

July 15, 2015

**Brian & Malisa Ellis** – Serving with Cru in Boston

# Change Boston



## The Next Generation

On a warm Colorado evening a few weeks ago, I set up our little fold-up table that had made the trek from Boston. I laid out my blue and white tablecloth and set out picnic plates and a few other things for dinner. Then I welcomed Patty, Sarah, Emily, Lara, and Lorenna. I was excited to begin a journey with these five incredible younger women for the summer.

This summer, I got to coach these women to become new Missional Team Leaders (MTL). Each of these women will now lead a team of staff, volunteers, and students to help reach campuses like Yale, Brown, Boston University, Northeastern, The University of New Hampshire, Rhode Island School of Design and many more campuses with the Gospel. They will build students into multiplying disciples



**Above: My whole coaching group. Clockwise from top left: Lorenna (Brown, RISD, Rhode Island), Emily (UNH), Sarah (BU, Northeastern, Wentworth), Patty (BU, Northeastern, SMFA), Lara (Yale), and me.**

and they will mobilize students to be sent to the world.

Patty, Sarah, Emily, Lara, and Lorenna came into this training in various ways. Some were excited and hopeful. Some were worn out from this past year of ministry. Some were scared and uncertain about stepping into this new role. One thing they all had in common: they were willing to be vulnerable about where they were at; they were willing to allow the Lord to help cultivate their hearts for what He was calling them to.

Isn't it just like God to use small group community to help us grow? Over the course of the training, our group encouraged Lorenna to use her gift of strategy and her skill in business to think through how she could set up her team well for this up coming year. Lara shared openly about her fears. She struggled to be strategic, but has great ideas about developing engaging and open communities at Yale. In this small group, each woman started thinking about how their understanding of their personal ethnic identity impacted the way they led.

It is because of your partnership in ministry that Patty, Sarah, Emily, Lara, and Lorenna are on their ways to being great new MTL's. It is because of you that Brian and I are able to trust Jesus for these five women to impact the lives of students across New England and New York. It is because of you that we can trust Jesus for our own impact in the lives of students who do not yet know Jesus.

Loving our Adventurous Lord,

*Brian & Malisa*

p.s. Just a little ministry highlight: Social media has already been helping us to connect with incoming freshman before they even get to campus in the next month. At Northeastern we have seen close to 50 freshman reach out to us wanting to either hear more about the Gospel or be part of a small group that focuses on the Gospel.



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### Prayer Requests

- Would you please join Brian and me in praying for these five women as they begin to lead this fall? They are each leading alongside others who are seasoned and welcoming their fresh perspectives.
- Would you also pray for the incoming freshman who are preparing to coming to campuses around New England and New York
- For Brian's mom, Kay as she continues her treatment for ovarian cancer (<http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/kayellis/> for updates).