

Dear «greeting»,

I know you're not supposed to have favorites. But Megan really is one of my favorites. Here is a young woman who is owning her faith, and her impact spreads each year.



Sarah, Megan, Albany, and Maggie, 4 sweet athletes I've worked with for years.

As a freshman, Megan didn't have a heart for her teammates to know Jesus. But she was willing to pray. And so, she learned to pray with me for God to change her heart and give her compassion. Boy did she get it.

As a sophomore Megan started inviting teammates to our Athletes in Action study on Sunday nights. One of them, Sophie, started joining us and eventually became a leader on her Rowing team and in Athletes in Action.

By her junior year, in the middle of COVID lockdowns, Megan was not just inviting her teammates in, she was impacting other campuses in Boston with the gospel and helping lead bible studies with athletes on the Volleyball team at Emerson College along with Albany who was a leader at Emerson.

Last year, she reached out to two rowing teammates in particular: Izzy and Anna. Izzy is now a follower of Jesus and Anna is still in process. But both look up to, respect, and love Meagan and are **so thankful for the impact she's had on their lives.**

And now, in her 5th year, **Megan is asking questions about how to use her education and training for Kingdom impact.** She's wondering how to use computer science and Mandarin degrees and considering ways to serve overseas.



Airport drop off is all part of our ministry to students.

Beyond all that, **Megan walks with Jesus and points others toward Him.**

Can you see why she's one of my favorites?

But let me tell you a secret: **you're one of my favorites too.**

I'm so thankful for you, our partners in the gospel. Without you, I would not have the incredible privilege of meeting up with Meagan every week for the last 5 years to spur her on in her walk with Jesus.



Meeting with a few athletes a couple weeks ago

As we look forward to the coming year, there are 2 opportunities and a challenge we'd like to bring to your attention.

First, in January, Brian will be leading a team of students from Boston and the Northeast back to the Middle East. Last year, our vision trip in January captured our student Daralyn's heart and now she's planning to go into full time overseas ministry after graduation.

We think the same could be true this January - that students would get a heart for the world and choose to serve long-term overseas as missionaries.

Second, this summer, Lord willing, we'll be heading back to the Middle East with our whole family to lead a team of students for six weeks. This will be our fifth summer in this Muslim-majority country, and we're excited to see how God works in and through us. As it gets closer, I'd love the chance to share more about this opportunity.

Finally, the challenge: It is probably not surprising to you that inflation is a thing, and it is expensive to live and raise a family here in Boston. But we have "Little Mermaid Syndrome": We want to be where the people are. And so, the challenge: we're facing an increasingly tight budget here in Boston for next year.

To fund our January mission trip to the Middle East, fund our increased ongoing expenses for the year, and



Brian and Malisa Ellis



contribute to our summer expenses, we need to see the Lord raise \$50,000 at the end of the year.

I wanted to ask you to give a special gift right now, at the end of the year. We'll put it to use immediately - to send a team to the Middle East on January 2 and to help us stay fully engaged and close to college students.

Because you frequently give generously to support this ministry, I wanted to share today an incredible giving opportunity. A group of our generous partners (just like you) have pooled together to create a matching fund. For any special gifts of \$1,200 or \$100/month or more, they'll match those gifts dollar for dollar up to \$23,000. So, a gift of \$1,200 will become \$2,400. A gift of \$2,000 will become \$4,000, and a gift of \$5,000 will become \$10,000. It's a challenge that is an opportunity.

That means a year end gift from you has the potential to go twice as far to bring the gospel to college students in Boston and take the good news to the Middle East. Isn't it amazing how much God has been at work in the lives of students? And in this fractured culture, the gospel cuts through and continues to have an impact.

Will you give a gift of impact today?

I'm so thankful for our partners that have put forward this special matching gift fund. **Will you join with them to give a special gift?** If you're able to give at least **\$1,200 or \$100/month**, it will be matched dollar for dollar. But that match ends **December 31st**. You can use the included response card and envelope or give online at www.brianandmalisa.com.

You can know you're making a difference, investing in changed lives, and helping the Ellis family stay engaged in ministry. That's why I'd like to ask you to give a special gift today of **\$«top», \$«middle», \$«low»** or some other amount. Because we want others to know the Joy of Christ.

Thank you so much for your partnership with us - in the gospel and in life.



Loving our Adventurous Lord,

Malisa + Brian

P. S. Thanks for considering stretching your giving this year to be able to have it **matched dollar for dollar**. Thanks for giving before December 31.



Yes!

Malisa and Brian, I'd like to invest in changed lives like Megan's, and I'd like to give to help reach students in Boston and the Middle East this year.

Here's a gift of: \$ _____

*any special gift of at least \$1,200 or \$100 monthly
will be matched dollar for dollar*

I've included a check made out to "Cru", or given online at www.brianandmalisa.com

And I've done it by Dec 31 to be in time for the match, and so that you and your team can get on a plane to the Middle East on Jan 2.

