To the Praise of God's Glory

CHRISTIAN UNION 2013 ANNUAL REPORT

# PRAISE and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength BE TO OUR GOD for ever and ever. Amen.

- REVELATION 7:12

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#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



To the First Chronicles, Glory

THE KING OF ISRAEL, DAVID, ASSEMBLED THE RESOURCES HIS SON SOLOMON NEEDED TO BUILD A temple for the Lord. In prayer, David praised God and then marveled: "But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand." (29:14)

This year, God's gracious provision came through an array of supporters, including generous friends, former and current parents of students involved with Christian Union, alumni of this ministry, churches and foundations. As you read this report, and learn of the fruit that has been produced in the lives of men and women, and the extraordinary changes God is unleashing in places of cultural influences, I hope that you partake in the joy David expresses here; it is the joy known to believers when the financial resources entrusted to their stewardship are being used to bring God glory.

In the past 12 months, Christian Union has worked directly with students through its established ministries at Columbia, Dartmouth, Harvard, Princeton, and Yale, and with Christians in New York City seeking to grow as godly influencers. With the launch of a ministry to undergraduates at Cornell University in 2012-2013, Christian Union now operates at six leading universities. A total of 800 students received the in-depth Scripture teaching, mentoring, and leadership coaching they needed to grow as bold Christian leaders.

They will, God willing, change the culture of this nation.

Why such focused intensity on those who are poised to lead? As you may well know, alumni of eight secular institutions in particular, known, collectively as the Ivy League, exert tremendous cultural

influence in business, government, education, media, and technology, for better or worse. From key positions they pass laws, set legal precedents, promote their social mores through arts and entertainment, and define the intellectual agenda that is used to instruct the next generation. Their values permeate society.

In spite of the challenges, there is reason to celebrate. God is changing students' lives and using these transformed leaders to instigate bold changes, to the point of unsettling the secular ethos that had pervaded these campuses for so long.

Also in 2012-13, Christian Union continued to strengthen its ministry outreach to its graduates and their peers in New York City, offering engaging speakers, Bible courses, and a mentoring program.

Thank you for investing in the development of Christian leaders who will help move the nation in a new direction. May God receive the highest thanks and praise for the results shared in this report.

Sincerely,

Matt Bennett

Matt Bennett Founder and President



### THE BIG PICTURE

# To Four Distinctives God's Glory

CHRISTIAN UNION WORKS PRIMARILY IN TWO REALMS: UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN UNION FOCUSES on the training grounds of cultural influencers; City Christian Union serves alumni of the ministry and other professionals, helping them to grow as Christian leaders and network with one another in New York City, one of the nation's most influential cities. Christian Union also ministers through DOXA Conferences for Christian professionals, The Ivy League Christian Observer, and Tennent Media. Everything the ministry does is shaped by four distinctives:

A Lifestyle Marked by Seeking God | Christian Union promotes biblical Christianity's emphasis on frequent, fervent prayer; massive intake of Scripture; repentance; humility through fasting; perseverance; promptly obeying the Spirit; and extended times of gathering with believers.

Networked & Engaged Christian Leaders | Christian leaders must engage culture in order to transform it, and Christians of influence must be well networked in order to maximize their impact.

**High-Caliber Faculty & Intellectual Rigor** | This strategic focus requires curriculum and faculty suitable for men and women of exceptional intellectual caliber; proprietary Bible course and leadership training curricula are combined with effective mentoring by ministry faculty of mature faith and advanced theological training.

**Disciplined Approach & Organizational Excellence** | Christian Union seeks to honor the Lord, expand the ministry, and serve donors' intentions by maintaining a disciplined ministry model and a culture of strict accountability evidenced by detailed metrics, extensive evaluations, and continuous improvements to maximize ministry impact.

#### A FOUNDATIONAL PRACTICE

To the Seeking God God's Glory Draw near to God,

and he will draw near to you.

