

Eurasian Missionary College

Preparing national church-planters and missionaries for Tatarstan, Russia and Central Asia
November 2001

Recently we have had an exciting event - after six weeks in classroom our students were sent to missionary fields in apply practically what they learnt! They spent three weeks in different towns of Tatarstan where new churches are just being started. We as mentors spent one of the three weeks with the students, served as examples for them, motivated them and organized the work.

Nurlat, a town with about 30,000 people and a very occultic one. Just being in the city makes you feel the spriritual pressure. People that our students met didn't seem to understand a thing once Jesus was mentioned, and the following reaction was weird - they either got very angry or simply went silent and left. One lady even said: "You will never succeed in this godless town". Still there were many good conversations that encouraged the

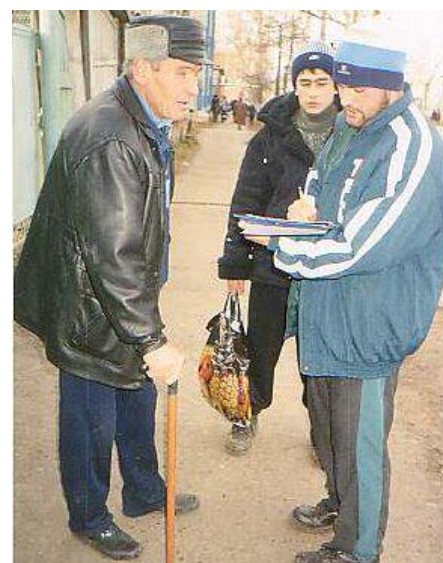


students to go on looking for people. A young drug addict welcomed the students, listened to them with great attention but then suddenly stopped them as they told him about God's love. It turned out later that he had been afraid he would burst into tears if they went on because love was something he longed for and painfully missed in his life. In spite of the difficulties, the team worked hard, using various evangelistic methods: they conducted the survey, put a Christian bookstand in the market, did door-to-door and street evangelism, invited young people to special youth meetings. Before they left, the students provided a local missionary (one of our former students, Yuri) with about 30 addresses of people who were open for a follow-up.



Tetushi. 17,000 people and no evangelical churches. The team there worked on spreading invitations to correspondence Bible school and the sociological survey. They left a missionary (also a graduate from our school, Oleg) with a list of 70 people wanting to know more about Christianity. A history teacher stopped them as they were doing the survey in the street and invited them to teach a lesson on religion to his class of senior high school students. We were amazed because our authorities prohibit any religious propaganda at schools, and here the Lord opens the door for us into a public school! It was a great encouragement for the students. They invited the students from the school to their home and shared their testimonies. The team also worked with a Christian bookstand in the market. At the end of the third week the missionary with his family and the students who were staying with them were kicked out of the house they were renting - for their beliefs and religious activity they had in town. But the following Sunday 12 people came to hear a sermon! We pray and believe that the Lord will plant His church in this town.

Arsk. Our students were the first Christians who ever worked on planting a church in this town! The students started with a sociological poll - one of the methods to meet people. This is how they met a family, were invited in for a cup of tea and then had several good conversations with them. They also used other methods of meeting people, like going to a local Internet club, library, inviting people to a cafe and sharing their faith over a cup of coffee. The seed has been planted, now the students are back in class and praying for their friends in Arsk. They established over 20 solid contacts with people waiting for them to come back.



After the three weeks the students came back to class and we asked them what it was that the Lord taught them during this period. Here's what they said:
"I saw that missionary work is what God wants me to do"
"God taught me how to work in a team"

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"God taught me how to fearlessly meet complete strangers and tell them about the love of God"

"Now I know how to share the Good News with a non-Christian!"

Please, dear friends, pray that God's Kingdom would spread in these three towns. Pray for the missionaries there. And please pray that the seed that has been sown would grow and bear fruit, that the Lord would make our students into good workers for His harvest with open hearts.

November, 26, 2001
Michael Tutikov,
student dean of EMC.

P.S. Sorry for the month's delay of the newsletter!

Other recent news shortly:

- December 1st – we had an annual meeting of the Board of the College
- December 3-7 – we had a new teacher for the Gospel of Mark: Pastor Tim McMahon from Danbury, England, a graduate of the Moore Theological College (Sydney, Australia)
- December 10-14 – another new teacher of Evangelism: Pastor Tahir Talipov from Kazan, a graduate of Kursk Bible College (Russia).
- December 12th – we submitted the documents for the registration of the College to the Ministry of Justice! Pray for our quick registration!

We all wish you Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!