

Evening course in Bugulma

A few days ago despite a very cold weather (-20-25 degrees Celsius) in Bugulma we finished the second evening course.

Bugulma is one of the smaller cities in Tatarstan with the population of 100 thousand people. The first evangelical church was planted there in 1994. The church didn't have their own building, and for several years they had to meet in believer's homes. They managed to build their own place only in 2004. The church isn't big, it's only about 40 people but in spite of the small numbers they already sent out two families to plant new churches. One couple planted a small church in Aznakayevo. Another family served in China and now are planting a church in Blagoveschensk which is a city near the Russian border with China, and continue to work among the Chinese living in Russia.

When we first came to Bugulma to recruit students for the new program there wasn't one person willing to come. As we found out later, most people in the church wanted to study but didn't know whether they would be able to keep their jobs and study at the same time. That's why we asked you to pray about the program. Now there are 13 students enrolled and a few just sitting in on the lectures. They completed the second evening course successfully.

It makes me very happy to see these students in class. I recall my own time at a Christian college. We lived in a comfortable dormitory, had a good cafeteria, large classrooms, a library and a lot of Christian fellowship. But life on the campus is a little unreal and artificial. Our students in Bugulma have to do without a campus life, and face real life problems. Almost all of them have difficulties in their families; some of them are former prisoners and drug addicts.



Their co-workers reject their faith and say their church is a "sect". Most of our students have health and financial problems, too. But in spite of it they all have a heart for the church and love God. I'm very glad to see how the courses they're getting help them to find answers to everyday questions. They are learning to solve their marital and financial problems, know God and keep on serving and worshipping Him.

Please pray for the students in Bugulma and for their church:

- They have a building but half the seats are empty.
- They have the musical instruments but no musicians to play them!
- They have a pastor but he doesn't have the Russian citizenship which makes life very difficult for him.

We would also like you to keep praying about a preaching seminar for pastors that will take place on January 14th-18th. We are expecting 20 – 30 pastors from different churches. Some pastors do not confirm participation in studying. We know that this seminar will be helpful for pastors in preaching. Pray about more pastors in a classroom.

Academic dean of the EMC
Arthur Shakurov

College News

- **20-25 degrees Celsius below zero, but the courses keep on going**
- **a preaching seminar for pastors will be on next week**

**He became like us
that He might
make us like Him.**

Alan Redpath

Prayer Points:

- Pray for changes in the students' life in Bugulma and for their church to grow
- For the seminar on preaching for pastors and preachers on Jan. 14th-18th

