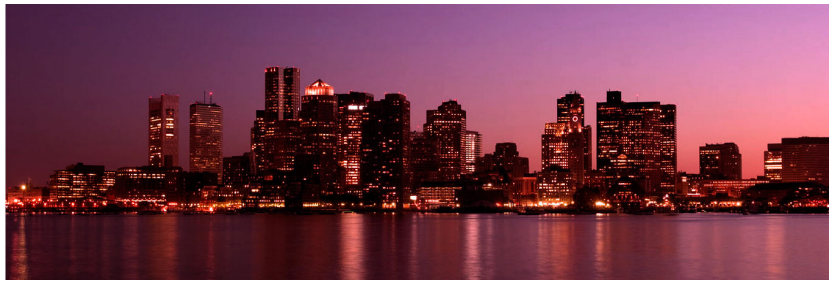


# Change Boston



## The Courage it Took...

*Malisa & Brian Ellis - Evesting God for 25,000 students in Boston.*

Imagine a banquet room full of over 150 professionals from all over New England staring at two college girls. As I (Malisa) watched them walk up on stage, my stomach started to turn like an older sister waiting for her little sister to walk down the wedding aisle. Liza and Emma were about to tell their stories about how God has grabbed their hearts over the last few years. Liza is graduating from college next week and has postponed law school for a year so that she can intern with Campus Crusade. Though she came from an atheistic home, she accepted Christ as a freshman at BU and is now a woman whose life is captured by the grace of the Gospel. Liza invited her co-worker Emma to her freshmen bible study I helped lead this fall. From the moment I met her, I could tell that Emma had a story that she was afraid to share.

Twenty freshman girls crammed into a lounge in a Residence Hall that first night, and something powerful happened. We begin by simply sharing the basic message of the Gospel. Emma went home and for the first time ever she sat and talked with God about what had been going on in her life. She shared about the hurt from a broken relationship, the disappointment of losing people that were precious to her, and, she cried out to God about wanting a personal relationship with him. ***That night Emma became a new creation!***

The road for Emma has not been an easy one. She has feared opening up and being honest about her past with others. But bit by bit, Emma began to share about the darkness of her past. I remember one night specifically where she sat on my dining room floor and shared with me about all the things she had been holding back. She feared rejection, she feared abandonment, but our students met her with embrace, tears, and acceptance. So this past Saturday night as Liza and Emma stepped up on stage to share about their own changed lives, Emma was faced with very similar fears of being rejected by the group. She whispered in my ear just before going on stage, "Are you sure they won't reject me?" The two girls shared their powerful stories of lives moving from atheism to Jesus and from darkness to acceptance and there wasn't a dry eye in the house.



***Emma and Liza, surrounded by a bunch of BU freshmen at our house last Saturday for Liza's Bridal Shower***

I think one of the most beautiful parts of the whole night was watching as others approached Emma and Liza to thank them for being so open and honest, commenting on how impactful their stories were. As I stood next to them I watched as God calmed Emma's heart and she received the truth that "There is no condemnation in Christ Jesus".

Thank you so much for being part of God changing the lives of students like Liza and Emma. Thanks so much for the vital role you play allowing us to minister to students like these. **Loving our Adventurous Lord, Brian and Malisa**

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### Would you Pray

- Pray for Liza and Emma to continue to grow in their relationships with Jesus
- Pray for all the 30 freshman girls as they head home for summer.
- Pray for our upcoming summer project starting May 21st