



Ministry Update for the Browns  
January 2019

## A HEART FOR JESUS

Two days before his 44th birthday, Andrew suffered a heart attack caused by two arteries that were 100% blocked. He had been doing exhaustive yard work in extremely cold weather in preparation for an impending snowstorm. We spent the snowstorm at Martha Jefferson Hospital, where Andrew had surgery to receive two stents to open the arteries. Though there is a history of heart disease in Andrew's family, it came as a shock to us. Ironically, Andrew was born at Martha Jefferson — a place which has brought him life now, twice! Andrew spent his birthday in the hospital recovering, praising God for his life and for the opportunity to continue to enjoy the life He has given us.

Now more than ever we are compelled to continue to do the work that the Lord has called us to. Facing Andrew's mortality reminds us that life indeed is a vapor (James 4:14), and that the gospel is an urgent message to be delivered to a world whose destiny is to die (once) and then face judgment (Hebrews 9:27). We are grateful for the work He has called us to and for you, our generous and gracious supporters, who enable the work.

*\*Please contact Jena privately if you feel led to help in Andrew's recovery.*

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# DOWNTOWN WITH THE BROWNS



## DECISIONS MADE AT CRU WINTER CONFERENCE!

Why do we love ringing in the New Year with Cru Winter Conference/Baltimore? Why do we spend hours upon hours preparing, recruiting, finding scholarship money and traveling with our three kids to a regional conference of a thousand college students?

Because the results, every year, are miraculous. We see our students eyes opened to the greater body of Christ beyond their own college or university. We see them, like one CVCC student, renounce recurrent sin in their lives and turn to Christ. We see students open to taking bold steps of faith, from going out to urban Baltimore to serve, to bringing spiritual discussion on social media to unreached friends and family, to taking the gospel message to the world.

This year, we had 45 students attend from our schools in Charlottesville and Lynchburg. Besides enjoying great fellowship, hearing incredible and challenging speakers, and learning culturally savvy ways to share the gospel with iGen, we saw our students boldly make life-changing decisions that we can only attribute to the Lord.



- A CVCC student made the decision to invest her Spring Break bringing the gospel to a closed country in North Africa (student's name and photo withheld for security purposes)
- Amber from UVA made the decision to invest her summer in Cru's Ocean City Summer Mission
- Kari from PVCC made the decision to invest her summer bring the gospel to a closed country in East Asia
- Nolvín from PVCC made the decision to invest his year interning with Cru

...and these are only *a few* of the stories of decisions made by students at Cru WC! We are grateful for the opportunity to galvanize the momentum of the Spirit moving for the benefit of our students' growth in their walks with Christ.

### ...AND NOW BACK TO OUR REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAM

January is a month of reconnecting with students, revisiting faith goals and reviewing how we can best serve the campus communities building spiritual movements. The past week our staff have brought leadership to SIX different Leadership Retreats. That is a record, even for us! Each retreat was a great opportunity for our students and staff to unite in mission and purpose through planning Bible studies, events and prayer strategies!

### WELCOME ERIC AND BLAIR!



For this semester only, we are adding Eric Carlsen and Blair Cook, International Cru staff who will be serving in Sweden in a few short months, to our staff team. Blair and Eric both have served on STINT (Cru's short term missionary program) in the Dominican Republic (team picture:

Eric in front, Blair in blue) and are humble, encouraging men with boundless energy and incredible hearts for the Lord. They will be primarily serving on our campuses in Lynchburg. Join us in welcoming them to our team!

## PRAY FOR THE BROWNS

- Praise God for Andrew's successful surgery and please pray for his recovery.
- Praise God for all He did in and through students at the Winter Conference.
- Please pray for Eric and Blair as they jump into a complicated ministry context! Pray that students will receive them well and they would be encouraged by the work they are called to in this season!
- Pray for the direction set at each Leadership Retreat to serve the student leaders well this semester!



Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

Hebrews 9:27-28

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