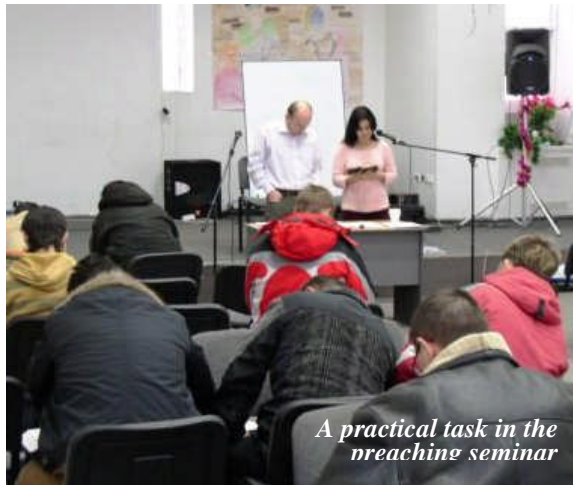


## Preaching seminar

In the middle of January a preaching seminar for local pastors and leaders was held. The speaker was Peter Comont from the UK. Over 20 pastors and leaders came to participate.

During the week they studied how to prepare sermons from 1 Corinthians. They also discussed the teaching with each other in small groups. At the end of week they had good materials on hand for preaching in their own churches.

Another benefit was that participants decided to start a "Preacher's club". The pastors decided that they needed regular meetings twice a month to discuss their own sermons with each other. Some pastors were so inspired that they decided to start clubs in their own churches! In these ways they are giving themselves every opportunity to grow in their preaching, and giving others in their churches a chance to start preaching.



*A practical task in the preaching seminar*

We plan to have the same seminars in summer and autumn 2008. We are really thankful for your prayers and participation in holding the seminar for pastors and leaders. Please keep praying for preachers to develop in their preaching skills and so help the church to grow in Tatarstan.

## Mentoring and Practice on the evening course

During the last two months an evening course was held in Bugulma, Kazan and Nizhnikamsk. In our college we provide not only academic knowledge and theology, but mentoring and practice. We involved students in different small groups for spiritual growth and molding of character. Students come to a prayer group, a group for studying the Bible, and a discussion group about different biblical topics. Some students come to a group on co-dependency. Also the teachers of college have started a personal meeting with students for prayers and reading the Bible.

We believe that education must include three elements: knowledge, mentoring and practice. They need to work together for better fruit. For example, students in Bugulma doing the Leadership course were required to do a practical task. We asked each of them to write the story of their life. In the beginning they were confuse and did not understand how it would help them be good leaders. But when they started to share their stories with each other were surprised. Although they had been in church together for many years, they knew nothing about each other's testimonies. They learnt that leadership begins with relationship. It inspired the students to develop much deeper relationships with each other.



At the end of March we plan to run a practice mission with the evening students in three towns near Kazan. The population of these towns is 10,000-20,000 people, but none of them have evangelical churches.

We also plan to run a seminar in April for people involved in ministry to Muslims. In Tatarstan about 50 % of the population is Tatar and are culturally Muslim. Over 1000 mosques have been built during the last 10 years. The Government controls the situation, but we see how Islam influences the people. We ask you to pray for the seminar in April.

Academic dean of the EMC  
Arthur Shakurov

MARCH 2008

## College News

- **"Preacher's club" started**
- **Continuation of our evening course in all 3 cities**
- **Time of practice mission is coming soon!**

*"When thou prayest, rather let thy heart be without words than thy words be without heart".*

*John Bunyan*

## Prayer Points:

- **For practice (mission) with evening students in 3 cities near Kazan**
- **For the seminar about ministry to Muslims in April.**