

DOWNTOWN WITH THE BROWNS



To Strengthen and Encourage

June/July 2026

DR Summer Mission. In the scope of our work, we are constantly reminded that “many are the plans in a man’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails (Prov19:21).” Never has this rang more true than this past month. As mentioned in our last prayer letter, with the increase in Ebola cases in Central Africa surrounding Rwanda’s borders, it was determined (only one week before departure) with Cru’s crisis management team that a rerouting would be necessary. Though we were heartbroken, having poured months into the development of a summer mission and partnership in Kigali, Jena quickly pivoted to inquire whether or not the Dominican Republic would be willing to host us, as we had just sent two teams there and it had been a wonderful experience for both teams. What followed was a marvelous demonstration of God’s power and sovereignty! Within two days, flights, housing, transportation and ministry assignments were set up for our team -- nothing short of incredible, as those logistics take months to prepare!



Our team; providing a water filter; engaging in outreach at UASD; a special reunion with Juan Marcos, a former student leader from our 2015 DR SM!

Our role in the DR seemed to be to **strengthen** and **encourage**. The team was able to distribute water filters to areas without clean water access and **strengthen the partnerships between Cru and area churches** as well as community partnerships. Sixty water filters were distributed by our team in less than a week! That’s sixty homes that not only received life saving clean water, but heard the life changing message of the gospel as well. We also were able to go to two local universities to meet students and share the gospel, and to **encourage the local team that is looking to launch** Cru on multiple campuses. Not one student that we spoke to turned us away! This would be unheard of in the US. Every student wanted to hear our perspective on spiritual things and were hungry to know God. Between the water filter distribution and campus evangelism, **the gospel was shared 167 times and 57 people placed their faith in Christ!**



Summer Cru We have enjoyed a few socials with students and staff that have remained in Lynchburg! One exciting event, partnered with local apologetics ministry Y2Believe, occurred last Friday night when students and staff went out sharing in downtown Lynchburg. Jena was able to speak to five college aged young people at the skate park and minister to them - though they did not place faith in Christ, they were grateful for our care and concern (and free water bottles!).

Support. Our personal ministry support is currently underfunded which has created a need to raise support so that we can be fully engaged for the start of the fall semester. We need \$6,000 in one-time support and \$1,000 in monthly support. *Would you consider giving a one-time gift of \$100, \$250, \$500 or more to help us get to our funding goal? If you are a monthly supporter please consider if you are able to increase your gift. Thanks for your consideration and prayers for us!*

Prayer Requests

- Looking ahead, we will have the largest staff team in history next year! Between part and full time staff, we will be a team of FOURTEEN! Please pray for our team to raise their necessary support, and for us to use our time wisely to coach them well.
- Pray for us to prepare well for the fall and all it entails.
- Pray for our support needs to be fully met!

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