

# Change Boston & Beyond

Brian & Malisa Ellis – Serving with Cru

August 27, 2025



## Who will we meet tomorrow?

Tomorrow is our first day back on campus mixing it up with freshmen. We'll be passing out sno-cones to give students a positive taste of Cru and a positive taste of Jesus.

“Cherry or Blue Raspberry?” also “Faith or no faith background?”

### But who will we meet?

Will it be future MLK, Jamie Dimon, Howard Stern, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Helen Keller, or Jay Leno? All of them went to school in Boston. You never know... maybe Jason Alexander or Bill O'Reilly or Julianne Moore really loved Grape or Lemon sno-cones.

Or will it be the next generation of students like Asaph, Todd, Tara, Mary, Daralyn, Joel, or Ethan – students who got involved with Cru and went on to do full time missions with us after graduation?

Who will we meet tomorrow?

**We work with college students in Boston because they're going to change the**

**world.** Would you pray alongside us that the change they bring to the world also brings the aroma of Christ? The spiritual work we're doing only happens when Jesus changes peoples' lives. That's why your prayers are the critical piece of the puzzle.

And would you pray that even some of the students we meet in the next 24 hours would begin a relationship with Jesus?

This is a time of year where Malisa and I always feel overwhelmed and stretched thin. But it's also a time of year where we're expectant because God is on the move in the lives of college students.

We love praying and ministering alongside you.

We've attached a prayer guide to Boston that we just used this week in our backyard with some friends and partners like you. Thanks for praying with us for those we'll meet tomorrow.

Loving our adventurous Lord,

*Brian & Malisa*

### Would you pray:

- For our upcoming outreaches – Sno Cones on 8/28 and 8/30, 1<sup>st</sup> day photos on 9/2, Ice Cream with musicians on 9/9, as well as a half-dozen activity fairs on campuses across the city. Pray that we connect with thousands of the 40,000 freshmen coming to school here.
- For Malisa and me as we share the gospel – that the Word of God would take root in students' lives.

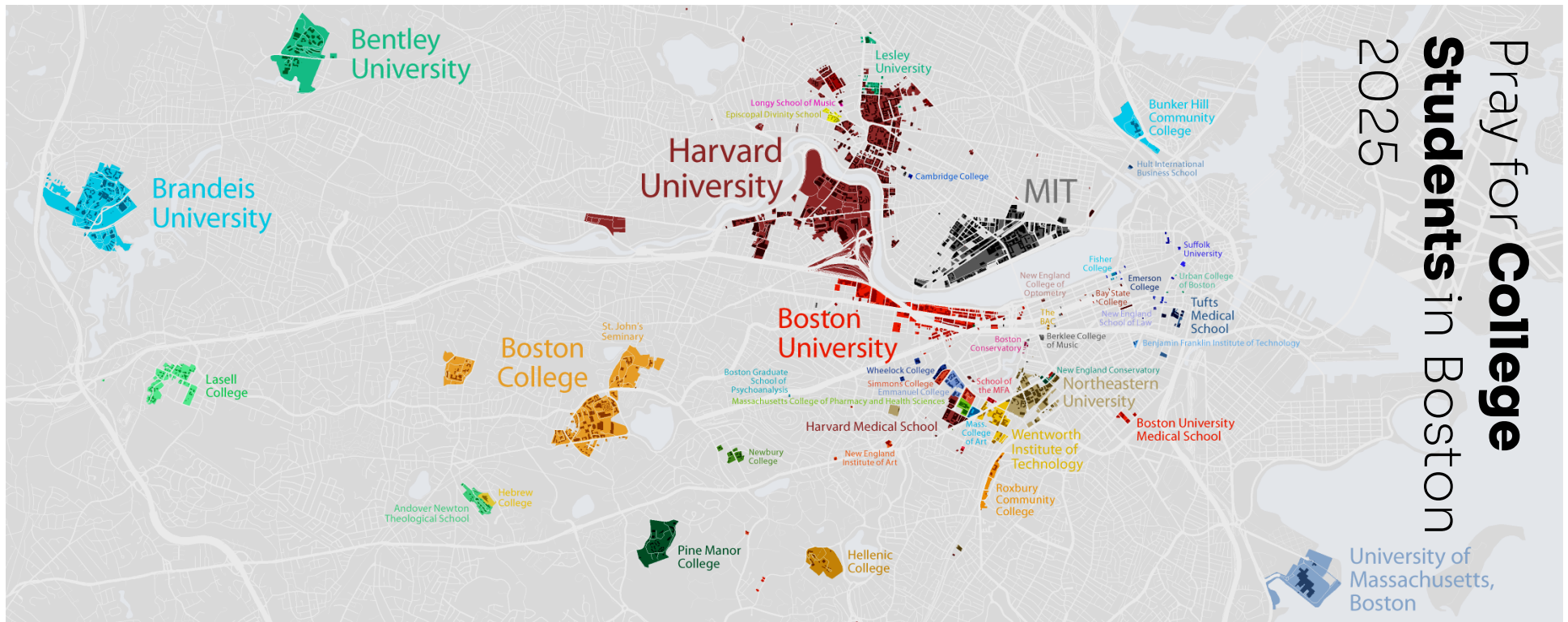


**Malisa and I did a really fun prayer walk this summer in Portland Maine – join us in praying for our Cru movement at Southern Maine Community College.**