SEEKING GOD MEANS FOLLOWING THE LORD WITHOUT HOLDING BACK; COMMITTING SIGNIFICANT time and energy to being with the One who is worthy of our all. A consequence that flows from our time in His presence includes increased faith, vitality, and witness to the world. When we connect with God, His values permeate our own hearts.

Finally, as we come to know God's heart, we identify with Him and carry out His purposes. Even after we come to Christ, pursuing God with all our heart, soul and strength is not a given. We are called into daily spiritual battle with every minute of prayer, every act of forgiveness, every sense of entitlement surrendered. Like anything else worthy of pursuit in life, it takes time and effort. But to those who seek Him, the Lord responds and draws near through His Spirit.

Join this life-changing journey with the faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends of Christian Union, as we press into God and learn to live out the biblical principles of a God-seeking life.

# PRINCIPLES OF DRAWING NEAR TO GOD

- One -Growing in Humility through Fasting

> - Two -Fervent and Frequent Prayer

- Three -Massive Intake of Scripture

- Four -**Practicing Personal and Corporate Repentance of Sins** 

- Five -Developing Obedience to God, Day by Day, Moment by Moment

- Six -Persevering in Seeking After God Day After Day, Month After Month

> - Seven -Gathering of and with Believers

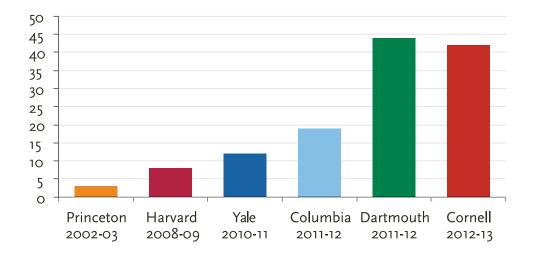
### MINISTRY UPDATE

To the Networked & Engaged Christian Leaders

CHRISTIAN UNION'S FIRST CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY WAS ESTABLISHED AT Princeton in 2002. By God's grace, the ministry has grown from three students to more than 400 (out of 5,341 undergraduates).

Since 2002, Christian Union has launched leadership development ministries at five additional university campuses, and, remarkably, the initial launch/growth trajectories at these schools are even more promising (the x axis, below, shows number of students in Bible courses in the ministry's first year).

The results at these universities are encouraging—to God be the glory. But there is much to be done. The scope of work before Christian Union is significant.



### MISSION

Christian Union's mission, by God's power, is to change the world by bringing sweeping spiritual transformation to America's most influential and secular universities, and to key cities, thereby developing and mobilizing godly leadership to positively impact all sectors of society.

### NEED

More than 50 percent of the most influential leaders in the nation are alumni of just eight of the 2,500 four-year colleges and universities in the United States. However, more than 90 percent of students at these schools have no involvement with a Christian ministry. The combined secularism and influence of these institutions works to suppress Christian influence in culture.

### VISION

Due to the enormous collective impact these eight universities have on society, Christian Union's vision is to develop Christian leaders at these very schools. This ministry will deploy resources and staffing toward ensuring that 20 percent of the students, faculty and staff are experiencing the benefit of Christian community and growing as Christian leaders, a tipping point for shifting the culture of the institutions themselves.

### OUTCOMES

In the following pages of this report, you will learn about the work God has been doing through Christian Union to change lives and to bring about transformation in the social and intellectual climates not only at Princeton, but also at five other profoundly influential universities. And you will learn about Christian Union's work to develop networks of leaders through City Christian Union.



### UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN UNION

Investing in Tomorrow's Leaders, Today

IN 2012-13, CHRISTIAN UNION ADDED CORNELL AS THE SIXTH LEADING UNIVERSITY where it had established ministries. The strong, steady growth of the ministry program at each of these campuses has mirrored, and often exceeded, the growth trajectory set by the first ministry launched at Princeton.

# 2012-13 MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

The new ministry lauch at Cornell, coupled with high student interest in Bible courses at all six campuses, prompted Christian Union to hire seven additional ministry faculty. The new faculty brought exceptional qualifications, spiritual maturity, and life experience to their new roles. Their bios are online at ChristianUnion.org.

