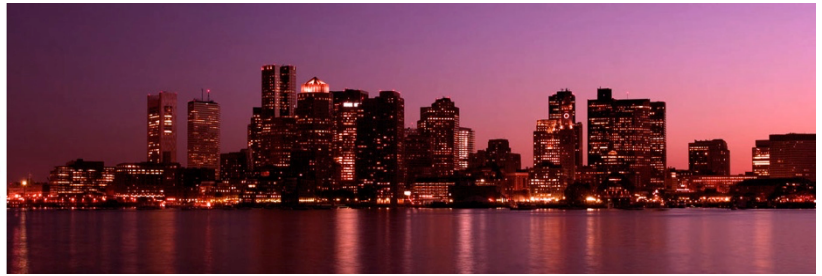


July 10, 2021

Brian & Malisa Ellis – Serving with Cru in Boston

Change Boston



“It’s just good to be together.”

That’s what Joel told us the other night on our call.

That’s what Joel told us the other night when we asked about how the weekly firepits were going. Joel grew up in Hawaii and is a senior now at Boston University. I’ve been

meeting up with Joel every week this year, watching him grow in his relationship with Jesus, and seeing how welcoming Joel is.

It was so fun to watch Joel welcome other guys to our back yard on Wednesday night.

“Come, have some food” he said to one of the freshmen and steered him to our table of s’mores fixings.

“But I’ve already had sugar today.”

“That’s no reason not to get more,” Joel said. And then off they went and topped up their plates.

That’s my kind of hospitality.

And Joel loves being in our back yard. “The fire pits have been key in connecting and going deeper in community” he says.

After a year of pandemic, and after a year of isolation, **I think Joel is right: “It’s just good to be together.”**

That’s why this summer we’ve been hosting both virtual gatherings for students scattered around the world — including a bunch of incoming freshmen who haven’t even started college yet. And it’s why we’ve been hosting weekly fire pits in our backyard for those that are local this summer.

Joel has stepped up as a leader: acting as an MC to make new students feel welcome in our zoom meetings, leading small group bible studies to help students connect with Jesus, and taking students to our back yard each week. He’s living out the spiritual multiplication we see Paul talk about in his second letter to Timothy: “The things you’ve heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will be able to teach others.” Joel is taking the things he’s learned about Jesus from his involvement with Cru and training the next generation of students.

Loving our adventurous Lord,

Brian & Malisa

Would you pray:

- For Joel to multiply his life into the lives of others
- For our virtual "Summer Cru" meetings
- For community around our fire pit in the back yard
- For wisdom for our team and student leaders as we prayerfully consider what to do this fall as the pandemic restrictions lift



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