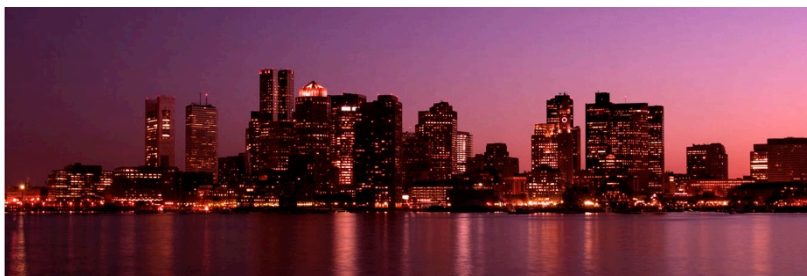


April 1, 2019

Brian & Malisa Ellis - Serving with Cru in Boston

Change Boston



The Gospel in Jacksonville

"I'm gonna go share the gospel with that Mom," Debbie told me. Debbie and I have been friends for over 20 years. She says she came to Jacksonville, Florida to work with Cru Inner City to slow down. At 65, she's showing no signs of slowing down. While my kids got their faces painted and Brian made balloon animals for an unending line of kids, the mom named "Candice," Debbie, and I got to talk. And then I got to watch and pray as my old friend shared the good news with Candice. As I prayed, I got to see her smile spread. You should have seen her face beaming as she began a relationship with Jesus!

Brian and I just got back from Jacksonville, Florida, where we took a group of students from Boston down for a cross-cultural experience of gospel and service. We partnered with the Cru Inner-City Jacksonville Florida team to help with their on the ground efforts. Debbie was our guide and connector for the week.

In the mornings, we did construction project around the city with partnering churches, sort of like Habitat for Humanity. In the afternoons, we threw block parties in homeless/transitional housing complexes and low-income housing complexes for kids. In the evenings, our students learned about race, class, power, and the gospel.

One of the highlights for me: during both weeks around 30% of our team were non-believers. I love to that we got to take non-Christians with us on the trip. The social justice stuff really appeals to all of our students regardless of their background. But because of their immersion into our community all of them have moved closer to believing in God. Each one has taken steps towards reading the Bible with other believers, going to Church, or continuing to explore faith since returning.

We took our 3 girls with us to Jacksonville and it was so good for them too. We want them to see and experience a bigger world. It was so fun to watch our older girls making friends and playing with inner-city kids this week.

Loving our adventurous Lord,

Prayer Requests

Brian & Malisa

- For the 15 kids who prayed to receive Christ and the hundreds more that we connected with this week - that each would grow toward Jesus.
- For the non-Christian students that came with us - that they too would come to understand the gospel and start following Jesus.



"God uses people of all races and all personalities and all ages to make a difference for his kingdom. I was also amazed by how God moved in the lives of our non-Christian friends (Whitaker and Tom) just in the course of one week." - Calvary, freshman from NU



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