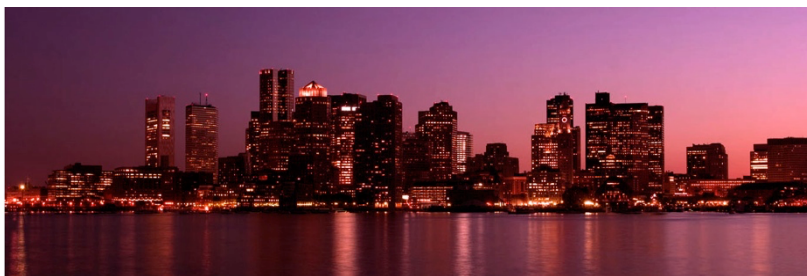


October 16, 2024

Brian & Malisa Ellis – Serving with Cru

Change Boston



What does it mean to play for an “Audience of One”?



Have you ever thought about the servants who carried the water jugs in the story of Jesus at the Wedding at Cana? I was thinking about that on Sunday night as Brian and I carried food and drinks into a study room for an

Athletes in Action dinner party. In the story in John 2, these servants have done all this mundane work behind the scenes. They’re servants, not stars. But they were there to watch Jesus do miracles and turn water into wine.

Brian and I felt like a witness to miracles on Sunday night.

The small group of Athletes I’ve been working with challenged each other to invite their teammates to a dinner party. The big win we celebrated was that these women would take the initiative to invite their friends and teammates (regardless of how they responded). I was so proud of them. But then on Sunday, we kept having to drag in more chairs. So many friends came!

Toward the end of the night, we got to overhear lots of them having conversations about what AIA (Athletes in Action - a Cru ministry) is on their campus. They shared about reading the bible together and encouraging each other.

“I’ve really been thinking about our conversation a couple weeks ago about what it means to play for an Audience of One” Callie told me and a bunch of athletes on Sunday night. “It made such a difference that I wrote ‘Ao1’ on my hockey stick.”

The intent of the phrase is to help Christian players remember that everywhere in life—even in a stadium full of people—“we live and move and have our being in Him,” and it’s His pleasure we should pursue above all else. Easier said than experienced, of course, since it’s normal to get caught up in the evaluation of the many audiences that surround us each day—the friends, family, coaches, social media followers, fans, etc.—but ultimately, there’s only One whose opinion about us really matters.

I love that Callie wants to remind herself that she plays for an audience of one. And I love that she invited friends and told them boldly about what she believes. We’re praying for many girls on her team who don’t yet know Jesus.

One thing’s for sure: **Brian and I felt like we were witness to miracles happening around the room on Sunday.**

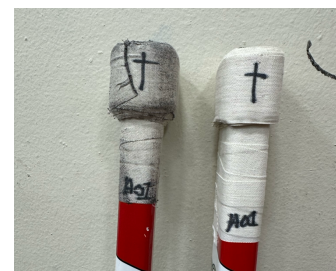
We often feel like that. **Thanks** for helping us be witnesses to miracles on campus in Boston and beyond (*the secret: you are witnesses too!*).

Loving our adventurous Lord,

Brian & Malisa

Would you pray:

- For this group of athlete women - that they would continue to reach out to their friends and teammates and have gospel conversations with them
- For our 3 girls: Sydney, Eliza, and Genevieve – that they too would continue to taste the sweetness of Jesus.



Look at that cool Ao1



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