

# Eurasian Missionary College

Preparing national church-planters and missionaries for Tatarstan, Russia and Central Asia  
May 2002

We apologize for such a delay of our regular newsletter: our student dean, Michael Tjutikov has been taken to the compulsory military service. By God's grace he is able to do it in Kazan, but now it has become harder for him to keep in touch with the ministry in the College!

April was a "stretching" month for our students – they had their third (and last) practice in the field. They went to the same towns – Nurlat, Chistopol and Arsk. Besides, for the first time our two female students were sent to a young church in Nizhnekamsk. They were supposed to develop practical skills in the area of women's ministry. This is what happened in each of the cities.

**Nurlat** If you were there and if you could talk to a missionary couple who hosted our students you would see God at work. This is the third visit of our students to this town, and during the first visit in November 2001 the people in the town seemed not only unreached but also unreachable: they refused to talk about spiritual things, at least 50% of them were involved in an occultic practice of some sort. The impression was that this town would never let the Gospel in. But when the students came for the second time in January 2002 they could sense the change. The head of the city administration gave his permission for the "Jesus" film show, which had been unthinkable before. 500 people, mostly teenagers, could see the film and several of them joined the young church.



The last three weeks of the practice were devoted to developing relationships with those who had just joined the church. The students also planned to teach Christian ethics at schools but they weren't permitted because they didn't have a teaching license. Instead they were allowed to show "The Cross and the Knife" at schools. About 600 teenagers could see the film and hear about God's love – also due to the fact that in March EMC received the money to buy a video-projector. Please pray as we do that our student's work would bear much fruit.

**Chistopol** This city has a history of failures in ministry – some ministers there simply couldn't succeed and left, others fell morally. There is no minister there at the

moment. In spite of this, the church survived and keeps on serving the Lord. Our students first came to this town in January. They worked on developing new friendships with non-Christians, conducting "sociological" polls. They also attended a local fitness club using this as an opportunity to make friends and witness to them. After some time the students invited their new friends to youth meetings at church. They also invented their own method of evangelism: they get on a public transport and tell each other their testimonies so that people around them could hear that. Through such "bus witnessing" they helped a girl who had left the church a few years ago to come back to her faith. She simply overheard their conversation and felt God reaching to her. Next Sunday she came to church again.



The last practice session was dedicated to building up those who had just come to Jesus. The students taught seminars on singles' problems and on conflicts resolution. They also met guys from a local rock-group and spent some time with them just playing songs to each other. When the last day came, there were about 10 friends including non-Christians who came just to say good-bye. After all the tears and good-bys our students left and they have been praying since then that God may grow the seeds sown in those young hearts.

**Arsk** This is the city with no church whatsoever and with 90% Muslim Tatar population. The group who worked here had a special plan. They didn't announce publicly that Christians came, didn't evangelize openly; their goal from the very first visit was to establish solid contacts and friendships with people. To do that, they tried to meet people at local libraries, Internet-clubs, open markets. By the end of the practice they had a circle of friends, mostly young people; some of them accepted Jesus.

Our students met a Muslim man who controls about 50 (!) mosques in the whole region around Arsk. He was very open, friendly and willing to keep spending time with them in conversations. Please pray for this man, pray that God reveals Himself to him.

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After our students left for the last time, the apartment where they had stayed was visited by armed policemen. They asked the landlord about the students and scared him to death. Then a young girl they had met called them to Kazan and said she could not live the way they taught her because her boyfriend forbid her to say anything about God and attend Christian meetings.

This town needs a minister who would live there. At the moment there is a pastor from Kazan who helped our students and visits their friends regularly, but of course a visiting pastor is not enough. Pray that God send a Tatar-speaking worker there with a heart for the Tatar people.

**Nizhnekamsk** For the first time the only two ladies among our students were sent to this city with three evangelical churches which is a luxury in Tatarstan. They spent time with girls and young women from one of the churches, taught two seminars on conflicts resolution and Muslim evangelism, did a lot of counseling. One of the students said that this was the best time for her because she could use her gifts more fully.



Please continue praying for our students as they go through the last training session this year. Please pray for our accountant Slava who is dying from blood cancer. Pray for the spiritual strength for himself and his wife and that God's will be done.

Yours in Christ,  
*Michael Tjutikov*  
On behalf of the EMC team.