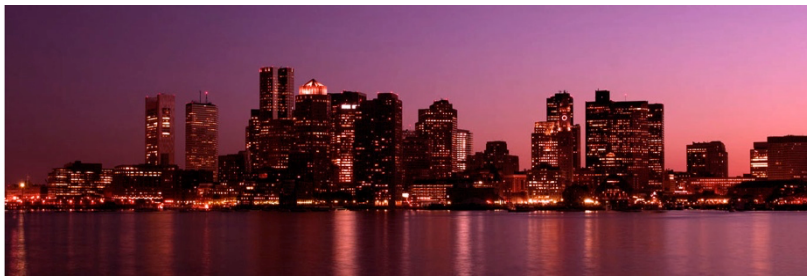


September 19, 2024

Brian & Malisa Ellis – Serving with Cru

Change Boston



A sweet first taste of Cru

Sno Cones on the Way to the Gospel

“You’re renting a Sno Cone machine again?”

There’s a look the guy at Taylor Rental gives me when I show up to rent a Sno Cone machine. We have a little laugh.

“Yes. Hundreds of students across Boston need a Sno Cone.”

What I didn’t tell the Taylor Rental guy is that those students also need Jesus. And that’s the reason we keep renting the Sno Cone machine, keep buying carloads of ice, keep purchasing the Hawaiian Ice syrups, keep setting up on campus, and keep offering Sno Cones to students.

It’s because they need Jesus.

But before we can have a conversation with a student about Jesus, we need to create an environment where friendships can start. Where students can feel welcome. Where initial conversations can take place. Where a first taste of Cru can be a sweet one. And so we’ve given out hundreds of sno cones on campuses across the city.

At one campus, we set up in front of a dorm where many of the varsity athletes live and practice. And it was so fun to be able to say to women’s basketball and soccer and lacrosse players, “on Sunday nights, my wife Malisa hosts ‘Athletes in Action’ here – it’s a spot just for athletes to connect across sports with each other and learn what it means to follow Jesus.”

“I’m so glad I found you,” one girl on the Track team said to me, “I just transferred here and I’ve been looking for Cru and Athletes in Action.” I connected her with Malisa and she came to our AIA meeting last Sunday night.

That is a quick note for you: if you have any college students (or future college students) in your life, have them look for Cru on their campus (wherever that is across the US). We’d be happy to help connect them if you need an introduction.

Would you pray that many students taste the sweetness of Jesus this fall? And would you pray for the creativity of our staff and student leaders—that they figure out new and innovative ways to make people feel welcome. So that friendships develop. So that there’s a great context to point people toward Jesus.

Loving our adventurous Lord,

Brian & Malisa

Would you pray:

- For the thousands of students we’ve connected with this fall – that many of them would experience the gospel in community and hear about Jesus.
- For our teams across New England as they prepare for their fall retreats
- For our 3 girls: Sydney, Eliza, and Genevieve – that they too would continue to taste the sweetness of Jesus.



Malisa with some Simmons students giving more sno cones



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