

PARKS' PRESS

REACHING THE WORLD THROUGH BGSU

SEPTEMBER 2008

HITTING THE GROUND RUNNING

Parks' Praises

- Praise God for our wonderful friends who have opened their home and our letting us live with them!
- Praise God for all of the new international students God is putting in our path and the opportunities He has given us to serve them
- Praise God that my mom is handling chemo therapy relatively well.

Greetings friends! This is the third time I have sat down to try and write this newsletter, but I keep starting over because I feel like there are new, more exciting things to tell you about.

School officially started last week, but the international student ministry has been going strong for weeks at BGSU, as students have been arriving and we have been working side by side with Global Connections to meet students unique, tangible needs as they arrive in the United States for the first time.

There are lots of fun stories about the events we have

put on and participated in over the course of the last month, but what I am most struck by, is how the Lord has been so gracious in bringing spiritually open students into our path.

Over the last week alone, I have heard students from China, Taiwan, and Iran ask to know about God, the Bible and Christianity. Each time I have been completely blown away because it seems that the questions have come from thin air! The Holy Spirit truly moves in miraculous and mysterious ways. I feel so blessed to just be a part of whatever God is choosing to do at

BGSU and in the lives of students this year.

One young woman named Solmaz (pictured below) is an Iranian Muslim, who has come to a point of being disillusioned with some of the sexism and violence in Islam. However, she recognizes her need to "pray to God." so she wants to try a Christian church.

Another Chinese girl, Grace, has come to several Christian events and church and took home a Bible because she says, "This year I think I will read the Bible and maybe I will decide to become a Christian." (cont.)

Parks' Prayers

- Pray for encouragement for Sam as he continues the hunt for a full time job and that God will open a door for him.
- Pray that God will provide the final 20% of my support (\$450 per month).
- Pray that God will give us wisdom as we revamp the international ministry.



Left: Anna (Russia), Pavarthi, me, and Solmaz (Iran) hanging out.



Right: We were all watching the Olympics after the Amazing Race Scavenger Hunt around town.

HITTING THE GROUND RUNNING (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

Please pray for these women and the other students we have met, just that their hearts will continue to be pulled towards the Lord, and they will just thirst to know more. And also, just pray that I will have wisdom when speaking with them about the Word of God.

Some of the more difficult

students to reach are actually the European students we come in contact with. I am not sure if it is because they view Christianity as an "American" religion or if they have just been brought up to believe that religion is general is narrow minded. However, there are a few bright spots, like Owen.

I brought Owen over to the Armentano's house on his first night in the U.S. just to give him a sandwich for dinner. After meeting Terrence Armentano and Sam and the foster kids running around, he just can't get over how different "Americans" are. I hope one day he will realize that it is the transforming power of the Lord!



Sam successfully graduated from BGSU on a beautiful day this August. And for added bonus, both his parents were able to join us for the weekend!

UPDATE ON SAM

Although Sam is not officially working for Campus Crusade, he is a part of the volunteer staff team this year. This is especially valuable to me when I meet male international students because I feel ultimately they will need to build close relationships with Christian men to see the love of Christ.

Sam also officially graduated from BGSU in August and

both of his parents were able to make it out to Ohio for the celebration. The fact that all of his paperwork from his Kenyan University to BGSU was approved and in time for graduation was a blessing from the Lord!

So what is next for Sam? Sam has been working full time at a golf course AND looking for a permanent job here in Northwest Ohio. This

area isn't the best place to find internationally focused jobs, so he is looking more in the community development field. You can continue to pray for him, as the process is long and at times frustrating. He has had a few interviews, but we are still waiting for the right job and the Lord's timing.

For more visit:
livingtheadventure.discoverly.com

The Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn."
Isaiah 60:3



Left: Sam and I with international student friends at our Global Games and Grill Out event. Right: Over 150 people danced, ate and played games at Global Connections international student barn dance.

Support Gifts

All support gifts can be made out to **BG Covenant Church** with **Amanda Parks** in the memo line and sent to: 1124 Raven, Bowling Green, OH 43402.

Thank You!