

September 8, 1992

Dear Friends,

I wanted to write this letter sooner, but quite frankly, I've needed three weeks to process in my mind all that the Lord did through our team this summer.

I can't say that this was the easiest summer of my life, nor can I say that it was the funnest. But I can say that it was probably the most fruitful summer I've had and that I learned an incredible amount about God's character as he worked through our team to provide ministry opportunities.

One of the things that I learned most about God this summer is that He is sovereign. Of course I knew this fact already, but this summer, God revealed His sovereignty to me in a way that I've never seen.

As you know, our goal was to try to start a ministry among English speaking university students in Bishkek, Kirghizia. Kirghizia is one of the republics of the former Soviet Union and it's located in central Asia, not far from China and Afghanistan. Many of the people there are Asian and have a background in Islam.

Before we arrived in the city, we had no idea how we were going to meet people and establish a ministry among English speaking university students. After all, school isn't in session during the summer, and since there has been very little previous missionary activity in this part of the world, we had nobody to help us when we got there.

**Enter God's Sovereignty!** God provided ministry contacts for us from the very moment we got off the plane. When we arrived, we were met by a 17 year old Kirghiz girl named Vicky. Vicky had just finished her first year of English at the University and had been hired by the co-op to be our interpreter for the summer. We were pleasantly surprised because we had no idea that we would even be provided with an interpreter.

As we were waiting for our baggage, Vicky began to tell us about our housing arrangements and other details. Suddenly, Vicky asked, "I was wondering if any of you have ever seen this book?" She reached into her purse and pulled out a copy of Josh McDowell's *More Than a Carpenter*, a book which discusses the deity of Christ. Not only had we seen the book before, but we had brought 24 copies of the book with us to give to people to whom we would minister.

Two days later, as I was talking to Vicky and explaining the gospel to her, she decided to accept Christ as her savior.

Soon after that, Vicky introduced us to some of her friends that study English with her. Among them were two guys named Tim and Alex. Tim and Alex had agreed to show us around the city and then take us to the Sports Palace to play basketball.

Before we went to play basketball, Tim invited us over to his flat (apartment) for lunch. After lunch, I had an opportunity to share the gospel with him. Although Tim is Muslim in his background, after hearing the gospel, he decided to become a Christian. I was so amazed at how open he was.

After lunch, we went to the Sports Palace to play basketball. We had heard that there was a group of American actors who were in Bishkek filming a movie about Gengis Khan, but we never expected to run into them. When we arrived at the Sports Palace, however, a group of the actors were there playing basketball. They invited us to

play with them for a while, and afterwards, they invited us to come over to their hotel for a 4th of July party. I remember thinking to myself "This is wild. I'm in Bishkek, Kirghizia and I'm going to be hanging out with a bunch of American actors at a 4th of July party. No Way!"

**God's Sovereignty** was evident once again because when we arrived at the party we were able to meet many more English-speaking university students who had been hired by the different actors to be personal interpreters. One guy that I met was named Alex. I arranged to meet with him a few days later at our hotel. After sharing the gospel with him, he decided to ask Christ to come into his life.

Not everyone we talked to this summer accepted Christ, but I will say that I have never seen people more open and ripe for the gospel than this summer in Bishkek. By the end of the summer we saw 26 people come to the Lord, most of whom we were able to personally disciple afterwards.

Personally, I saw 8 students come to Christ, and by the end of the summer I was going through some basic material with 5 guys: Tim, Alex, Eugene, John, and Andrew. Please pray for them and the ministry that we have left behind. Fortunately, there will be a group of long-term Campus Crusade missionaries living only about 4 hours away. They will be able to visit the new Christians in Bishkek every month to help them grow in their new faith.

Here at SJSU, I could definitely use your prayers. My schedule is packed with things that are screaming to get done, but it just seems like I don't have enough time to do it all.

My priority is meeting with all of our new contacts, sharing with them and getting them plugged into Bible Studies. Please pray that the students with whom I'm meeting would be open to the gospel and that they would all want to grow in their relationship with the Lord.

Also, I'm in charge of our weekly meeting this year. You could pray that I would be organized, creative and relevant. In the past, our weekly meeting has been one of our best tools to get new people involved in our ministry.

Thank you so much for your partnership with me in this ministry. I wish that I could visit you personally and share with you all that has happened over the past 3 months. I hope this letter gives you a small glimpse of how the Lord is working. Please write me if you have any questions and let me know how you've been. I'd love to hear from you. My new address is:

**423 N. 26 th St. # 14  
San Jose, CA 9511 6  
(408) 293-5897**

Yours in Christ,