







CHRISTIAN
UNION

As we commemorate 15 years of ministry,
we joyfully celebrate God's provision and grace.
Please join with us in giving thanks!

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“For 15 years, the Lord has bestowed practical resources, certainly, but also the necessary spiritual vitality, through fresh outpourings of His Holy Spirit, to make Him known among people desperate for the saving, sanctifying Gospel of Jesus Christ.”



This year marks the 15th anniversary of Christian Union. In April, we had the joy of celebrating the Lord's blessing and provision for so many years with a few hundred students, alumni, and professionals at the annual Nexus conference. What could be more fitting than to rejoice along with the very people that God has called this ministry to reach and develop as godly leaders?

For 15 years, the Lord has bestowed practical resources, certainly, but also the necessary spiritual vitality, through fresh outpourings of His Holy Spirit, to make Him known among people desperate for the saving, sanctifying Gospel of Jesus Christ. Elisabeth Elliot once remarked, "Things happen which would *not* happen without prayer. Let us not forget that." God moved powerfully in response to many prayers.

Over the years, His call has taken Christian Union from ministering solely on key college campuses, to transitioning alumni into major cities and developing programs that support them and their peers as they serve the Lord in various fields. More recently, the Lord has impressed upon us the urgency of calling the nation to seek God wholeheartedly, which we commenced this year through a new arm of the ministry.

The following report shares the progress that took place in 2016-17 in these three facets of the ministry: Universities, Cities, and Christian Union Day & Night. We praise God for signs of new and renewed life in each of these areas, and we extend our deepest thanks to those who prayed for and financially supported the ministry. This is the fruit of your spiritual and financial investment, and evidence of God's great mercy.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Matthew Bennett

Matthew Bennett, Founder and CEO





One of these former students (left) is now in his first year at Harvard Law. Another works on Wall Street, in investment banking. A third is in a PhD program at the University of Chicago. Yet another has pursued a career in the entertainment industry and is now working in Hollywood.

These are only a few of the 1,500 students who have been involved in a Christian Union ministry since 2002.

The story of Christian Union's last 15 years is, in part, the story of these men and women. The story is also about their futures. Many will occupy roles that shape some aspect of the nation's culture. By God's grace, their influence will be a blessing.

Our prayer is that, wherever the Lord leads them, they would walk closely with Him and be equipped and motivated to make a difference in their spheres of influence. As one Christian Union ministry fellow put it, "We pray that these students would dedicate themselves to Christ and His purposes in this world, and become godly Christian leaders that transform society." This will look different for each person. This sweeping vision may take decades to fully realize.

Christian Union's story can not be fully told after just 15 years. But because God is at work, the story gets more interesting with every passing year.



Christian Union Universities



Fifteen years ago, Christian Union commenced with three students forming its first Bible course. Today, the ministry serves students at Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, Harvard Law, Penn, Princeton, Stanford, and Yale. This year, praise God, more than 1,600 students were involved in Christian Union's programs, including weekly leadership lecture series, conferences, outreach, book distributions, daily prayer, fasting, and more.

A Focused Approach

These exceptional universities bring together some of the most leadership-minded, motivated students in the world, yet they are sorely in need of the Gospel and robust Christian resources and influence. Our part is to tell students about Jesus Christ, disciple them, augment their leadership training, and allow His power to transform students' lives, these institutions, and, God willing, the nation.

Christian Union's focused and intensive approach is bearing fruit in changed lives and godly influence.

