



Green Line- Boston

The ministry of **Brian Ellis**
July 1, 2008

I'm Engaged. Malisa is Wonderful.

I met Malisa Canto last summer in Boston when Malisa came to speak to our students in Boston. I immediately recognized two things: this girl loves Jesus and loves other people. Actually 3 things: **she's beautiful too.** After she left, one of our students, Tara, came to my room and said, "So... Brian... Malisa Canto, huh? I saw you looking at her. I saw her looking at you?" That "looking" turned to some great dates at our national staff conference in Colorado. At the end of that time, I said, "Malisa, I don't know what the next step is. You're going to Seattle, I'm going to Boston. But **whatever the next step is, I want to take it.**" She did too, and so that began a long distance relationship that involved a lot of cell-phone minutes and frequent-flier miles.

Malisa is wonderful. She loves the Lord.

From that love flows deep care for other people. She loves sharing the gospel with women on campus; she has incredible gifts of leadership; she's tender, funny, compassionate, and loving. Of course, as you can see in this photo, she's



stunningly beautiful too! She laughs at my jokes, challenges me with the truth of God's word, and makes me want to be a better man.

We got engaged in April and our wedding will be on October 25, 2008 in Seattle, WA. (see story on next page) That means this summer is a bit of a zoo for us: directing a summer project, moving Malisa from Seattle to Boston, planning a wedding from afar, working on gift registries, raising financial support, and making the transition from living thousands of miles apart to a life together.

So... what's next? Well, Malisa has been assigned to work on the Boston Metro team. She and I will be working out in the western suburbs of Boston, **mainly at Babson and Bentley Colleges.** I'll also continue in my operations director role. Malisa brings with her 8 years of experience on staff with Campus Crusade for Christ. Before coming to Boston, she led both the Washington State University and Seattle Metro staff teams. She has trained new staff women and seen God do some amazing things on campuses in the Northwest. **Even if we weren't getting married, having Malisa on our team is a huge win!** We're really excited to be doing ministry together as a couple and look forward to your continued partnership with us.

Your financial and prayer support enables us to work full-time on campus with students. We're so thankful for your support and **encourage you to continue your faithful giving.**

God Bless,
Brian

p.s. On the flip side, you'll see Malisa's letter about me to her supporters.



Brian Ellis
brian.ellis@uscm.org
Brianellis.wordpress.org
1626 Mass Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02138
(978) 828-8024

Please pray for our support

As we move Malisa across the country we are in the process of raising around \$10,000 to cover the cost of the move and also \$3550 in new on-going monthly support.

CHANGE BOSTON?

Malisa Canto

15307 15TH AVE NE#3
Shoreline, WA 98155
Malisa.Canto@uscm.org
509-432-4583

July 1, 2008

I am so excited to share with you the news that I'm engaged! It has been a prayer of mine and many of yours for years.

When I went to Boston last summer to speak to the students of the Boston Summer Project about evangelism, I had no idea that God had a great story that he was about to unfold in my life.

I met Brian Ellis while I was in Boston. Brian is also on staff with Campus Crusade for Christ and so we saw each other again six weeks later at our National Staff Conference in Colorado. Brian asked me if I wanted to go hiking with his staff team on our day off. I said, "Yes," but asked if I could bring a friend. The next morning my best friend Tammy and I headed across the parking lot to meet up for a day of hiking in Rocky Mountain National Park. We all had a great time. On the car ride back into town Brian and I were laughing so hard that our faces hurt. A few more dates and I could see that this man first and foremost loved Jesus and lived a life that honored him. Secondly, his heart for ministry to college students was so similar to my passion and heart I could hardly believe it. Finally, I was so impressed with how easy and fun it was to spend time with him.

Fast-forward several months. I spent Thanksgiving in Boston meeting Brian's parents, Brian spent Christmas in Washington D.C. meeting my parents and that brings us up to April where Brian was visiting me in Seattle. That's when he asked me to marry him. I said yes. You can read more about our engagement story on the next page.

What is next you may ask? For years I have signed my prayer letters "Loving Our Adventurous Lord" and that is what we feel like we are doing. God is moving me to Boston to work with Campus Crusade for Christ where Brian is the Operations Director. Brian is a strong leader who has a great heart for the Gospel to go



Malisa and Brian (who's actually 6'6" tall) at Fenway Park

Campus
Crusade
for
Christ,
Boston.

Trusting God
for 250,000
students.

out onto the edges of campus and transform the hearts and minds of students. He is creative, has a brilliant business mind, and most of all love Jesus. So instead of being a single girl and a single guy in full time ministry we get the great new adventure of being a married couple in full time ministry. We are both so excited to continue being part of what God is doing in Boston on some of the most influential campuses in the world. In the next few weeks we will be moving me across the country (second time moving in 12 months) and starting on campus in Boston in August. **The big wedding day is October 25th!** We are so excited for this next stage of life. We are thankful for your faithful prayers and financial partnership and do hope that you will continue to be part of our prayer and financial team as a married couple. Below are a few prayer requests that we have personally for the next few weeks.

- Our engagement to be a sweet time of learning about one another and building a strong foundation for a Christ centered marriage.
- For me as I transition from the west coast to the east coast. For Brian as he helps a west coast girl get use to taking the T everywhere
- Our support raising needs... As we move Malisa across the country we are in the process of raising around \$10,000 to cover the cost of the move and also \$3550 in **new** on-going monthly support.
- For our ministry to college student in the Boston Metro Area.

Loving Our Adventurous Lord, *Malisa*

Thank You For your Partnership
Please make all Gifts out to Campus Crusade for Christ
PO BOX 628222, Orlando, FL.32862-9841. Or at
give.ccci.org and type in my name. My account number
is 0484996 Thank you for investing in Eternal things.

p.s. On the flip side, you'll see Brian's letter about me to his supporters.



The Engagement Story

How Brian Ellis proposed to Malisa Canto on April 10, 2008 as told by Malisa

So as a girl, I had convinced myself that Brian was not going to propose until I was in Boston this summer. When he mentioned that we were going to go out that night and that I could dress up (which I LOVE to do), I was excited because Brian plans the world's best dates but I didn't think anything else of it.

We headed to one of my favorite places in Seattle, Pike Place Market. Brian bought me a tulip from a little flower lady. Again, this man is amazing, I thought to myself. We followed the path right across the street to a park overlooking the Puget Sound, pretty beautiful spot, and it had just finished raining.



The Ring on Malisa's finger

Brian looked at me and said, "Malisa the last eight and a half months have been incredible and I think that it was about November when I realized that not only do I like you but I LOVE YOU."

Okay, this was a really big deal, we hadn't said I LOVE YOU and so that statement was a big step. I said, "I love you too, Brian." Thinking that was it!

Then he said, "I want to spend the rest of my life with you."

At that point I gasped and maybe even let out a little scream and before I knew it he was on one knee in front of me.

"Malisa, will you marry me?"

I said, "Yes," and hugged him and at that point I was shaking not just on the inside but the outside as well. I was so excited I forgot to look at the ring. Brian stood up, put the ring on my finger and when a few minutes had passed, I was still shaking, he mentioned that we should get someone to take a picture, I agreed thinking for sure that would be a good photo moment.

"What about your best friend?" then out from behind a garbage can in the park popped my best friend Tammy. Surprised again and thinking I can't believe I am getting married to this incredible man.

Thanks for your prayers during our engagement as we prepare for a new life together.

—Malisa and Brian



"Malisa, will you marry me?"



Brian and Malisa, moments after engagement