### **Cornell Ministry Launched Strong**

By the end of its founding year, 45 Cornell students met weekly to study Scripture in depth with a Christian Union ministry fellow and to learn to seek God together. As a launch, student Bible course enrollment at Cornell was second only to Dartmouth's first-semester record. The ministry hit the ground running with activities such as a book giveaway (350 copies) of Tim Keller's *The Reason for God.* 

# Personal Mentoring Helped Students to Go Deeper

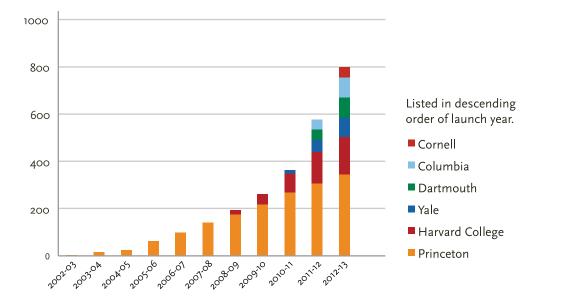
In addition to teaching Scripture and providing leadership coaching, ministry fellows held 3,498 one-on-one mentoring appointments with students to discuss topics of faith and leadership. Intensive mentoring produced significant spiritual and leadership growth in students' lives.

# Students Sought the Lord

Ministry fellows modeled and encouraged students to adopt frequent, fervent prayer and regular fasting as they sought the Lord daily. Students prayed for nearly 8,200 hours, collectively, and fasted for a total of 1,061 days.

### **Bible Course Enrollment Surged**

Student enrollment in Christian Union's rigorous, weekly Bible courses grew by 39 percent over 2011–12 (see chart, below). Ministry fellows instructed 800 students in small group courses, using Christian Union's proprietary curriculum. This year's courses included: Romans (fall); Acts (spring).



# Intensive Conferences, Missions Trips, and Academies Spurred Spiritual Growth

Ministry fellows took a total of 701 students off-campus for fall and winter conferences, and summer mission trips to Uganda and Israel.

Christian Union also trained students at its summer Worldview Academy in Lake George, New York. These conferences, mission trips, and academies featured challenging, in-depth studies of Scripture, theology and philosophy, vocational integration lectures, worship, and frequent, fervent prayer.

### Students Put Leadership Skills into Action

In 2012-13, 410 students carried significant duties as part of the Christian leadership development program. Leadership responsibilities touched most aspects of the ministry, such as writing evangelistic newspaper ads, leading fasting and prayer, and organizing the weekly leadership lecture series.

### Leadership Lecture Series Drew High-Quality Speakers

Christian Union's weekly lecture series provided students with access to leading Christian scholars, authors, and professionals. The average weekly attendance for the six schools combined was 406 students, up from 231 students last year. Speakers included:

Bob Doll, Chief Equity Strategist, Naveen Asset Management Gregory Slayton, former U.S. Ambassador and professor at Dartmouth's Tuck School of Business Dr. Michael Lindsay, President of Gordon College

