

DOWNTOWN WITH THE BROWNS



Good Works, Prepared Beforehand

May 2026

The end of the semester serves as a great achievement for staff and students in Cru.

It's such a joy to look back at the end of the semester and see all the wonderful things the Lord has done through His people. We are reminded of Paul's joyful exclamation: "For we are [God's] workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them (Eph.2:10)."



Vision Dinner 2026. Held at the historic Virginian Hotel downtown, we were blessed to host over 100 guests at our annual celebration and fundraising dinner. Shelby Abbott, author, speaker and Cru veteran, gave a message on seeing generations impacted for Christ and the efficacy of the Cru ministry. This dinner is a great occasion for us to not only thank ministry donors in person, but also to raise the funds necessary for ongoing ministry expenses throughout the year.

Leadership Retreats and Graduations. Held at our home, our final meeting with **42 staff and student leaders (!)** served as the punctuation for our ministry this year. Our time was spent planning for High School, Sweet Briar, Randolph, CVCC and LU. Moreover, we are seeing students adopt our vision, "Lynchburg to the ends of the earth," with many of them committing to attending our international trips for next spring! It was also a joy to be able to send our students who were graduating out into the world. We hosted a brunch during graduation weekend and got to see several of our leaders receive their diplomas. What a milestone!



Staff Retreat. Our staff opted to go away for a few days for our annual Days of Planning & Evaluation (DOPE) this year and chose the Outer Banks for its idyllic setting and tranquil views. We were able to celebrate together, connect deeply, and evaluate and plan for next year. What a tremendous joy to be able to spend time with this team we adore!

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praise God for His provision through our Vision Dinner, the appointing of new student leaders, and our staff retreat!
- Although Jena's mission trip was originally scheduled for Rwanda, an Ebola outbreak in the region necessitated a change in plans, and the team has been rerouted to the Dominican Republic. While it is difficult to miss the opportunity for ministry in Rwanda, we are thrilled to be heading to the DR, which is one of our overseas partners.
- This summer we are tasked with raising \$1,500 in monthly support to cover rising costs of living. Please pray that the Lord would provide through individuals, churches or elsewhere!

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