



## Ministry Update for the Browns November 2019

### THANKFUL FOR...BORROWED TRADITIONS: WOMEN'S PAJAMA PARTY!



As we are new in Lynchburg—new to the culture, to the students, to the momentum of ministry—often we are adjusting our experience and expectation to the realities of our new context and need to develop strategies that befit our new setting. But there is one tradition that we have happily been able to borrow from past years of ministry: the Women's Pajama Party! We borrowed our tradition from our time in Cville of having a cozy, women-only night of fellowship, and fifty women came over to snuggle on couches, eat baked goods, and listen to a phenomenal speaker. Cheryl Gray, a former Cru staff in the Philippines and mother of one of our Liberty students, shared a moving and redemptive testimony about radical grace. Our students were blown away by her transparency as she opened up about challenging things and what it means to truly forgive in obedience to the Lord. It was a great time to be together! We are looking forward to having a women's overnight next semester.

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### NOVEMBER: A MONTH OF THANKFULNESS AND PRAISE

*November is an obvious time to practice gratitude: besides the less consequential things like the continuing color changes of fall, the extra hour of sleep on Daylight Savings Time, we are drawn to praise God for the ways He uses us, and allows us to be witnesses to what He is doing in the lives of students all around us. We are compelled to praise Him for all the highlights and challenges of ministry! We would love to share a few with you:*

### THANKFUL FOR... LYNCHBURG CRU METRO MEETING!

As you can see from the picture above, our Metro meeting was a huge success as far as the amount of students that came which was over 70. We had all six colleges and one high school represented (no small logistical task!), and a representative of each got to share how the Lord is moving on their respective campus and how we could be praying. Pastor James Hobson of Hill City Community Church spoke on the urgency of following Jesus and living out a vibrant faith before a seeking world. One highlight was being able to debut a worship song we had written as a staff team after seeing five students come to Christ through our Fall Retreat. The song is called "Twice As Much" and has a refrain based off of Psalm 65:8.

### THANKFUL FOR...NEW BELIEVERS!

*We may need to write a new song!* Every week, we go to Central Virginia Community College with students who are interested in learning how to share their faith. We briefly train them, model for them, and then encourage them to go out sharing. We have had the privilege of training hundreds of students this semester through an opportunity with an Evangelism class at Liberty. Often we are privileged to connect with students and engage them in spiritual conversation, but last week we saw FIVE men and women make decisions for Christ! Below is a picture of the three women—dual enrolled high school students who we are connecting with Cru students at their schools. What a privilege and joy! Andrew got to share the Gospel with UB who also accepted Christ. Andrew asked him afterwards how confident he was in his salvation between 1-100%. "100%" he said as we high fived in agreement!



### THANKFUL FOR...TIMES OF FELLOWSHIP AND FUN WITH THE STUDENTS

If the Lynchburg Cru ministry were all about events and execution, we would have a very shallow ministry indeed. One of the highlights of our time with students is just...the students themselves: getting to do life with them, hear their stories, watch them grow, challenge and encourage them in their faith. We love to spend time with them in the context of discipleship as well as times of just fun and silliness. Below is a lazy Sunday apple picking venture (not pictured: the dozens of unsuccessful attempts at teaching Andrew and me how to "woah" which is FYI a dance move!).



For this and so much more, we are truly thankful to the Lord, and to you, our friends and supporters, who make this dream come true for us of seeing students come to Christ, develop in their faith, and get sent out to fulfill the Great Commission. It is beyond easy for us to enter into the national holiday of Thanksgiving with so much to be grateful for.

From our family to you, the Happiest of Thanksgiving to you and yours!

### PRAISES FROM THE BROWNS

- Praise God for the great weekends of teaching and fellowship at the men's and women's events!
- Praise God for the Metro meeting with the first ever representation of Sweet Briar College and VUL!
- Praise God for the beginning of the Cru High School ministry at EC Glass High!
- Praise God for our five new brothers and sisters in Christ this past week!
- Praise God for YOU, our faithful supporters!

*Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

*- 1 Thessalonians 5:18*

With love,

Andrew, Jena, Olivia, Logan and Samuel