# Aspiring Leaders Worked Toward Certification

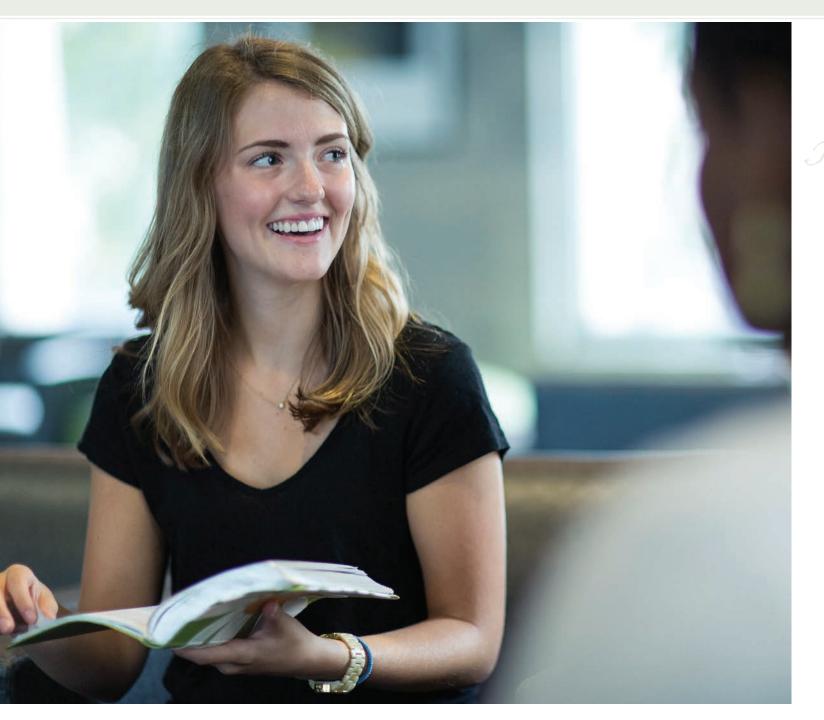
Eighty-eight students worked toward Christian Union's two-year Christian leadership development certification. Requirements included: approximately 2,800 pages of reading; leadership and evangelistic projects; and a significant adoption of the seeking-God lifestyle.

# Students Shared the Gospel in Compelling Ways

Students engaged their peers with intellectually credible presentations of Christianity, giving out 3,500 books such as Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis and The Reason for God by Tim Keller. They performed 22,660 acts of campus kindness, such as snacks given out during finals, to reflect God's love. At Princeton, students ran ten full-page evangelistic and apologetics ads in The Daily Princetonian, the campus newspaper, in the spring.

### New Believers Grew as Christian Leaders

The ministry was intentional in ensuring that students who came to Christ stayed engaged and grew through Christian Union's Bible courses, the leadership lecture series, and other programs. Eighty-nine new Christians were involved with the ministry at the end of the academic year.



### UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN UNION

# Engaging Students Intellectually & Socially

IN 2012-13, UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN UNION CONTINUED TO CHANGE THE INTELLECTUAL CLIMATE AT the universities where it works.

### Precept Offers Christian Scholarly Perspective

Christian Union provides students intellectual resources to excel as Christian scholars; to be knowledgeable and discerning, and humble yet confident with respect to scholarly controversies. One example comes from Princeton where an acclaimed religion professor teaches a course that addresses the reliability of Scripture and traditional interpretations of the Bible. Christian Union created an in-depth discussion group, assigning interested students extensive supplemental readings to provide the theological and historical rationale for orthodox viewpoints. As a result, students whose views differ from the interpretations put forth in class are better able to articulate the rationale for their position. These students also met after-hours with the professor for more in-depth discussion of issues of scholarship and interpretation. The professor's gracious response to the increased dialogue was to add to the syllabus a differing viewpoint on Scripture written by foremost New Testament scholar N.T. Wright.

### Using Debate to Communicate Christian Worldview

In the fall, Christian Union student leaders at Harvard and the Harvard student atheist/humanist organization hosted a debate entitled "Good without God?" An estimated 430 attended. Christian Union's representative students emphasized philosophical and logical coherence, as well as personal testimonies pointing to concrete examples of the necessity of God and His goodness in the world. The event moderator was a former atheist who later became a member of the Christian Union ministry.

# Christian Union Students Promote Christian Worldview in Print and Online

Recently students involved with Christian Union's leadership development program at several schools have become ongoing contributors to their schools' newspapers.

In addition, Christian Union grants help underwrite the publishing and distribution of these student journals:

- Harvard Ichthus, Harvard's journal of Christian thought
- The Logos, Yale's undergraduate Christian magazine
- Lamp Post, Penn's journal of Christian thought

