

**KNOW THEREFORE THAT THE** LORD YOUR GOD IS GOD, THE FAITHFUL GOD WHO KEEPS **COVENANT AND STEADFAST LOVE** WITH THOSE WHO LOVE HIM AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS TO A THOUSAND GENERATIONS

DEUTERONOMY 7:9

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# **OUR MISSION**

**Christian Union's mission** is to develop and mobilize godly leadership across all sectors of society. The ministry seeks to bring sweeping spiritual transformation to the nation's most influential universities and to key cities that shape American culture.

Of the 3,039 four-year colleges and universities in the United States, alumni of the top one percent of these schools account for 63 percent of the nation's key leaders. These institutions are also deeply secular. Fewer than ten percent of students experience regular interactions with a local church or Christian ministry. Christian Union Universities operates at eight of these strategic institutions.

Cultural transformation will be accelerated as networks of Christians leverage their God-given gifts, training, and positioning to bless society, so Christian Union Cities tailors its resources to professionals pursuing spiritual growth and effectiveness as Christian leaders.

#### CHRISITIAN UNION OVERVIEW:

**INFLUENTIAL UNIVERSITIES** The ministry, at select universities, is focused on the training grounds of cultural influencers.

#### STRATEGIC CITIES

In key cities, beginning in New York City, the ministry serves alumni of the ministry and other professionals, helping them grow as Christian leaders and connect with one another.

#### NEXUS CONFERENCES

Christian Union also ministers through Nexus conferences for students and professionals seeking to dedicate their vocations to godly influence.

#### CU DAY & NIGHT

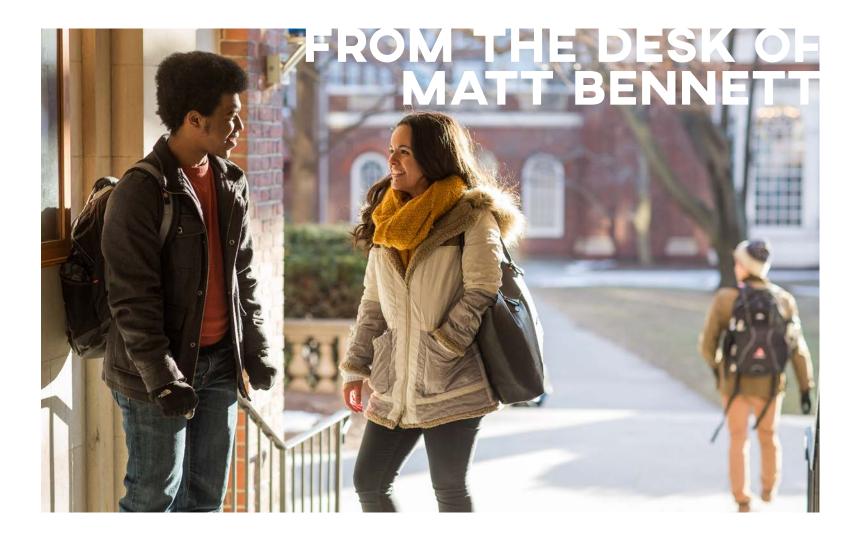
This new ministry encourages a nationwide audience to seek God wholeheartedly.

#### MINISTRY CENTERS

Christian Union operates centers at Brown, Cornell, Princeton, and Yale. These centers are used to maximum capacity and impact many hundreds of students annually.

#### THE MAGAZINE

*Christian Union: The Magazine* is a free publication that reports on developments of interest at leading universities and in key cities.



### Dear Friend,

We have an extraordinary opportunity to change the direction of American culture. Rather than seeking to build exceptional Christian universities from the ground up, which would cost billions annually, Christian Union provides the resources necessary to develop devout Christian leaders at leading universities. I am pleased to share with you highlights from across the ministry for 2015-16 and the ministry's financials.

The majority of our funding currently comes from individuals; family foundations have become a new growth segment; churches and corporations make up a smaller percent of giving. Increasingly, Christian Union is blessed by the support of those who experienced its ministry programs as students. As many alumni of Christian Union programs are still in graduate schools or just getting started in their careers, the act of giving back is a vote of confidence in what is happening through the ministry.

Reviving culture requires that those who shape it value what God values. To that end, Christian Union invests in the next wave of leaders at the nation's most influential universities. It is a selective approach, and, by God's grace, it is effective. A second, complementary, strategy is to develop and network graduates from Christian Union ministries and other professionals in key cities, beginning with New York. This ministry effort is a smaller portion of the overall budget but strategically important. Taken together, the ministry's dual focus on nurturing and connecting current and future leaders is grounded in historical precedents in which networks of committed Christian leaders have made an extraordinary difference.

