



July 2002

Miracle Growers

Church Planting Newsletter of the Euro-Asia Division of Seventh-day Adventists
Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

Church Planting on the Silk Road

They told us Central Asia was going to be hot, and they weren't joking. And air conditioning isn't a common luxury. Consequently, we weren't surprised to see children swimming in every public fountain of Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan.

Uzbekistan is a 10/40 Window country of about 25 million people. Just over a thousand Adventists live there. Most are of Russian or German background; few are Uzbek.

While in Uzbekistan we visited and approved the purchase of several house churches and also visited with the pioneers in churches previously purchased. One of them was in the city of Samarkand, a main stop on the ancient Silk Road between China and Europe. Samarkand is an incredibly old city that existed even before Christ. (Pictures at www.scoggins.biz. See reverse for password.)

Dennis Kozlov, Global Mission pioneer in Samarkand, has a new house church. The lady who sold the house was not able to relocate immediately. This meant that she had continued contact with the new group for a while. Her interest grew, and today she is attending the new church and even participated in remodeling the house into a church. In fact, all of the funds for the remodeling have come from local people, some of whom, we were glad to hear, are Uzbek and Tajik.

I was able to interview Dennis during the

pioneer training last summer before he actually starting working. Last week I asked him, "How is it different from what you expected?"

"When I was studying in Zaosky, I didn't anticipate that work would be this difficult. Now that I'm in it in real life I still ask the Lord, 'Is this my calling?' But giving up is not one of my principles either, so we continue to work."

Dennis has had wonderful support from a mother church across town. The members have been heavily involved in growing the new church. They have developed about 10 small groups, led mainly by the members. They invite relatives and friends to join the groups well before they invite them to their church services.

"What have you learned so far?" I asked

Dennis.

"You discover you have to hold tight to the Lord," he said. "If you let one hand go, Satan is going to offer his shoulder to you right away. Secondly, I think the main reason people are leaving the church today is because they don't feel loved. We need to give this love to them. But if I myself don't receive this love from the Lord every day, I won't be able to share it."

"I want to say how thankful we are for the sacrifice [of the sponsors], because in our world today we don't run into this very often. Our church now has a starting point. We're deeply grateful."



Global Mission pioneer Dennis Kozlov (center) surrounded by a few church members who have been helping him in his ministry in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

Churches Purchased: 180

To Purchase: 120

Funds Received: \$2.3 Million

Funds Needed: \$1.2 Million

We Need Your Help

If you want to help buy a church you may use the form below and mail it to Global Mission. You can also spread the word about this project. Consider reading the stories in Sabbath school or church. Above all, we request your prayers for the pioneers on the frontlines of mission.

Euro-Asia 300 Churches Project

I'm enclosing a check for \$ _____

Please bill my credit card \$ _____

Circle one: VISA MasterCard AmEx Discover

Card Number _____

Exp. Date _____ Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

_____ I want to receive reports directly from the field. Please forward this information to the Euro-Asia Division Global Mission office.

Mail to:

Attn: Controller/Treasury
Adventist World Headquarters
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600

OFFICE USE: Process as OVER THE CAP funds for ESD 300 Churches Project

What is the 300 Churches Project?

Adventists in the former Soviet countries are planting 300 member-led churches in unentered areas. Every aspect of evangelism and nurture in these churches is based on small groups. Because real estate prices have dropped, we have a unique and temporary opportunity to purchase small house churches for each new group. Because we don't want to lose this chance, we're asking believers around the world to help sponsor the cost of these house churches before prices go up again. If you want to help, please contact us.

Personal Note from the Editor

Visit www.tagnet.org/scoggins for more information. There you will also find a link to a personal section. Anyone interested is welcome if you want to know more about life in Russia. You'll need a user name and password for the personal section. User name: guest. Password: blackberry.

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Editor: Jeff Scoggins, General Field Secretary
Global Mission, Euro-Asia Division
E-mail: jeff@scoggins.biz
Work phone: 7-095-786-8150
Mobile phone: 7-095-106-6815
Fax: 7-095-786-8155
www.tagnet.org/esd

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Adventist World Headquarters
Euro-Asia Division--Secretariat
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600