# Worldview Academy

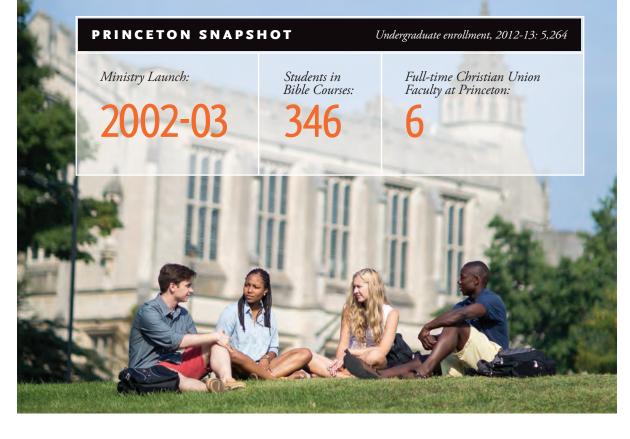
In August, Christian Union debuted its Christian Worldview Academy. The intensive, 10-day conference weaved together Christian perspectives, scholarly investigation, and camaraderie, and took place at the ministry's new conference center, Hopewell House, located near Lake George in Upstate New York. Also throughout the year, ministry faculty led sessions with students that probed a series of in-depth topics geared to strengthen believers as they confront intellectual issues on their campuses. They offered the ministry's signature training on the principles behind leadership and a seeking-God lifestyle.

"This was the most academically rigorous and intellectually stimulating activity in which I have participated since joining Christian Union." – Andrew Garbarino, Harvard '13

### The Alternative

The Alternative (www.bealternative.org) launched recently at Princeton, created by students to expose the harmful realities of the hook-up culture on Princeton's campus and encourage students to pursue an alternative lifestyle.

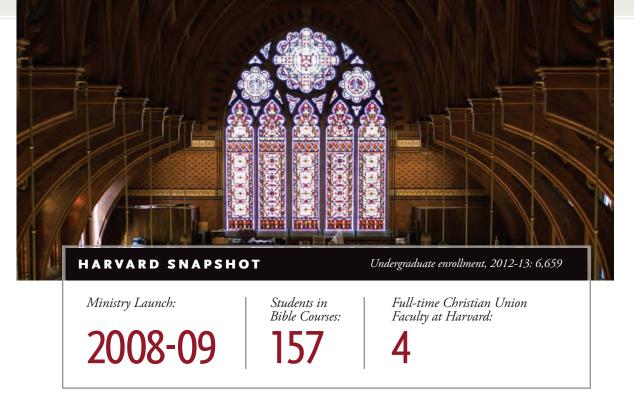
On the following pages are ministry snapshots and quotes from the six universities where Christian Union is at work, in the order that the ministries were launched.



## PRINCETON

The ministry is the largest student organization, of any kind, at Princeton. Involved students are making a difference. Dave Kurz, a student leader, wrote regular columns for The Daily Princetonian, the school's student paper. His were thoughtful and engaging opinion pieces on topics from the Christian worldview, ranging from the nature of truth to the student hook-up culture.

"The ministry developed me as a leader more than any other student group. I was elected as a senator for my class, yet I find myself applying principles learned through Christian Union to run meetings and set goals." – Charissa Shen '14

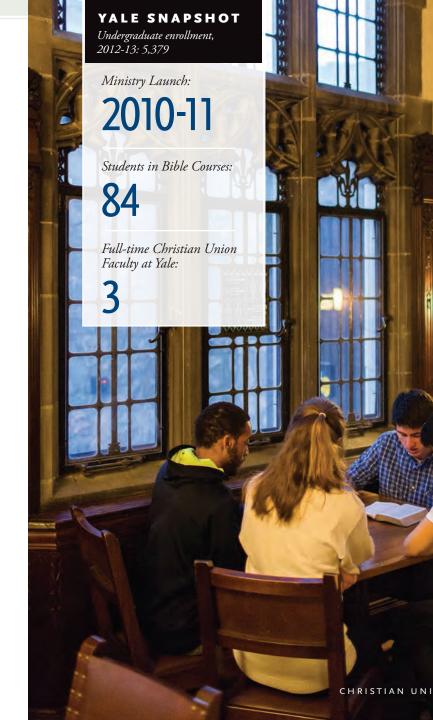


### HARVARD

Ministry highlights include:

- In the fall student leaders involved in the ministry debated the topic "Good without God" with the Harvard student atheist/humanist organization, attracting more than 400 attendees.
- Students also hosted an art exhibit entitled, "Compassion: The Good Samaritan." Approximately 300 students and members of the Harvard community attended the event.
- The ministry at Harvard was voted the third "most welcoming group" on campus by fellow students.