Hope for the Nation

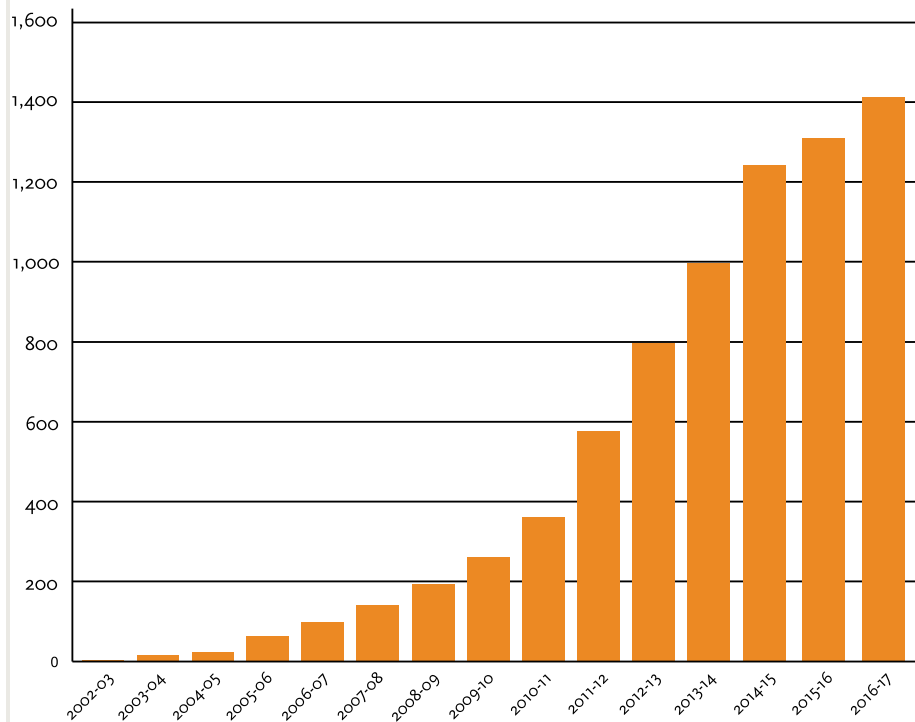
The United States is in dire need of transformation. Today, the Gospel is advancing at these otherwise secular schools that greatly shape our culture. Students are coming to new life in Jesus Christ and learning to live for Him. The class of 2017 was the largest graduating class yet of those involved with the ministry. As alumni step into their callings and careers, their godly leadership will bless us all.

Applying Scripture to Life & Leadership

Christian Union's goals for students are: to come to faith in Christ; to develop a seeking God lifestyle; to experience significant spiritual growth; and to leverage leadership roles across campus to practice godly influence. The ministry's Gospel-centric, relationally intensive programs and activities are geared to these outcomes.

This year, 1,409 students met weekly for Christian Union's small, intensive Bible courses. Bible courses are essential for students to hear and understand the Gospel fully, and unpack a biblical worldview and what it means to live for Christ.

Christian Union Bible Course (All Schools) Enrollment, 2002-2017



High-Caliber Ministry Faculty

Most students at these institutions have scant contact with a local church or ministry, and many are shaped by the worldview espoused by professors. Students need instructors able to impart the richness of the Gospel, the intellectual viability of Christianity, and practical implications of a biblical worldview.

To address this need, Christian Union hires exceptional ministry faculty. Most have earned seminary or other graduate degrees, and many have backgrounds that blend professional and ministry experience. Their presence provides valuable continuity from year to year, and a reservoir of spiritual, intellectual, and practical wisdom for students.



Ministry Faculty Spotlight: Jim Thomforde

Jim Thomforde, Christian Union director of undergraduate ministry at Cornell, attended Trinity College. After playing for a New York Yankees' minor league team, he worked in finance for Salomon Smith Barney and Citigroup. Thomforde earned a MA in Theology and a MA in Church History from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and is a PhD candidate in systematic theology at the University of Edinburgh. His PhD focuses on the theology of happiness according to the Enlightenment theologian and revivalist Jonathan Edwards. This spring, Thomforde taught a five-week course on God and happiness. Cornell students received credit through the class offered via Gordon College. In addition to his full-time role as Christian Union director, Thomforde serves as chaplain to Cornell's football team.

Jim Thomforde and his wife, Liz, have two children, JT and Ella. The family itself is woven into students' lives, and their home is a place to experience God's love tangibly.



2011

YEAR MINISTRY
WAS LAUNCHED

73

STUDENTS IN
BIBLE COURSES

782

HOURS IN PRAYER
DURING THE YEAR

In its third year at Brown, Christian Union is seeing the Gospel gain ground. Students in a summer book group on Tim Keller's *Counterfeit Gods* concluded, "we are always going to be battling idols in our lives." Bible course enrollment jumped to 73 students. At the fall conference, 40 students dug into what it means to trust God.

Many students credited time spent in mentorship meetings with ministry fellows as vital to their spiritual and leadership growth. One student noted, "I meet with our ministry fellow on a weekly accountability basis, and that has been crucial ..."

The winter conference drew 16 students for a time off-campus to focus on being on mission with Jesus and making the Kingdom visible on campus and beyond. Meanwhile, the weekly leadership lecture series fostered space for healthy, Christ-centered dialogue on complex topics including sexuality, politics, race, and mental health. Students enjoyed a panel discussion with recent alumni about living out faith in college.

In March, the ministry co-hosted a physicist addressing *How Science Points to a Creator*. The lecture covered everything from cosmology to physics to biology.