The work of the past year was made possible by God's gracious response to prayer and by the sacrificial financial partnership of many.

In Him,

Matt Bennett

Founder and CEO



# CHRISTIAN UNION UNIVERSITIES

**Christian Union engages** students with a relationally intensive program. At its core are weekly Bible courses, using proprietary curriculum, covering books of the Bible in addition to topical manuals, such as Finances and Vocation. Students run the operations themselves, organized as an executive team and with sub-teams for outreach, social events, prayer and more.

Christian Union's ministry faculty, the full-time employees who work directly with students, include a ministry director and ministry fellows at each location. They conduct Bible courses and provide personal mentoring and leadership training. The ministry works to provide students leadership grounded in wholehearted devotion to the Lord.



**Undergraduate Ministries** (Academic Year Launched)

Princeton (2002-03) Harvard (2008-09) Yale (2010-11) Columbia (2011-12) Dartmouth (2011-12) Cornell (2012-13) Penn (2013-14) Brown (2014-15)

**Graduate Ministries** Harvard Law School (2013-14)

# HIGHLIGHTS

### High-Caliber Ministry Faculty

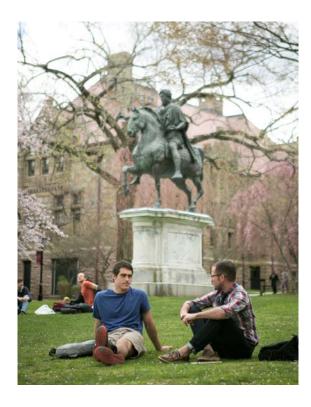
Christian Union's exceptional ministry faculty underpins this model of leadership development. The faculty provides students with the high-quality teaching and life experience of leaders they admire. Currently, 92 percent of Christian Union faculty has earned seminary or other graduate degrees.

### Leadership Experience

A hallmark of the Christian Union program is the leadership undertaken by students, with the coaching of ministry fellows, to execute ministry activities. Students comprise executive teams and committees, and qualified students assist ministry fellows in leading Bible courses.

"We were privileged to participate with God in ministry at Brown, coaching students to take the reins of leadership; guiding men and women to study the Scriptures with rigor and zeal; encouraging them to obey God's Word by loving and serving one another and the campus at large."

- Matt Woodard, Director of Undergraduate Ministry at Brown



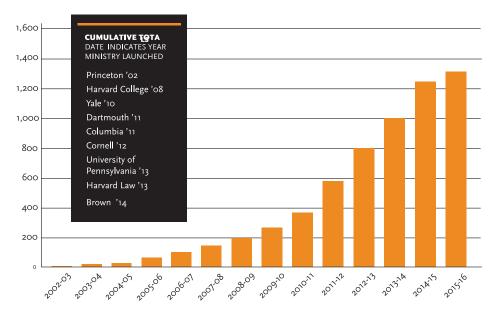


#### **Bible Courses**

In the fall, students studied Colossians. In the spring, freshmen worked through a Seeking God Lifestyle study. This manual is focused on spiritual disciplines and helping students form healthy spiritual habits/disciplines in their personal lives. That was followed by the Sex & Spirituality study which is focused on helping students understand God's design for sex and equipping them to better navigate the sex culture on campus in a Christ-centered manner. Older students worked their way through the book of Romans.

More students were interested in Bible courses than there were ministry fellows to accommodate them. Additional ministry fellows are recruited as funding becomes available. Christian Union offers Bible course sponsorships, and sponsors enjoy a personal connection to the students whose lives are being transformed over time through their study of Scripture together.

#### Student Enrollment in Christian Union's Bible Courses



Bible course enrollment 2015-16: 1,259 students

# 



### Outreach and Evangelism Programs

Students in the class of 2019 were welcomed through social media before they set foot on campus. Each campus ran a vigorous outreach: freshmen were prayed for by name, and Christian Union's faculty and more than 200 upperclassmen spent thousands of hours bringing them to outreach events or lunch, and offering support for the transition to college life. These campaigns were so successful in enrolling freshmen in Bible courses that sign-ups at six schools ended early; Princeton freshman Bible courses filled to capacity in one week.

