

April 13, 2023

Dear Friends,

"I've been watching you. I saw you both come into Starbucks and get coffees. Then we saw you sit down over there."

At this point in "Abdul's" story, I was getting a little nervous. When I'm in the Middle East, I certainly still look like an American. Though I want to blend in, I'm still over six and a half feet tall, so there's very little blending. On this day on campus, I was with my friend Andrew, a student at New England Conservatory of Music. Like Abdul said, we had gone into Starbucks and then sat down outside the cafe with the hopes of striking up some fun conversations with students. As a conversation would end, we'd try to talk to others.

"I saw you get coffees. I saw you sit down with that group, talk for a bit, and then move to another table. I watched you talking with them." Yikes... we were being watched. And then the most remarkable sentence came out of Abdul. I could never predict this one:

"I was hoping you would come talk to me."

Can you believe it!? Here's a student halfway around the world, hoping that we would come talk to him. We spent the next hour in a great spiritual conversation with "Abdul" and his friends. Conversations like this are what happens **when you pray** and ask God to go before us and prepare those we're going to talk to.

We believe that this summer, you and I have a special opportunity to bring the Gospel to more students like Abdul.

This summer, we've got some incredible students coming with us and we need your help.

We want Raphael, Amara, and Rachel (students Malisa and I work with in Boston) a team of 20 to share the gospel in this Middle Eastern city (where Christians only make up .02% of the population). We want them to minister to refugees and asylum seekers from Afghanistan, Syria, and Iraq.

And that's where you come in.



"I was hoping you would come talk to me!" My friend Josh snapped this pic of Abdul and his friends with us.

To get Raphael, Amara, and Rachel to come with us, we need generous partners like you who would give. In total, to get our family of 5 and these students to the Middle East this summer will cost \$40,000. But we do have some good news and an opportunity: any dollar you give toward getting Raphael, Amara, and Rachel to the Middle East with us will be matched dollar for dollar by some other generous ministry partners like you. **Would you consider a gift of \$_TOP_, \$, or \$_LOW_?**

We keep going back to this incredible city in the Middle East because the need is huge, consistency matters in building partnerships, and because some of the students we take with us go on to full time missions. In fact, one of the students I took with me last January) that Malisa disciples on campus= has just committed to go back to the Middle East for a year.

Would you help us take students to the mission field?

Over the years, because of your partnership, 2 dozen students who've come with us for short term trips have gone on to a year or more of full-time missions. To God be the Glory!

Maybe this summer's students will join that list... pray! Here are their names for your prayer card: Alexys, Daniel, Elena, Michael, Raphael, John, Cassandra, Caele, Amara, Joelle, Troy, and Rachel.

Over the years, you've helped us take over 100 students with us to the Middle East. God has provided for us and our team every time. If we don't see the money for the trip come in by May 29th, our team won't be able to go. But we're confident - both that God will provide, and that ***He might be wanting to use you to provide.***

So... today, I'm asking you to give again. Sacrificially. But joyfully. Back to God and for His Kingdom.

Would you consider a gift of \$_TOP_, \$, or \$_LOW_ to help these 3 students come this summer and to help our family bring the good news to students and refugees in the Middle East? We are trusting God for \$40,000 for these two strategic ministry opportunities (\$5,350 for each student, \$24,000 for our family of 5).

Thank you.

Loving our Adventurous Lord,

Malisa + Brian



Left to Right: Brian, Sydney (12), Eliza (9), Malisa, and Genevieve (5). We love you and are so thankful for you.

p.s. Thanks for considering a special gift before we get on our plane to the Middle East on May 29. And what you give toward our students will be doubled! Your support will help us take these (and many more) students back with us.



Yes!

Brian & Malisa, I want to help raise up the next generation of missionaries who would take the gospel to the Middle East. I want to help you take Raphael, Amara, Rachel, and others back with you to the Middle East.

Here's a gift of: \$ _____

Money that we raise together for Raphael, Amara, and Rachel will be matched dollar for dollar!

I've included a check made out to "Cru", or given online at www.brianandmalisa.com

(If you're giving online, our names may just show up as "international staff" on Cru's website for security purposes as we travel to the Middle East)

