

Newsletter of Eurasian Missionary College

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

November 2004

First Practice

Over the course of the academic year EMC students leave the College on four occasions for three weeks at a time to practice what they have been learning about church-planting. For their first practice in November the students headed to Axubaevo and Nurlat. The aim was to do the first phase of planting a church - finding new contacts and building up friendly relationships with them. The students visited different places to do this - some to be expected like a sports gym, and some unusual like a construction site! It was good physical exercise for the students as well. They made many new friends and organised several meetings for young people, where they sang, gave testimonies and played games. "Now we have friends in Axubaevo, that are waiting for us to come back", says Baha (EMC student, bottom left in the picture below). "We are looking forward to living among them as witnesses for Christ".



"Now we have friends in Axubaevo..."

Creative approach for sharing the Gospel

From a practical perspective, the "Puppet construction workshop" is the most interesting subject for the EMC students. During the week students made puppets and then learned to use them to present different skits. The puppets need to "come alive" if the audience is to be moved by the drama and grasp the Christian message contained in the skit. This year, students put on a puppet drama in an orphanage. The main theme of was friendship and unity. The message reached the children's hearts thanks to the amusing puppets and the actors' enthusiasm. Children watched the play with the pleasure, as did their teachers.



In order to make a puppet come alive, a lot of hard work is needed

South-east expansion

Last autumn EMC organised for the first time regular teaching sessions for EMC graduates in Russia doing the Bachelor of Missiology. Thanks to the support of a number of EMC partners this continuing education program has been extended this year to include EMC graduates in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. EMC teachers and mentors spent about two weeks in Dushanbe (the capital of Tajikistan) where students attended two courses: "Cross-cultural communication" and "Old Testament book study: The Book of Joshua". During the three day practice organized between the courses, students went to several towns in Tajikistan where they organized evangelistic meetings in areas hostile to Christianity. The graduates were encouraged that people willingly listened to the gospel, helped no doubt because their listeners were hearing the gospel from the lips of fellow citizens, not from foreign missionaries.



National hero of Tajikistan Samonee monument

Christmas & New Year Wishes

"Dear friends, EMC celebrates with you the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. May God's peace dwell in your families, churches and missions in the coming year. We pray that you will have joy in your ministry for the Lord. You are always in our prayers."

Your faithful partners in mission,
On behalf of all at *Eurasian Missionary College*,
Alexander Koshkarov

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