



May 6, 2025

Dear Friends,

There were 4 boxes in the center of the table labeled: "God Showing Off" "Changed Lives" "God Surprises" and "Favorite Moments" As we filled each box with notes to celebrate what God has done, we laughed, cheered, and shared tears of Joy - *look at what God has done this year!* This was the scene at our staff meeting last week.

We want to welcome you to the table to celebrate. These are conversations we have all the time as Cru staff. I get to have them every Sunday night when Malisa comes home from meeting her athletes. Every Monday night as we clean up after our Cru meeting in the Fenway area. Every Tuesday night after families leave our house from Cru High School.

And it's not just on our Boston team. It's across New England and around the country. I was talking with Shannon Compere, our executive director the other day on a zoom call and we spent two hours sharing stories of God at work. We had goofy ear to ear smiles the whole time. You know how when you've laughed a lot your cheeks hurt? It was like that.

What we're inviting you into today is a big "Thank You Note" from the front lines. You are invested in what God is doing on campus. And so, we want to say, **"Thank You."**

Malisa and I never want to graduate from direct ministry with college students. And as an organization, Cru never graduates from the basics of fulfilling the great commission by winning, building, and sending. We win students to Christ, build them in their relationship



Julia, a new believer, brought her freshman teammate to Cru to hear about Jesus the week before she graduates.

with God, and send them out to multiply their lives in the world.

Let me tell you some stories of Win, Build, and Send from this year - so you and I can celebrate together.

Win: Evangelism

In October, Malisa and I hosted a dinner on campus for the athletes she ministers to. Her athletes invited their teammates to come to dinner. And Julia, an international student who is about to graduate, came to dinner. She

was not a believer but was interested in thinking about spiritual things. She's been very faithful. A couple weeks ago, they were reading Matthew 28: the great commission. Malisa could tell something was starting to shift - Julia was bringing a German bible with her to read and understand the bible in her heart language. Malisa asked the group a question: "What is a disciple?" Julia said "hmmm... that's an old Bible word. I don't know what it means. But ***if a disciple is a follower of Jesus, then I guess I'm a disciple. It just makes sense.*** The more I learn the more convinced I am that following Jesus is the way."

It just makes sense! Don't you agree? Last week, at their final meeting, Julia brought a freshman to the group. "I wish someone invited me to this group before I was a senior," she commented. So, she's making sure to change it for the next generation.

Build: Discipleship

Part of our "Build" strategy includes taking students on short-term mission trips over spring break. Because students get a chance to learn to share the gospel and they see God use them in the lives of others. That "wow...God is on the move, and he can use me!" feeling comes back with them to their campuses.

At UConn, on the Monday after spring break, 20 of our student leaders went out on their own to share the gospel with whoever they could meet. Scott, our TL, said so much evangelism is happening he can't really keep track of it.

And the same at Bentley - students who go on spring break with Cru learn to share the gospel. Then they come back and share with their friends. Joe, a grad student on the football team, just led three of his freshmen teammates to Christ.

And at BU, Keilana came back from spring break with a fresh fire to talk to her friends here in Boston. And also a heart to go to the world again. So this summer she's heading to the Middle East on a summer mission with Cru. (Malisa and I will be training this team before they leave at the end of May).

Send: Life on mission

Bryana asked Malisa to write her recommendation for med school because she wants her relationship with Christ to show up on her med school application. Isn't that so cool?

Bryana is graduating as a sent one. A big part of the reason: she's part of a chain of spiritual multiplication. Before her, we had a student named



Bryana (bottom Right) and Daralyn (top Left) are and have graduated as "Sent Ones".

Daralyn come to Boston from Hawaii (Malisa took her shopping for a winter coat during her freshman year). Daralyn journeyed through life with Bryana. Then Daralyn graduated and has spent the last two years as an international intern in the Middle East. Last year, Bryana prayed that when she was a senior, she'd be able to shepherd and care for a pack of sophomore women. And that's what she's doing this year.

We're talking about Winning people to Christ, Building them up in their relationship with the Lord, and then Sending them out to the world. This means sending them as missionaries but also as life-long laborers in every field.

So that's what we're trying to do: **Win, Build, Send.**

When Malisa and I hear and see these stories, we laugh, we cheer, we weep tears of joy. **Because: look what God has done! Look at what YOU'VE been a part of!**

Thank you.

Thanks for getting under the rock with us this past year. Thank you for your faithful prayers and giving this past year. It worked. Your giving to these strategies of Win, Build, and Send is making a difference. We're seeing growth. The only downside: it worked so well that now we need the additional resources to follow through on our plans to Win, Build, and Send.

This summer, Malisa and I will be helping train our new Cru team leaders from across the country. It's a great opportunity for us to develop leaders.

Giving in the spring makes up a significant portion of how the Lord provides for our family. In addition to our summer expenses as we train new team leaders, a gift today will help us stay engaged in the win, build, and send work we've been sharing with you. We're looking to raise \$25,000 to cover our summer ministry and accelerate our outreach in the fall as the class of 2029 begins.

Would you consider a special gift of [top, middle, low]?

Thank you.

Loving our Adventurous Lord,

Malisa + Brian



Brian, Malisa, Sydney (14), Eliza(11), & Genevieve (7). We love you and are so thankful for you.

p.s. Your gift will help us get the gospel to students across New England and will help us keep reaching students for Christ. Thanks for your commitment before we start training new team leaders on June 1.



Yes!

Malisa and Brian, I'd like to invest in winning, building, and sending, and I'd like to give to help reach students across New England this year.

Here's a gift of: \$ _____

I've included a check made out to "Cru", or given online at www.brianandmalisa.com

