

## One in Christ at Christmas!



... For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger

(Luke 1:31-32)

Dear friends!

We wish you every blessing this Christmas! We thank God that in Jesus He has not only saved us, but has also united us in one family. It matters not that we live in different countries, are divided by time, distance, national borders or political situations - we remain one family! And although we do not all know each other personally, we all serve God together.

When we meet Christ face-to-face on judgement Day, He will not divide us again by such barriers. Rather, we shall serve Him together, and worship together eternally.

On behalf of the  
College staff team

Arthur Shakurov  
Academic Dean



## The Bible opened in a new way for many students!

In December students in the city of Nizhnekamsk studied a course on Leadership, and the students in Kazan, a course on Hermeneutics (interpreting the Bible). This course in particular opened the eyes of many of the students to a whole new way of understanding the Scriptures. In the majority of evangelical churches in Russia there is no understanding of the concept of the expository sermon. Preachers and people in church interpret the Bible allegorically, using clever reasoning to draw out meaning from texts. Although their interpretations remain within the limits of evangelical doctrine, they are usually far from the primary understanding of the text.

After this course on Hermeneutics, one of the students told me with surprise: "I did not know that it is possible to read the Bible with such pleasure and interest!" Though the subject remains one of the most difficult, all the students passed.

In the middle of January (14-18), Peter Comont from John Stott's UK organization "Langham Partnership" will lead seminars on preparing sermons. Three such seminars are planned, with all pastors and preachers in Kazan invited. Please pray for the successful running of these seminars, that pastors come to recognize the importance of the expository sermon for growing healthy local churches.



## College News

- **We successfully completed the first term of the new academic year in Kazan and Nizhnekamsk**
- **Students found the course on Hermeneutics (interpreting the Bible), a complex, but useful subject**

*"The source of Christian life is simply Jesus Christ. And that's all. And that's enough."*  
Charles Tramball

## Prayer Points:

- **The continuation of our evening course in all 3 cities**
- **For the seminars on sermon preparation for pastors and preachers 14-18 January**