

# Eurasian Missionary College

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

October, 2002

## New Students

A new school year has begun at EMC, and we are pleased to welcome 16 new students from Turkmenistan, Tatarstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Russia. The Lord has blessed us with a wonderful group of eager learners who will: learn in the classroom, learn by doing on local practicum with former students who are planting churches, and learn by observation as they are individually mentored by a discipler.



Students meet teachers and mentors at EMC in September 2002

The students began the year...camping. Yes camping. The purpose of the camp was to help the students bond with each other and their new mentors, to help them understand their spiritual gifts and how God may have uniquely prepared them for ministry, and to start the year on an evangelistic note with outreaches in local Islamic villages. The receptions weren't always warm, as many still see Christianity as a cult.

## New Strategies

One of the valuable lessons we have learned over the past three years of preparing church planters and missionaries is that ministry is done best in the context of teams. Therefore, we orient all of our students to a team approach in ministry. In some cases this means that a missionary will be building a team for outreach, while in other cases in pioneer contexts it means that a church planting team may begin with a husband and wife.

Because we recognize the significance of women in ministry, the wives of the students also have the opportunity to participate in learning. Once a week the men are required to remain home while their wives attend a class dealing with themes especially designed for women. And just as each of the students, both male and female, have a mentor; each wife has a personal discipler who helps them with the practical aspects of life, maturity and ministry in Christ.

## New Churches

Over the past three years, many of our graduates have taken the knowledge received at EMC, and applied it in church planting. Each month we receive encouraging stories of those who are going into towns and villages with no heretofore known gospel witness, and starting a growing viable gathering of new Christ followers.

Most of the new churches are in Tatarstan, but a growing number are in Central Asia. Student Rasul returned to his native Tajikistan, and has started two new churches. Hasan and Dono, from Uzbekistan, have started a church, and still dream of taking the gospel to northern Afghanistan.



The students in a Tatar village during the evangelistic outreach.

## New Horizons

Missionaries know that an important part of their work is establishing trust. Trust is the foundation for relationships, and when present, opens doors for partnership in ministry. Often it takes missionaries significant amounts of time to establish a trusting foundation for ministry. So imagine our delight when, rather than our knocking on the door and looking for ministry possibilities in Central Asia, local pastors there came to us and asked us to help them start similar ministry initiatives.

Our model of combining classroom knowledge of subjects—from homiletics and hermeneutics to practical church planting—with practicum and mentoring, appeals to many. They have seen the combined benefit of theological knowledge. Please pray for us as our leadership team makes a "vision" trip to Central Asia in November.

## New Challenges

Ministering in an Islamic context is usually met with resistance. Therefore, we ask that you would take a moment and pray for the ministry of EMC. Please pray:

- For Spiritual Protection
- For favor in the eyes of the government organizations that are inspecting us
- For our annual budget
- For the success of our church planters who have started at least 15 new churches in the past two years, and
- For the success of the first practicum, which runs from October 14 through November 1

For secure communication with EMC email Paul Kellner at [kellnerp@cbd.net](mailto:kellnerp@cbd.net)