

Change Boston & Beyond...

September 1, 2014

Brian & Malisa Ellis – Serving with Cru in Boston & The Middle East



It's pretty amazing what God does in and through the lives of our students. We've worked with one of them, Meagan, for the last 4 years. She was both a student on campus that Malisa worked with at Boston University and also worked in the office with Brian helping with finance and social media for our team. She came with us this summer to the Middle East and had an amazing time. Here's her thank you note to you for helping send her to the Middle East:



Thank you for being a part of the Breakthrough Summer Project! Your financial and prayerful support have made an impact in the lives of nearly 130 students! Because of your partnership, the Gospel was preached dozens of times over in the largest unreached Muslim community.

I had met “Sedat” only two weeks before our last boat cruise and had spent probably a grand total of 10 of those 14 days with her (Including a wonderful birthday celebration that she planned for me!). She loves internationals and instantly wanted to become best friends. So we spent every waking moment together. And we did become friends – but she also became friends with my entire team. She even joined us on our team-only outings! And because she was with us so much, she heard the Gospel told over and over. **She knew that our team was different because we loved Jesus.**

In fact, since my team returned to America, she's continued remembering these conversations. Through Facebook, she's been asking the entire team spiritual questions and frequently reminds me that she's praying for me, as I do for her. Right now she doesn't believe in Jesus as the Messiah. But for the *first time* she heard that Jesus was God's Son and because of Him we can have assurance of salvation.

In preparation to speak the Good News to our new friends, our team leaders helped us to write out our testimonies.

The goal was to have a brief way of sharing our redemption story that was both short and cross-cultural. As I began writing, it became increasingly clear that I had no idea how Jesus fit into mine. I knew how God fit in, but what about Jesus? This was a revolutionary discovery – I believe in Jesus but couldn't explain what He meant to me.

The remainder of my time in the Middle East was spent re-experiencing my life story. By telling it frequently God showed me, vividly, all the pain in my past and also how it was all a result of sin. Sometimes that sin was my own, and in other ways it was the result of others around me. It surprised me how much I held Him accountable for that pain. But then He walked me through forgiveness, showing me just how important Jesus was.

There's much more to Meagan's story. Read the whole thing on our website!

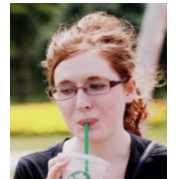
More stories online

Read the other $\frac{3}{4}$ of Meagan's Story:

<http://brianandmalisa.com/2014/09/meagan/>

Online only bonus: Read how community changed Kelly's life – in her own beautiful words:

<http://brianandmalisa.com/2014/09/kelly>



We typically end our letter with “Loving our Adventurous Lord,” but this letter isn't over yet... **turn the page** to read about our ministry to refugees, and for prayer requests.





I have a Syrian friend who actually knows Jesus. She got a job translating and teaching because her English is good enough. In Damascus, before the war, she and her husband had a good life, family, house, etc. When war came, they locked the doors and prayed it would still be there when they return. Because there are no schools or opportunities for their children, they have chosen not to have more kids. “There’s nothing for them in our world,” she says.

Ultimately, our hope is not that all of these refugees and asylum seekers would be granted asylum. Our hope is not that all wars would end and that everyone would get to go back to their former lives. Our ultimate hope is the hope of Jesus. “He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” (Revelation 21:4)

Let me give you a picture of what is happening with Refugees in the city we work in. Many of the women I talked to are Kurdish Syrians or Kurdish Iraqis. A typical one-bedroom apartment would include a mother and father, their children, their children’s spouses and grandkids. Sometimes two extended families move in together. No one in the family is allowed to work legally. If the men in the family are not injured, they can do day labor jobs. Some women can work in the textile industry. But often these companies are “fly-by-night” and might close down at any point, leaving weeks of unpaid salaries for the workers. But because they cannot legally work, they have no legal labor protections.

Loving our Adventurous Lord,

Brian & Malisa



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Prayer Requests

- For Meagan – God changed her story this summer. Would you pray she continues to experience Jesus
- For “Sedat” and the others Meagan and our students got to build friendships with this summer – that many of them would start following Jesus
- For Malisa’s refugee friends - that they would follow Jesus and that the Lord would bring peace and reconciliation throughout the Middle East