The Judson Center, Christian Union's ministry center at Brown, saw heavy use with meetings and events. The ministry held a women's retreat, themed "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made," inspired by Proverbs 31. Inspired by insights from a Christian Union Bible course, *Sex & Spirituality*, upperclassmen Nick Chuan '17 and Kylen Soriano '18 organized an overnight event for the men. Teachings and small-group discussions centered around sexual purity and honorable ways of treating women.

“We saw students come together in deeper community with one another; leaders used their gifts to serve one another and the campus at large; God’s Word studied, absorbed, and applied; an increased desire to see the Gospel of Jesus proclaimed in word and deed; and a deepening love and affection for our Lord and Savior, Jesus.”

– Justin Doyle
Christian Union
Ministry Fellow at Brown

As finals approached, students organized a “Text for Chick-fil-A” event. Peers were invited to text a question about Christianity, God, or spirituality. A student from the ministry delivered a sandwich and an answer. Gianna Uson ’18 reported receiving “around 200 texts within the first 15-20 minutes.” Some were more interested in conversation than the free sandwich. As the sandwiches ran out, texts asked for someone to come for conversation anyway. Praise God for opening doors to share one-on-one.

The ministry team at Brown reported: “We have seen student after student step into leadership roles that have not only benefited our ministry, but served to give students real-life leadership experience from a Christian perspective.”

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY MANHATTAN

2011

YEAR MINISTRY
WAS LAUNCHED

196

STUDENTS IN
BIBLE COURSES

1,685

HOURS IN PRAYER
DURING THE YEAR

The ministry at Columbia University experienced God’s mercy in many ways. At the off-campus winter conference, the Lord drew students closer to Himself and displayed His power in two students’ miraculous physical healings. At least one student learned to pray for the first time. On campus, ministry fellows guided 196 students through rich Bible course materials and mentored many individually.

Ministry Fellow Jesse Peterson (who is writing his doctoral thesis on Ecclesiastes) conducted a weekend seminar for students interested in learning methodological tools for rigorous exegesis of biblical text. Peterson accepted a rare invitation to address a Columbia classroom studying Ecclesiastes. The opportunity was welcome, because, although Columbia’s core curriculum includes portions of the Bible, it is most commonly now taught as literature only, or as mythology.



The leadership lecture series was edifying and challenging. Guest speakers included a Grammy-nominated musician, an artist, a pastor, and a professor. Topics covered: the arts; suffering; forgiveness; Jesus and His use of power; the importance of the church; mental illness; and more. The ministry hosted a panel to address race and the Gospel, and the role of Christians in addressing this pressing social need.

Students found ways to be a witness on a secular campus infamous for its intensity and atmosphere of competition. They made intellectual contributions in the classroom and through publications; interceded through campus prayer walks and fasting; and performed outreach and acts of kindness, such as giving out hundreds of copies of *Mere Christianity* and hundreds of sandwiches to communicate God's love.

The ministry made inroads into the social, academic, and, especially, athletic spheres. Ministry Director Jim Black served as volunteer chaplain for Columbia's football team, and other ministry fellows led devotionals for women's basketball. "There is a strong temptation for students to have their identity wrapped into their performance," Black said. "That takes a toll."

“We dream of the Gospel going forward into every pocket of campus—the arts, career groups, the Greek system. The first unique door the Lord opened, chronologically, was into athletic life.”

- Jim Black, Christian Union Ministry Director

Black's wise counsel to athletes applied to many aspects of student life at Columbia: "The sport you love is a really great sport but it's a terrible savior. Jesus is the one who saved you. You can play with incredible freedom and play for His glory."

2012

YEAR MINISTRY
WAS LAUNCHED

146

STUDENTS IN
BIBLE COURSES

1,566

HOURS IN PRAYER
DURING THE YEAR

Now among the largest student organizations on campus, Christian Union at Cornell exerted a gracious influence on campus. God opened the door for Christian Union's ministry director to assume a chaplaincy position for the football team. Of the 146 students in a weekly Bible course, some were reading the Bible for the first time. And after exploring what it means that "the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many," students felt more articulate about their faith, and challenged to live out Christ's sacrificial love. A sophomore praying for her co-ed fraternity shared: "I'm so glad God is trusting me and giving me opportunities to help bring His word and light and truth to my house." There was particular evangelistic fervor among freshmen, even among new believers.