In addition to personal conversations, Christian Union hosted evangelistic speakers, and students distributed thousands of free books, such as *Mere Christianity, The Case for Christ,* and *The Reason for God.* Also, Christian Union students expressed Christ's love in a variety of ways through expressions of kindness to peers.

- "I have to be really intentional about moving on from here and about seeking after God... But knowing that He sought after me first and has me in His hand is really comforting."
- Brandon Thompson, Cornell '16





**Mentoring** | Ministry fellows meet with students one-on-one to discuss what it means to be a Christian leader and the implications for all aspects of life.

One-on-one mentoring 2015-16: 5,233 hours

**Leadership Lecture Series** | Christian Union provides students with access to leading Christian scholars, authors, and professionals.

**Conferences** | At each school, ministry fellows take students off-campus for conferences which feature challenging, in-depth studies of Scripture, challenging lectures, rich worship and frequent, fervent prayer. These conferences are often a catalyst for decisions for Christ and dramatic spiritual growth.

Ministry Trips | In June, for its fourth year, Christian Union sent a team of students from Harvard and Cornell to Uganda for two weeks ministering to orphans and widows affected by HIV/AIDS. Nexus: The Christian Union Conference on Faith and Action | In April, Nexus 2016 took place in New Haven, Connecticut. Students representing each campus where Christian Union operates were in attendance; 317 students heard from Christian leaders in a variety of fields. Christian Union Founder and CEO Matt Bennett closed the conference by noting: "It's an honor to consider the question: How can we bless others with what God has given us?"





# LAUNCHED 2002 STUDENTS IN BIBLE COURSES 370 CHRISTIAN UNION MINISTRY FACULTY 8



**Sixty students prayed** earnestly for the incoming freshman class and organized outreach to the Class of 2019. From this, 120 freshmen signed up for Bible courses. In all, 370 students participated in 37 weekly Bible courses. Many also met daily for prayer. The weekly lecture series tackled a range of topics that included unpacking the Gospel, the sufficiency of Scripture, and the intersection of faith and pressing social issues. A highlight of the fall was visiting theology professor Dr. Vincent Bacote who urged perseverance for the Gospel in the face of adversity.

For the winter conference, known as Ski Safari, 150 students spent five relationally and spiritually rich days together with Christian Union's Princeton ministry faculty. The theme "Jesus Christ as Prophet, Priest, and King," traced the unity of the biblical storyline, its theological themes and fulfillment. Praise God that four students came to Christ that week alone (seven students put their faith Christ this year). Back on campus, students grew as Christian leaders and used their influence in diverse ways on campus and beyond. The freshmen class showed initiative; about 40 convened to pray and discuss how to engage their campus with the Gospel.



LAUNCHED 2008 STUDENTS IN BIBLE COURSES 187 CHRISTIAN UNION MINISTRY FACULTY 5

"God continuously loves and desires us to fulfill His purposes." – Julian Nunally '17 **Students held a fourth** annual debate with the Harvard Community of Humanists, Atheists, and Agnostics to explore "Can Life be Meaningful Without God?" Throughout the year, the ministry, through Bible courses, lectures, reading groups, personal conversation, and seminars, tackled challenging subjects, from the authority of Scripture and the "violence of God," to idolatry, faith, the Gospel, and obedience.

At Harvard, students often define themselves by their work, their grades and their academic achievements. In the spring, students organized a campaign called You Are More to encourage students to define themselves not by their work, their grades, their studying or their activities, but as children of God. This culminated in a special lecture series event that drew 175 students.





# LAUNCHED **2010** STUDENTS IN BIBLE COURSES **110** CHRISTIAN UNION MINISTRY FACULTY **4**



In the fall, the ministry co-sponsored a forum on faith, law and racial injustice. Within the ministry, students wrestled in prayer and conversation over justice, free speech, and community. Prayer times, some scheduled but many spontaneous, increasingly provided fellowship and encouragement. Meanwhile, students frequently engaged peers on such topics as the exclusivity of Christ, purpose and calling, the authority of the Bible, and the relationship between faith and scientific reason. Student-led initiatives included a sorority Bible study and a book club discussing C.S. Lewis' *Surprised by Joy*.

During Advent, student leaders penned daily devotions, encouraging students to focus on Christ. Winter conference focused on "Faith, Hope & Love: The Foundation of Christian Spirituality."

