



Ministry Update for the Browns May 2021

OUR FAVORITE MEMBER OF THE CLASS OF 2021!

Olivia continues to amaze us! Not only did she start Cru High School at E.C. Glass, not only has she held down a job for a year and is now a Team Lead at Panera, and NOT ONLY has she taken college courses, played Varsity Field Hockey, and tutored fellow students, but she has graduated from high school in the midst of a pandemic! With the loss of many rites of passage (homecoming, prom, etc.), we are proud of the woman she has become—persevering, innovative, and hardworking.

We were thrilled that we could attend her high school graduation in person and were able to cheer for her accomplishment! Olivia will be attending Northwestern University in the fall. We are excited for this opportunity for her and to explore Evanston and Chicago! If you are local or have lived in the area in the past and would like to offer tips on anything from how to bear the cold to where to get the best sushi, we would love to hear from you!



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LIFE CHANGING FOR THE DR...AND FOR US



How would you sum up a week that was meant to change the lives of those you were there to serve, but instead changed your life?

This past week, Jena, our two interns, and 13 Lynchburg Cru students traveled to Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic on a missions trip in partnership with an organization called Filter of Hope. Partnering with the local church, we distributed and installed water filters for individuals and families who did not have access to clean water, and used the illustration of water as a means of presenting the gospel with an opportunity to respond. None of us could have anticipated the blessings that we witnessed, received, and extended to others.



How would you share about a week where you saw not only the physical legacies of families—generations—transformed, but also the spiritual legacies of those same families and generations to come? How could you possibly articulate the heartbreak of waterborne disease, the joy of sharing God's love, the wonder of seeing Him move worldwide?

Would you do it by statistics?

- 81 filters distributed
- 107 gospel conversations
- 21 decisions for Christ, 7 rededications
- 4 baptisms of our team mates

Or share a personal story, an eyewitness account?

A man who had been sick for two years in a migrant Haitian community that we visited met with our team. Though he was bed-ridden and unable to hold down even water at the time we met him, he was a believer and full of joy. He was grateful to our team for meeting with and praying for him, and encouraged them in the work they were doing. Hours later, he went to be with



the Lord. We believe that the Lord spared his life in order that we might be blessed with his example of faith over fear, gratitude, and mission.

Would you show pictures of the faces that you adore, that you will pray for lifelong, that remind you that your God has a great and powerful mission of redemption that you are a part of?

This mission trip was an unbelievable time where we saw the Lord bring hope to many people not only in their temporal circumstances, by giving access to clean water, but by giving hope in their eternal circumstances, as those who made decisions for Jesus Christ now have the living water from which streams eternal life. Thank you for your support and partnership with us in this endeavor. We are grateful beyond words.



PRAY FOR THE BROWNS

- Please pray for our summer to be fruitful for the ministry as we seek to raise funds for the Lynchburg Cru ministry account, recruit volunteers, and prepare for the upcoming year!
- Please pray for our Cru High School Bible Study that we will begin next week! We will be teaching inductive Bible study to our students. Pray that our students would want to remain engaged and desire to read the Bible.
- Please pray for our daughter (and the upcoming freshman class) to transition well and to pursue the Lord and put Him first. Pray she will get connected into Christian community quickly!

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again,"¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (Jn 4:13-14)

Love, Andrew, Jena, Olivia, Logan and Samuel