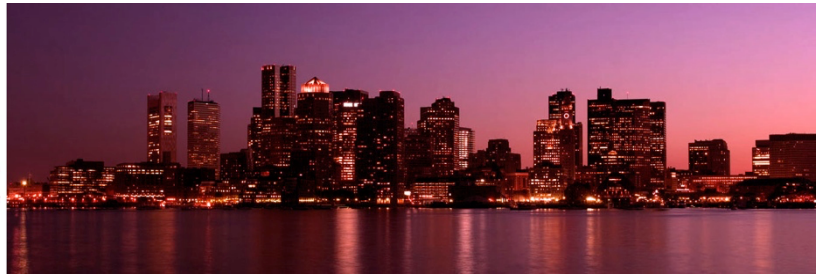


Feb 1, 2022

Brian & Malisa Ellis – Serving with Cru in Boston

Change Boston



Daralyn's trip to the Middle East

I (Malisa) have been connecting with Daralyn since our first meeting over melty gelato at an outreach 3 years ago. Over the years of meeting up with me for discipleship appointments, she's told me about the dreams she's had of Jesus calling her to be a missionary in Asia. But finishing university has always been Daralyn's first focus, knowing that God would have to pave the way.

This fall, we sent her to a Cru conference, called "Next," focused on living life on mission after graduation. She told Brian and me, "After the Next conference, **I felt the Lord telling me I just needed to go - if not to East Asia, then somewhere on mission.** And then a couple days later, I heard about this trip to the Middle East. And so I signed up. But over the last month, I kept asking... why am I heading to the Middle East?"

In the beginning of January, Brian helped lead Daralyn and a group of students and staff to the Middle East. And on the second full day, Daralyn stopped wondering why the Lord was sending her to the Middle East.

How did this happen? Because of the pandemic, all our American friends who serve in East Asia had to leave the countries they were in and have not been allowed back. One of the fallouts from that: This year, in the Middle East, in this city, there was a group of staff who typically serve in the very places Daralyn is hoping to go - but this year they're here.

Daralyn got paired up with one of the young women on that team - a girl who's doing exactly what Daralyn hopes to do. She and Daralyn got to meet local students and share about Jesus with them. And they also got to spend the afternoon together sharing about what it's like to do life and sharing the story of Jesus with others in Asia.

All it took was a global pandemic to bring the two of them together!

Daralyn spent the week getting to meet students in the Middle East, getting to hear their stories, and looking for little windows to share the life she has in Christ with them.

She had such a powerful week that she is planning to go back for a summer mission trip to this city. And many others on the team, including Andrew who Brian works with are making similar decisions about next steps in following the Lord. Would you pray for them?

Brian and I are so thankful for you and for your partnership in the Gospel. Thanks for helping us take students to the Middle East. Thanks for helping raise their eyes to see a field white for harvest. Thanks for going before us with your prayers for Boston and beyond.

Loving our
adventurous Lord,

Brian & Malisa

Would you pray:

- For Daralyn, Andrew, and Jess and all the other students who are considering going this summer
- For Malisa as she hosts a mental health panel with some wise counselors for our students Monday 2/21.
- For our new Afghan neighbors - our church has been helping to re-settle a few families from Afghanistan and it has been such a privilege to get to know them.



Daralyn's joy lights up any room.



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