



Ministry Update for the Browns
Summer 2019

KIDS IN COLORADO

"I don't know if I've ever had a summer as formative, spiritually, as this one," Logan shared during a family devotional. "I've never felt this known." During the summer, our kids have had the privilege of participating in CruStu and Kids' Camp, programs run by Cru staff and students who serve on the Foot of the Rockies summer mission. These programs fuse high energy, age appropriate play, Bible study, and outreach in a beautiful setting that highlights God's creation and the fellowship of His people in a way that speaks to children and teens. All three of our kids said it was the highlight of their year and were sad to leave. We praise God for the men and women who gave their summers to serving kids like ours for His glory! Below is Samuel getting some air at the bungee jump at our Cru 19 welcome party.



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DOWNTOWN WITH THE BROWNS



INDESCRIBABLE SUMMER IN FORT COLLINS!

How can you put God's grace into words? In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul celebrates the "surpassing grace God has given." He describes it as...indescribable (ἀνεκδύγητος in the Greek, meaning unspeakable). This is the sentiment we would use to describe our summer. There are no words for God's deep care and grace for us—we are stunned into silence at His goodness.



Jena was able to attend Team Leader training and spent three of the four weeks enrolled in our home-away-from-home, Fort Collins. Though a team leader for a while now, Jena had not had opportunity to attend the training. As she honed her understanding and knowledge of Cru's Leadership Framework and was exposed to tools that help to support staff and the inner-workings of the campus ministry, she was able to draw from her experiences in the role to highlight successes and failures as a leader.

We are grateful that she had the opportunity to experience this before the onset of our Lynchburg ministry, as the training helped boost her confidence and gave her many tools to be an effective leader! Andrew, on the other hand, was given an opportunity to use the time to set our new ministry context in Lynchburg up well, establishing a budget and other critical infrastructural components necessary for the ministry to thrive in its inception.

This past year was marked by a whirlwind of activity bordering on chaos:

Andrew's health issues

Our farewell to our beloved ministry in Charlottesville
Selling and purchasing homes in CHO and LYH
Our acclimation to a new city: establishing our children in new schools with new friends and new activities
Various house projects novel to us as new owners of a historic home (Google "knob and tube")

Though a necessary part of our role as staff, we were, quite honestly, not sure that traveling to Colorado for the summer would be good for our family...the timing, leaving our new home after being there for just three weeks. However...there is something radically beautiful and restorative about the landscape, the cool alpine air...the views. Being in "God's Country" enabled us to take many collective deep breaths, to reflect on what the Lord has done, and to worship Him as we recognized His purpose, presence and faithfulness to us.

Following Team Leader training was our biennial Staff Conference, Cru19. A collection of incredible Spirit-filled speakers, pastors and educators came to Colorado State University to worship, seek the Lord and fellowship as we discussed best practices for reaching the world for Christ. Our focus this year was on evangelism, and together the thought leaders and conference organizers helped us to wrestle with how to bring the gospel to the unreached in a complex moral, ethnic, and politically polarized environment. We love the conference for the incredible teaching, missional orientation, and worship, and because it is a chance for us to see dear friends of ours whom we have served with in Cru from around the country and world. If you would like to listen to talks from the conference visit www.cru.org/cru19



PRAY FOR THE BROWNS

- We praise God for our time in Colorado as a family—a much needed opportunity to experience His restoration and renewal, setting us up very well to begin our ministry in Lynchburg.
- Pray for the beginning of our time in Lynchburg, that as we soak the grounds in prayer and petition, God would give us vision and insight to develop a new thing here.
- Pray for Olivia, Logan, and Samuel and the beginning of the school year. They know only a few people at their schools. Pray that they would make new friends quickly and that those friends would point them to Christ and be an encouragement to them!

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! - 2 Corinthians 9:15

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