessed this in action. NET teams live mission in community, and our ministry would be nowhere near as effective if we were to ever operate otherwise.

Everyone desires to belong. Whether it's a family, group, or community, we want to have somewhere where we feel like we can be fully ourselves. Young people are particularly sensitive to this and many teenagers are strongly motivated by a desire to seek acceptance and belonging among their peers. NET missionaries are young and relative peers to the youth they're ministering to, so it gives our teams a unique opportunity to expose young people to the type of Christ-centered community that can encourage them in their faith and help them grow into the kind of people we know they can become.

A conversion – a decision to commit one’s life to Christ – is only the first step in a young person’s faith journey. What follows after is a daily “conversion” – a choice made every day to seek the will of God and come to know and love Him more. This often leads to change, and change is hard. Making the choice to follow Jesus through ups and downs is incredibly difficult, and surrounding yourself with community is one of the most effective ways to do that. For most of us, community is an essential part of the faith journey.




NET teams demonstrate this community first through the real-life example of their own relationships with one another. Youth get to witness the way team members seek to love and honor one another, pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus, and live in healthy relationships between the other men and women on their team. The joyful community they nurture witnesses to the love of God and brings that love to each youth they encounter.



NET team members also try to welcome youth into this community whenever possible. They strive to go out of their way to include youth who may not feel like they belong or are on the outside looking in to their own social groups. Just as Christ himself sought out those who were outcasts, NET missionaries strive to do the same, welcoming them into an experience of community that will inspire and transform them throughout their lives.



A portrait of Thomas Corrigan, a young man with curly brown hair and glasses, wearing a black t-shirt and a pink lanyard. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is blue with faint icons of books, a key, and a lightbulb.

Thomas's Reflection on Mission

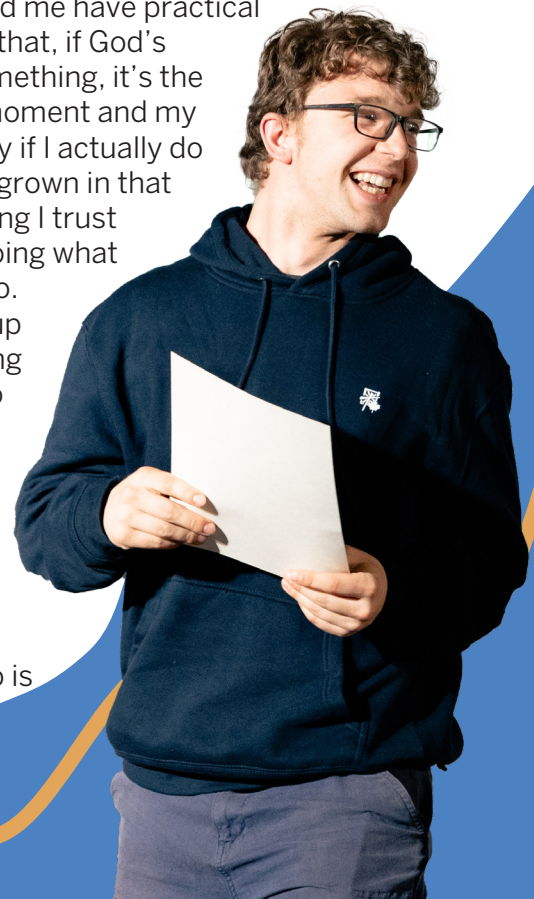
Thomas Corrigan served with NET Canada in the 2022-2023 mission year. He then returned to serve a second year, joining a team in January of 2024. The following are some of his reflections at NET's Wrap up retreat at the end of the mission year.

I decided to come back halfway through the year and leave school, because I started to pray about whether I should come back or not, and in my heart there was a question: If, by me being there, one youth was able to come to a relationship with Christ, or even come a miniscule amount closer, whether it was through me or through one of my teammates, would it be worth it? And the shocking answer was yes, it was. Because it's that important that people enter into a relationship with Christ. Because I have found it will be the only relationship that will ultimately satisfy. Saint Augustine said "our hearts are restless until they rest in you." If someone can rest in the Lord because I came back for another year with NET, then it will have been worth it. And I can confidently say that that has happened this year.

