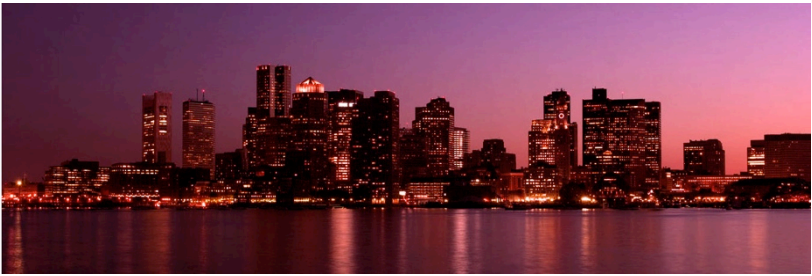


September 15, 2020

Brian & Malisa Ellis – Serving with Cru in Boston



Change Boston



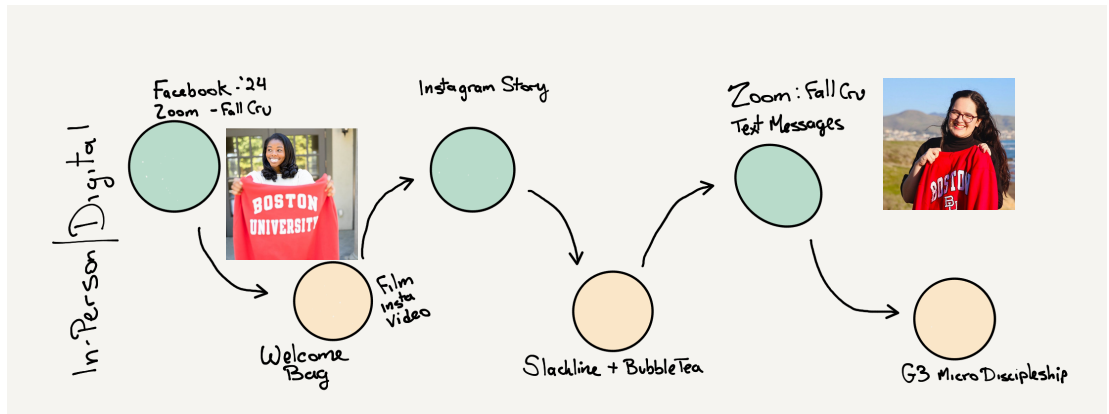
The Ultimate Hybrid Pivot

What does Gospel ministry look like in a pandemic? That’s a question we get all the time right now. And I guess the main answer: God is still on the move - advancing his Kingdom and drawing students to himself.

Over the summer we connected with freshmen on Facebook and Instagram and got them involved in a virtual weekly meeting on Zoom. We had 100+ incoming freshmen build genuine relationships with us and with each other from a distance so that when they arrived in Boston (or “arrived” virtually... many of our schools are virtual only

this semester), they already had a pool of friends who were walking with Jesus.

Those freshmen reached out to peers and did a great job inviting friends to get involved. And that led us to connect online with Sam. Sam “met” us on Instagram, got to know us on a zoom call, and then we met her on campus outside with



masks to give her a freshman welcome kit. In her little “here’s my dorm room” tour that she posted on Instagram, her calendar had our Fall Cru zoom calls highlighted. It was so fun. Sam posted a video thank you for the welcome kit in her Instagram story. And Liz noticed. Liz thought – “if Sam is involved, I want to be.” So she came slacklining and we shared a socially distant bubble tea with her and a group of freshmen. Now, Sam and Liz have been joining us digitally on Zoom calls and in person with masks for G3’s (micro discipleship groups of 3-5 that meet either in person or virtually).

And on Thursday, one of our interns, Lauren, shared the gospel with Liz and she prayed to receive Christ.

This natural flow between digital and in-person ministry is a hybrid in the best way. I’m reminded of Paul’s line: 1 Cor 9:22 “I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some.” We want to meet students where they are (in person, digitally) so that we can walk with them on their spiritual journey and point them toward Jesus.

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel.

Loving our adventurous Lord,

Brian & Malisa

Would you pray:

- * For Sam and Liz – that the gospel would take root and grow in them as they start freshman year in Covid – esp. for Liz as she begins her relationship with Jesus.
- * For Malisa and me as we care for our 3 girls.



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