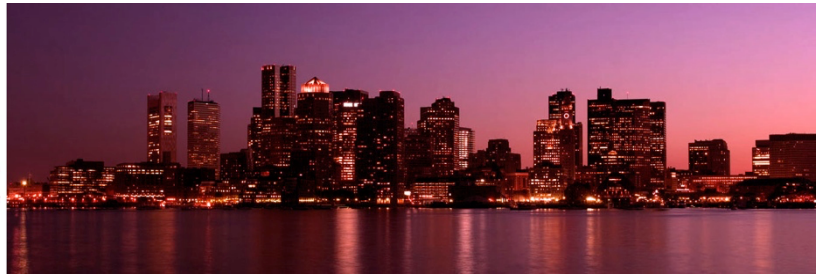


September 20, 2022

Brian & Malisa Ellis – Serving with Cru in Boston

Change Boston



A Follow up with Luke

You may remember I told you the story of how I met Luke on Instagram in the spring when he got accepted to BU. I ended that story with this line: “I don’t yet know the end of Luke’s story. He hasn’t even started college yet. But Malisa and I and our team are working hard to make sure Luke and others like him experience Christ in community when they do. Because we want them to know Jesus themselves, walk with Jesus, and point others to Him.”

So let me share what’s happened since: Luke has arrived at BU. He’s been coming to our weekly dinners and large events. I’ve bumped into him a few times on campus.

We met up last Thursday. The “We” in that sentence is particularly important. We love meeting together in groups to talk about Jesus - the gospel often spreads in community. So, Raphael, John, Dylann, Tim, Luke, and I met together as their schedules allowed. There were lots of coming and going, **but we got to share the gospel together** with 2 of these guys who are freshmen: Dylann and Luke.

Luke told me, “I always enjoyed going to church, but I didn’t do it often. My mom is sick a lot and I didn’t want to go without her. I didn’t want her to feel left out, but that meant I only went once or twice a year. It felt like whenever I went, the sermon spoke directly to me.”

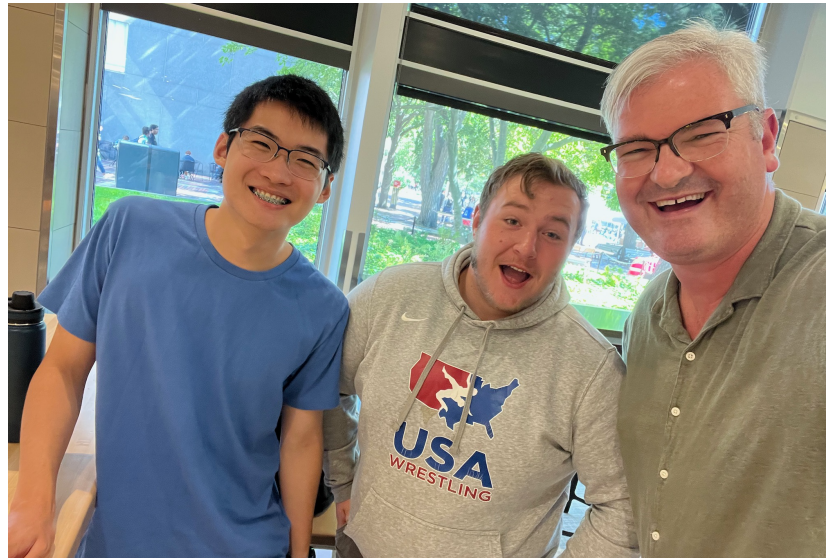
“You’ve been coming to all our meetings and that’s awesome. I wonder if I could take a few minutes to share a condensed summary of what we believe. We like to meet up with every new student to help them understand the basics.”

After I shared an outline of the Gospel, Luke said, **“I’ve probably heard all those points before, but never in a way that was so clear. Thanks.** I do have one question, though: *If what you’re saying is true, then my options are to live as if I’m in charge or as if God’s in charge, right? But how do I do that. I mean I still make decisions to get up in the morning and go to class, right?”*

What a great question!

I shared with Luke that, just like having a relationship with any person, **having a relationship with God changes our motivations and desires.** We’re still making decisions, but with The Holy Spirit living in us, we can, for the first time, submit to Jesus as our ruler and then keep trusting Jesus to direct and empower us.

We think everyone is on a spiritual journey, right? Some people are headed toward God, some people away from God, some people don’t know which



Tim, Luke, and Brian just after we shared the gospel. I love that Luke is experiencing the Gospel in community.



Hudson and my coworker Ryan and I used “Soularium” cards to have a gospel conversation.



Daralyn, Malisa, and Joy having a spiritual conversation on Monday.

way they're heading. Some people are stuck. Luke is so clearly headed toward God. Would you pray for him that over the next couple weeks or even at our fall retreat Luke would place his trust in Jesus?

As soon as I left my conversation with Luke and the guys, I had a pick-up meeting with my co-worker Ryan and Hudson, another freshman and got to share the gospel with him too. This is the reality the first 6 weeks that students are on campus. Malisa has a full calendar of appointments scheduled for this week and loves getting to share the gospel with all of these women as well.

Would you pray for Malisa and me and all our staff and students as we reach out to share the gospel over the next few weeks?

Thanks for the vital part you play in that story.

Loving our adventurous Lord, *Brian & Malisa*

Trying New things

- Last week, we did a "Plant Care" and "Soul Care" outreach - over 100 students lined up within a couple minutes.
- students got to choose a pot and then fill it with soil and plant a succulent. We gave them a sheet with "Plant Care" on one side and "Soul Care" on the other side.
- Students who we met have come to our weekly Cru meetings and now we're following up with them to share the gospel.

Would you pray:

- For Luke, Dylann, Hudson, Joy, and all the HUNDREDS of students that we've been meeting these last three weeks - that many would come to follow Christ
- For Malisa as she continues her seminary courses while leading our staff team.
- For our 3 girls, now all in school: Sydney-6th grade, Eliza 3rd grade, Genevieve - Kindergarten



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