

Northstar '92

Dear Friends,

In a little less than two weeks, I'll be flying to a place that up until two months ago, I'd never even heard of.

I'll be leading a team of six students to Bishkek, which is the capital city of the former Soviet republic of Kirghizia.

For those of you who are not geography buffs, Kirghizia is in central Asia. To the southeast is China, and to the southwest is Afghanistan. To the north is the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan, and to the west are former Soviet republics Uzbekistan and Tadzhikistan.

If you have a map and you're trying to find the city of Bishkek, you need to know that the city was formerly named Frunze.

In order to help you pray more effectively for me this summer, it might help if you knew a little bit about the people and the republic of Kirghizia.

The republic of Kirghizia is home to more than 80 national groups, including Russians, Uzbeks, Ukrainians, Germans, and of course Kirghiz. While the Kirghizian people comprise 58% of the population, only 18% live in cities.

Most of the cities are populated mainly by Russians and Ukrainians.

The Kirghizian people are racially Mongoloid and speak a Northwest Turkic tongue. Although culturally, they are Muslims, most of the people are extremely open to the gospel and are especially interested in America.

Our objective will be to try to start a ministry in the city of Bishkek.

We'll do that by starting what we call "American Clubs". These clubs take advantage of the interest in America by teaching about different aspects of American culture. Through these lectures, we hope to introduce many students to the message of the gospel.

I've listed some specific ways in which you can pray for me and my team this summer. It might help if you post this in a visible spot such as the refrigerator or near the phone.

I appreciate your commitment to me this summer and the investment you are making in the people of Kirghizia.

Prayer Requests:

- pray for safe travel to and from Chicago, where we'll be meeting for briefing and debriefing. Also, safe travel to and from Kirghizia
- pray for our housing situation
- pray that I would be an effective team leader
- pray that our team would be unified, that we would work well together and that there would not be a lot of conflict.
- pray for the openness of the people; that they would be interested in the gospel and that they would respond.
- pray for the effectiveness of the "American clubs" and for us as we each prepare a lecture on a different aspect of American culture.
- pray for our health
- pray that we would be Spirit-filled and that this summer would be a growing, vision-building experience.
- pray that God would be glorified in all that we say and do!