



Ministry Update for the Browns  
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## Fall Retreat Highlights



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# DOWNTOWN WITH THE BROWNS



## FALL RETREAT 2014

What a whirlwind the start of this semester has been — between the multiple events geared to meet first new students to setting up small groups and discipleship to kickoffs of our leadership teams, to managing a group of committed volunteers, we were thrilled to be able to get away to Fall Retreat! This year slightly over a hundred students, staff, volunteers and staff kids spent the weekend at Westview on the James, where we intentionally put the weekend aside as a time to seek the Lord and go deeper in relationship with Him.

Our speaker, Shelby Abbott, is the Communications Director for the Mid-Atlantic Region of Cru as well as the long-time emcee of *Radiate* and *Big Break* conferences. Many of our students were familiar with his humor and ability to engage an audience, but at Fall Retreat they were introduced to his teaching and exhortation abilities. Shelby spoke about the cost of following Jesus and being His disciple. He challenged our students in radical ways, telling them to love the Lord above all else.

During a women's time that Jena facilitated, one student shared a very personal struggle with the group which set the tone for a time where the women could identify with one another's struggles. It was a powerful time that led many women to confess sin and experience deep comfort knowing that they are not alone in their struggles. The results were life changing for some. One of our volunteers shared with Jena a burden she had been carrying and they spent time in prayer. Afterwards, she wrote Jena in an email:

*"Thanks for listening. I felt so light and more free last night during the talk then I have in a while and I realized that I don't think I ever actually said yes to Christ and meant it. I did it last night :) the old is behind and my new life awaits."*

Praise God that the environment that the women of Cru created — welcoming, loving and accepting — resulted in a decision for Christ!

Here is what one new student wrote as her Facebook status after Fall Retreat:

*"On the way home from Westview this afternoon as I was trying to nap, smiles kept creeping up my face as my mind reflected on the last two days. Some of the reasons for the smiles: the Chicken Coop (aka Cabin 3), Shelby Abbott, ice breakers, WORSHIP, costumes, vulnerability, women's time, bonfires and s'mores and guitars and singing, and feeling the Lord's presence in my heart like I haven't for the longest time. So much love for CRU, who are the realest, most encouraging and uplifting people I have ever known. I am so blessed to be in community with you."*

What an incredible endorsement for spending the weekend with Jesus! Thank you for your generous partnership in our ministry. Your prayers, financial commitment and encouragement are absolutely vital to the ministry of Cru at UVA. Thank you so much!

## CRU LARGE GROUP: KEN ELZINGA



If you have spent any amount of time at UVA, you might recognize the person pictured to the left. He is Ken Elzinga the beloved professor of Economics at UVA. Ken has been instrumental in developing and caring for Christian ministry at UVA for over 40 years. We had the privilege of having Ken speak at our 3rd large group meeting of the year. We set a record that evening with 140 students in attendance and all were blessed to hear a powerful message from Ken.

## PRAY FOR THE BROWNS

- Please pray for Fall Retreat to be a stepping stone for students to grow more with God and take greater steps of faith.
- Please pray for our monthly support need.
- Pray for our upcoming outreach event, *The Maze*, to attract a large audience and that many would come out and hear the gospel and have an opportunity to respond.
- Pray against the spiritual warfare we have been experiencing this semester. We know the enemy does not want us at UVA.

*"Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for my soul." — Psalm 66:16*

With love,  
Andrew, Jena, Olivia, Logan and Samuel