



"The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page."
Saint Augustine

In light of all the traveling that has been going on in the past month, not only by myself, but by many of my fellow students as well, I felt that the quote above would help encourage those of you who have not yet had the opportunity to broaden your horizons with travel to do so.

With travel comes many adventures and with those adventures inevitably comes new knowledge. Augustine had it right; we are missing out on so much when we don't travel. There are boundless wonders and excitement to be had: sights and beauties to be seen at which film can only begin to hint.

God created the entire earth and his divine fingerprint can be seen all over it, not just in nature but also in the man-made cities and buildings (from whom but God do we get the knowledge to build beautiful architectural structures?). To walk on a cobble stone street that is hundreds of years old, having no idea what vast number of feet have walked before you, is a humbling experience.

In my opinion—and, it seems, Augustine's—part of the Christian experience must be to explore the immense world that God has laid before you. Go and experience, taste, smell, hear, and feel the wonders of other cultures and places; step outside your comfort zone and let God speak to you through the unknown; and give back by showing the people you encounter the loving grace you have through Christ Jesus.



My husband Jeremy and I at a traditional German restaurant in Garmisch, one of the southern most cities in the German Alps.

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."
Proverbs 27:17



staff column johnny mcdowell

From the North to the South: The Boon Dock Saint

So I'm not sure if anyone noticed, but a couple of weeks ago was St. Patrick's Day. I was in Boston sharing festivities with my fellow Irishmen and women. What occurred to me was that many of you guys might not know about St. Patrick or where he originated, so I felt it was my duty to tell you.

Saint Patrick was a Roman Britain-born Christian mis-

sionary and is the patron saint of Ireland. When he was about sixteen, he was captured by Irish raiders and taken as a slave to Ireland, where he lived for six years before escaping and returning to his family. He entered the church, as his father and grandfather had before him, becoming a deacon and then a bishop. He later returned to Ireland as a missionary in the north and west of the island.

There are many legends surrounding the life of Patrick. Pious legend credits Patrick with banishing snakes from the island, though post-glacial Ireland never had

snakes; one suggestion is that *snakes* referred to the serpent symbolism of the Druids of that time. Legend also credits Patrick with teaching the Irish about the concept of the Trinity by showing them the shamrock, a three-leaf clover, and using it to highlight the Christian belief of "three divine persons in the one God." Whether or not these legends are true, the very fact that there are so many legends about Patrick shows how important his ministry was to Ireland.

I hope you all had a great St. Patrick's Day, and that you have many more to come.



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