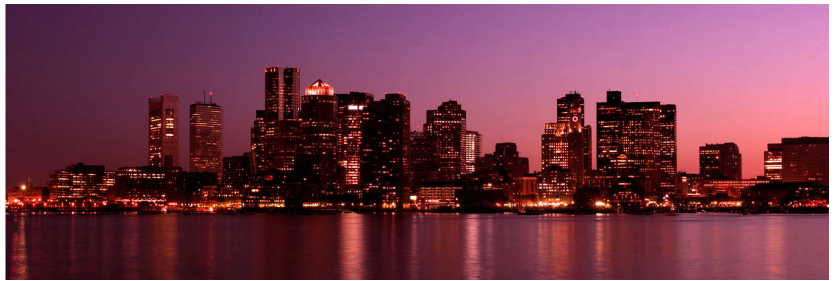


Change Boston



Ethan explains the gospel

And does it without freaking people out

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

On Tuesday afternoons, I meet with Ethan, Dan, and Jeremiah, 3 freshmen from BU for training. As I was starting to meet with these guys, I asked them, "When you think about your spiritual journey, what are some next steps you'd like to take this year?" Dan captured what they all were thinking clearly. He said, "I'd like to know how to explain the basics of Christianity to someone without freaking them out."

I thought that sounded great, so for the rest of the semester, we met up in the lounge on Ethan's floor for a course in "Non-freak out evangelism." The guys learned the basics of the gospel for themselves and then learned how to communicate it sensitively and with care for the people around them—their friends, roommates, girlfriends, etc.

One afternoon we were sitting in the lounge for training. One of Ethan's friends from down the hall was in the lounge and asked what we were doing. I said, "We're all Christians and we're learning how to explain the basics of what we believe without freaking people out. Can I take a few minutes to tell you what Christianity is about and then you can tell me whether you were freaked out?" We spent the next twenty minutes talking about his spiritual background and about the gospel. In the end, it was nothing spectacular—Ethan's friend hasn't become a Christian yet. But he also wasn't freaked out and so in the following weeks, we've been able to keep dialoguing with him about spiritual things.

It was a great opportunity for me to model spiritual conversations in front of those guys. But I also want to do more than just modeling conversations. I want them to have those sorts of conversations themselves. And that's where the Boston Winter Conference comes in.

Malisa and I spent the last hosting 450 students from across the Northeast for Campus Crusade's Boston Winter Conference (see more at www.bostonwinterconference.com). Ethan was one of the first students from Boston to sign up and he had a fantastic time. In addition to hearing speakers, singing, etc. Ethan participated in our Day of Outreach. We partner with local churches to help them reach the community around them and so Ethan had a chance to share the gospel.

The night the conference ended, he called his girlfriend (who is Jewish) to tell her about the amazing week he had. Over the course of 3 hours, he explained the basics of the gospel and it finally made sense to her. And so on January 6 at about 2 in the morning, Ethan got to explain the gospel in a way that not only didn't freak his girlfriend out, but changed her life for all eternity. She now knows her Messiah.

Thanks so much for the vital role you play allowing us to minister to students like Ethan. **Loving our Adventurous Lord, Brian and Malisa**



Ethan (with Jocette, Angela, and Brian) helped bake 20 pumpkin pies that we delivered to his dorm to build relationships with the hope of eventually sharing the gospel with them.

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Would you Pray

- For Ethan, Dan, and Jeremiah to have more chances to share the gospel
- For the others on Ethan's floor to be open to Jesus
- For Ethan's girlfriend that there would be women near her (she's in CT) who can follow up with her and train her in the basics of Christianity