- "The ministry helped me engage with Scripture and understand how I am supposed to live as a Christian."
- Tanner Allread '16



# LAUNCHED 2011 STUDENTS IN BIBLE COURSES 192 CHRISTIAN UNION MINISTRY FACULTY 5



**Students shared the** Gospel with peers in a variety of ways and explored how to live as a Christian in all facets of life. They also delved into pressing issues, such as race and the arts. Outreach to first-year students reached its climax with 92 students attending fall conference. Stirring messages explored "The Gospel According to Isaiah."

On campus, students dug deep in weekly Bible courses, prayed and fasted together, and enjoyed a thoughtful and challenging lineup of speakers who taught at the weekly leadership lecture series. The ministry helped students with Bible selections in Columbia's required curriculum (often presented as myth).

God opened doors throughout the athletic department; many athletes participated in Bible courses. Christian Union's ministry faculty at Columbia had an especially significant impact in the lives of athletes on the football, men's basketball and women's basketball teams.



# LAUNCHED 2011 STUDENTS IN BIBLE COURSES 133 CHRISTIAN UNION MINISTRY FACULTY 4



In the fall, ministry faculty and more than 30 students poured time and prayer into helping to welcome freshmen and connected them to Bible courses. Students expressed excitement at the in-depth examination of Scripture, and for some it was their first time altogether.

This year many non-Christians took interest in the ministry and Bible courses. They were grounded in Christian community and encouraged to respond to the Gospel. Ministry faculty walked with many students through profound repentance as well as healing for deep wounds. The ministry took 82 students to its winter conference that featured powerful teaching on the Sermon on the Mount. They learned to "intentionally daydream" about the Kingdom of God. One student noted the teaching reignited a hunger to know God's Word.

The leadership lecture series was punctuated by hot topics, like abortion, alcohol, and depression. Ministry faculty held office hours for students' follow-up questions as they wrestled with new (and renewed) convictions and learned to identify first and foremost as a Christian.



# LAUNCHED 2012 STUDENTS IN BIBLE COURSES 153 CHRISTIAN UNION MINISTRY FACULTY 3



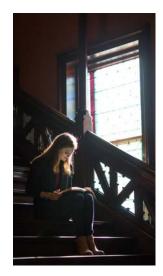
A thirst for Christ was evident in every corner of campus. Athletes from various sports asked the ministry to offer studies in God's word for their teammates. Transfer students and new upperclassmen sought out Bible courses. Students in the ministry met daily at 7:30 a.m. to pray for non-believing friends. They found many ways to shine the light of the Gospel at Cornell. One student read and discussed Mere Christianity with her professor in the sciences. Another, a wrestling star, fielded questions about Christ from a coach. Another began a Bible study in his student housing. One freshman anonymously purchased forty Bibles for next year's

freshmen with hopes they will fall in love with Scripture the way he has this year. Meanwhile, the ministry hosted a panel discussion, "Conversations about Christ." The following week, students gave away 1,000 copies of Tim Keller's *The Reason for God.* Students also launched *Cornell Claritas*, a Christian journal to engage in dialogue within the academic community.

- "Hope has a name... and His name is Jesus."
- Rob Hendricks '16



#### IAUNCHED 2013 STUDENTS IN BIBLE COURSES 40



At this premier legal institution the ministry experienced numeric growth, and spiritual and relational vibrancy. A remarkable 50 students attended the first meeting of the year. A second-year student called Bible courses "the best thing" he had done at HLS. Over lunch each week, students packed a room to discuss issues of faith and law. Outstanding guest speakers ranged from a law professor, to a partner at a premier law firm who spoke on "How to Work for Big Law as a Christian Without Selling Your Soul."

Another speaker drew on his business career to encourage a life of faith, excellence, and character; a student called him "the best and most helpful guest speaker" he had heard at law school. One student was published in Harvard Law Review. His piece on freedom of religion channeled students'

# CHRISTIAN UNION MINISTRY FACULTY 2

discussions on complex issues. Studying the Gospel of Mark, students took seriously the call to follow Jesus in their field.

"We've discussed N. T. Wright's Evil and the *Justice of God* and held special times of prayer and fasting. Students are learning to look to God in the face of inexplicable pain; we ask for your prayers as they prepare to be agents of hope and justice in the world." – Jared Wortman, Ministry Fellow



# LAUNCHED 2013 STUDENTS IN BIBLE COURSES 82 CHRISTIAN UNION MINISTRY FACULTY 3

**Students were challenged** — and challenged one another — to follow Jesus wholeheartedly. Borrowing Penn's theme, "Year of Discovery," the ministry hosted a talk on C.S. Lewis and T.S. Eliot discovering their literary voice and belief in Christ. Also, student leaders organized service opportunities in Philadelphia.

