



Ministry Update for the Browns  
August 2020



## Zoom in to Expectations

This year, our kids are all attending Lynchburg city schools, which begin virtually August 24. Olivia is in her senior year of high school, Logan is in his sophomore year, and Samuel is in his second grade year. Everything is virtual: Zoom, Google Classroom, and Seesaw. Olivia and Logan are working from home, and Samuel is attending the YMCA throughout the week, where they assist him with his assignments.

Our family, like many, have had various responses to the changes in their education format. Their reactions have vacillated between apathy, resentment, sadness, and even gratitude. This has been a good opportunity for us to process both spoken and unspoken expectations with them, to share in their joy and grief and confusion, and to point them to the Lord, encouraging them to trust in His sovereignty.

Please pray for us as parents! We want to continue to respond in a godly way to their needs so that when they are discouraged, we ourselves don't despair, but are able to love and serve them well and attend to their spiritual, social, intellectual and physical needs.

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# DOWNTOWN WITH THE BROWNS



## AN UNUSUAL START TO THE SEMESTER

There is nothing typical about this semester. It is by far the most different of any that we have experience in 15 years on staff with Cru. Randolph College, VUL, and CVCC are all online for the entire semester. E.C. Glass HS is online for at least the first 9 weeks. Currently Liberty and University of Lynchburg are both on campus and doing in person classes, but that is subject to change at any moment. Unfortunately no outside guests are allowed at either campus. The majority of our interactions with students are online but we have met with some students in small groups off campus.



Sweet Briar is currently the only campus we have permission to visit. Jena and PJ were able to participate in a student fair at Sweet Briar earlier this week. There was a lot more interest in Cru compared to last year. While we had a hard time gaining momentum there last year, we look forward to seeing God move there and more women getting involved.

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At VUL students are online, but the faculty and staff are on campus. There have been a number of changes including the former Mayor of Lynchburg, Treney Tweedy, is now the COO. We have been having conversations with her about how to keep students engaged and connected during the semester. They are giving us some great opportunities to connect with students by giving us a space on their website and allowing us to email all current students to invite them to be part of digital VUL Cru meetings! We also sent students from U of L along with our staff to volunteer as part of their beautification event last Friday and Saturday. We helped clean and paint door frames and walls. It was a great opportunity for us to show that we care for VUL through our actions.



Jena with CJ from U of L painting a dorm at VUL

## MAJOR CHANGES AT LIBERTY

By now you may have heard that Jerry Falwell, Jr. has resigned as the president of Liberty. As community service partners with the University, we are praying for all that are involved. Our hearts break for the Liberty community, and we are praying for the Lord to lead those to repentance that need to repent. We pray, too, that this leads to an improved reputation for Liberty in the eyes of the world so that students and faculty will have more opportunities to influence people for Christ. The students are confused, grieved, and embarrassed. Last night at Liberty's first Campus Community meeting, Pastor David Nasser opened the time with an apology, which served as a salve for what we are hoping is the beginning of a healing work.

Please join us in praying, too, for Jerry Prevo, the acting President and former chairman of the board (whom the students respect, and affectionately refer to as "the new Jerry") as he enters into much stress and conflict, and that the Lord would be behind his leadership decisions. Jerry Prevo was replaced by Dr. Allen McFarland, who is the first black chairman of the board. Interestingly enough, Dr. McFarland's daughter, Regina Robinson and her husband Jua are pastors in Boston and friends of ours. They were our speakers at our first fall retreat we held in Virginia in 2013.



## PRAY FOR THE BROWNS

- Pray for students that continue to be affected by COVID, both mentally and physically.
- Pray for our kids to not be stunted in any way by being online but they would instead flourish during this time period.
- Pray for Liberty University and all of the changes that have recently occurred and that God would be glorified.
- Please pray for our new staff Alexis. With VUL as her main campus being online, pray against discouragement and that God would open doors for discipleship and to share the Gospel with students.

*"Learn to know the God your ancestors intimately. Worship and serve him with your whole heart and a willing mind. For the LORD sees every heart and knows every plan and thought."*

1 Chronicles 28:9

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