The ministry held its largest fall retreat in October and then launched a four-week Gospel Culture Speaker Series. One highlight of the leadership lecture series was a visit in the winter by author Collin Hansen, author of *A God-Sized Vision: Revival Stories that Stretch and Stir*. Other engaging lectures included: "Pain and Pleasure in the Psalms;" "Humanity in the Post-Genomic Era;" and "Social Media and Christian Identity." Also in the fall, a student leader put together a poetry event that included slam-poetry, spoken word, and more. Many drew upon themes from Scripture and spoke to brokenness in culture with the hope of Christ.

Before Thanksgiving, students passed out 1,000 copies of the C.S. Lewis classic *Mere Christianity* on campus. An included bookmark provided details on how to text a question about the Christian faith. Queries were promised both a grilled cheese and "our best answer to your grilling!" Texted questions began while students were still giving books away. In all, the ministry received questions from about 100 students.



While recovering from surgery, a student-athlete in the ministry, James, convened several football teammates to explore difficult questions about the faith. Christian Union's ministry director helped him lead discussions. Joined by athletes from two other teams, about a dozen student-athletes gathered weekly to discuss science and faith, the problem of evil, and other perennially challenging questions.

Another student leader in the ministry, Rob Hendricks '17, also a football player, became the first undergraduate ever admitted to Cornell Law School. He was simultaneously a senior and a first-year law student. "This is a God thing," he said.

Meanwhile a freshman wrote, "Last summer, after telling people at my church where I was headed, I received a lot of 'The Northeast? I'll be praying for you' ... your prayers were answered! ... Cornell has Christians unlike any that I have ever met, and the community that I have found in Christian Union is unparalleled."

2011

YEAR MINISTRY
WAS LAUNCHED

160

STUDENTS IN
BIBLE COURSES

1,429

HOURS IN PRAYER
DURING THE YEAR

The ministry at Dartmouth is vibrant. Senior Joshua Lee explained, “We are a community of people who love Jesus and strive to make Him a part of everything ...”

This year, 160 students took part in Christian Union’s Bible courses at Dartmouth. Many of the first-year students had never opened a Bible or been exposed to Christianity before. One such student jumped in head first, studying Scripture and serving in a local church. She said the Bible course was “changing her life.”

Ministry fellows’ personal mentorship helped shape many of these students more fully. Senior Josh Alexakos said, “I am so thankful for the mentorship and Christian teaching ... it has helped me to grow as a man, and more importantly, as a follower of Christ.”

At the ministry’s weekend winter conference (dedicated to biblical teaching, prayer, worship, and community), the speaker engaged 60 students with “Tough Love: Living out True Grace in the Real World.” Freshman Ledane Ram valued the weekend as time “set apart’ for God and what He wants to teach me.”

On campus, one creative form of evangelistic outreach generated a particularly strong response. Dartmouth students were invited to text their questions about Christianity and its intersection with anything—from philosophy, to science, to pop culture. Christian students hand-delivered snacks and discussed their questions in-depth.

After the outreach, Jessica Heine ’19 reflected, “It is such an honor to be able to represent the Christian community.”



2008

YEAR MINISTRY
WAS LAUNCHED

192

STUDENTS IN
BIBLE COURSES

1,992

HOURS IN PRAYER
DURING THE YEAR

The ministry at Harvard is one the largest student organizations on campus, but more significantly, the Holy Spirit is powerfully at work. Anne Kerhoulas, Christian Union Ministry Fellow, shared, “It is unspeakably rewarding to see students begin to understand and grab hold of the Gospel, apply Scripture to their lives, and grow in their understanding of the story of redemption.” At a planning retreat to launch the year, student leaders and ministry faculty experienced the presence of the Spirit in a way that “prepared us to return to Harvard with a missional mindset.”

“It is unspeakably rewarding to see students begin to understand and grab hold of the Gospel, apply Scripture to their lives, and grow in their understanding of the story of redemption.”

As a result of weeks of outreach, the ministry enrolled 62 freshmen in Bible courses. There were 192 students total in the courses. Mentorship was also essential to many this year. Molly Richmond '18 shared: “Being mentored by a Christian Union ministry fellow helped me grow enormously in my ability to live out my faith well.”

Christian Union’s weekly leadership lecture series exposed students to a range of topics. One week, Harvard students heard from a believing professor at Harvard (a rare treat), on the faith of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. The ministry emphasized the



virtue of courage this year, encouraging students to live boldly in the freedom they have in Christ in their lives and service toward others.

The ministry held a conference to help students experience more deeply God's grace and love, and learn to share that grace with others. Speakers also

discussed social justice, evangelism, and spiritual gifts. An afternoon of action allowed students to practice what they'd been learning. One of these forms of action was to invite peers to text a question about faith, God, or religion. A student from the ministry then personally delivered a sandwich and a thoughtful response to the question.

