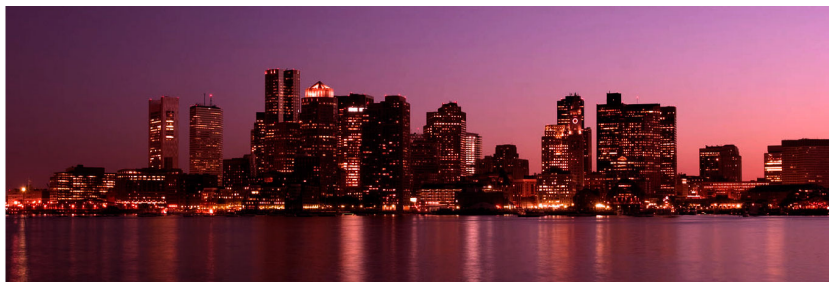


Change Boston



Laura's re-surrendered heart

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

As Laura laughs, everyone around her laughs. As Laura smiles, girls are drawn to her tender heart and strong personality. When Laura enters the room, life, joy, and peace seem to flow out of her. I would call that a surrendered heart. I would say that she is spilling out the heart of Jesus onto others. Laura is a remarkable student I get to mentor who has decided to let Jesus be the center of her life. It hasn't always been that way.

What would you say if a college student looked you in the face and said, "I am nervous to tell you this. I decided to start sleeping with my boyfriend?" That is exactly what happened in late November when I sat down with Laura for a discipleship time. Those minutes I sat across the table from Laura were very hard because my heart was breaking for her. I asked a few questions about how she made this decision, about her boyfriend (whom I knew had walked away from the Lord), and about what she believed God was saying about the relationship and decisions that she had made. Laura grew up with a strong Christian foundation and yet this decision was so far from what Jesus wanted. Towards the end of our time together, I asked Laura if she knew what God said about relationships and marriage in the Bible. She said, "No." I then shared gently (praying the whole time) with Laura how I saw her making a choice without really knowing what God most desired for her. I asked if she would be willing to look into the Bible with me over the next few weeks about what God desires in relationships between and man and women. She responded by saying "Yes, but I do not want you to prove me wrong."

The weeks that followed have been nothing short of answered prayers. As we met each week, I saw a little bit of light in her eyes as she began to understand that God wanted his very best for her and that the current relationship was actually causing heartache, brokenness, and pain in her life. Each step towards forgiveness that she took with the Lord lifted heaviness in her heart. Each bit of truth from the Bible that she received gave her the confidence to believe that her relationship with her boyfriend was harming her. She was able to end the relationship with her boyfriend over a month ago. God has restored her. She is free, she is surrendered, and she is ready to help other girls through similar situations.

I tell Laura's story not as an isolated event. As I dig into women's lives on campus, I find that most struggle in the area of relationships and purity. So many students who have a relationship with Christ let romantic relationships take the number one place in their lives instead of Christ. Part of what I want to do is help women like Laura see that that the Gospel helps set us free to have healthy, life giving, and Godly relationships.

Thanks so much for the vital role you play allowing us to minister to students like Laura.

Loving our Adventurous Lord, **Brian and Malisa**



Above: 30+ Women at Christmas Brunch at our house

Feb 11: Girls Night Out: We're bringing Marian Jordan to speak to our students and their friends about relationships. She'll share about her journey back to Jesus after choosing unhealthy relationships in her early college years. Please pray with us for this event.

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Would you Pray

- For our "Girls Night Out" Event
- For Laura as she plays a key role in the event
- For Laura as she continues to fall back in love with Jesus that she will be able to encourage other women around her to do the same thing