

April 17, 2014

**Brian & Malisa Ellis** – Serving with Cru in Boston

# Change Boston



“Let me ask you a question. When you started college last fall, did you ever think you’d be here? Trying to decide whether you want to become a Christian?” “No. I had no idea.”

I was talking again with my friend Nick, a freshmen from New York City. At the beginning of the year, he came on our men’s rafting trip and our fall retreat. He lives on the same floor as our friends Asaph, David, Krysia, Gwynnie, Kate, and Alex. And all year, he’s been hanging out more and more with these guys and becoming part of our community. He’s not yet a follower of Jesus.



Kate, Nick, Grace, and Vivek at a late night IHOP run

We took a video of Krysia sharing about Nick. Go to <http://brianandmalisa.com/2014/04/krysia-and-nick/> to see it. Here’s what she said:

At the beginning of the year Nick was an atheist. “He actually told one of my friends that he felt like he had very shallow relationships with all of the other freshmen on our floor but that we actually knew him really well. That’s what drew him in -- we knew him and he could tell that we cared about him and we cared for his wellbeing -- not only just physically but also spiritually.”

When I talked to Nick, his friends had invited him to an apologetics talk. He said to me that he’s seriously considering becoming a Christian, but he’s not sure what he would say to his friends if they knew that he was about to become a Christian. But, he says, “There is something

different about the people that live around him. The students who are involved with Cru are different. They care about me.”

“But I’m still not sure I’m ready.”

I told Nick about my wife Malisa. “When Malisa’s friend Nan asked her if she was ready to become a Christian, Malisa said ‘no – I haven’t read all the bible yet.’ ‘It isn’t about that,’ said Nan ‘It’s about Jesus. Are you ready to follow Jesus?’”

“Nick, you don’t need to wait until you have all your questions answered to become a follower of Jesus. It isn’t a lack of information that separates us from Jesus. And so what you have to do is say – on the basis of what I know about Jesus, I’m going to choose to trust Him. I’m going to put my weight on it. And it really isn’t until we put our weight on it that we can start to follow Jesus. Jesus is worth putting your weight on and trusting.”

Nick sent me a facebook message last week: “Yea, it’s been a wild ride spiritually I guess haha. Yea, thanks for the advice! I think I’m going to be trying my weight in the coming weeks so it should be interesting.”

Wow... Would you pray for Nick?

Loving our Adventurous Lord,

*Brian & Malisa*



We’ve been asked to leave Boston for the summer, take our family of 4, and lead a team of nearly 50 people back to the Middle East. This is the fourth time we’ve sent a team to this city. It’s by far our largest team. And we are excited to lead them. But to do that, we need to raise \$4,000 in special gifts. We think it’s worth it: our team will get to share the gospel and their lives with hundreds of Muslim college students and refugees.

More info at <http://brianandmalisa.com/2014/04/project-breakthrough/>  
Want to give a special gift? <http://brianandmalisa.com/give-online-now/>



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## Prayer Requests

- For Nick – that he would “try his weight” in the next couple weeks.
- For all the guys and gals on Nick’s floor who are exploring spiritual things – that many of them would start following Jesus
- For Malisa, Brian, and our daughters Sydney and Eliza as we prepare to lead a team back to the Middle East.