

## Freshman Year Update Letter

Dear Friends and fellow prayer warriors,

Greetings in Jesus! Please forgive us for not writing sooner about what God is doing in and through Christopher this past month or so. Thanks so much for praying for him! It means so much to all of our family! Words cannot express it well! I have attached a couple of photos below. The first one Chris took right before he flew home for Christmas so that we could see the books that he read the first semester. The second photo is from the Spring Streeters concert in December. Christopher is part of a 16 member men's a cappella group. He absolutely loves it and is quite a "ham."

We thank God for His faithfulness to Christopher this first semester through so many adjustments in life, 2 jobs and a very heavy school load. He ended up making the Dean's List at Williams, which is a real miracle considering that it was his first year and he was juggling so much! He took Modern Political Thought from a black South African Marxist visiting professor. She was very even handed in class discussions and Chris and his fellow students had great debates. His intermediate Calculus class was the sort of thing that nightmares are made of! The professor is a great Christian man and oversees the Williams Christian Fellowship. He is also very demanding in class and famous for grading hard. He studied the differing leadership styles of the Founding Fathers in a history course that covered Jamestown to the Civil War. Great class! He also took Economics and loved it. He learned to write papers with severe deadlines, a feat that was really hard for Chris!

Chris and his roommate Jeewan from Korea are now great friends and have lots of conversations about God. Chris feels really close to the 22 students in his dorm. He is leading a weekly Bible study on Wed. nights at the dorm and has had about 5 or more attending each week. He is also part of a First Year Bible Study through the Williams Christian Fellowship on Mondays and the main Fellowship meeting on Friday nights. Last week he was invited to become part of the Executive Board for the Fellowship which will allow him to have input into changes and direction for the group. Praise God they are the largest group on campus. The main stronghold that they are dealing with is the Gay and Lesbian agenda from a small, but vocal group on campus. There are "celebrate diversity" types of events on campus that are based in lies.

Recently, Chris and 15 other Christians traveled to Springfield, MA. This was a great city of invention. Did you know that basketball started here as well as the postage stamp? The first Armory was here and many companies. Now the city is half ghost town with few businesses and a lot of drug and gangs. The team went to the "Lion's Den", a youth center run by a very wise and charismatic black gentleman who really inspired the group. He took them under bridges to show them where the street people hang out and how to coax them indoors when it is 20 below and they are high on heroin. He showed them the biggest drug dealing part of town and they prayed about the strongholds in the city. The group also had personal testimony time and some of the Williams kids shared their story. One kid had a very troubled home life and Mom had been divorced 5 times. He was hearing voices in his head and there were plans to send him to a mental hospital. He took the little money that he had and purchased a Bible. He read all the way through it and really understood what God wanted to do for him. He committed his life to Christ and his whole life turned around. He is now doing really well and Chris and I thought that this is such wonderful proof of the existence of God! A changed life!

Another wonderful praise was the start of a 7 man accountability group. Chris is loving it and the guys are really like "iron sharpening iron." The first time they met it was scheduled to be a 1 hour meeting, but they ended up praying and sharing for 4 hours. I thank God for this group.

In January Chris had a 3 week Winter Study Program before the next term began. He chose a track on leadership. The students had the opportunity to hear lectures from company executives, former university presidents, and government officials. Then the students were paid to take the speakers to lunch. Chris especially liked the lunch with the former deputy general for the EPA. This lawyer authored the Green House Gas Act. Chris debated against this reform 2 years ago and really enjoyed the

conversation that he got to have. His final paper for the program was an analysis of the lack of leadership in the Occupy Wall Street movement and the problems with their agenda.

Please pray for Chris:

- Daily time with Jesus and strengthening in his walk
- Wisdom in leading groups and the content of his Bible studies
- ability to be diligent in his studies and not procrastinate on papers
- eyes to see the opportunities and divine appointments that God is putting in front of him.
- favor with professors so that he can leave campus March 16 to join our Mission Trip to Mexico
- that God will keep Chris far from evil and temptations

God bless you! Thanks again for praying with us!

Love,

Marcy, for all the Rieggs