The winter conference was the most spiritually formative yet: Nearly 45 students went to Refreshing Mountain to learn from 1 John, worship and pray. During Lent, many students fasted weekly to prepare to celebrate the Resurrection; God used the time to cultivate hearts more committed to each other and to Him. Also, students expressed the desire to better explain the Gospel, especially to friends; student leaders organized an evangelism-training event in the spring.



"Christian Union ministry fellows have taught me how to combine leadership ability with a Christian outlook, two ideas which are often considered separate entities." – Tucker Hutchinson '17



# LAUNCHED **2014** STUDENTS IN BIBLE COURSES **54** CHRISTIAN UNION MINISTRY FACULTY **2**



In its second year, ministry faculty and students connected many freshmen to Christian Union Bible courses at Brown. One student leading the effort was Douglas Villalta '18, one of only 60 students accepted into Brown's eight-year medical program, and a dynamic force in the freshman campaign. He was attracted to the ministry because of the focus on developing leaders and fostering spiritual growth, and he wanted others to have that opportunity. Successful outreach resulted in Bible courses growing and necessitated the hiring of a women's ministry fellow with degrees in youth ministry and clinical counseling.

In fall and winter, the ministry took students off campus to build relationships, pray and study God's Word. One international student shared: "I cannot explain to you how much it meant to me to be a part of such a beautiful community." Also, a student team was coached to launch and execute the leadership lecture series, learning to create a place for spiritual and intellectual enrichment and Christ-centered worship. Initial lecturers challenged students to look beyond themselves and view their faith and life choices in context of the campus, the culture, and their future professions.

# **CHRISTIAN UNION ALUMNI**



Alumni of Christian Union's ministry program at Princeton, David Leyva III, Princeton '11, and Ana (Gonzalez) Leyva, Princeton '11, share that at Princeton "our faith became our own. We learned about seeking God." David majored in politics and Ana in international relations and public policy at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs with a minor in Near Eastern studies. Each one assumed leadership roles with the ministry and explain that "we learned to long for God and to desire Him above all things...and learned to explore the intellectual aspects of spirituality in a way we hadn't before."

David and Ana met through the ministry and began dating as students. They married within the first couple of years after graduation and both found work in tech. Now the couple lives in Los Angeles where David is attending UCLA Law School, and Ana is in Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) sales. David and Ana give the ministry credit for encouraging them to make an impact in the world for God and for the good of others.

"We learned to long for God and to desire Him above all things." – Levya Family '11



# CHRISTIAN UNION CITIES

"My mentor and I work in the same industry, which allowed us to develop a connection. His experience navigating a similar career path as a Christian family man, a path I am just beginning on, is invaluable and encouraging." – Matt Callahan



Christian Union Cities' resources are tailored to professionals who are pursuing spiritual growth and increased effectiveness as Christian leaders. Currently there is a disparity between the worldview and value system of many Americans and that of its key leadership. Those giving leadership to academic, business, entertainment, government, and legal institutions are disproportionately secular. The extraordinary influence of a relatively small group is suppressing Christian influence in the United States.

For virtue to guide a society, those in positions of influence must value

and promote it themselves. When that happens, society tends to follow suit. Transformation will require that Christians in an array of culturally strategic fields develop a vision and commitment to leverage their God-given gifts, training, and positioning to bless society.

Christian Union Cities also helps professionals grow into a network of godly influencers in strategic cities. Because, while movements are often identified by one high-level name, it takes coordinated networks to bring about change.

# 

CU New York offers Community Groups, a speaker series, a mentoring program and conferences.

# **In July, Dr. Anthony Bradley, author and associate professor,** The King's College, gave a talk called "The Marketplace and Social Shalom" exploring the role of marketplace leaders in their communities.

### In the fall, Christian Union New York took a group to the Oxford Analytica Conference at Oxford University, a gathering designed for CEOs, policy makers and government leaders to engage Oxford Analytica's experts to analyze global issues in the

private and public sector. The attendees joining Christian Union considered the intersection of Christian faith and pressing leadership issues.

# The featured forum speaker in October was Matthew Bishop,

US Business Editor and New York Bureau Chief for *The Economist*.

### **In January, the ministry welcomed Robert Louis Wilken**, Professor Emeritus of the University of Virginia, to speak on Spiritual Freedom.

# The speaker at the February Salon was Dr. Seth Ward, Music Director at Central Presbyterian Church in Manhattan, who addressed "The Mark of the Maker: The Musical Soul" and explored humanity's artistic and musical nature.

