



Ministry Update for the Browns October 2020

VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY OF LYNCHBURG WORK DAY: A CITYWIDE EFFORT!

With several of our schools being online this semester, it has been a challenge to find students to connect with and ways to love and serve. We have had to be creative in our approaches to ministry beyond Zoom.

With permission from the Chief Operating Officer, former Lynchburg mayor Treney Tweedy, and in partnership with Hill City Community Church, we organized a VUL beautification project to bless the school, and invited students from our colleges and high schools to participate. Students and staff alike raked leaves, picked up trash, prayer walked the campus and cleaned various areas as a means of communicating our love for the school. We plan to do another one next month! Feel free to join us if you are in the area.



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DOWNTOWN WITH THE BROWNS



RHYTHMS OF MINISTRY: FALL RETREAT & GFW

Though the world around us continues to change, some things continue to stay the same: Fall Retreat, Global Focus Week and fall-themed student socials!

FALL RETREAT

This year, we were unsure as to whether or not we would even have a Fall Retreat. Over many weeks, our staff team prayed and considered the pros and cons of being together as a group, and polled the students to see what their desires and comfort levels were. Through much deliberation, we decided to have a one-day event, in order to enjoy fellowship, Biblical teaching, and the joy of focusing on God and His Word.

We had 45 students in attendance and though masks were worn, social distancing was practiced, and lots of sanitization was performed, our group still experienced great joy and developed meaningful relationships! Our speaker Tim Henderson (former Cru staff and current chief of staff at Church of the Holy Spirit in Roanoke and director of Blue Ridge Fellows) took us through two Psalms that hold in tension grieving and hope. Particularly meaningful for our students was the investigation of Psalm 91 through the themes of "return," "satisfy," "gladden," "show," and "establish." Though we had to cut traditional elements that involved close contact (Ultimate Frisbee, Flag Football, etc), students seemed genuinely content to hang out and talk, play cards, or do Just Dance together. We had the pleasure of seeing two people make decisions for Christ and several others rededicate their lives to Him! It was a huge encouragement to us to know that even through this pandemic, God is still at work drawing souls unto Himself.



GLOBAL FOCUS WEEK

Liberty University's annual Global Focus Week was held from October 19-23rd. During the week dozens of ministry organizations are invited to share their opportunities both locally and around the world in order to invite and recruit students to join. Cru representatives for the Jesus Film, our North Africa partnership, Operations and The Every Initiative (Sweden) came to help us connect students to their respective interests. While it was different this year due to the pandemic, for example we were unable to speak in the dorms as we have in the past, it was still a great opportunity to reach students interested in missions. We were blessed to share at our regular weekly meeting, in class-



rooms, and at our info table with hundreds of LU students. There is a lot of interest! Please join us in praying that many LU students will get involved in the work of the Great Commission through Cru!



PRAISES FROM THE BROWNS

- Praise God for the two new believers from Fall Retreat and those who rededicated their lives to Christ! Pray that they would quickly enter into discipleship to foster spiritual growth.
- Pray that as we follow up with contacts from Global Focus Week, students would be drawn to and commit to serving with Cru either locally or internationally!
- Please pray for energy for our team!
- Pray for students who are discouraged with decisions for next semester: with several schools being online, spring breaks being canceled, etc. Please pray that the Lord would meet them in their disappointment.

*May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us;
establish the work of our hands for us—
yes, establish the work of our hands. Psalm 90:17*

We love and appreciate you!
In Christ, Andrew, Jena, Olivia, Logan and Samuel