

# Newsletter of Eurasian Missionary College

Preparing national church planters and missionaries for Tatarstan, Russia and Central Asia  
December 2004

№ 2

## Near-tragedy for two EMC students

Dear friends, some of you already know that in the beginning of December a near-tragedy happened for EMC. Two of our Tajik students – Vanya and Zarif – were involved in a terrible road accident. Mercifully both young men survived the accident and, through a remarkable chain of events, were able to receive the full medical attention they needed to have a good likelihood of making full recoveries. Below is a slightly edited version of an open letter that was sent around on the day the accident happened:

*“Today (Friday, 3 December) a tragedy happened for EMC. On Thursday a group of our foreign students from Tajikistan left for Kazakhstan in order to cross the Russian Federation border and return again. This has to be done so that they can receive temporary registration for 3 more months, allowing them to continue studying at the College. On the way the mini-van broke down, just 50 km from the Russian-Kazakhstan border. It was windy and the road was icy. Two students - Vanya (17 years old) and Zarif (20 years old) - got out of the van to push it off the road. It was then that the accident happened. A car ran into the back of the van while the students were pushing it off the road. Vanya had both his legs broken, Zarif one. A passing motorist was hailed down. An hour or so after the car crash an ambulance came and took Vanya and Zarif to a local med-point, where they received first aid and pain-killers. A couple of hours later Fedor, the EMC administrator, headed to the place of the accident, and arrived 12 hours after the car crash. Somehow EMC staff were able to arrange for an ambulance to go to the med-point and bring the injured students back to Kazan – a 650 km journey. The ambulance left about 5 pm Friday. We do hope and pray that tomorrow afternoon (Saturday) Vanya and Zarif and the rest of the students will be back in Kazan. Only in Kazan can the injuries be treated by properly qualified physicians at the “Central Traumatology Institute”. Our fear is that because it is a weekend the doctors most likely won’t be there when the injured students arrive. Only God knows what will happen...*

*We do pray that God will show his great mercy and loving-kindness to the injured students and to those who witnessed the accident happen. Please say a special prayer for the non-believing mothers of the injured students, for whom their sons are their only comfort.*

*Sincerely yours,  
Academic dean of EMC,  
Artur Shakurov”*

## Tragedy averted – Thankgiving follows!

Tremendous news followed the circulation of this letter. The top specialist in Kazan for Trauma surgery was prevailed upon to come into hospital and treat Vanya and Zarif on his day-off. He operated on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December. The operation was successful!

We thank all who responded to what happened here. We have received a lot of letters with words of encouragement. We thank you for your prayers. We needed them most of all. All praise and glory is to be given to the Lord, whose mercy is beyond our understanding.

According to Vanya and Zarif, all who were involved in the aftermath of the accident - medical nurses, doctors, frontier guards, policemen – could see God doing great things. The right people and services were made available to save their lives and provide for their full rehabilitation.

## Update 22 December 2004

Zarif has been home for almost two weeks, Vanya is supposed to leave the hospital tomorrow. Today the surgical sutures in Vanya’s foot are to be removed. Please keep on praying for Vanya and Zarif: for their health and further physical, emotional and spiritual rehabilitation. Here is their latest picture, with Artur, the academic dean:



Artur Vanya, 17 Zarif, 20

## Funding the medical care

Already gifts have been received to help cover the costs incurred in dealing with this near tragedy. These costs include: getting Vanya and Zarif transferred to the Kazan Central Traumatological Institute, an operation carried out by a specialist surgeon, and continued medical attention until they are fully recovered. If you would like to assist in covering these costs, please contact:

Tim McMahon, Eurasian Ministries UK  
[tim.mcmahon@eurasian-ministries.org](mailto:tim.mcmahon@eurasian-ministries.org) 01245 227 941

If we end up with a surplus of donations, the excess will be set aside to cover future medical expenses of College students, staff and graduates.

## A final cause for praise – A new Mini-Bus!

On 23 December, the Principal of EMC, Insur Shamgunov received news that a donor who wishes to remain undisclosed will be giving \$16,000 for the College to purchase a more reliable mini-bus, and so reduce the likelihood future tragedy. Praise God for his provision through his generous servants!

Alexander Koshkarov, EMC & Tim McMahon, EMUK

