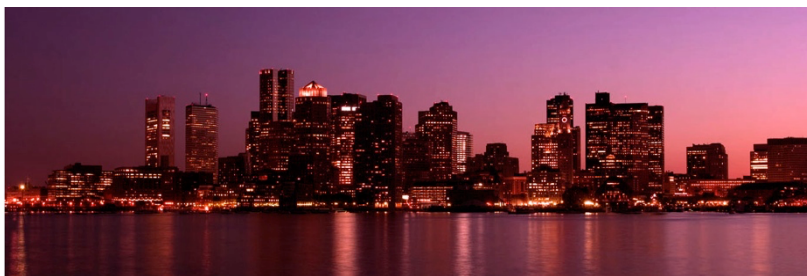


July 1, 2022

Brian & Malisa Ellis – Serving with Cru in Boston

Change Boston



Luke

On June 9th, Luke walked into the back yard of my house with a group of students from Boston for a fire pit. He and I talked a bit about his hometown (since Bozeman Montana is where Malisa went to college). He talked about his family and shared that he usually goes to church once or twice a year. He cooked and ate some s'mores and made some friends.

This all sounds pretty normal. But I just want to peel back the layers for what it takes to get a guy like Luke to hang out with us.

I first reached out to Luke April 1 when I saw that he had been accepted at Boston University.

He followed us on Instagram, we chatted there. Then he signed up for our weekly emails and replied to me there. Then he came to BU for orientation and since he was in town, signed up for our fire pit. So then we did some texting to connect him with BU students to ride the subway to our house together. Finally, we met in person and have stayed in touch since on text and email.

Instagram, DM, Typeform, Mailchimp, email, text message, and in person meeting.

But I guess the big question about all of this is: Why? Why spend so much time and effort just to get Luke to your backyard? The answer:

We want Luke, and others like him, to experience the gospel in community. And so, Malisa and I spend time, energy, money, and creativity to try to create spaces where people who are not yet followers of Jesus get to see and experience Jesus within a community of believers. **We want students like Luke to hear the gospel** in the context of Christian community.

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.

Once he got back to Bozeman, Luke texted me: **"Thank you for inviting me. I had such an amazing time and it was awesome meeting everyone. Thanks again!"**

Thanks for the vital part you play in that story.

Loving our adventurous Lord,

Brian & Malisa

Would you pray:

- For Luke and the 103 other incoming freshmen we've been connecting with this summer digitally – that they would experience transformational community
- For Malisa and I as we travel this month: first to perform a wedding of two recent alumni and then to our Cru national staff conference.



Luke (in red) meeting students in our back yard



The firepits grow week after week

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