

# DOWNTOWN WITH THE BROWNS

## The Mission: Lynchburg...to the Ends of the Earth



Aug/Sept 2025



Well-loved, inspiring, insane: Three words to describe the start of the fall semester every year. It is such a joy to hit the ground running with a team of staff that are enthusiastic and joyful and hardworking for Jesus! See below for the past few weeks' highlight reel:

**STAFF RETREAT.** This year we took our well-loved staff team to Richmond where we got to re/connect about the direction the Lord will have us go this year. Our mission statement above is reflective of Acts 1:8 "...but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judaea and Samaria, and to the ends of the Earth." Our aim is to develop a sending hub to every continent, and to mobilize laborers to send into the harvest. While in a local record store during the retreat, a woman overheard Jena sharing her testimony with Dristin and began asking questions, which led to her sharing about her spiritual bondage, and some of our staff praying for her at her request. It was a sobering reminder of the need for the hope of the gospel locally and abroad.



**LOVING OUR LEADERS.** We had an inspiring student overnight retreat - our second time doing so! Besides food, worship, walking downtown, and late night games, we were able to share the three tenets of our strategic plan: to develop **hearts for God** (through designated prayer and worship events) to **witness locally** (at CVCC, Sweet Briar, Randolph, and area high schools), and to **send globally** (this year our international sending includes France, Japan, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, and Rwanda in the spring!).



**SEMESTER START!** Our first meetings have happened across all our campuses and have been a huge encouragement to us! We have planned quite a few socials and events for students to be able to get to know Cru such as a Pickleball Tournament, Scavenger Hunt, and visit to Charlottesville. Having lots of opportunities to connect with students enables us to have quality face time with those who are interested in getting involved with the opportunities we provide. Check out our events! Which would be your favorite?

LYNCHBURG CRU EVENTS			
8/21	WEEKLY MEETING KICKOFF Pizza Provided Thursday @ 7:00pm   DeMoss 1134	8/25	FAMILY DINNER Monday @ 6:00pm At The Browns' (8 Riverview Pl)
8/30	CRU SCAVENGER HUNT Explore Downtown Lynchburg	9/6	WORLD HELP SERVICE EVENT/LUNCH
9/13	CRU FIELD TRIP: TASTE OF CHARLOTTESVILLE	9/19	CRU PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT
9/22-9/26	GLOBAL FOCUS WEEK Visit the Cru table!	10/3-10/5	FALL RETREAT AT THOMAS ROAD OUTPOST

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for the start of the semester: that many students will get involved with Cru and want to take advantage of opportunities we provide!
- Pray that we would be good stewards of the trips we will be sending out this year. We are offering winter and spring break trips to Tokyo, Japan; Toulouse, France; Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; San Salvador, Costa Rica; and Daytona Beach, Florida!
- Pray that Monday Night Dinner continues to be a place where students feel welcomed and enjoy meaningful Christian fellowship.

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