



South Ossetia – practical and spiritual help to refugees



Radik G

Not so long ago we witnessed the military conflict between Georgia and South Ossetia. This is the third instance of armed conflict between the two sides since November 1989. Almost 70 % of people from South Ossetia have been compelled to move to North Ossetia. Local Christian churches and organizations in North Ossetia give humanitarian aid to the refugees, but so much is needed that they simply do not have enough people to take supplies and meals to the refugees. So we sent two Radiks to help! Radik Gabdrakhmanov – a graduate of the college who is both pastor of the church in Derbyshki and a part-time college employee, and Radik Karabaev – also a graduate of the college and a missionary. They drove 1,200 miles by car from Kazan to the South Ossetian city of Vladikavkaz to assist the aid efforts.

The first thing that struck them was how little the refugees had. They were glad to receive even children's toys, and talked about receiving shampoos, clothes and meals. Many people are open to the Gospel and listen gladly. An example was an elderly woman who did not speak Russian. It was difficult to communicate with her but when the Radiks presented a New Testament to her in the Ossetic language, she was delighted. She began to read it immediately, and said it was the best "aid" she had received!



Radik K

Our team also visited the city of **Beslan** for one day. During the terrorist capture of a school there in 2004, 335 people perished, 156 of whom were children. Not far from this place of tragedy a cemetery has been built. While the team was visiting this cemetery, they met an elderly man. He told them he was an evangelical Christian and that he had lost 6 grandsons in the tragedy. He said all of them had attended Sunday School. Later Radik Gabdrakhmanov said that was the heaviest day of the entire trip.

From mid-November Radik Karabaev will do a year's missionary service in Ossetia. We ask you to pray for his ministry there.



Cemetery in Beslan

Evening Training in Tatarstan

In September and October, the evening education programme continued with New Testament and Old Testament Survey courses being taught in Kazan, Nizhnekamsk and Bugulma. Students in the evening courses were very glad to continue in their second year of training.

Refreshment for Missionary Graduates

Last week we had the six-monthly session of our Bachelor of Missions programme. Our graduates from Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan were all able to come for it. It was especially joyful to see brothers from Uzbekistan. They are now suffering very strong persecution. The police watch almost every house where believing people gather. For them the chance to study in Kazan is like a long breath of "fresh air" during their persecutions.

We especially ask you to pray for our graduates in Uzbekistan and in the Northern Caucasus.

Academic dean EMC
Artur Shakurov

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College News

- **Meals, clothes and children's toys for refugees from South Ossetia**
- **Continuation of the evening programme in three cities**
- **The bachelor of missions lectures were a breath of fresh air**

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

Alan Redpath

Prayer Needs:

- Pray for Radik Karabaev's mission to the Ossetians and for other graduates serving in the Caucasus
- For the ministries of our graduates in Uzbekistan – especially for Aslan, Ruslan and Azamat.