

Ministry Update for the Browns  
May 2023



Following our Liberty Leader's Retreat this spring, we hosted a Secret Church event. The seven hour Bible Study was hosted via live stream by David Platt and designed for participants to get a sense of what it is like to study the Bible — and follow Christ — in a closed country where it is illegal to be a follower of Jesus. Students and staff went through the book of Jonah and concurrently learned about the persecuted church in Iran and what obstacles believers face in the country. Men and women who shared their stories were interviewed and share both what it is like to be a refugee as well as what it is like to continue to persevere in country. It was a powerful night of learning, both in the Word and through hearing about the experiences of our brothers and sisters across the globe.



Andrew and Jena Brown  
8 Riverview Place  
Lynchburg VA 24503

(434) 825-8083 (A)  
(434) 409-2467 (J)  
Jena.Brown@cru.org  
Andrew.Brown@cru.org

Staff Acct #0498095  
Online Giving:  
<https://give.cru.org/0498095>



2023 LYNCHBURG CRU

# VISION DINNER

## A SEASON OF CELEBRATION!

As the semester comes to a close, there are many things to celebrate. We "take great pleasure in our toil" and in the blessings of the work the Lord has entrusted to us!



Our Monday night weekly dinners ended with a joyful outdoor meal with students from Sweet Briar, Liberty, and CVCC in attendance.

Our Liberty Leadership Retreat had 7 new leaders, with new energy and ideas to bring Christ glory on campus.



Our final weekly meeting saw us sending off six of our beloved leaders as they shared some things they've learned over the years to underclassmen, leaving a legacy of faith and fruitfulness.



All of this celebration culminated in our annual Vision Dinner — the first in-person fellowship dinner we've been able to do since 2019! It was a joy to host the 100+ attendees and share what the Lord has done, as staff, students, and even a Liberty professor attested to the effectiveness of the ministry. We were beyond blessed to have Darryl and Gwen Smith, directors of Cru's Oneness in Diversity, as our keynote speaker.



One of my favorite moments of the evening was when one of our students, Christin Adams, shared a story of her father, who passed away last year, and how he came to Christ through Campus Crusade for Christ as a college student. She had gone to Panama City Beach with us in March, having no idea that Campus Crusade for Christ and Cru were the same organization! She shared that a couple of weeks after returning from Florida, her mother was cleaning out a drawer and found a postcard her father had sent her when she was seven months old, telling her about how grateful he was for the ministry of Cru and his hopes for her to follow Christ when she grew up. What a powerful story of God's continued faithfulness.

Noteworthy too, was a video Mason Boni (our part time staff) had made, which was a mosaic of students' opinions and thoughts about who God was, who Jesus was, and whether or not they would want to know God personally if that were possible. We had not expected it to provide an opportunity to share the gospel, but to our amazement, two students prayed to receive Christ! We praise God for Ashley from Sweet Briar College and Grace from University of Lynchburg.



## PRAY FOR THE BROWNS

- Praise God we raised a great deal of our budget for next year and qualified for the matching gift! If you'd still like to give you can do so at [give.cru.org/1041562](https://give.cru.org/1041562) and mark your gift "VD 2023."
- Praise the Lord for two new believers! Pray that as we continue to follow up with them they will grow in their love for God.
- Please pray for the end of the year planning for our staff team! We are excited for Charissa McMasters to join our team summer. She is a former Liberty Cru leader and has served in Sweden for the past two years, and just got married a few weeks ago! We are thrilled to have her for the summer and fall!

Everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man.

- Ecclesiastes 3:13

Love, Andrew, Jena, Olivia, Logan and Samuel