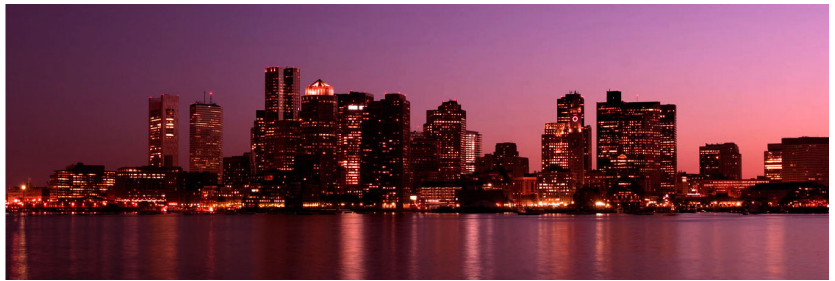


September 1, 2011

Serving with Real Life Boston, a Cru ministry

Change Boston



Saana's day at the beach

Malisa & Brian Ellis - Trusting God for 250,000 students in Boston.

As I walked up to the meeting location I saw Saana from Syria. She was standing next to her broken down stroller with her 2 year old and 3 year old in tow. We were meeting up to board a bus and head to the beach for the day. Saana is a refugee from Syria. She had moved from her country about 8 months prior and I had been spending time with her at a "Mom's and Tot's" program where we were helping to serve this summer. Saana's story is hard; she left a country that she described as a "mess" to come to a place where her husband had no job, where they had no official papers, and where they were basically ignored by everyone but a small believing community that provided a bag of fresh fruit each Monday during this 3 hour "Mom's and Tot's" program. The conversations that I was able to have with my Muslim friend in broken English were not profound but they were sweet. We talked about our kids, I asked to see pictures, then I asked how she was doing, I celebrated with her when their family got official refugee status (which allows them a bit more help).

A statement kept running through my head as I watched her navigate the bumpy streets with a stroller that was about to fall apart and her two kids. "The situation she left in Syria was much, much worse than the hard life as a refugee that she is experiencing now."

Can you imagine the contrast of a day at the beach? The image: Saana and her son and daughter had never been to the beach, but when we arrived, Saana took off running, daughter in tow down to the water. She jumped in—clothes and all—and joined into a volleyball game we had set up. The biggest surprise to me was that she removed her head covering and was smiling and laughing ear to ear. What a sweet picture that I will never forget. Please continue to pray for Saana and her two children, that as they are embraced by the small believing community again this fall that she might come to understand the power and beauty of our Savior Jesus.

On a personal note, I could write so many more stories about our time in the Middle East journeying with both refugees and students. As a new mom, I didn't really know what God might have in store for Sydney and I this summer. As it turned out, it was an amazing summer of connecting with various refugee moms and also lots and lots of college students. I was able to have some really, precious gospel conversations with these women and I will never forget the power of God opening doors. As you are praying over the next few weeks, would you pray for not only those in the middle east but also for Brian, Sydney, and I as we begin to welcome the new freshman that will ascend on Boston in just one week.

Loving our Adventurous Lord,



Saana with Malisa and Sydney at our Mom's and Tot's program

Brian & Malisa

Malisa & Brian Ellis
20 Fairmont St #1, Arlington, MA 02474
malisa.ellis@uscm.org
brian.ellis@uscm.org
(617) 800-6844 (978) 828-8024
www.brianandmalisa.com

Make checks payable to:
Cru,
PO Box 628222, Orlando, FL 32862,
Put account #0549821 in the memo line,
or give online at:
www.brianandmalisa.com

Would you Pray

- For Saana's journey toward Christ
- For the rest of our friends in the Middle East—that they would be open to the gospel
- For the thousands of freshmen entering Boston