**Malisa & Brian Ellis**

87 Stowcroft Rd.  
Arlington, MA 02474  
malisa.ellis@cru.org, (617) 800-6844  
brian.ellis@cru.org, (978) 828-8024  
Info on how to give to our ministry  
at [www.brianandmalisa.com](http://www.brianandmalisa.com)



Pray for **College**  
**Students** in Boston  
 2025

**1 Undergraduates:** Pray for creative and innovate inroads with the 160,000 undergrads. Specifically, that our sophomore and freshman classes will find a great spiritual community in Cru and become multiplying disciples.

**2 Church Connections** Pray for college students to find a church home in Boston. Pray for our church communities to be welcoming and engaging towards college students.

**3 Scope:** 50 Colleges and Universities in Greater Boston: We have movements at 20 schools. Here are a few to pray for specifically Harvard, MIT, Tufts, UMass Boston, BU, NU, Simmons, WIT, Emmanuel, MCPHS, Berklee, NEC, Emerson, Mass Art, BC, Brandeis, Bentley, Babson, Wellesley, Olin

**4 International Students:** Pray for undergraduate students who are believers to connect with community, Pray for inroads in the Graduate student world. Pray for Peace as they settle into school this year.

**Athletes:** Pray for class of 2029 athletes. Pray for students to be bold with the Gospel on their teams. Pray for wisdom on how to care for groups of Athletes at Harvard, BU, MIT, BC, Babson, Bentley, and other schools.

**5 Student Leaders:** Pray they would walk by faith in the power of the Holy Spirit, to share their faith with gentleness. That they would lead others in discipleship with courage and faith. That our leaders would be characterized by lives transformed by Jesus. That students will be attracted to Jesus.

**6 Gospel Witness:** Pray that our students have great connections with peers, friends, classmates, and floormates. May those intentional first steps help the Gospel to be beautiful and attractive to those who don't yet know Christ.

**7 Freshmen:** Pray for deepening connections with the freshmen that we have connected with already and great first interactions over the next few weeks. Pray for freshman discipleship groups to be magnetic and invitational. Pray for the 40,000 who are beginning to flood the city.

**8 Faculty:** Pray for our Advisors and other Christian Professors on campus. Pray for open doors to share the Gospel with Professors and Faculty.

**Graduate Students:** Pray for inroads in the lives of Graduate Students

# Prayers for a College Student:

## Flourishing, Favor, Shalom, and Excellence

First, I pray for **flourishing**. I pray that each freshman truly thrives. You can see such beautiful promises through the verb flourish that we can pray. Consider Psalm 52:8 and David's confidence about his life. He writes, "But I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God; I trust in God's unfailing love for ever and ever." Think about Psalm 92 and the promise that the righteous will flourish. Finally, I pray the blessing from Psalm 115: "May the Lord cause you to flourish, both you and your children." *Lord, will you cause our college students to truly flourish in every way—spiritually, academically, socially, emotionally, and even financially.*

Next, I pray for belonging, true friendship, and **favor** with others. I pray for the fellowship the Holy Spirit allows us to have with others. I pray in line with 1 John 1:7: "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin." I also pray that each freshman finds favor with others. Throughout scripture, we can see the Lord's kindness as He allows people to find favor in the eyes of others (Genesis 39; Exodus 11; Nehemiah 1; Esther 2; Psalm 84; Psalm 90; Proverbs 3; Daniel 1). I conclude by praying from Psalm 5:2: "Surely, O Lord, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favor as with a shield." *Lord, will you allow our college students to find true belonging with You and then with others, true friendship, and favor with others.*

Next, I pray for **shalom**—the sense of well-being, completeness, wholeness, and peace—to fill each freshman's heart. I want them to feel that "all is as it should be" wherever they go and that their environment feels right. I pray against homesickness. I pray the blessing over them that the Lord would "turn his face towards [them] and give them peace (shalom)" from Numbers 6:26. *Lord, give our college students Your peace that passes understanding.*

Lastly, I pray that each freshman would become **excellent** in the work of their hands. I love Proverbs 22:29: "Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will serve before kings; he will not serve before obscure men." I pray they would study "with all [their] heart as if working for the Lord" (Colossians 3). I pray from Ecclesiastes that each freshman would be happy in their work as a gift from God. I love how Solomon states that this person will "seldom reflect on the days of his life, because God keeps him occupied with gladness of heart" (Ecclesiastes 5:20). I pray from Psalm 90 this incredible prayer: "May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands— yes, establish the work of our hands." *Lord, enable our college students to become excellent in their work.*

I'll remember these words: Flourishing, Favor, Shalom, and Excellence.

Adapted from Heather Holleman: "Prayers for a College Student: Flourishing, Favor, Shalom, and Excellence."