

March 2007

Different Options for Learning

Our larger courses are not the only ones to help our students. We also offer 'mini-courses', such as "The basics of orthodox culture", "Communication by email, partnership across long distances". These courses help them understand people living around them, and others who may not be so close by! We strive to give insight as to people's convictions, their values, their viewpoints, even their heart. Learning to start and to maintain fellowship over a distance is a new skill for many of our students, some of whom have never used a computer before coming to College, and so have never tried communicating by email. But in contemporary culture, we have the ability to do God's work together across large distances, and we want our students to be able to seize that opportunity.

We also have a 'video-club'. We watch films together with the students, and teach them to understand and evaluate the ideas in them that lie beneath the surface. It is important that we develop the analytical skills of our students, our post-Soviet culture not being very good in this area. We want to teach them to see the important things of life; and to understand people; how they change, grow, overcome crises, and make mistakes.

Introducing Lilya

She's 22, she comes from Aksubaev in Tatarstan, and she is a special member of our student body.

Why is Lilya so special? She is special because a few years ago a group of students from our College went to Aksubaev on a field practicum. While preaching the Gospel there, Lilya was one of a number who became interested in knowing more. Within a short time she repented, along with some others; and this year she has enrolled in College because she is interested in further ministry in Central Asia. Here are her words on her time so far here at College:

"... to this end, my life has moved in one direction; enrolling in College, these studies, new knowledge, new discoveries revolving around life in general, it has all been about moving to a new level of relationship to God, a closer relationship with Him. The field placements have been particularly valuable, you learn to value relationships, to build relationships, you understand that relationships are not some kind of superficial conversation, but something much deeper, you learn to trust, to open yourself up and become much more open to people... earlier I was very closed to such things.

The practicum in Chelni really helped me; there they spoke about 'cell groups', about the need to be a member of a cell group. It really affected my ministry and my work with youth. At Derbyshki I simply fell in love with their non-believing youth; even though I don't know how it happened, because I of myself can't do that. God gave such bonding and our team also really helped!"

Pray for Lilya as she makes decisions about ministry next year.

Lecture Series with Georges Housney

Thanks so much for praying for our open lecture series with guest lecturer Georges Housney. It was a week of study, encouragement, fellowship and (of course) an opportunity to speak to Muslims about Jesus. Georges inspired our students and others who had come to hear him to show real love for Muslims and - further - to then evangelise them! On Thursday evening we invited Muslims to a lecture "Jesus and Mohammed"; in it Georges spoke about Jesus, giving students the opportunity to see how evangelism could be done. Afterwards there were questions and answers, and students were again able to see how to answer difficult questions from Muslims. Following the formal part of the evening, conversations continued with those interested from our Muslim guests. Overall, the whole week was brilliant! We prayed for Muslims, fellowshipped with them, learnt more on how to evangelise them, and all the time had among us an excellent living example of one who does these things so well, our brother, Georges Housney.



Coming up in the College Calendar:

16-27/4 **Founding New Churches** (how to start and grow new churches) with our Director, Insur Shamgunov
30/4 - 11/4 **Last Field Practicum for this year** (for this practicum the 2 student teams will be combined and together they will go to just one place).

Answers to prayer (Praise points)!

1. *We give thanks for the time we had with Georges Housney, for the opportunity it gave not only to encourage our own students, but those from our and a neighbouring republic.*
2. *We are thankful to God too that the situation with visas for some visiting lecturers has eased up for the time being. We know you prayed about that.*
3. *Our students have been healthy and full of energy in the last 2 months.*
4. *We are really looking forward to seeing Insur (our Director) in the second part of April and spending time with him.*

Prayer needs (Prayer points)!

1. *Please pray for Insur and our students as they look at the subject of Church Planting. This is a key part of their time here; pray they would be given a real vision for church planting in our needy part of the world.*
2. *Please pray that Jay Smith would be given a visa to travel here. He is due to teach in May on 'Apologetics in Islamic Situations'. The authorities dragged out the time for issuing an invitation so now he has only days to get his visa.*
3. *Please pray for our practicum, where they will be is still being decided. Pray for a rich and fulfilling program.*

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