



Ministry Update for the Browns
January 2023

EARTHLY FATHERS, HEAVENLY FATHER

We never know what the Lord is going to do amongst our students, but we always anticipate His work. This year, a video was shown about the Prodigal Son—a story of forgiveness and reconciliation—that was so well done and moving that all of us were bawling. It seemed like a holy moment.

During our final campus time, there were at least five students who spoke about the video, and how it impacted them and the brokenness of their relationships with their earthly fathers. One spoke of neglect, one of abuse, one of total absence, one of regret. The stories were harrowing and poignant. The students talked about the hatred, disgust and even apathy that they had towards their dads, but that they each sensed the Lord calling them to forgiveness. We were blown away at how the Lord enabled fellowship around this painful and sensitive topic. The Lord is enabling mercy in relationships and truly revealed Himself as our Heavenly Father who does not change like shifting shadows (James 1:17).

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DOWNTOWN WITH THE BROWNS



BALTIMORE WINTER CONFERENCE



You may recall that each year around this time, we accompany students to Baltimore, MD to Cru's Winter Conference, a US-wide gathering of students in five locations, whose mission is to experience Jesus, grow together in faith, and discover our place in the mission of God. We were blessed

to bring a group of 20 staff and students from Lynchburg. Andrew and I have been to this conference at least 15 times—it is this conference that helped to elicit my full and total life surrender to Jesus Christ in 1997, so it is very special to me in particular. (Fun fact: at the time, the conference was held in Albany, NY. Andrew also attended the conference that year—how funny that amidst a sea of 1000 students stood our future spouse and we had no idea!). The conference boasts an incredible worship band, thought provoking speakers, seminars for students to learn more about

things like evangelism and contextual ministry, salsa dancing, a Spike Ball tournament, and more! This year the conference created a Festival of Opportunities that highlighted many opportunities for students to get involved domestically and around the world, through spring break trips, summer missions, interning, and full time staff. We were delighted to be able to share about our partnership with The Every Initiative (where we are sending a team over spring break to one of their locations in Orebro, Sweden) and were even more delighted to see the interest and response from students interested in the ministry! Please pray with us that we see students follow through on their interest for the sake of the gospel!



Team Leader End of Year Celebration Dinner



Jena and friends at Winter Conference 1997

PRAY FOR THE BROWNS

- We begin our winter Days Of Planning and Evaluation (DOPE) this week! Please pray that we listen and obey the Lord's direction for this semester.
- Pray for the students raising support for spring break trips to Sweden and North Africa—that they will be complete soon!
- Please pray for Andrew to have a happy birthday on January 14th, and for the Lord to draw him in deeply this next year of his life! Feel free to wish him a happy day on Facebook or Instagram!

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.—James 1:17

Happy New Year to you and yours! Love, Andrew, Jena, Olivia, Logan and Samuel