

April 15, 2016

Brian & Malisa Ellis – Serving with Cru in Boston

# Change Boston



## A Middle Eastern Family

When I got together for tea with my friend “Sarah” at the beginning of March, I met her mom and sister-in-law visiting from the Middle East. We had a great time together talking about life and spiritual things. At the end of our time, **Sarah’s mom invited me to visit their home in the Middle East.** Because I am Sarah’s friend, I am her mom’s friend. What a powerful picture. I pray that one day Sarah and her mother will be part of God’s family. Please pray with us for that.



Malisa with “Sarah”, her mom, and sister-in-law hanging out with me on campus

## God’s Family Caring for Our Family

Less than 24 hours later my mother-in-law passed away. Over the course of the last few weeks, Brian and I have been overwhelmed with gratefulness. So many of you rallied around us. I was struck by the power of family and the body of Christ to help us keep moving forward when we were weak. Meals showed up at our house; care packages and gift cards arrived from my dear friends in the Northwest; someone cleaned our house; my mom and dad came to help with the day-to-day; our staff team dropped off groceries; so many helped with our kids.



### Malisa & Brian Ellis

20 Fairmont St #1, Arlington, MA 02474  
malisa.ellis@cru.org  
brian.ellis@cru.org  
(617) 800-6844 (978) 828-8024  
Info on how to give to our ministry at  
[www.brianandmalisa.com](http://www.brianandmalisa.com)

Isn’t that another beautiful picture of God’s family? Thank you for your care, prayers, and love towards us.

## Christ is our Anchor and Family

As a new month begins, I was reminded of this strong theme for the month. In all our discipleship groups this year across Boston, we have been studying the book of Colossians. It is such a rich, rich book. Yesterday afternoon I was huddled into a small study area at Simmons College with a group of 7 other students and a rock-star volunteer, Ari. We were looking at Colossians 3. Rikka, a new believer, spoke up after we read, “For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God” (Colossians 3:4). “What does ‘Hidden in Christ’ mean?” she asked. I explained that when we become followers of Christ, we find refuge, shelter, and security in Him. He is our anchor and family. She looked at the group with a huge smile spread across her face. She got it. She has security because of her new identity in Christ. It was one of those very holy moments.



Rikka, Malisa, Rose, Ari, and Juliana at Simmons College

Loving our Adventurous Lord,

*Brian & Malisa*

## Prayer Requests

- For us as we take a group of student leaders on a day long retreat this weekend to help celebrate and remember what God has done this year and plan for the next school year.
- For the 33 new believers in Boston that their faith would be deep.
- For our staff team who has experienced a lot of loss in the last 5 weeks. Pray that we will each cling to Jesus during this season.