With significant numbers of students in need of trained Christian counselors, the ministry entered an important partnership with a nearby a Christian counseling center this year.

In advance of Harvard's 366th commencement, the ministry had the joy of hosting more than 25 families of seniors for a time of celebration. Graduating senior Tyler Parker called his involvement in the ministry "utterly transformative."

2012

YEAR MINISTRY
WAS LAUNCHED

10

STUDENTS IN
BIBLE COURSES

230

HOURS IN PRAYER
DURING THE YEAR

At Harvard Law, Christian Union's ministry, now in its fourth year, is spurring legal minds to envision following Jesus Christ with their whole lives. This year several one-year LLM students (who already have a JD), hailing from around the world, engaged in the ministry, too.

Christian Union's sole graduate school ministry has distinct features from undergraduate programs. Law students often engaged the ministry with spouses, and even children. Some had internships or a challenging stint with *Harvard Law Review*. Schedules were intense, and time was precious. Given this, the commitment students showed was phenomenal. Weekly Bible course study in the book of Romans helped fuel faith and deepen understanding of God's grace. Personal mentoring and times for fellowship, prayer, and worship were used by God to strengthen the students' faith.

Students were encouraged to seek biblical principles and approaches to vital topics in law. Highlights included reading *Redeeming Law*, prompting rich discussions on ethics, law, social justice, and more. A professor of law at the Navy War College in Newport, Rhode Island, provided a helpful presentation on the law of armed conflict.

This year, students in the ministry helped to launch Harvard's Law Students for Life. A third year student, Chase Giacomo, shared: "It is foolish to think that you can go to law school for three years and be silent about the things you care about."

As a result of studying Scripture in greater depth, hearing from accomplished Christians in the legal field, deepened prayer lives, and intense intellectual engagement on key concepts, these men and women will, God willing, have a godly impact in society.

“Christian Union at Harvard Law fostered the deepest and most meaningful friendships I had at HLS. The Bible courses are orthodox, intellectually rigorous, and a great way to refocus on what truly matters.

Christian Union always reminds us to think theologically about law school—about what it means to be a Christian in this environment. It also provides resources to make that challenge less daunting.”

– Caleb Wolanek, HLS JD’17



2013

YEAR MINISTRY
WAS LAUNCHED

107

STUDENTS IN
BIBLE COURSES

539

HOURS IN PRAYER
DURING THE YEAR

The Christian Union ministry at the University of Pennsylvania turned four this year. Student leaders put their growth and training into action, bringing Christian influence to dorm rooms, classrooms, athletics, and more.

This year, 107 students took part in Christian Union's weekly Bible courses. Many participants were non-believers or young in their Christian faith. In the first semester courses on Mark, students explored all that Christ did on the cross, and all they gain from trusting in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

The leadership lecture series provided spiritual and intellectual enrichment, and fervent prayer and worship as students sought God together. The series addressed a challenging range of topics, including: mentorship; works of the Spirit; forgiveness; depression; evangelism; diversity; stewardship; and integrating faith and vocation.

Students began a new Christian journal at Penn, *Locust Walk*, to channel their overflowing intellectual and artistic expression.

Some students involved in the ministry launched a pro-life student group. They weathered intense criticism from the student newspaper. In a debate with a pro-choice campus group, the students presented the pro-life position with skill and sensitivity, and shared the Gospel with students after the discussion.

The ministry also took part in a panel discussion at Penn's LGBTQ center on the topic of human sexuality. In the discussion, the goal was to clearly articulate the biblical perspective, but also, and especially, to call people to Jesus Christ.

In an outreach effort, students engaged many, including Muslims, atheists, and agnostics, in conversation around the Gospel and discovered many willing to listen!

The ministry bid a bittersweet farewell to its first graduating class. Aimee, a senior awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Oman the following year, said, “Being involved in Christian community has been crucial to my spiritual development at Penn.”

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRINCETON

2002

YEAR MINISTRY
WAS LAUNCHED

415

STUDENTS IN
BIBLE COURSES

5,825

HOURS IN PRAYER
DURING THE YEAR

The Holy Spirit continued to empower the ministry at Princeton University. For some time now, the Gospel-centered leadership development program has been the largest student organization on campus. This year God blessed Christian Union Bible courses with its highest enrollment ever: 415 students.

