

Eurasian Missionary College

Preparing national church planters and missionaries for Tatarstan, Russia and Central Asia
October 2003

Student Enrolments for 2003-4

This year we have 16 new students in our College, representing a variety of countries and cultures. There are Tajiks, Tatars, Chuvashi, Komi, Uzbeks and Russians all in one class, but this doesn't stop them from glorifying God by the way they work together! They all want to study hard, so when they go home they will serve God well, by carrying His Good News to their own people groups.



The class of 2003-4 with members of College staff

Our First 'All-in-together' Activity

The academic year started with a spiritual retreat. Students, with their mentors, set up camp on one of the islands in the middle of the Volga. It was interesting to watch how they set up their tents together, how the lecturers collected wood for the fireplace, how the College Director (with some of the women) washed the black and grimy pots! And then in the evening around the campfire the lecturers and mentors shared how they came to faith in God. It was amazing to see how God had brought each one in his own way to faith. Each testimony was unique.



Arriving on the island



Singing, teaching & living together ..

The 2 days spent away together helped bring everyone closer together. We felt like one team, one family.



Leaving the island

Our First Courses

The first subjects studied by the students included 'Principles of Study', 'Computer Literacy', 'Hermeneutics' and, most surprisingly, 'Puppetry'!

In the puppetry course students made their own puppets to use in evangelism. At the end of the course they staged a puppet show in a home for homeless children. In a simple and accessible way, students spoke through the puppets to the children about God's love and how to help your neighbors. In just a short time, children lacking the warmth of motherly love could feel for themselves the love and compassion of God. It was in fact a miracle of God that the show took place at all, because normally it is strictly forbidden to preach the Gospel in an educational institution. Praise God for open doors!



One of our students with his puppet

- Pray for our students and lecturers, that the planned courses will come together in a way that glorifies God, and that the students will study and learn what is most helpful to them.

Our New Mentoring Team

All students were divided into 3 groups and assigned to mentors. This year our mentoring team has changed in that we 'lost' one member of our team, and gained another. Tahir Talipov, who has long been a senior mentor to many in our part of the world, was told his visa would not be renewed, and so had to return to Latvia. But God compensated for our loss in sending a graduate of the Krasnodar Institute of Biblical Leadership, Vasily Makarov, to 'stand in the gap'.

Tahir praying with believers in a country location



Vasily at our opening retreat

Our aim in mentoring is to instill in students the character of a servant, and to help them build a loving attitude to people in general, to other believers and to God. We desire to help them resolve conflicts and overcome difficulties in their spiritual lives. And we invite you to take part in this process by praying for them and us.

- Pray that we attain the goals we have set in our mentoring process.
- Pray in particular that students' lives will be changed this year, so that they become closer to God, and even more like people after His own heart.

Our first Practicals

The 3 groups of students were also assigned to 3 different missionary locations. Of these, 2 are located in the city area of Kazan: Derbishki and Azino. The other 1 is a city to our south in which we have run previous practicals. Students recently carried out prayer walks, distributed spiritual literature, evangelized passers-by and, most importantly, devised strategies by which their regions could be reached with the Gospel.

In one of these places a very interesting thing happened. When students entered a park in their area, they stood around in a circle so that they could pray for the evangelization of their region. A young couple passing by noticed them with all their heads bowed, and came up to ask what it was that they were doing, what it was that had they found, and whether they could join in. One of the students, undaunted by the young man's approach, put his arm around the guy's shoulders, and said 'Sure, come and join us!' and then proceeded to pray for him



The suburb of Azino with some students from last year

and for his salvation The guy, overcome by surprise, started to say that he was also a believer, and that he wore a little cross (a habit common amongst many Russians, but something that is more often an act of superstition than of real faith). It was amazing that God should use our prayer time to initiate a conversation with this young couple!

Summing up!

Ahead of us we have a very full year, including a series of 3-week practicals in which we will assist missionaries in the planting of churches around our local area. We need your prayer support. For without the Lord's support we labor in vain (Psalm 127:1). Please join us in persisting in prayer (Romans 12:12), knowing the Lord is always more ready to give than we are to receive.

Please pray:

- That the Lord will open doors for the Good News
- That He will develop in the students skills for missionary service
- That God will preserve us from illness and other evils

Staff News

Our Director, Insur, recently took a 6-week break in which he worked on a book on discipleship (to be published in Russian). He hopes to do a doctorate in the same area so it was a very useful time.

Insur also made the decision recently of stepping down from pastoral responsibilities at his church so that he could concentrate on his work as College Director. The church for which he was responsible has now asked another lecturer from the College, Mikhail Tutikov, to take over as pastor. Mikhail has accepted but needs our prayers as he prepares to hand over his responsibilities at the College. He will probably be carrying a full load at the College until the end of the academic year.



Mikhail Tutikov at the recent retreat

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 life@bancorp.ru.