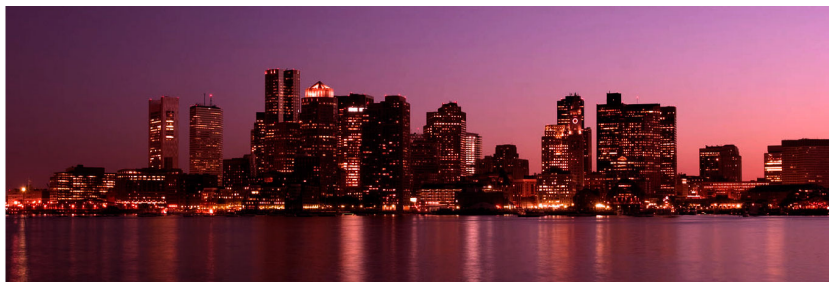


# Change Boston



## ***"I want a relationship with Jesus. I want him in my heart."***

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

In the fall of 2009 Celestine entered college as a Christian she had never really experienced community, acceptance, and friendship with other believers. Celestine is an amazingly talented girl, who grew up in an African American community on the outskirts of New York City she has had her eye on being a "Broadway" star since a very young age. Celestine spent her first fall at BU a little bewildered at how to connect her faith with her daily life. Though she attended a small group bible study her first semester, it wasn't until the spring of her freshman year that her faith became an active part of her life. In her small group, she began to open up about her fears and insecurities about not being accepted. She joined us for a mission trip to Florida during spring break where she learned to share her faith and have spiritual conversations with college students on the beach. She took faith steps in the area of sharing the Gospel that week and in letting, her guard down with the other students from Boston.

This fall, Celestine returned to campus as a much more confident student who was following Christ and had a heart for her friends to know Christ. She joined one of the sophomore discipleship groups I lead and began bringing her friend Melody. Melody is from an immigrant family in South America. At first Melody sat and just listened; she looked over Celestine's shoulder to read the passages in Colossians. Then she started bringing a notebook and taking notes about the discussion like the rest of the girls. A few weeks go by and I noticed that Celestine starts bringing two bibles to discipleship group, one for herself and one for Melody. Pretty soon, Celeste gave Melody one of her bibles and Melody actually started to respond to some of the questions I asked in discipleship group. Celestine and Melody are always together: eating meals together, and going to the gym, or just hanging out.

I was pretty sure that Melody was not yet a believer, so I asked her to coffee during the first part of December. As I asked her about her spiritual journey, she started to cry and share about the heartache of her family immigrating to the United



States. She shared about how she loves coming to discipleship group to learn about God. I asked her if she had ever heard a clear explanation of what being a Christian is all about. "No," she responded. I began to share the Gospel with her. At the end of the conversation, she said, "I want a relationship with Jesus; I want him in my heart." So we bowed our heads right there in the crowd area and she prayed to ask Jesus to come into her life and make her the kind of woman He wants her to be.

Melody is a brand new believer in Jesus and she is already plugged into a great community of women who love her and celebrated with her when she shared about her new relationship with Him.

Celestine's life has been so radically transformed by the gospel that she can't help but tell her friends and take others to do the same. Now we're praying Melody would begin sharing with her friends.

Loving our Adventurous Lord,

*Brian & Malisa*



Melody among 65 women at our place for Christmas Brunch

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### ***Would you Pray***

- For Celestine as she continues to grow and share with her friends
- For Melody as she grows in her new relationship with Jesus
- For us as we prepare for our baby to arrive in the next 3 weeks