These Bible courses included athletes from dozens of different teams, dancers and musicians from many different ensembles and clubs, students from all different academic concentrations, and young men and women from a vast variety of different ethnicities and theological backgrounds. Some were committed Christians; many others were reading God’s Word — and considering Christianity — for the very first time.

On any given Friday night, around 120 students gathered for worship, student testimonies, and a lecture from a guest speaker or one of our gifted ministry fellows. This spring included a mini-series entitled “The Gospel and All of Life.” Topics included: Christianity and Science; The Gospel and Failure; The Gospel and Trials; and Christianity and Family. A Princeton professor gave a fascinating address on the rationality



of belief in miracles. One lecturer explored if math might be “the language of God.” Another delved into what it means to be a human person.

The annual Ski Safari drew 130 students for biblical teaching, prayer, worship, and community. Speakers included author, speaker, and performer Jackie Hill-Perry, and ministry alumnus Seth DeValve, who now plays for the NFL’s Cleveland Browns. Panel discussions included marriage and dating, developing in godliness, and engaging culture. Students were revitalized. Six students made new commitments to Jesus Christ, and six more made re-commitments to Him. Mikal Walcott ’19 shared, “We saw the reality of His Kingdom in powerful ways: repentance, salvation, forgiveness, racial unity, physical and emotional healing, convicting preaching, and lots of joy.”

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Among many forms of outreach to the campus and local community, students partnered with a local ministry helping to settle refugees. Students organized a 5K fundraising run that drew 171 participants.

In June, Christian Union opened the Robert L. Melrose Center for Christian Leadership at Princeton. God provided funding to purchase the building through lead donor Ken Melrose and 150 Friends of the Melrose Center, securing it for future generations. At the dedication, Christian Union’s Founder and CEO Matt Bennett declared, “Our hope and desire is to see so many Christian leaders come out of this university. We, by God’s grace, are trusting that this center will rapidly accelerate ministry on campus.”

2016

YEAR MINISTRY
WAS LAUNCHED

12

STUDENTS IN
BIBLE COURSES

100

HOURS IN PRAYER
DURING THE YEAR

Our ministry in the lives of Stanford University students is off and running. Christian Union's two-person ministry launch team included a 17-year Bay Area pastor as director and a ministry fellow who was himself an active student leader in the ministry at Princeton as an undergraduate. The initial Bible course included a dozen freshmen studying of the Gospel of Mark. The first-year men represented a mix of spiritual backgrounds, but none had previously studied the book of Mark.

First-year milestones included the first annual winter conference, a long weekend of rest and play, skiing, camaraderie, vision-casting, and faith deepening. As the quarter progressed, students who demonstrated a passion for God and enthusiasm for the vision of Christian Union were invited to assume leadership roles for the coming year. By spring, the original men's Bible course was thriving, going deeper with one another and with God, and the ministry launched the first women's Bible course. Also, more freshmen and even sophomores became involved in the ministry. As the first-year's core of students fanned out across the country for summer, most had committed to read through the New Testament together.

“When I arrived at Stanford in September,
I had no idea that my greatest development
would be in my own spiritual growth as a
Christian. Christian Union has helped me
thrive.” - Isaiah Drummond '20

2010

YEAR MINISTRY
WAS LAUNCHED

84

STUDENTS IN
BIBLE COURSES

651

HOURS IN PRAYER
DURING THE YEAR

The ministry at Yale is thriving in its seventh year, with 84 students studying God’s Word in a Christian Union Bible course. A first-year student said she was elated to find “rich Christian community” on campus; a testimony of the Lord’s work here in just under a decade. Christian Union Ministry Fellow Jane Hendrickson explained, “We are seeking the Lord’s face for a new work at Yale—a work of his grace—to bring many who do not yet know him to saving faith and those who do know him to deeper intimacy with and faithfulness to him.”

The leadership lecture series speakers ranged from pastors, to authors, to scholars, including a professor of economics and a professor of philosophical theology, addressing such topics as suffering and constructive dialogue. Students heard from a research fellow of the Yale Center for Faith and Culture, as well as its program director. Gary Thomas, author of the *Sacred Search*, addressed more than 200 people on marriage and relationships, a topic on which students said they were desperate for wisdom. In addition, the ministry was a lead sponsor of an annual pro-life conference that convened students from more than 50 institutions.

Students studying the book of Mark marveled at the wisdom of God in Scripture, and sought ways to make this known more widely. Acts of kindness and outreach ranged from preparing care packages for the homeless, to giving away hundreds of free Christian books on campus, to giving peers roses to communicate the love of God.