"Christian Union has fostered my growth as a Christian, guided my learning and understanding of the Gospel, and strengthened my belief in the Lord and in his son, Jesus Christ... Being a leader means knowing that you have the ability to make a positive impact on others." – Arturo Villanueva '13





### YALE

The ministry at Yale has grown at an even faster rate since its launch than did the ministry at Princeton.

"At every Bible course I gain a new perspective on a scriptural truth, as well as a conviction in the areas in which I can grow." – Marcus Boesel '14



### COLUMBIA

Jim Black, director of undergraduate ministry at Columbia reports, "God is at work at Columbia, granting students a greater desire for Himself and His Word. Six of the students in the ministry met to attempt quite a massive undertaking—to read aloud the entire New Testament in one sitting.

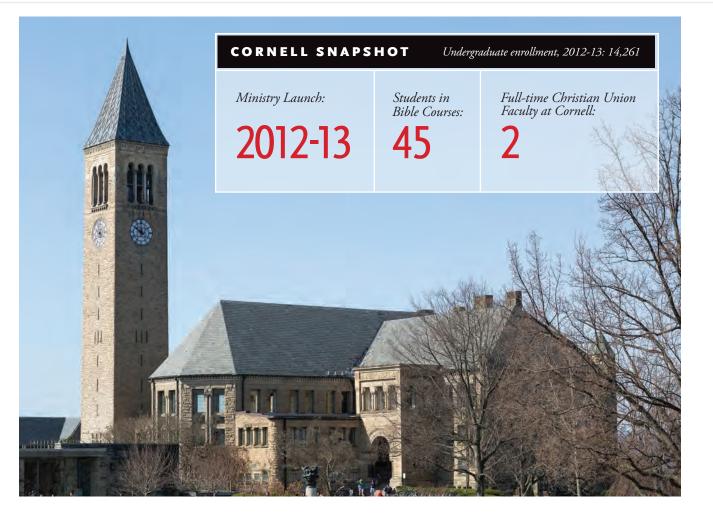
Three books and six hours in—at around 3 a.m.—they realized they probably wouldn't be able to finish the task in one night! But this deep saturation in scripture made its mark. One student told me, 'After our night of reading I was seeing the world around me through the lens of those three books (Luke, John, Acts). I was seeing so many intra- and extra-textual connections with the text. It was awesome."

### DARTMOUTH

To establish a Christian presence at these secular institutions is not always easy. At Dartmouth, students have petitioned three times to be recognized as a Christian leadership development organization, and have been denied each time. But the ministry is growing nonetheless. One highlight happened in the spring, when a student from Dartmouth took first place in a dramatic recitation of scripture in Christian Union's spokenWord competition in New York city.

"My Christian Union Bible course really brought me to the Scriptures in a critically engaging way. One of the skills I've had to develop is the ability to defend faith with reason." – Hannah Jung '15





### CORNELL

In August, Christian Union launched a leadership development ministry at Cornell with a successful outreach to incoming freshmen. The Bible courses were led by Jim Thomforde, Christian Union's director of undergraduate ministry at Cornell, and Asha Garretson, a Christian Union ministry fellow. "We are so grateful for the students God has drawn together," said Thomforde. "They are spiritually hungry and gifted in so many ways."

### **CITY CHRISTIAN UNION**

# New York City ... and Beyond

New York City Christian Union (NYCU) is a ministry to alumni of Christian Union's programs and their peers. The goal of NYCU is to develop a network of strong Christian leaders to transform a highly influential city. New York Christian Union currently represents two percent of the organization's overall budget.

