

Eurasian Missionary College

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

July 2003

Another Year Over!

We at EMC praise God for the completion of yet another academic year in the history of our college. Our recent graduates, pictured below with a couple of members of staff, are the fourth such set of graduates we have sent out. Every time students leave us, something of ourselves goes with them. We pray that God will continue to us them in spreading the kingdom.



Graduates of 2003

The majority of the students are returning to Central Asia, some by circuitous routes, as bureaucratic problems with visa registration meant they had to find unusual routes out of the country! But others remain here in Tatarstan, we trust to good effect for the Gospel.

A final wrap-up of practica

In May our students completed the last in their set of 3 practica. Here are some snap-shots of how God used that time:

From Visoki Gora (High Hills). Last time we reported that there had been an outbreak of conflict between some inhabitants of this town, initiated by anger at what was perceived to be the activities of a sect, as students started to share the Gospel. This time we are happy to report that at least one of those who had been involved in the fight, now happily came over to greet our students. Zhenya, a neighbour of Sergei, our local contact, watched as our students helped weed Sergei's vegetable plot, lay a cement flooring and foundation for the stove in his sauna. He then came over himself to greet the students.

Slowly good relationships are being built with friends and relations of Sergei. His mother and sister, are becoming more and more open to the gospel, as is a friend, Kolya. Kolya has started to read the Bible for himself. Sergei himself continues to develop as a Christian and takes on leadership responsibilities.

From Gorki (a suburb of Kazan, capital of Tatarstan). Notwithstanding that he was a Muslim, an old man of 75 heard with gladness the news of Christ. For him it was news that the God Christ pointed to was God not only of Russians, but of all people. A seed was sown, and local believers continue to meet with him. Students left their practicum saying, "We were persuaded of this, that even in hopeless situations, in God there is a way out", as they saw time and time again God responding to particular prayers. Several new people accepted the Lord and became members of a house church during the last year.

From Chistopol. Students on practicum in this town not only worked in evangelism, but in strengthening and growth of the small local church. The young man of 19, acts as a pastor there. The college team ran a baptismal preparation course, taught the inductive bible study method to women in the church, ran Sunday services, conducted prayer meetings and visited church members. They were also able to show Christian films in the local cinema, followed by seminars on topics such as "Cults and Sects", "Marriage and Family in the light of the Bible", "The 5 languages of love" and "Death - is it the end? The meaning of life", as well as helped in practical ways with the families of church members.



Children watching evangelistic puppet show on the main Kazan street

Summing up!

Going to the sports hall, visiting mosques, sharing the Gospel with Muslim theology students, staging various concerts and puppet shows, showing Christian films, holding lectures and debates, going from apartment to apartment offering Christian literature, manning a bookstall on the street, striking up conversations with people in various situations; these are all activities undertaken by students of our colleges on their practica. One of the great outcomes of this is the growth in confidence it gives our students. One student recently told me this story. On the way to college he saw an old man reading the New Testament. He went up to him and asked in the words of Philip in the Acts of the Apostles, "Do you understand what you are reading?" A great conversation followed in which Mansur (the student) was able to explain the essence of the Gospel. "Before this course I would never have done something like that!" remarked Mansur on telling the story.

Please pray:

- For growth in the churches in Buinsk, Chistopol, Gorki, and Visoki Gora. Pray for Sergei and his family; that a church may grow up out of his home.
- For our graduates to plant new churches in a hostile environment of Central Asia
- For development of our new extension B. Mis program
- For the future students to come this year

For secure communication with EMC, email Paul Kellner at kellnerp@cbd.net. If you are interested in financially supporting EMC's ministry, please contact Insur Shamgunov at shamgunov@hotmail.com