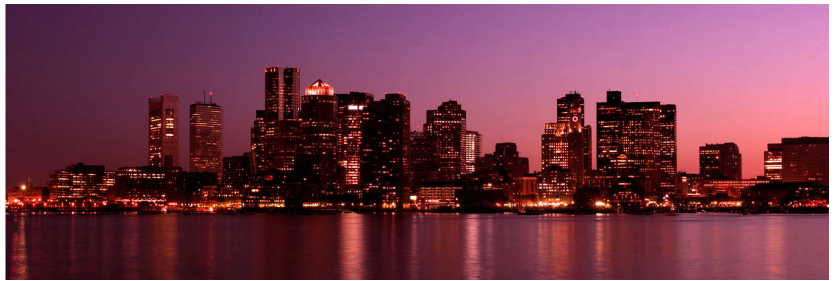


Change Boston



“Confess your sins to each other...that you may be healed”

Ethan and I spent ten minutes looking for an empty table. We should have known better. It was lunch time and we were trying to meet in the main student union at Boston University (population 30,000). I like the crush of humanity.

Ethan and I get together weekly to read the bible and pray together. Last time we met, we looked at two passages on Confession: 1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." and James 5:16: "Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed." We talked about what it means to be a part of a community where it's safe to confess all our sins. I think the key point: **Lives change in communities that are safe to be real and where we can let down our guard.**

I got to watch Ethan confess his sins to a group of guys a couple nights later. He was transparent and vulnerable as he talked about relationships and purity. He opened up about his own struggles and shared some of what he's been doing to stay accountable with some of the guys in the group.

And because Ethan was open and vulnerable, the small group came alive. The other guys felt safe to share about their own struggles.

I experienced a small group bible study like that for the first time when I was a student involved with Campus Crusade for Christ at Babson College. It was the first time I ever had a group of guys who accepted me just as I was (they showed me grace) and challenged me to change (they showed me truth).

Now, as a married couple, Malisa and I are involved with a small group in our neighborhood in Arlington where we can be fully known. Sometimes it's awkward to share our junk with our friends. Being vulnerable is exhausting. But it's worth it. We need to confess our sins to each other because we need healing and forgiveness.

Malisa & Brian Ellis - Evesting God for 250,000 students in Boston.



Top row (Left to Right): Joe, Julian, Dan, Cory, Jeremiah. Bottom row: Greg, Peter, Todd, George, **Ethan**, and Brian. Just scaled a rock face on our men's overnight.

What about you? We know our students experience life change when they are in community where they can let down their guard. We've experienced the same healing in small groups ourselves. What about you? Who in your life is asking those hard questions? Where are you fully known? What can you do this week to help set a more vulnerable tone in your small groups?

Loving our Adventurous Lord,

Brian & Malisa

P.S. We're anxiously awaiting Baby Ellis. Malisa's Due Date is Feb 15—we hope to have news soon! Please pray with us for a safe delivery and great connection time with Mom, Dad, and Baby.

Malisa & Brian Ellis
20 Fairmont St #1, Arlington, MA 02474
malisa.ellis@uscm.org
brian.ellis@uscm.org
(617) 800-6844 (978) 828-8024
www.brianandmalisa.com

Make checks payable to:
Campus Crusade for Christ,
PO Box 628222, Orlando, FL 32862,
Put account #0549821 in the memo line,
or give online at:
www.brianandmalisa.com

Would you Pray

- For Ethan that he would care well for the guys at BU
- For the men in Ethan's life group—that they would continue to share vulnerably about the sin in their lives
- For women's groups as they are talking about similar issues