

June 1, 2015

Dear friends,

In the summer of 2009, Malisa and I took a prayer walk at Boston University. We were about to join the team of staff working at BU that fall. We wanted to pray and dream about what God might do. We stopped in front of the largest dorm on campus, Warren Towers, and prayed that God would raise up a great movement there. In our prayer update that July, we asked you to pray with us for the 1,800 incoming freshmen at that dorm.

You prayed that we would meet freshmen who would one day change the world.

It's been almost 6 years and boy has the Lord answered your prayers!

There are now over 150 students involved with Cru at BU – up from 6 students back in 2009.

Across Boston, we've seen 55 students begin following Jesus this year (the highest we've recorded in the 17 years I've been around).

In this letter, I want to take you back to that day and then give you a bird's eye view of what has happened since. The last 6 years have been incredible, and we think the next 6 years have even more promise. We want you to consider a special gift toward this next phase of ministry here in Boston.



Ethan, Alex & Rebecca

One of the guys we met in Warren towers in the fall of 2009, Ethan, committed his life to Christ his freshman year of college. As a senior, he moved back into Warren Towers with his friends Alex and Rebecca and together they formed our first insider team to reach out to that dorm. Over the course of the year, those three shared the gospel with nearly half the people on their floor. And they had so much fun that others noticed and the following year, six upper-classmen moved back into Warren.

Some students were hostile, but others were intrigued

Last year, those 6 insiders lived a gospel-centered life on display for the rest of the people on the floor to see. Some students were hostile, but others were intrigued – including our friend Nick, who said he had never seen people love each other like that. Last summer, after many gospel conversations over the course of the year, Nick gave his life to Christ.

This year, there are 7 insiders living in Warren. One of the freshmen on the floor, a Muslim guy from Pakistan, told his mom that all his best friends were Christians involved with Cru. He's not a follower of Jesus yet, but please pray for him.

Movements multiplying across the city of Boston

Our thought was that if we could build a team of spiritual multipliers to create a truly transformational community, it would be able to send off healthy teams to reach other parts of the campus.

And that's just what's been happening:

- **Ethan and Brian** have spent the last few years reaching out to athletes – and we've seen similar things happen (students trusting Christ, reaching out to their teammates) on the Hockey, Wrestling, and now Lacrosse teams at BU.
- **Gwynnie**, one of last year's insiders, formed a team to reach artists in the theatre dept.
- **Drew** from Northeastern University noticed what happened at BU in Warren and chose to be an RA in a freshman dorm at his school so that he could reach out. He's seen two students on his floor trust Christ.
- **Alex** is now in grad school and has incredible chances to share with her occupational therapy classmates. She and **Malisa** have also been journeying with a group of Muslim students.

Across Boston, we're having a little revival.

We have insider teams on the Bentley University football team, on the BC baseball team, at Harvard in the quad, and in the 'women giving back' tower at Babson College. And we're seeing great fruit – as I mentioned, we've seen 55 students trust Christ so far this year.

And next year we're excited to be launching 15 new insider teams across Boston. We believe we're on the cusp of something amazing here in Boston, and we think we're positioned well to capitalize on what God is doing.

You have seen this happen before

Before Malisa came to Boston, she helped lead the Cru movements in Seattle and at Washington State University. While she was at Washington State, the movement was one of the most evangelistic in the country. Back in 2000, 2 upper-classmen moved back into freshmen dorms. Then 8... then 17... then 35... then 53... then 97. They expanded from dorms to sports teams and the Greek system. By the time Malisa left to lead the Cru ministry in Seattle, they were seeing 100 students a year trust Christ.

Malisa has seen teams of spiritual multipliers grow at Montana State where she was a student and at Washington State where she helped lead the movement. This gives us great confidence that what we're experiencing in Boston is not a temporary blip.



You are helping this movement spread

A big part of my job leading across the city of Boston is taking what's working and figuring out how to spread that from BU to BC, Babson, Berklee, and beyond. Malisa helps this spread in two ways: first, she's helping direct our ministry at BU, Northeastern, and the colleges in the Fenway area of Boston. So she is helping students catch this vision. But she also helps coach the city teams in Albany NY, Rochester NY, and other places across the region, so we have the potential to spread what's working here to college students across the Northeast and beyond (we're sending graduates to the Middle East and East Asia this next year).

Would you pray for changed lives?

Don't you think this is a really exciting time for ministry to college students in Boston?

You've been helping us fan into flame this spiritual community in Boston for years. I tell you – it's catching fire and spreading across the city. It's because of you that we're going to be able to expand from one insider team to fifteen next year. It's because of you – your prayers make the difference

What will this ministry look like in another 6 years? That's a question for you. You have so faithfully supported us over the years. **Will you join us again praying for God's kingdom?**

This summer, Malisa and I are in Colorado to help train our new Missional Team Leaders from across the country to build spiritual movements like what we're seeing in Boston.

Would you pray for us this summer that we are able to care well for those we're training?

Loving our Adventurous Lord,

Brian & Malisa



Malisa, Sydney 4, Brian, Eliza 1.5

P.S. How can we be praying for you? Could you take 10 seconds to send a quick e-mail to brian.ellis@cru.org with 1 or 2 prayer requests? Malisa and I would be honored to pray with you.