

May 2007

### Church Planting Course a Big Hit with Students!

Taught by Insur Shamgunov, Director of our College, the course "Founding New Churches" was a great success. Students were alerted as to the importance of a vision, to know where they were heading; and to the importance of the quality of the leadership in new ventures. Also noted were the importance of relationships and the development of healthy churches. Assignments were extremely practical; for example, one was to prepare worship services for people from different sociological backgrounds. In working towards this, they videotaped interviews with people on the streets of Kazan, and prepared various different worship songs and sermons, addressing the needs of different kinds of people. It was all very lively and entertaining!

*Insur Shamgunov* →



### Our student of the Month - Introducing Zukhra!

Zukhra is 19 yrs old and was born in Dagestan (North Caucasus), into a Muslim family. When she was 7 yrs old her family moved to the neighbouring republic of Kalmykia, where at the age of 13 she put her faith in Jesus.



The impetus for this came from attending a Sunday School run by a Russian missionary. Her parents were unaware at the time that at the Sunday School they talked about God!

After finishing school she went to Rostov-on-Don to to study at Bible College. At first her parents weren't too keen on this, but then they let her go, thinking that at least it was some kind of study. However after Zukhra completed her course and told them of her intention to move onto full-time Christian ministry they became very angry, to the point where currently Zukhra cannot return home. After hearing about the Eurasian College, however, she relocated to Kazan and enrolled for further more practical study. As well as studying, she continues to be involved with various ministries: leading Sunday school and working with teenage girls; she was a librarian at church and has sung in the choir. On finishing EC she would like to move into full-time ministry. Her dream is to be a journalist, for example with some kind of Christian publishing organization. She wants to be part of the publication of a Christian magazine, which would encourage missionaries in Islamic countries and provide an apologetic for issues that Islam raises. Her current prayer request is that the Lord would show her what ministry to start with - and where.

### Last Practicum for the Year...

Our last practicum for the year is coming to an end; our 2 teams have been together for the whole session. They staged



puppet shows in the town of Alexeevsky, and participated in the regular street bookstand ministry at Derbyshki. Their ministry was much appreciated by the church at Derbyshki and the missionaries at Alekseevskoe. But most exciting for us was to see that the non-believing friends of our students not only hung out with them during the special events that they ran, but also wanted to hang out with them at other times. The friendships continue to be developed and the non-believers are asking various questions in a very open and honest way.

Students and staff also attended the annual conference for workers in the Association of Christian Evangelical Free Churches in Tatarstan. There they heard how the ministries of various churches within the Association had developed, the workers sharing their experiences, concerns and plans. It was an enriching experience, expanding our vision and giving a shot of new energy for further ministry. Praise God.

### Coming up in the College Calendar:

We don't have much time before the students disperse to their various places of ministry; these are their last study courses.

14-18/5 **Apologetics in the Islamic World** (Jay Smith: teaching on defending our faith and engaging in debate with Muslims)

21-24/5 **Folk Islam** (Denis Savelev: teaching on forms of folk Islam and how to engage with it).

28/5 - 7/6 **New Testament Survey** (Tim McMahon: one of basic subjects for the year, includes application of the NT to our lives).

9/6 **Graduation Day!!**

### Answers to prayer (Praise points)!

- *We give thanks for the time the students had with Insur Shamgunov studying church planting. Insur wrote that his students appraised his lectures as being 'spot-on'. As a staff we also spent much time in fellowship, prayer and thinking over the work of the College; Insur's trip being a great joy and encouragement to us.*
- *Give thanks; too, that Jay Smith got his visa!*
- *Praise God that He continues to use our field placement (practicum) sessions not only to develop our students, but also to bless others.*

### Prayer needs (Prayer points)!

- *Our graduate Bachelor program continues over May 14-25. Pray it will be greatly useful to those who come.*
- *Please continue to pray for Insur and his family, that God would give them peace and the ability to move on.*
- *Our students are working through where they will serve next year. Please pray for God's leading.*

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