Being on a retreat team this year, I was able to experience the vastness of how many youth we reach. I don't want to say there are no other organizations that reach that many youth, but there aren't a lot. Youth need Christ, and NET is able to reach thousands of youth every year. A unique thing about NET is having youth evangelizing youth. We had many a teacher come up to us and say "What you did, we couldn't have done." And it's not that we were special or more talented than them. Often these teachers knew more about the faith than we did, maybe had better prayer lives and were better catechized, but for a youth to hear that someone around their own age or slightly older than them is whole-heartedly giving up a

year of their life to share this amazing thing they've found automatically builds a trust that is not often reached otherwise. So NET has a different way of reaching youth that is unique and can't be replaced.

One of the ways I've grown through being a missionary is my understanding of what trust in God looks like. I think before I was a missionary, and especially this year, my trust in God was there, but I would only trust God after he was very very clear with me, or I had gone through all the options. And that's good, I'm not saying throw prudence or wisdom out the window, but being on a retreat team like I was this year, you only see the youth for a day and then they're gone. So if God's calling you to do something, you need to do it right then. So this year has transformed me in that it's helped me have practical trust in God. I trust that, if God's calling me to do something, it's the right thing at that moment and my trust is measured by if I actually do that thing. And I've grown in that way, not just in saying I trust God, but actually doing what he's calling me to do. Whether it's going up to a youth and asking them if they want to commit their life to God, or maybe it's just asking them a simple question and then going from there. Trusting that what God wants me to do is enough





MISSION MOMENT

The theme of one of the retreats I was leading was our identity as a child of God. During each retreat, we have an opportunity to pray with all the students. I was still sitting in the church after all the students went back to their final small groups and there were two boys who left their small group and walked back into the church and just sat there with tears in their eyes. I let them have a moment before approaching them both and asking them how they were doing. They both didn't have any words for what they experienced and just needed to process the Lord speaking to them, away from everyone else. I noticed that they both had rosaries in their hands and I asked them if they would like to pray a decade of the rosary and they said yes. So we prayed a decade together and they both wanted to offer up the decade for their family. After we finished, we just talked about their relationship with God. One of them said that they could have a better relationship with God if he just talked to Him more. I asked the same young man what he took away from the retreat and he told me that before coming to the retreat he was trying to find himself and find God and throughout the course of the retreat, he still hadn't found himself but he said that he felt close to God and he was finally starting to find Him. I asked both the young men if they had an opportunity to place God in the centre of their lives, if they would take that opportunity and they said 'yes' without hesitation. So we prayed a commitment card together and in that moment, they committed to placing Christ in the centre of their lives. I had a chat with one of my teammates, Chris, after the retreat (who was their small group leader) and he confirmed with me that they had such a change in disposition after prayer ministry. He said that while the rest of the guys in his small group were joking around and having fun at the end of the day, they were still very solemn and that something had changed. The Holy Spirit was so evidently present.

- Amanda Dalgado,
Retreat Team

BOOK A NET RETREAT FOR YOUR YOUTH IN 2024-2025!

WE ARE STILL ACCEPTING REQUESTS FOR RETREAT AVAILABILITIES FOR THE 2024-2025 MISSION YEAR.

Get more information or book your NET retreat today!



EVERY NET RETREAT INCLUDES:

- Small group discussions, games, and activities, and live testimony presentations.
- Guided prayer time and a personal invitation to commit to Christ.
- The message of God's unending love for your youth.



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF YOUTH MINISTRY IN CANADA!

NET Canada turned 30! Join us this year as we celebrate all the amazing things God has done over 30 years of youth ministry in Canada. Keep an eye out for more events throughout the 2024-2025 mission year - our hope is to celebrate with all of our supporters and co-missionaries.

If you'll be in the Ottawa area, save the date for our 30th Anniversary Kickoff Event!

Saturday, August 10th
Annunciation of the Lord Parish, Ottawa
Mass at 11:00am with lunch, fun, and activities to follow!

We hope to see you there!



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