

February 2007

### A Special Course...!

An exceptional lecturer arrived this week at College and is teaching on something very important to our students. His name is Georges Houssney, his topic: how to evangelise Muslims. Not only will students be able to listen to his lectures on the subject, they will also be able to see Georges in action! We are organising an open meeting on Thursday, and have invited some Muslims to come and debate with Georges. Please pray for this time, especially as we have yet to find a neutral venue that will allow us to hold such a public conversation. Places we have used in the past will no longer accommodate us. Pray, too, that the hearts of people engaged in or listening to the debate will be moved to understand more of the Gospel.



### Georges Houssney

Born in Lebanon, Georges is well known for his work in translating the Bible into contemporary Arabic. He has international experience in pastoral ministry and evangelism in the context of Islam. He is the founder and director of the organisation "Horizons International".

We are also glad to be able to give ministers and pastors of different churches in Tatarstan the opportunity to attend Georges' lectures. Many others have joined us for these sessions - we pray they will help ministry to Muslims in our region.

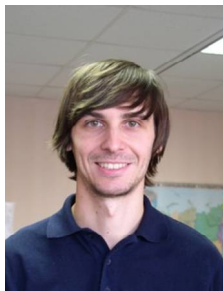
### Staff news - the C. A. Consultation in Turkey

Two members of staff journeyed with others from Tatarstan to the Central Asian Consultation in Turkey recently. They were joined there by Insur, our College Director, who is presently completing Doctoral studies at Oxford University. Through a bit of 'God orchestrated serendipity', Insur was able to also catch up with his younger sister, wife of one of the attending pastors; he and his sister are pictured below.



The Consultation was both useful and satisfying. We were able to meet with workers from all over C.A. and talk about the spread of the Gospel in this part of the world, while agreeing on various measures to cooperate in the preparation of leaders to continue the work that has begun.

### Our Featured Staff Member - Denis Savelyev



Denis is from Dagestan, a Muslim dominated republic in the South of Russia. Having graduated from the Krasnodar Institute of Biblical Leadership, he joined us and now teaches a number of courses, including Christian Leadership, the History of Islam and Spiritual Formation. His passion? Debating with Muslims.

So what has God been doing in his life recently? We put this question to him, his answer was as follows: *"God is doing a great deal in my life at the moment. Most basically, from my vantage point, He is giving me the desire to seek Him. It is very easy to slide into attempting to see only what God has done or what he is doing with something. It is rather like the attempt to seek only the gifts, rather than a relationship /fellowship with the giver. God has recently been showing me my need for relationship/fellowship with the Giver.*

*... Also He has been teaching me about fasting. Earlier I often considered that fasting went well, if I felt really good during the time of my fasting, and was able to do a whole lot of stuff. If, however, the fasting was difficult (especially in a physical sense), then I considered that it hadn't gone all that well. God has been teaching me humility in the time of fasting, and I understand now, that even if I feel physically bad during the time of fasting, that this may be spiritually useful, since at such times I begin to understand really well my human weakness and my need for God.*

### Coming up in the College Calendar:

Field practicum has finished (thanks for praying - all went really well). In front of them students have these courses coming up:

- 12-16/3 **Evangelism in a Muslim context** with Georges Houssney
- 19-23/3 **A Biblical Worldview** with Vasily Makarov
- 26-30/3 **Homiletics** with Insur Shamgunov
- 02-05/4 **Founding New Churches** (lecturer yet to be decided)

It has been a while since Insur has been able to join us; we are looking forward to seeing him again. Do pray that our time together may be encouraging not only for us, but for him.

### Answers to prayer (Praise points)!

- ? *Thanks for a very successful field practicum. Our students report valuable times with churches throughout Tatarstan.*
- ? *Everyone's health is good!*

### Prayer needs (Prayer points)!

- ? *There is still little progress on the registration of College as an educational institution, please keep praying.*
- ? *Please pray for Georges' lectures, especially the public meeting (see article above).*
- ? *Please pray for our student mentors, now is a critical time for really helping their students to grow in Christ.*
- ? *Pray for the means to acquire new books for our library.*

Vasily Makarov, Teacher-Mentor, EC [www.eurasian-college.org](http://www.eurasian-college.org)