

November 22, 2017

Dear Friends,

On Saturday night, Jason sat down at the table with me and some other students. As freshmen and transfer students, they were new to college in Boston. And they were sharing that there was a limited number of things that were “OK” to share about as students. And Jesus was certainly not on that list. They knew intrinsically that they it was politically/socially incorrect to talk about Jesus with their friends at school. It would be way too awkward.

“I’m really glad people pressed through the awkward with me,” Jason said.

Now, Jason is a senior. “This weekend, I finally decided to become a Christian and to ask Jesus into my life.” Jason told the group of us at our Fall Retreat.



I love that Jason belonged before he believed – here he is (red shirt) at our house for a men’s BBQ when he was a sophomore.

Students like Jason are all around us on college campuses here in Boston. They want to know about Jesus, they just need the chance.

The reality: **because of you** – your prayers and your financial gifts – we get to press through the awkward with students like Jason. Thank you.

Now that Jason has started following Christ, he can’t help tell other people about Him and bring his roommate and friends to life group so they can meet Jesus too.

The opportunity is so clear: students can know Jesus. And that’s why we’d like to ask you to give a special year-end gift to Cru. We’d like you to invest again in changed lives.

I was talking with my friend Ryan about why he gives to Cru. He said, **“Cru is an energetic, creative, thoughtful, and effective way of reaching college students.** And college students are at a special place in life, when there is time and opportunity to contemplate important questions. Thus, I think of Cru as a very worthwhile and effective place to direct giving, and I encourage you to consider it the same way. I hope you’ll consider a special gift.”

And so, with Ryan's encouragement, Malisa and I would like to invite you to direct your end of year giving toward lost college students.

The spiritual battle for souls on campus is real. There is real darkness. There is real loneliness, sadness, and depression. But in the midst of this, there are students like Jason whose lives now reflect the light of Christ.

You can invest today in lives that will be changed for eternity. You can help students go out to spread good news to the whole earth. **What an opportunity for outsize impact!**

At the end of December, we'll be traveling to Washington DC for a conference called "Vision" that is designed for international students like Jason. About half the students who come do not yet follow Jesus.

Immediately after the conference, we'll be headed to a special training as we prepare to take another team back to the Middle East this summer with our family.

Every month, we share stories of changed lives – because that's what God does. He changes lives. He changes lives of college students, he changes my life, and, I hope, he changes yours too. One of the ways we can participate in what God is doing – changing lives – is by giving. And so I'd like you to give a gift to change lives of international students like Jason.

Would you consider a special gift of \$5,000, \$2,500, \$1,000 or some other amount?

So that we can connect with international students this winter, so that we can connect with students in the Middle East this summer, and so that we can work to advance God's kingdom in Boston and beyond all year, we need to raise an additional \$25,000 by December 31.

Thank you.

Loving our Adventurous Lord,



Left to Right: Eliza (4), Sydney (6), Malisa, Genevieve (4 mo), and Brian Ellis. We love you and are so thankful for you.

p.s. We're headed to the Vision Conference outside D.C. on December 28. Thank you for praying about a gift to help international students this Christmas. Thanks for helping reach the World for Christ.

Dear Brian and Malisa,

Yes, I love reaching international students like Jason for Christ.

I want to increase my commitment to changed lives with a special year-end contribution in the amount of::

\$5,000 \$2,500 \$1,000 \$_____

(I've made my check payable to "Cru." Or given online at <http://brianandmalisa.com/GiveOnlineNow/>)

Name: _____

Email: _____

Also... I'd love to introduce you to one or two of my friends because I think they might be interested in your ministry to students in Boston. Here are their names:

Name 1: _____ Name 2: _____