The winter conference drew 44 students. There, the Holy Spirit stirred in students the desire for still deeper fellowship and to increase evangelism on campus—these prayers



were answered in a variety of ways. For example, one student-athlete conducted weekly devotionals with the Yale baseball team using the *Seeking God* Bible course manual.

In the spring, student leaders undertook to reach the 1,322 seniors with the Gospel. They crafted an email that included testimonies and offered personal follow-up. This is an excerpt: “We are inviting you to consider the claims of a 1st century Jewish man named Jesus of Nazareth, whom many worship and see as their greatest treasure ...”

The outreach was the brainchild of Stephanie Addenbrooke '17. As editor-in-chief of the *Yale Daily News*, Addenbrooke often worked until 4 am to oversee production during a tumultuous year on campus. In the early morning hours, she turned to Scripture and learned to rely on God more fully. Her trying role was a crucible for her formation as a leader. She shared, “I learned how to be humble, to accept that being obedient in God’s calling doesn’t make you instantly perfect at the job you’ve been given.” As she considered how to share the Gospel with her classmates, she realized “There is nothing we cannot do if we put our trust in Him.”



Reaching out to classmates, Addenbrooke hopes, is “a small seed that will grow into a culture of radical faith in God... having such a strong trust in God and willingness to serve Him, that we will take any calling and any vision and be able to live it out.”

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT IN HIS OWN WORDS

Jeffrey Edwards

Harvard '15, Stanford University School of Medicine MS2



As an undergraduate, I was active in Christian Union's ministry at Harvard. I served as a leader in its Campus Kindness ministry and spring break service trip planning committee. My other extracur-

ricular activities, spanning science education, mentorship, cultural and outreach programs, included: ExperiMentors; Harvard Health Advocacy Program; Black Students Association; Black Men's Forum; and the Harvard College Piano Society.

At Harvard, I studied Neurobiology on the Mind, Brain and Behavior track. I wrote my senior thesis on "Selectively Altering Intertemporal Decision-Making Using Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation (tDCS)." After graduating, I spent a year in Kenya as a Program Coordinator for Massachusetts General Hospital, assisting with global health research and logistics at a community hospital. Now I am beginning my second-year at Stanford University School of Medicine. I am continuing my involvement in extracurricular activities, serving on the leadership team for the Stanford Medical School Christian Fellowship, Organization for Global Health, Oncology Interest Group, Student National Medical Association, and SSTEM program.

I entered medical school feeling overwhelmingly grateful, while also having ambitious goals to improve the way healthcare is delivered to every single person on the planet. I pray my classmates and I wouldn't grow weary in trying to accomplish this, building His kingdom in all that we do. For every patient that I will soon encounter at the hospital, I ask for God's healing power so that He may be glorified.



Christian Union Cities



Christian Union Cities develops networks of transformative Christian leaders in cities of significant cultural influence, beginning in New York City. Programs and events revolved around the pursuit of God and redemptive engagement.

Community Groups

Attendees dug into challenging biblical instruction, nourished deepening relationships, and developed in their commitment to pursue transformation together.

Speaker Series

Highlights from a range of events, including large forums and intimate salons:

- The Very Reverend Dr. Christopher Hancock, Managing Director, Oxford House Research addressed what it means to understand the world, especially current events, through the lens of Scripture.
- Bob Doll, Chief Strategist with Nuveen Asset Management, spoke on “Redeeming Finance” for young professionals in the finance industry.
- Dr. William Hurlbut, professor of bioethics at Stanford Medical School, addressed “The Challenge and Opportunity of Gene Editing: Scientific and Ethical Considerations.”

Mentor Program

The ministry pairs young alumni with established Christians to help navigate challenges facing devout professionals in New York City. One participant shared, “I was immediately struck by [my mentor’s] genuine desire to get to know me ... to listen as I processed a lot of the changes/difficulties I have experienced while living in NYC. She has prayed with me, and reminded me of God’s blessings. I’m so grateful.”

Christian Union Day & Night



Christian Union launched a new ministry effort: Christian Union Day & Night. This arm of the ministry promoted spiritual strengthening in Christians across America. Day & Night sought to make an impact in an increasingly secular culture by covenanting with believers across the United States for successive spiritual initiatives.

The ministry web site, DayAndNight.org, launched in February 2017. Within the first few months of its launch, 7,000 people signed up to be on the “Pray for Revival” team or had already taken part in one or more spiritual initiatives. The website offered helpful resources on prayer, fasting, revival history, and inspiring accounts of believers.

As Christian Union sought nationwide transformation through key universities and cities, this complementary effort encouraged and motivated Christians to seek God wholeheartedly, asking Him to move mightily in this nation.

