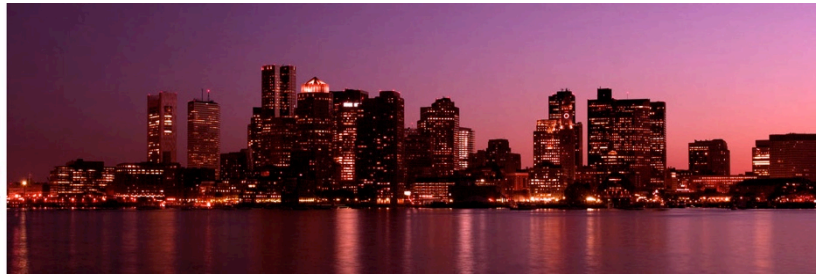


Feb 1, 2021

Brian & Malisa Ellis – Serving with Cru in Boston

Change Boston



January Experiments

The smells were heady. I had just finished sauteing butternut squash and now the garlic and onions were sizzling in the pan. All around my kitchen, I had tripods hooked onto cabinet doors and iPhones and iPads hung precariously above the range.

Why?

Because I was hosting a cooking class for students during January, of course. It’s the kind of experiments we do to connect people to Jesus. A multi-camera shoot live-streamed over zoom ministered to my nerdy side. A butternut squash risotto ministered to my love-to-cook side. And we did it all to minister to our students.

I worked in a bit of theology – the Wedding Supper of the Lamb and all that. At the core, I think there’s something significant about sharing a meal together and something significant about sharing things we’re passionate about.

In non-covid times, we love to gather with students over a meal. In fact, last year, a weekly dinner called “The Table” was probably our most effective outreach.

But even over Zoom, I’m convinced that we can minister deeply to students’ souls.

The students loved the class. Their families loved the risotto. And the experiment was a success.

In January we also experimented with:

- A Music Game called “Encore”
- A Cru “Discord” channel for gaming
- Bible Study in 2 Timothy
- Unfiltered Conversations about Anxiety
- Uber Eats and Podcast Peeps – where we all listened to a podcast and then discussed it over lunch together
- Weekly Prayer

We’re not done experimenting.

In fact, this afternoon, Malisa and I have a meeting to get some coaching on running Instagram Ads to try to reach incoming freshmen looking for Christian community and to help non-believing students move toward being curious about Jesus. We know our students are scrolling on their phone. I’m convinced there’s a way to get anticipated, personal, and relevant messages in front of students in Boston. Messages that would appeal to students and make them curious about Jesus. Malisa has been on a special national team working on this for the last 6 months.

If there’s anything this ultimate hybrid pivot adventure has taught us, it’s that students are still eager to connect with Jesus.

Your partnership gives us the freedom to try new things. I think of Paul who said he “became all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some” (1 Corinthians 9:19-23). Thanks for helping us do exactly that.

Loving our adventurous Lord,

Would you pray:

Brian & Malisa

* for the gospel to continue to spread, here in Boston and beyond.

* for Malisa and me as we keep experimenting



Zoom cooking class... watch it at:

www.brianandmalisa.com/cooking-with-cru



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