



October 2025

***Global Focus Week and Fall Retreat:
To the World and Back Again!***



The two biggest events of the fall come and go within the first six weeks of the semester. **Global Focus Week is a missions conference put on by Liberty University** the last full week of September. Organizations from all over the world such as Samaritan's Purse, World Help, and Operation Blessing attend -- there are **tables hosting hundreds of organizations that share opportunities with students interested in going to the world**. We hosted a table for local and global opportunities as we shared with hundreds of students about our upcoming trips to the Dominican Republic, Japan, France, and Rwanda! We had opportunities throughout the week not just to connect at our table with students, but we were given the opportunity to speak in classrooms, on dorm floors, and in RA classes. All told, **we were given access to share about Cru with over 2,000 students that week!** This has resulted in a couple of our trips filling up already. We have never had this happen so quickly!

As quickly as GFW was over, we sprung into action hosting our **7th annual Fall Retreat**, this time held at Thomas Road Outpost, a beautiful campground with astonishing mountain views and plenty of activities for students. Tim Henderson, pastor and director of Blue Ridge Fellows, was our keynote speaker and preached on the Servant Songs from the book of Isaiah, and shared with the **90 staff and students** from Liberty, CVCC, Randolph, Sweet Briar College, and Mary Washington.



Jena casually connected with junior LU student Abby during the retreat to ask how she was enjoying it. She was moved by the landscape and the Scripture, but was having trouble slowing down, having left the frenzied pace of college life behind for the weekend but still feeling its effects, as well as feeling burdened for other friends who were walking through weighty issues. Jena was able to pray with her and felt led to read Psalm 46 over her. Abby was visually moved and told her that she had JUST been reading that psalm. Jena mentioned that this is evidence that God sees and cares for her, and encouraged her to go spend time with God. Abby found a beautiful location where two hikers eventually passed by. They mentioned that the place she was sitting was a well known place for prayer and that people would often read Psalm 46 in that very location! We praise God for revealing that He is a God who is intimately involved in the affairs of His children, that "will be exalted among the nations (and) in all the earth (Ps. 46:10)."

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Praise God for the hundreds of students that were able to hear about gospel opportunities with Cru. Please pray that we would be able to recruit and mobilize these students well.
- Praise God for the Fall Retreat, and for God's presence amongst our students and staff and His renewing work (including seeing two students make decisions for Christ!!!).
- Pray for the continued spiritual health of our students as the semester continues on with its demands and responsibilities, that they would prioritize their time with Jesus.

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