

Eurasian Missionary College

Preparing national church planters and missionaries for Russia and Central Asia
December 2005

New Premises for EMC!

God has given us the opportunity to acquire our own premises! These are really much more spacious than those we were renting before. We not long ago moved there, and now we are busy fitting it out with all necessary conveniences. A big thank-you to those who helped us make the acquisition!



Moving out!

Field Placements

The first of our field placements (practica) this year has taken place. The students were divided into teams. One went to the town of Aksubaevo, the other to a town called Chistopol. As usual, the mentors were with the students only for the first ten days.

This is our third year of going to Aksubaevo. There one of our graduates carries out her ministry, so our relationship with people there is more or less well ordered! Once again, we were given permission to take a class in the local school. We chose the theme of abortion, since this is a very real issue amongst youth. The students from Tajikistan also made themselves known to Tajiks in the markets, and plan to strengthen their relationship with them.

Chistopol is a relatively new place for our College to be working. There our students encountered some difficulties. At one stage they were taken off to the police station, there they were fingerprinted and asked questions about the aim of their trip. In turn, many of the students bravely talked about the gospel with the police, and so were able to leave the station with joy.



Youth meeting in Chistopol

On the last day another sad event happened, one of the students (Natasha) fell in the stairway and hit an iron pipe, injuring her eye. They quickly operated, and praise God, her eye is undamaged, she already feels fine and is going to classes. In the words of Artur (the mentor who had been with the team), this had been the most difficult practicum of all that he had spent with students; however, despite this, God blessed their work, and two of the town's people received Jesus Christ!

On everyone's return, we had a meeting where each person could share their concerns and what God had taught them in their time away. For the most part, the students said the time had been difficult because of the conditions there. It had been hard to find a place to commune with God, but despite this, all want to go again to spend time with their new friends. Two of the students (Denis and Roma) on the practicum, understood for the first time how much better it was to work as a team, than alone.



Members of the team in Aksubaevo with a visitor from England!

Bachelor Program in Tajikistan

While students were on their practica, mentors from the College (Vasya, Denis and Hadezhat) travelled to Tajikistan, to teach units of the Bachelor's program to correspondence students there. There were 10 students at the classes. Denis and Vasya taught courses on Homiletics of the Old Testament and on Spiritual Formation. The program was conducted at a centre where we lived together with the students for ten days. This meant that we had time after the lessons to fellowship with the students, and to meet with them one to one. In one of the churches there, to which our students (Vanya, Lika and Nigina) belong, a leader had recently died. For these students it was a difficult period. Vanya has been chosen as one of the leaders of the church. Please pray for him, that he will grow as a leader, grow in his understanding of the Word of God and in becoming more like Him. The girls are involved as mentors of other girls in the church. It was just great to see their desire to pass onto the girls they were mentoring the things they themselves had been learning.



With students and believers in Kulyab

All the students then, for 'practica', went with their mentors to spend time with two College graduates (Alfira and Alfiya) in Kulyab (a town in Southern Tajikistan). After finishing College, our graduates went there on missionary service. It is a very closed area; already the girls are having problems with the local KGB. They carry out a children's ministry and through this get to know the parents. We spent some teaching time with two new converts. This is a big prayer request, that the local authorities will not expel the girls.

Zarif and Vani (the two who were injured last year in a car accident) are now both running around. They experience no problems with their legs whatsoever - praise God! Thank you to all who prayed.

Sad News for the Shamgunov family



Just before Christmas, the family of the College Director, Insur Shamgunov, received some sad news. Their youngest son, Amir, still a baby, started exhibiting the same signs of ill health that led

to the death of their oldest son at a similar age. This was of course very distressing, especially as the local doctors were not able to give any clear diagnosis. Thanks to the generosity of supporters in England, and following an almost miraculously quick and generous visa application, the whole family flew to England, where doctors were able to examine the boy. Many people around the world started to pray for this special family. Unfortunately, once a diagnosis was confirmed, the news was not good. This is how Insur himself described it:

Dear friends! First of all I would like to thank you who have been praying for our son Amir during these difficult weeks. Two days ago he was finally diagnosed at John Radcliffe hospital in Oxford and now we are quite sure of what is wrong with his health. Unfortunately, the news is not good. He has a very serious and rare progressive metabolic disorder called Glutaric Aciduria Type I. Many die from this disease in their childhood, others become mentally and physically disabled. The nature of the disease is that it is not curable; the medicines may only help to slow down its progress. Any cold, flu or other illness can trigger the disease and cause what is called a metabolic crisis, which can lead to palsy, coma or death, if not given urgent and competent medical help. Our family has to come to terms with this. Please, pray for us to have strength to face every day and go on. Please, also pray that we have the humility and serenity to accept what God's will is for us in this situation. Yours in Christ, Insur and Lena

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 or Tim McMahan at tim.mcmahan@eurasian-ministries.org.