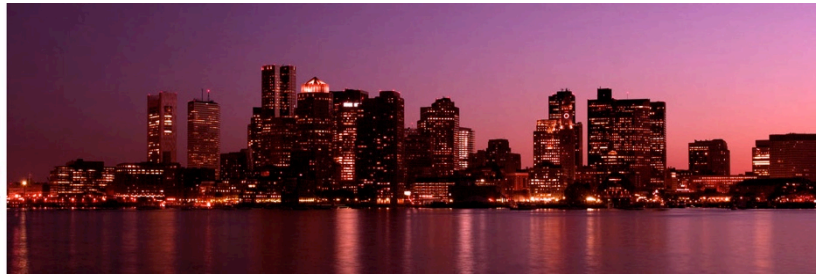


April 1, 2020

Brian & Malisa Ellis – Serving with Cru in Boston



# Change Boston

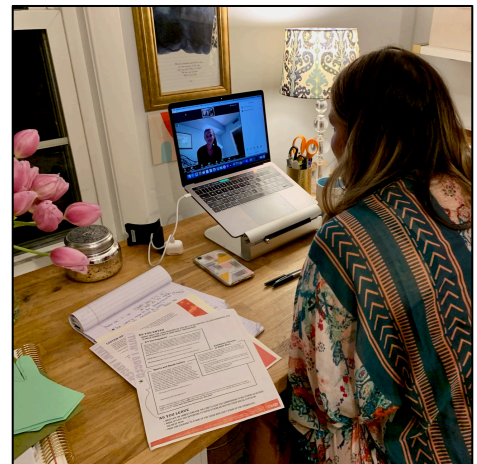
## A Mighty Fortress

A mighty fortress is our God  
 A bulwark never failing  
 Our helper He amid the flood  
 Of mortal ills prevailing  
 For still our ancient foe  
 Doth seek to work us woe  
 His craft and pow'r are great  
 And armed with cruel hate  
 On earth is not his equal  
 If we in our own strength confide  
 Our striving would be losing  
 Were not the right Man on our side  
 The Man of God's own choosing  
 You ask who that may be  
 Christ Jesus it is He  
 The Lord of Hosts His name  
 From age to age the same  
 And He must win the battle...

Over the last few weeks, as we've transitioned to video conference calls for all our on-campus meetings, I've been asking students two questions: **1. In what ways are you experiencing grief right now? 2. In what way are you noticing that you are thankful in a fresh way?**

Brian and I have been praying for you and would love to hear how you're doing and how you might answer those two questions. **Would you let me know?** Email: [malisa.ellis@cru.org](mailto:malisa.ellis@cru.org)  
 Thanks!

When I asked these questions to Grace, a senior at Simmons University, she quietly whispered, "I just need to get some fresh air. **I have only been outside of our home for 5 minutes in the last 21 days.** My mom doesn't want me to even set foot outside on our porch." When her college closed 3 weeks ago, Grace went home to New York City. She shared about some of the ways she was experiencing grief. We talked about how God is our refuge and our strength (see Ps 46). I listened to her process more and then gently mentioned that I think it is good for us to pray for spiritual strength right now. We closed our virtual discipleship time by praying for Spiritual Strength for both of us



*The look of ministry these days... thankful that I can still connect with students around the world.*

and for others we know.

When I asked these questions to Lucia, a freshman at Boston University, she shared that she's grieving and anxious about what's ahead. As we talked this week, she began to cry, explaining that she doesn't want to have the same college experience she had last fall. Lucia has been feeling lost. She hadn't been to any church or spiritual event for the previous 6 years (her family stopped attending church just before high school. Just this semester, as she's gotten involved with the athlete study I lead on Sunday nights, and with our weekly dinners on Thursdays, the gospel is beginning to sink into Lucia's heart and mind. I reminded her that, although things will change in the fall, God is our Refuge and our strength, a very present help in trouble (ps 46).

Psalm 46 keeps coming up. As does the song "A Mighty Fortress." I have found myself drawn to this song by Heartsong, "A mighty Fortress" that was first written by Martin Luther around 1527. Check it out: [https://youtu.be/\\_vT6HQ1QaU4](https://youtu.be/_vT6HQ1QaU4) Thank you for being part of what God is doing to expand the Gospel in the lives and hearts of this next generation. Brian and I are so grateful for each one of you. Please know that we are praying for you as you experience grief and also thankfulness during this season.

Loving our adventurous Lord,

*Brian & Malisa*

**Would you pray:**

For Grace, Lucia, and all our students experiencing grief and thankfulness as their worlds turn upside down

For Brian and me as we continue to minister to students and care for our 3 girls – Sydney, Eliza, and Genevieve



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Info on how to give to our ministry at

[www.brianandmalisa.com](http://www.brianandmalisa.com)