



Ministry Update for the Browns
February 2014

LET ME BE A BLESSING

Jena, admittedly, gets nervous when speaking and wonders how her messages could have an impact. Before recently speaking at our large group meeting (on the stoning of Stephen in Acts 6/7), Jena prayed to simply let God use her to bless others. In her message, she shared personally about how she identified with the idolatry the Jews engaged in in relation to their law and the temple, both of which found ultimate fulfillment in Christ, but which Stephen was murdered to preserve. She challenged the students to imagine their lives fitting into the book of Acts.

Before the event, Jena posted about it on Facebook and to her delight, a UVA law professor friend, Jessica, attended! After hearing Jena's message, she thanked her and told her it was a great encouragement to her, and that the questions presented for application were directly relevant to where she was spiritually at the time. We praise God for this opportunity to serve faculty at UVA!

Another great thing happened that night: one of our students, Claudia, had been praying about attending Big Break but was discouraged by the lack of support from family. But after hearing the talk that evening, she felt God calling her to take a step of faith and registered THAT NIGHT! We praise God, too, for moving in Claudia's life and for His faithfulness in letting us bless others! He is truly a God who hears us and responds (1 John 5:14-15)!

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DOWNTOWN WITH THE BROWNS



KALEH RETREAT!



We have had the privilege of working very hard this month! This month our women's ministry, called Kaleh, had its annual overnight retreat which Jena brought leadership and direction to along with Nicole (our beloved new staff!) and two student leaders at the cabins in Crabtree Falls, VA. It was a fun time of getting to know one another, as we had over forty women attend! Our keynote speaker was Dr. Sonia Cabell, a research scientist and lecturer for the Curry School (UVA's school of education) and also a college friend of Andrew's. Dr. Cabell did a phenomenal job sharing her personal testimony, coming from a background of Islam, and how the Lord made Himself known to her.



She then went on to share a message from the book of Esther and how God used her position and background to save an entire nation. She challenged our women to investigate how God could be using the extraordinary opportunities He has given them by earning a degree at one of the most prestigious universities in the US (#19 on Forbes for 2013!). It was an incredibly applicable message for the women of Kaleh.

MISSIONS ARE WHAT WE DO

One of the things that we have been focusing on is creating a "go" culture within Cru based on Jesus' command to "go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." from Matthew 28. As a staff team we have been diligent in challenging students to take steps of faith, praying for them and committing to going ourselves.

The results so far have been amazing. 38 students are going to the Big Break conference over spring break to share the gospel on the beach for a week and grow in their faith. A week on mission!

Since August we've been challenging students to consider Summer Projects (5-10 week long summer mission trips) and have been praying specifically that God would call 15 to go. As of today, there are 10 that have been accepted to go and more that are still considering applying. Pray that we would see even more than the 15 we are hoping for go!

PRAY FOR THE BROWNS

- Please pray for Andrew's director's retreat this month, that he would have renewed vision and great encouragement and fellowship from the other directors.
- Please pray for Big Break! We have 38 students attending this year — almost triple the amount of students that went last year! Pray that it would be an incredible opportunity for our students to experience the Lord and the value of fellowship, evangelism and ministry.
- Pray for our marriage and family's well-being!

And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him. —1 John 5:14-15

Love, Andrew, Jena, Olivia, Logan and Samuel