



Change Boston

Can I tell you a secret?

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

"I'm not a Christian yet, but if I were to start following Jesus, I would lose all my friends and most of my family." That's what one of the guys I've been working with this year told me a few weeks ago. "Ali" comes from a country in the Middle East that's 99.98% Muslim. But this year, as he studies at Boston University, he's been getting to know Jesus.

"Can I tell you a secret?" Ali said to Ethan, one of our student leaders one week later. **"Last night I asked Jesus into my life."**

Let me tell you the whole story.

Throughout the fall, Ali came to our bible study every week. He was often apologetic to be asking so many questions, but we loved it. It is always so refreshing to have non-Christians in our midst as we open the bible.

We spent the fall connecting with Ali, praying for him, and doing life together. I'm reminded of Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians, "Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only



"Ali" in orange, center, on the day we met at Starbucks

the gospel of God but our lives as well" (1 Thess 2:8).

As he left for Christmas break, my friends Todd and Ethan gave Ali a Bible and a copy of the Jesus Film. Ali devoured them. He read a couple of the gospels. And he came back to campus with pages and pages of questions. And just a couple weeks later, he began following Jesus.

When I heard the news, I started to cry. What a privilege it has been to work with Ali this year.

The next night, I joined Ethan, Ali, and a bunch of Ali's friends at a BU Hockey Game. After the game, I went back to Ali's place and had a great conversation about spiritual things. Now Ali hasn't told his friends that he's started following Jesus yet, but, of course, I'm a Christian. So it was totally natural for us to talk about Islam and Christianity. We had a great time exploring spiritually.

As the night ended, Ali leaned over to me. **"How do you learn how to share about Jesus with Muslims? I feel like I'm going to need to know how to do that a lot."**

As I look back, one of the things I've realized is that our friendship with Ali made the gospel plausible and interesting - he saw the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ lived out in our lives. Then the story of Jesus became very interesting, and it's the Gospel that won Ali over.

Doesn't that get you excited for what God's doing here in Boston? Have you ever had conversations with Muslim friends about their spiritual journeys?

Loving our
Adventurous Lord,

Brian & Malisa

p.s. There's more to the story. Read an extended version at www.brianandmalisa.com—and would you show this letter or the website to a friend?

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 "Ali" as he begins to follow Jesus
- For the thousands of other international students from Muslim countries who are studying here in Boston
- For Ali's friends to come to know Jesus too