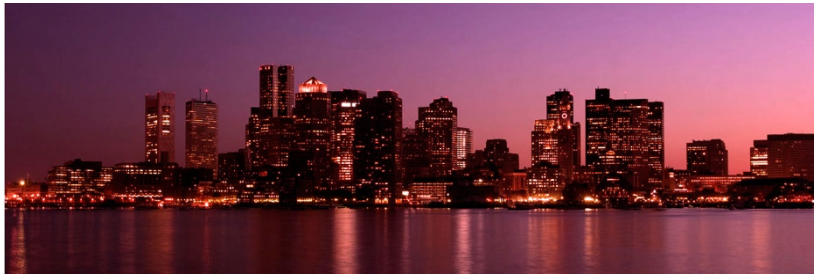


November 15, 2023

Brian & Malisa Ellis – Serving with Cru

*Change Boston*



## Sam and Tim and the Community that Changes lives

Sam found us on Instagram in a pandemic. We met the first time outside, standing 6 feet apart, with masks on. My friend Ryan and I shared the gospel with Sam, but Sam was REALLY CLEAR he did not want to make Christ the Lord of his life.

But he got involved in community. And by the end of spring semester, he was not just a believer, he was asking how to share the gospel with his friends.

Also, at the end of that spring semester, Tim reached out online. He had just finished his freshman year, but it was pretty isolating for him. He was ready for community. When we asked him, “How do you want to grow this summer in your walk with Jesus?” He said, “Actually build habits that I've neglected to, and build genuine fellowship.”

Throughout their sophomore, junior, and senior years, I've been meeting regularly with these two guys and it's been such a joy watching them grow both in walking with Jesus and pointing others toward him.



**Sam (Left) and Tim (Right) have both made Jesus Lord.**

Nobody's journey is a straight line, but there were some significant story beats that happened for both Sam and Tim. In every step along the way of them coming to Christ, you have played a critical role:

- **You prayed** for Sam and Tim and those like them before we even met him.
- Sam and Tim found us on Instagram because **you've supported** us as we try innovative new ways to reach out to new students.
- **You've helped** us buy “welcome bags” and throw dinner parties to help make the real-world connection and get students from digital connections to seeing people face to face.
- Sam and Tim experienced the body of Christ because **you've helped** create an environment where community happens – think of the crackling warmth of the fire pit, the aroma of roasted marshmallows, and the comforting sounds of shared laughter and conversation.
- Sam heard the Gospel in many forms, and from many people, such that none can take the credit. But your partnership meant that we could give scholarships to freshmen like Sam to come to our Fall Retreat.
- **At the core, it's your prayers** that help bring, eventually, not just a “decision for Christ”, but entry into God's family and the Kingdom of God and an infectious desire to share this with others.

The story beats that were true of Sam and Tim have been true of Luke too. But that story is a couple weeks away. I want you to look forward to a letter from Malisa and me just after Thanksgiving telling his story. In it, you'll also have a chance to give a special gift to help us keep reaching students like Sam and Tim.

Loving our adventurous Lord,

*Brian & Malisa*



**Malisa & Brian Ellis**

87 Stowecroft Rd.

Arlington, MA 02474

malisa.ellis@cru.org, (617) 800-6844

brian.ellis@cru.org, (978) 828-8024

Info on how to give to our ministry at

[www.brianandmalisa.com](http://www.brianandmalisa.com)