The NYCU program is characterized by high-caliber Christian Union faculty, excellent proprietary curriculum, and the use of top-flight speakers. NYCU's program elements include:

# **Bible Courses**

Bible courses provided deep, challenging Biblical instruction. Courses are tailored to equip New York professionals to be strong in Christ and to impact their environs with the Gospel. Small groups of the same sex enable participants to develop a close network among Christian leaders.

# Forums on Christian Leadership

In March, the first NYCU Forum kicked off with "Christian Leadership in Hollywood: Redeeming the Values of Media". More than 70 attendees heard Dr. Ted Baehr, Founder and Publisher of MOVIE-GUIDE<sup>®</sup>, speak. His message encouraged and challenged Christian professionals to be bold influencing secular industries such as Hollywood. The good news, Baehr said, is that God is at work in Hollywood.

"Actors, directors, and producers are coming to faith in Christ, although they need to be encouraged to be bold and open about their faith.""We should be bold proponents for the message of Christ," he urged.

#### Christian Union Expense for year ending June 30, 2013 FY12 FY13 Income \$4,986,338 \$4,669,401 Donations--Unrestricted Donation--Temporarily restricted \$844,182 \$917,761 \$448 Other income **Total Income** \$5,830,968 \$5,594,851 Expenses General & Administrative \$589,778 \$351,613 Fundraising \$800,949 Programs Leadership Development Ministries Princeton \$896,691 \$917,427 Harvard \$425,047 \$520,736 Yale \$395,819 \$267,102 Columbia \$333,740 \$291,788 Dartmouth \$290,477 \$229,447 Cornell \$244,488 Ivv League Christian Observer \$209,415 \$223,441 \$60,024 Prayer for the Ivy League Conferences \$32,382 \$112,928 Grants \$165,766 \$171,939 Lifelong Discipleship Media \$2,827 \$7,468 Ministry Centers Wilson Center (Princeton) \$31,233 Mott Center (Cornell) \$15,656 Judson Center (Brown) \$10,964 Hopewell House \$51,993 City Christian Union ministries \$222,722 \$216,163 New York City Christian Union/DOXA \$134,990 Ministry-wide programs and services \$501,639 \$529,027 Total Program \$4,126,203 \$3,594,786 Cost of good sold (books) \$2,383 **Total Expense** \$5,519,313 \$4,627,694

FINANCIALS

### Salons

In November, Dr. Sean McDonough, Professor of New Testament at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (GCTS), addressed a "Biblical view of Creation, Myth, and Science" in the NYCU's first Salon. The alumnus of Harvard, GCTS, and University of St. Andrews, addressed a topic that constantly calls for a Christian's thoughtful and agile response. Dr. McDonough helped attendees take a fresh look at Creation in a variety of Biblical texts and explored how our understanding of Origins shapes our outlook on a myriad of current issues. Christian leaders were better equipped to reconcile and communicate a Biblical view of Creation, Myth, and Science.

In April, Prof. Paul Lim, Associate Professor of the History of Christianity, Vanderbilt University, Divinity School (BA, Yale University, MDiv, Biblical Theological Seminary, ThM, Princeton Theological Seminary, PhD, University of Cambridge) spoke on "The Promise of Trinitarian Spirituality: How our understanding of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit can strengthen our faith and embolden us to heed His call.'

In June, Prof. Stamenka Antanova, Assistant Professor of Religion at Columbia University (PhD Columbia University), led an interactive tour of the Ancient Greek and Roman exhibit and early Christian and Byzantine art at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. The topic: "The Soil and Fruit of Early Christianity: An Exploration into the World of Ancient Believers."

### **City Host Program**

The program matched young alumni to mature, established Christian professional mentors in New York City.

\$7,689 \$677,960 \$7,746 \$59,525 \$42,339 \$18,006 \$4,425 \$3,886 \$71,723 \$3,335

### DONORS

To the Donor List of God's Glory

CHRISTIAN UNION OWES PROFOUND THANKS TO MANY GENEROUS PARTNERS WHO HAVE DONATED TO the ministry. The list below includes donors from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013. Above all, Christian Union praises the Lord Jesus Christ for His gracious blessings and provision.

Dr. Edward and Dr. Dusanka

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