

# Downtown With The Browns: Business as Usual (B.A.U.)\*\*!

*\*\*Although, when serving the Lord, our “business” in Lynchburg is anything BUT usual!*

In February, we settle into a rhythm of ministry that lends itself to a feeling of comfort and that builds connections.

**February 2024**

## B.A.U at Home!

**“You’re, like, my Lynchburg mom!”** We have made it a weekly priority to host students in our home for **Monday Night Dinner**. This is the highlight of our week and for our students as well. Often they will share how they think of us as parental figures in their lives -- a role that we try to uphold with reverence and honor. We are grateful to have been in ministry long enough to go from being seen as peers to parents! As parents of college students, we are beginning to understand how important it is for them to feel that they have a home away from home, a place they feel welcomed in as vital members of the family of God. At our Dinners we do everything from game nights to themed dinners (we just did a 50s party for Jena’s birthday party) to making Valentine’s gifts. It feels like a party every week!

This month, we hosted missionaries from The Every Initiative (TEI) in Sweden at Monday Night Dinner and presented **THE VERY FIRST TEI CONVERSATION CAFE IN THE US!** A Conversation Café is a casual discussion forum that helps people engage in profound conversations, with subject matter designed to engage people in meaningful conversations. Splitting groups into different rooms in our home, each room had a facilitator who would ask questions related to a specific topic (everything from ethics to finances to intimacy). In postmodern Sweden, these conversations can serve as a bridge to connect Jesus to everyday life, thus being able to present the gospel “in season and out of season.” At Monday Night Dinner, our students were delighted by the format and many have expressed a desire to bring this forum to the more liberal area colleges such as Sweet Briar College and Randolph College.

*I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. 2 Timothy 4:1-2*

### Prayer Requests:

- We are about to embark on FOUR different spring break mission trips encompassing over FIFTY students from Lynchburg!! Please pray for safety and that the Holy Spirit would speak through our students, and that we would see new believers in Orebro and Gothenburg, Sweden; Dominican Republic; and Panama City!
- Please pray that our staff and students will remain healthy -- we have had illness going around campuses.



L to R: Students dressed up for a 50s party, making Valentine’s cards and gifts, Conversation Cafe.



## B.A.U on campus!

At our campus contexts at Liberty, CVCC, Randolph and Sweet Briar Colleges, and JF HS, we continue to host our weekly meetings, coach leaders, table to promote Cru, and do outreach regularly: weekly evangelism at LU and CVCC and outreach events at Sweet Briar and Randolph. At Sweet Briar, a place notoriously hostile to the gospel,

**our students boldly hosted a “What is Love?” outreach on Valentine’s Day**, where students filled out cards sharing their definition of love. **Almost half of the student body participated!** students shared verses like John 3:16 and 1 John 3:16 when asked what their thoughts were on the subject. We also prioritize staff socials. This month we did a staff Chopped challenge (pictured left) -- we were given a number of ingredients and tasked with making an appetizer and dessert. (My team won with fritters and chocolate creme tortas!) It is the business-as-usual that our Lynchburg Cru community is able to count on to maintain a foundational presence, where students can count on our community as a place to truly be seen, known, and loved.

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