# In the spring CU New York presented the Gospel of the

Kingdom Conference. Keynote speaker, Ken Fish, is an honors graduate of Princeton University with an MDiv from Fuller Theological Seminary and an MBA from UCLA's Anderson Graduate School of Management. Ken brings more than 30 years of academic study and practical experience to exploring how the Gospel of Jesus Christ changes our mindset, ethics, lifestyle and authority, with a special emphasis on the power that flows for today's Christian as a fruit of the Gospel.

# In April, professionals were invited to Nexus: Professionals.

The conference provided two days of plenary speakers and seminars on what it means to engage and transform culture as Christians in the marketplace. Speakers included James K.A. Smith, Baroness Caroline Cox, John Seel and others.



# CHRISTIAN UNION INCOME & EXPENSES FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2016

#### INCOME

Donations—Temporarily Restricted	\$3,044,455	Ministry Centers	
Donations—Unrestricted	\$9,008,204	Hopewell House	\$19,061
Other Income	\$162,268	Judson Center (Brown)	\$9,285
Total Income	\$12,214,927	Mott Center (Cornell)	\$6,529
		Pennington Center (Yale)	\$18,796
EXPENSES		Wilson Center (Princeton)	\$17,386
General & Administrative	\$544,556		
Fundraising	\$1,632,026	Other Programs	
		Christian Union Cities	\$240,459
Programs		Christian Union New York City	\$186,262
Christian Union Universities (CUU)		CU Day & Night	\$268,074
Brown	\$317,763		
Columbia	\$716,829	Ministry-wide Programs and Services	\$1,272,072
Cornell	\$383,697		
Dartmouth	\$538,127	TOTAL PROGRAMS	\$7,524,809
Harvard (undergrad)	\$673,608		
Princeton	\$1,141,432	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$9,701,391
Penn	\$337,285		
Yale	\$542,683		
Harvard Law School	\$306,985		
CU: The Magazine	\$238,706		
Conferences	\$109,369		
Grants	\$180,399		

# At Princeton, Generous Financial Partners Secured New Ministry Center God has graciously provided a substantial lead gift, through the generosity of Ken Melrose, to help expand the Christian influence at Princeton. This gift, together with gifts from other financial partners, will allow Christian Union the rare opportunity to open a new ministry center in a historic building that is very close to campus and offers room for more current and future students: *The Robert L. Melrose Center for Christian Leadership*.

The Melrose Center honors the memory of Robert Lumley Melrose, Princeton Class of 1954. The Center will serve as a home for alumni and student activities, including Bible courses, leadership training, mentoring appointments, prayer, and Reunions gatherings.

The close proximity of the Center to campus will help secure a faithful presence in the Princeton University community for generations to come.

Raised in 2015-16: \$1,294,080.



# THANK YOU

### Dartmouth Parents Raised Matching Funds

A special appeal to parents to increase the level of Christian Union activity at Dartmouth received a generous response, raising \$25,230.

### Harvard Alumni Helped Reach More Students

Harvard alumni of the ministry gave sacrificially to secure an additional full-time ministry fellow to better support the many students who need Scripture teaching, mentorship and leadership coaching, raising \$32,261.

### Servant's Circle Increases Impact of Annual Gifts

A group of devoted private donors and foundations, called The Servant's Circle, funded the ministry's \$6.7 M budget for fundraising, general and administrative costs, and national programs. As a result, 100 percent of donations went directly to teaching and training students in the ministry's leadership development programs.

### Monthly Sustainers Provide Dependable Revenue

Christian Union is thankful for faithful Monthly Sustainers. These are financial partners that set up automatic recurring monthly gifts. Easy to set up, these consistent funds make a difference in the lives of students and equip them for lives of godly leadership.

# Planned Gifts Create a Lasting Legacy

Friends of Christian Union who have included the ministry in their planned giving are helping to sustain Christian Union's future. There are a number of tax-advantaged planned giving techniques. One financial partner, Eleanor Bennett, included the ministry in her estate plans through a Charitable Remainder Trust. "I have loved supporting Christian Union through the years," Eleanor shared. "I take joy in knowing that the planned giving decision I've made will help provide for the ministry after I'm gone."



**Christian Union owes** profound thanks to generous partners who have donated to the ministry. The list below includes donors from July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2016. Above all, Christian Union praises the Lord Jesus Christ for His gracious blessings and provision.

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