

# Change Boston & Beyond

Brian & Malisa Ellis – Serving with Cru

October 10, 2025



## Spiritual Multiplication on the Rowing Team

You and I have been praying for a decade for a transformational community of male athletes at BU. We've had a couple guys at a time – I've shared with you over the years about my friends Nestor, John, Theo, Anthony, etc. But to have a dozen guys who are letting the gospel into every area of their lives. This has been the stuff we pray for. Even as we've had consistent large communities of female athletes, for the guys it's just been a prayer request – Lord would you move!

Just wanted to say: **we serve a God who answers our prayers.**

Ian, a senior on the rowing team at BU, had a powerful connection with Jesus at a worship gathering this summer. **He wanted God to use him to reach guys on his team for Christ. But he also felt inadequate.** He didn't think he was a good enough Christian to lead a bible study. But some other students at the worship gathering spoke belief into Ian's life. They said, "Even if not a single student on your team shows up, the studying you do in preparation and the act of inviting people on your team will be worth it." **Ian believed** these guys.

And so, when we met up this fall and I cast a little vision for what an Athletes in Action meeting could look like for guys, Ian was ready. He stepped out to invite. And the Lord went before him. Ian invited all the guys on his team, and 4 freshmen came out. Ian scrolled on Instagram and found a basketball guy with a bible verse in his bio. So, he invited Matai. And Matai invited half the basketball team. The Holy Spirit went before Ian and honored his steps of faith. A dozen guys have been coming each week. I should say at this point: **having half of a D1 basketball team come to your bible studies each week IS NOT NORMAL. We're so excited.**

Every Sunday night, we've got rowers and track and field and basketball and hockey guys meeting in one room with Ian and me and next-door Malisa hosts a similar sized group of rowers and track and field and softball players.

I think more than anything **it's the joy.** Ian is excited at every step. And he's joyful. He's taken many steps of faith this fall. And God is meeting him at each step. And kinda blowing us away. Ian is praying earnestly for these athletes. Would you pray earnestly with us for him?

The couple minutes before and after our bible study each week are the most fun for me. Those are the moments when Ian's joy is infectious. It's the joy I see in Ian every week as he starts to lean, as he shares the gospel with these guys, as he learns to lead a bible study.

Ian texted me the other day: "I care so much about these guys! I see God working in them and I want to help them in any way I can to grow in their faith."

Loving our adventurous Lord,

*Brian & Malisa*

### Would you pray:

- For Ian as he continues to invest in fellow athletes
- For the male and female athletes that come every Sunday night – that they would walk with Jesus and point others toward Him
- For Malisa and me as we share the gospel – that the Word of God would take root in students' lives.



And I'm gonna be leading the AIA men's Bible groups this Sunday from 6:15

**Ian (left) and one of the freshmen promoting AIA on Instagram @aiabostonu**



**Malisa & Brian Ellis**

87 Stowcroft Rd.

Arlington, MA 02474

malisa.ellis@cru.org, (617) 800-6844

brian.ellis@cru.org, (978) 828-8024

Info on how to give to our ministry

at [www.brianandmalisa.com](http://www.brianandmalisa.com)