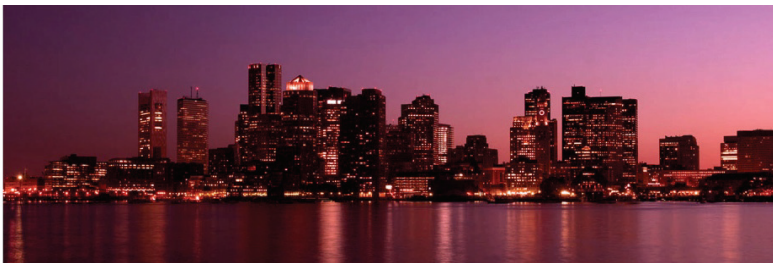


August 1, 2018

Brian & Malisa Ellis - Serving with Cru in Boston

# Change Boston



## “Lasting friendships... that’s your measure of success.”

When we first started doing ministry in the Middle East, that was what our long-term teammates told us.

“For believers in this country, it’s about 2.5 years from when they first meet a Christian to when they start following Jesus. So really, it doesn’t matter to us how many people you share the gospel with. It matters that you **make friends with spiritually interested people here**. At the end of the summer, you’ll leave a note and a gift for your friends. The team that follows you will contact your friend and set up a time to give them your gift. That’ll be the way we can continue building those friendships and **journey together** with these friends toward Christ.”

Malisa and I love this ministry philosophy. It transfers really well back to our ministry in Boston and what we’re trusting God for here. And we think this style of ministry will work well for our students for the rest of their lives. Because if they can learn to share the gospel in the context of building spiritual friendships with others around them - classmates, neighbors, co-workers, they can be prepared for a lifetime of fruitful ministry.

And so **that’s the ministry you were involved with this summer** (by praying and giving). It is a delight for us to get back together with former students that we met years earlier (like this friend “Denise” with Malisa and Kelsey). We built a relationship with her four years ago and another team picked up the relationship after we left.

Because you’ve been sending us back to the same location now every couple summers for eight years, we get lots of chances to see how our friends in the Middle East are journeying toward Jesus. But the same thing happens in Boston - we get to join students on their spiritual journeys for a little window (their time in college) and send them to be lifelong laborers for God’s kingdom. **Thank you for enabling that work.**

What about you? Have you ever thought about journeying spiritually with friends at work or neighbors? We’d love to be praying for you. Shoot us an e-mail. [Brian.ellis@cru.org](mailto:Brian.ellis@cru.org) or [Malisa.ellis@cru.org](mailto:Malisa.ellis@cru.org).

Loving our Adventurous Lord,

*Brian & Malisa*

## Prayer Requests

- For “Denise” - that she would influence the next generation in her country for Christ
- For Mike and others considering long-term missions
- For all of our soon to be friends - the thousands of students about to arrive in Boston - that many would walk with Jesus



Here I am with Mike, one of the students who joined us this summer. I loved getting to meet with him every week. Pray as he figures out whether God would have him come back long-term to this city.



Now, “Denise” is married, has a baby, and is a professor and so has the potential to influence the next generation. Would you pray for her?



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