Nexus Conference

In April, Christian Union's flagship event, Nexus: the Christian Union Conference on Faith & Action, drew approximately 250 students, representing all ten university ministries. Nexus Professionals, a separate but concurrent conference for alumni and professionals, joined in for plenary speakers and exhilarating worship.



Speakers unpacked the conference theme “draw near the throne of grace” (Hebrews 4:16). One attendee shared: “Nexus was absolutely amazing, intellectually enlightening, and spiritually inspiring to seek the God of Ages, pursue a Spirit-filled life, and to adore Christ our Savior.”

Speakers included D. Michael Lindsay, Rusty Reno, Carol Kaminski, Eugene and Jacqueline Rivers, Jon Nielson, Christian Union Founder and CEO Matt Bennett, and others. The event also featured an electrifying SpokenWord competition. Videos for each of the plenary talks and SpokenWord entries can be found at [YouTube.com/ChristianUnion](https://www.youtube.com/ChristianUnion).



Summer Opportunities

Student Summer Projects

Students served alongside peers from other Christian Union ministries, under the guidance of one of its ministry fellows. Students traveled to Uganda (in an ongoing partnership with the Rural Orphans and Widows AIDS Network) to serve and learn. A large contingent journeyed to Israel for an extraordinary tour of the Holy Land; another group traveled to El Salvador. Each group experienced remarkable and distinctly different types of travel and ministry. Stateside, Christian Union Ministry Fellow Jesse Peterson led the Lake George Course on Christian Thought, 12 days that blended community living, worship, and probing exploration of the Christian worldview.

Summer Getaway

Christian Union invited any interested alumni, financial partners, and friends of the ministry to join ministry leaders for the Christian Union Summer Getaway at the spectacular Camp-of-the-Woods in the Adirondack Mountains. Tremendous worship, teaching by Ravi Zacharias and Abdu Murray, great fellowship, and free time in a gorgeous setting made for a physically and spiritually refreshing week.





Thank You!

“And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.” - 1 Chronicles 29:13

Your contributions supported the vision and mission of Christian Union. This year 830 financial partners made this ministry possible. Two of these partners, Dave and Amy Hunt, explained their support “may help bring a future US president, Supreme Court justice or foreign leader to Christ. It might even have the effect of reaching an entire nation with the Gospel.”

A remarkable 160 Monthly Sustainers graciously provided a dependable revenue stream to support the ministry this year. We are deeply grateful for the support of churches and corporations, and for those who have included Christian Union in their estate plans.

This year, God enabled Christian Union to open the doors of the Robert L. Melrose Center for Christian Leadership at Princeton. In addition to funds raised last year, in 2016-17, supporters provided \$602,065 in new gifts to support the center. We are thankful to the Lord for the continuation of ministry centers at Brown, Cornell, and Yale, offering much-needed resources for Christian growth.

The roll call of names on the following pages are a joyful acknowledgment that ministry is the work of many hands and hearts together, committed to God’s glory. We are grateful to “... have seen your people, who are present here, offering freely and joyously to you” (1 Chronicles 29:17).

Christian Union is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation and a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA). View audited financial reports and previous annual reports at www.christianunion.org/auditedfinancials

Financials

Income and expenses for the year ending June 30, 2017

INCOME

Donations—Temporarily Restricted	\$1,980,682
Donations—Unrestricted	\$11,430,835
Other Income	\$102,200

TOTAL INCOME	\$13,513,717
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EXPENSES

Programs

Christian Union Universities (CUU)	
Brown	\$453,564
Columbia	\$822,497
Cornell	\$494,981
Dartmouth	\$435,286
Harvard College (Undergrad)	\$683,247
Harvard Law School	\$272,135
Princeton	\$1,271,436
Penn	\$416,048
Stanford	\$315,971
Yale	\$442,709

Other Programs

Christian Union New York	\$184,078
Christian Union Day & Night	\$289,549
Conferences	\$332,197
Christian Union: The Magazine	\$230,063
Grants	\$155,957

Ministry-wide Programs and Services	\$1,762,112
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Sub-Total Program Expenses	\$8,561,830
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General & Administrative	\$809,786
Fundraising	\$1,654,903

Sub-Total Fundraising and G&A	\$2,464,689
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TOTAL EXPENSES	\$11,026,519
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Christian Union owes profound thanks to the Lord and many supporters. This listing includes financial partners from July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017. By God's grace, Christian Union flourishes to the glory of Jesus Christ.

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