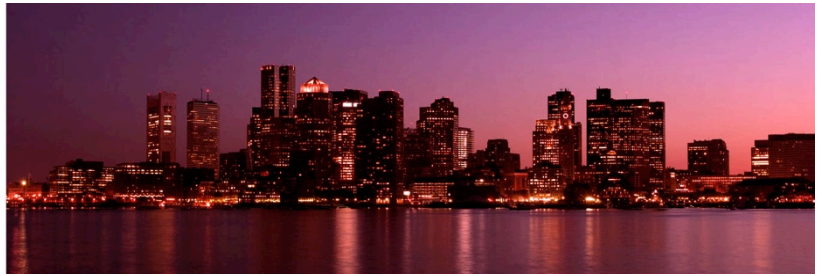


March 14, 2013

Brian & Malisa Ellis – Serving with Cru in Boston

Change Boston



Shawn, Scott and their two friends were hard to miss on the beach. They all have spectacularly bright neon board shorts on today. There are few places other than here where neon seems so appropriate. These guys are from Michigan and are here at Panama City Beach for what they're hoping is an epic spring break.

Let me paint the scene for you a little bit. We're standing on the beach in front of a hotel. On the balconies, you can count at least 4 groups of people with big funnels trying to drink as much as possible as quickly as possible. There are thousands of people on the beach all checking each other out and doing the semi-buzzed-flirting thing. A group of girls pass. They are trying to kiss a guy from every state. 'We just got Texas!' they yell as they walk by.

Picture MTV Spring Break and you've got it exactly right.

We're writing to you today from Panama City Beach, Florida where we're joining 1,250 students for a Spring Break mission trip. Thank you for sending 30 students from Boston who took a 30-hour bus ride to learn how to share the gospel.

In the midst of this scene, Julian and Josh, two guys that I work with at BU, try to strike up a conversation with Shawn, Scott, and their friends. "Have you guys got a couple minutes to talk? We're interested in getting to know people and hearing their stories."

"Sure," said Shawn and that began a fascinating hour long conversation about life and spirituality. Within a few minutes, Shawn told us about his hard family background and about a number of judgmental pastors of churches he's been a part of. "I hate the church," he said, with no hesitation. His friend said, "Family life is hard for me too. My brother is disabled, which means that not only have my parents not had a vacation in over 10 years, but my brother is now violent with me when I'm home, so I can't go home anymore. And so I'm here instead for spring break."

My heart broke for these guys. So much hurt, pain, and frustration - in life in general, and in their spiritual lives as well.

We love the spring breakers here in Panama City and we're here not because of how bad we think they are, but because we know that we're all in need of a savior.

There's more to this story that we put in our e-mail prayer update last week. If you're not getting those, it's probably because we don't have your e-mail address. Would you send it to us? Write a one line e-mail to brian.ellis@cru.org that tells us how we can be praying for you.

Loving our Adventurous Lord,

Brian & Malisa



Some of the gazillion spring breakers.



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Prayer Requests

- For Shawn, Scott, their friends, and the 10's of thousands of other students here that they would be able to pray "God, be merciful to me, a sinner."
- Would you pray the same for us and our students?