



Ministry Update for the Browns
May 2020

SUMMER Connect

This summer, we are inviting students to be part of a community with other believers that sincerely want to grow in their relationship with God.

SUMMER CONNECT is centered on 8 weeks of relevant video content which tackles topics like Embracing God's Love, Finding Identity in Christ, and Stewarding my Ethnicity. The meetings will be online with opportunities to think creatively on how to engage the culture in online evangelism and creating virtual socials. We are excited to be a part of what the Lord will do for local Lynchburg students (though this year we are not limited by location -- anyone can join!).

If you know of someone who would like to participate in Summer Connect with Lynchburg Cru you may encourage them to contact andrew.brown@cru.org



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DOWNTOWN WITH THE BROWNS



AN AMAZING YEAR IN REVIEW

Pictured above, our first day of the year vs. the last with social distancing in place.

May has descended upon us with a bizarre expectancy. Like you, we continue to wonder if there is purpose and meaning behind these uncertain times. Like you, we try to prepare for a whole host of scenarios for the future. Like you, we press into the Lord and try to not worry about tomorrow, "for each day has enough trouble of its own (Matthew 6:34)." This, though, is antithetical to our very nature as college ministers, as we have been planning and preparing for the future for fourteen years every May. It is as seasonal to us as the blooming flowers.

However, several experts, such as ministry strategist Tim Casteel in his blog post entitled, ["What if there's no fall?"](#), have recommended against the typical ornate planning and preparation that occurs in early May as ministry teams around the country concluded the semester with students, coaching groups, discipleships, and staff teams this month, and rather suggested we begin in late June. Though we see the wisdom in that with so many unknowns at this point, it was unusual to devote little time to strategic planning with our team during our "DOPE" (Days of Planning and Evaluation) days with our student leaders and staff.

What resulted instead was a greater focus on prayer, celebration and worship, as we reconsidered all that the Lord had done this year. Our initial mission statement was simply "Double It" - that the Lord would increase two fold what He had done the year before. When we considered the numbers as a team, we could do nothing short of praise His faithful name.

- 17 students came to Christ (*3 last year*)
 - 4 of which Jena and I had the opportunity to lead to Christ
- 70 students attended Fall Retreat from Lynchburg (*28 last year*)
- 27 students attended Winter Conference (*10 last year*)
- 62 students committed to going on an international spring break trip (*45 last year*)
- 10 students accepted to intern as national/international missionaries (*5 last year*). 1 of which will be joining our Lynchburg Team next year!

- 212 students actively involved in serving in Lynchburg Cru (*150 last year*)
- 8 colleges and high schools have Cru movements (*4 last year*)
 - This includes the launch of Cru at VUL, Sweet Briar, and 2 High Schools

We have been so grateful for our team, our students, and (of course) the Lord Himself this year. It has been a relief to table the anxieties and uncertainties of the future to be able to celebrate our supreme, sovereign Lord and His unchanging power and grace. We've also been blessed by the students we have served. Check out the video they made for us at <https://youtu.be/WGhDnBF5j2Q>



PRAY FOR THE BROWNS

- Many of our students continue to struggle with fear towards the future. Please pray that they will find their hope and peace in the One Who is able to grant it.
- Please pray for Summer Connect! We begin the second week of June.
- Please pray that we would be able to plan well in accordance with the times we find ourselves in and that we would seek wisdom only from the Lord.
- Pray that our children would adjust to school ending and that we would find ways to keep them engaged (especially Samuel)!

"Why are you downcast o my soul? And why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God, for I again shall praise Him, my salvation and my God."

Psalm 42:5

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