

January 2007

Our newest addition!

3 weeks ago a baby was born to Artur, our Academic Director, and his wife, Dasha. For more than 8 years they have been praying for a child, and at last God has answered their prayers by giving them a baby boy! Mother and child are well, and the family is adjusting well to their new circumstances.



The students return...

After their holidays, our students have returned with renewed vigour to apply themselves to their studies. Recently we have been introducing them to new territory in Old Testament



In the week they have just completed, the students were joined by people from around Tatarstan. A couple from Careforce Australia introduced students and visitors to material which enabled them to understand themselves better, and be better equipped to help others.

Our most recent practicum was also something a little different. As you know at EMC we strive to form the character of our students using both practical and theoretical input. To give our students maximum opportunity to taste various ministries for some of the time we sent them out to sample different meetings, churches and outreach activities from all over our republic. Accompanied by their mentors, the students went out in groups of 3 or 4 to observe and participate in some of the better ministries we know of in our part of the world.

Student feedback



"... in my theoretical subjects, I am discovering many new things for change, for life and for character. At the beginning of the year there were many kinds of obstacles, walls if you like; they are now crumbling. God has revealed many things to me: sins, fears - and is clearing them out. Now is such an uplifting time for me".

Radik, Tatarstan's arm wrestling champion, is also an EMC student. More importantly, though, he is a 'Baptised Tatar', one of the first of his people group to adopt the Reformed faith, so it is a great privilege to have him at College, given his almost unique placement to reach his people, the 'kreshyonny' as they are called in Russian, with the Gospel.

"I've also noticed this, that in College you are given a lot of useful information, the kind of information that is really crucial. It is not just theological, it is information that applies directly to life ... the courses go very quickly and I am receiving fantastic input, but it's hard to digest it all ... the plus in practicum is that I can leave academics and put into practice what I'm learning ... God is teaching me not to run away from conflict, but to simply go and say what it is that I don't like..." *Renata, born in Central Asia, is thinking and praying about serving in Muslim areas, but wants to go as part of a small team. She would value your prayers in this regard.*



Coming up in the College Calendar:

This month the students have the following subjects:

5-11/2 **Puppet Art** with David Pannabecker from America (pictured at right)

12-18/2 **Christian Doctrine** with Artur Shakurov

19/2-12/3 **Practicum** Teams will go out again with their mentors to Derbyshki and Alexeevsky



Also for prayer in February:

3-10/2 Vasily Makarov and Denis Savelev travel to the **Northern Caucasus** to teach youth seminars and to meet with our graduates.
27/2-5/3 Artur Shakurov and Vasily Makarov travel to Turkey to represent the College at the **Central Asian Consultation**.

Answers to prayer!

- ? *For almost 4 years now we have praying for the means to renovate our student apartments. Out of the blue a couple of months ago we received a gift of money that has allowed us to renovate 5 bathrooms. Work on them has just been completed! Praise God.*
- ? *We asked you to pray for one of female students who had to flee from her relatives on becoming a Christian. We can tell you that she has settled in really well and is a delightfully mature levelheaded person. We thank God for her.*
- ? *We asked you to pray for follow up on contacts made in Alexeevsky and Aznakaevo. We are glad to report that a couple of people from Alexeevsky have started doing a correspondence course investigating Christianity. Students left brochures in letterboxes to advertise the course. Rafis, the pastor in Aznakaevo, has had to spend the last 3 weeks looking after his mother in hospital. Sadly she died this week, but not before she prayed with Rafis asking for God's mercy. Rafis and family are also rejoicing in the provision of a brand new fully finished large apartment given to them by Tatarstan's president as a public relations gesture.*

Prayer needs!

- ? *Please keep praying that we would receive the registration we are seeking from the government as an educational institution.*
- ? *Please pray for our health in these winter months; many staff and students are currently unwell.*

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