

Ministry Update for the Browns
September 2022



Begin With Sabbath

This year, we decided to begin the year with a Sabbath! We rented a very nice Airbnb and our entire staff team including their spouses were able to come together, relax, play, and worship God together! As the beginning of the semester is often hectic and busy, it was a true gift for all of us to be able to spend time together and laugh. Favorite moments were the Escape Room (pictured above where we had to escape a submarine!), playing Avalon (which I am terrible at) and petting the snake Ian caught in the creek behind the house!

We love our staff team and are so blessed not only for their gifts and abilities, but by their love for the Lord and devotion to Him. It is inspiring to be leading them in our context, and we expect the Lord to do great things!!

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THE BEST AND BUSIEST TIME OF YEAR!

There's nothing quite like the fall semester! The year starts off with a whirlwind of activity, where new students timidly walk through their first year of school with wonder, amazement, and questions. What will my time here be like? Who will my friends be? What do I believe?

Studies have shown that the first two weeks of college are the most influential in determining a student's friend group. As Lynchburg Cru, we make it a priority to meet as many students as we can in order to advertise Cru as a place where students can experience fellowship with God and one another. It's the best time of year, a time filled with energy and excitement but also very busy! Our first few weeks on campus are a lot of tabling. Tabling is setting up a banner, sign up sheets and giveaways in order to meet students and invite them to be part of Cru and to our events.

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

 Because we now have the privilege of being a club at Liberty, we are listed online and can promote our group through tabling and flyers. It has made a huge difference as we were delighted to see 70 students at our first meeting which is the most ever to attend. We have quite a few students to follow up with who are looking to be trained in how to lead small groups, how to launch movements on other campuses, and how to share their faith — a great problem to have!

SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE

Sweet Briar College was one of the schools that lost its momentum when Covid hit, but this year, we have been seeing ten students coming out to Cru. For a very small school, that is significant! Our tabling opportunities gave us time to meet and connect with many women so we are grateful to see that it has had an impact in students coming out to our meetings and social events.

VUL BLOCK PARTY

Of all the milestones we have had this has been the sweetest re-launch. Last year there were NO residential students at VUL (HBCU founded in 1886), and we were not able to have access to the students. This year, with the generous support of Thomas Road Baptist Church, we held a campus wide event on the day of orientation. — TRBC provided 80 large pizzas from Upper Crust for the event. We are floored at their generosity and partnership!

80 PIZZAS!



We welcomed 200 students to VUL with lawn games, music and food and invited them to be a part of Cru on their campus. It was truly a joy to see that the Lord can make all things new! We

even had student leaders from Randolph College and Liberty helping at the VUL Block Party. Our next step is to start a weekly meeting to gather believers and non-believers alike to build a community for students to experience Christ.



PRAY FOR THE BROWNS

- September continues to be a busy month! Please pray for Global Focus Week, a weeklong conference at Liberty where we will be able to connect with hundreds of students and invite them into the fulfillment of the Great Commission!
- Please pray for our Fall Retreat! We are trying a new venue this year and would love for prayer that it would be a time where our community deepens as a citywide movement!
- Please pray for continued favor for Cru at VUL and Sweet Briar and that we can establish thriving groups where students are challenged and encouraged in their faith.

He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.—Colossians 1:28

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