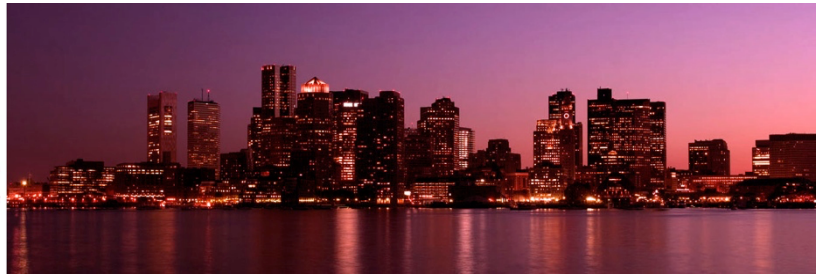


November 20, 2024

Brian & Malisa Ellis – Serving with Cru

*Change Boston*



## From a cider donut to a big hug to reading the Gospel of Matthew

A couple weeks ago, we asked you to pray for a series of outreaches we were doing with our interns. Thank you for praying. I want to follow the thread of one of those outreaches and show how your prayers and financial partnership makes a difference for college students.

On Monday, October 21, we did 8 outreaches across the city of Boston with some of our Cru Interns from around New England. It was a full day! The first outreach was simple: set up a table to give away apple cider donuts and iced coffee. We were offering the donuts with no strings attached. A smile, a blessing, and an offer to have a conversation or join us that evening for a “conversation cafe”.

I (Malisa) met Kiana at that table. I could tell right away from her backpack that she was a varsity athlete. But she also had a sweatshirt from Eastern Washington University, and we made a west coast connection. Before coming to Boston, I lived in a suburb of Seattle called “Shoreline”. Turns out: that’s Kiana’s hometown. Small world for sure. I mentioned that on Sunday nights we had a meeting just for athletes like her called “Athletes in Action.”

Kiana has a few friends on her team who are involved with Athletes in Action (AIA). So, they reached out to Kiana and invited her to come to our meeting the next weekend.

She came, this time wearing a Washington State University sweatshirt (so fun!). That night we were talking about the idea that God asks us to surrender our fears, doubts, longings, and desires to Him and he gives us the Holy Spirit to keep guiding us along the way. At the end of the time, she came up to me and said, “Can I give you a hug” “Sure”.

“Tonight was exactly what I needed. I’ve been so anxious.”

And that’s how we go from a cider donut to a big hug. But the story continues: this past Sunday night, I arrived early to set up our room for the female athlete bible study and to my surprise I walked into the room and Kiana was sitting there with two teammates and all three had their bibles opened reading and talking about the gospel of Matthew. After Kiana first came to the group, she wanted to start reading the bible on her own and the other two teammates mentioned that they wanted to as well but had really been struggling to do it solo. So three female athletes huddled together to do just that... read the bible together, learn about Jesus, and prayerfully live a life directed and empowered by his spirit.

God is drawing people like Kiana to Himself. What a privilege that you and I get to be a part of seeing His Kingdom grow here in Boston and around the world. Loving our adventurous Lord,

*Brian & Malisa*

### Would you pray:

- Pray that the gospel sinks deep into Kiana's heart over the next few weeks before the semester wraps up
- Pray for some new inroads with the male athletic teams to open up
- Pray for some great rest and refreshment for our family, teammates, and students over the Thanksgiving Holiday.



*Kiana gives me a big hug*



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