

HALVORSEN MINISTRY UPDATE



Northeastern University students gathering for Cru's weekly meeting

God On the Move at Northeastern University

Much to our chagrin, the pandemic has continued and life has not returned to “normal.” Our Cru staff are thankful that most universities in Boston have continued in-person so they can still meet with students on campus. Student discipleship and weekly Cru meetings are still able to happen and God is clearly on the move. Students old and new are showing up.

After speaking to a packed room at Northeastern University, a freshman named **Allison** introduced herself to Todd Williams, my former team leader on campus.

“I just want you to know that I have no faith background whatsoever. But twice in my life I have been involved in accidents that should have killed me. The doctors keep telling me ‘You are SO lucky!’ But my roommate suggested maybe it is more than luck. Maybe ‘Someone’ is looking out for you! I think she may be right and I want to learn about Him.”

Pray with us, that Allison would further see how these “accidents” are pointing to God Himself, the *Giver of Life*, and that she would enter into relationship with Him.

Also this year at Northeastern, thirty students whose lives have been changed by Jesus, are leading discipleship groups. One of these students is **Pearl**.



Pearl grew up in a Christian family, but never understood or cared much about God. In boarding school, she did whatever she wanted: pursuing achievement, popularity, boys, stealing and getting expelled for an alcohol violation. When she arrived at Northeastern University, she “sprinted into the party scene”, pursued “bigger and badder sins” and honestly loved it. Pearl said, “For many people, there is a nagging emptiness that leads them to Jesus, because nothing else satisfies. I was completely content in the lifestyle I had chosen.” In the spring of her freshmen year, everything changed abruptly... because of a story on YouTube!

Alone in her dorm, scrolling YouTube, a video popped up about Jesus. For some reason, she watched it. A guy her age shared his story, explaining the good news about Jesus in a way she understood. Pearl shared with a group of students “I finally understood the significance of the phrase: *Jesus died for your sins*. Every word in that phrase felt heavy to me. That my sin caused a rift between God and me was mind blowing. The sinful activities I thought were fun were the very reason Jesus had to be put on a cross. When I finally comprehended that truth, I fell to the ground weeping. I was like that for about a week.” She describes it like looking back on her whole life when suddenly a curtain fell and “everything I had esteemed and exalted suddenly looked like disgusting trash. I gave my life to Jesus, and I had a completely new mind, new heart and new desires... I thought I was going crazy until I went home, and my mom told me she had been praying for me to come to know Jesus every day for months.”

Pearl’s joy is explosive and contagious. She couldn’t hold it in if she tried. Now a junior at Northeastern, she decided for the first time to lead a small discipleship group to help other women know and love Jesus. And she’s not alone.

Pray with us that Pearl and these other student leaders at Northeastern would cling tightly to Jesus as they lead others in studying the Bible, applying God’s Word, and living in authentic community with one another.

Thank you so much for helping me build into new Cru missionary staff so college students at Northeastern and throughout Boston have opportunities to come to know God, grow in their faith, and be sent into the World as disciples of Christ.