



March 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

## From Ex-convict to Church Planter

Almaluk, Uzbekistan, is home to Andrei Zharkov, who was convicted many years ago of a crime so grave that he was sentenced to death.

Day after day in his prison cell Andrei began thinking about his life and about God. After praying for quite some time, he began to understand and believe that God really did exist, that He really did care, and that He really could forgive a convicted criminal like Andrei.

Suddenly Andrei had new hope for life. He says God worked a miracle when his death sentence was commuted to 15 years in prison. Later it was shortened again to 12 years.

Andrei continued to study the Bible in prison, and during the last six years of his sentence he began keeping the Sabbath.

After his release he was baptized into the Adventist Church. From the very beginning Andrei devoted himself to introducing people to God. Last year he was invited to become a Global Mission pioneer.

Before he left Uzbekistan to begin his training at Zaoksky Seminary in Russia, he was able to see seven people baptized because of his ministry. Today Andrei has three small groups, and three people are preparing for baptism.

Recently these new Adventists found a small house which they hope to purchase and use as a

church. They asked us to send a heartfelt thanks to their brothers and sisters in other countries who are making this possible. They also request prayer for their city because working in Almaluk isn't easy.

If all goes as planned I will make a trip to



Andrei Zharkov was a convicted criminal on death row in Uzbekistan when he met Jesus. Today he is a Global Mission pioneer in the city of Almaluk.

Uzbekistan and several surrounding Central Asian countries in May 2002. These countries are part of the 10/40 Window, which means that preaching the gospel here is particularly challenging. Nevertheless, in the nine projects in Uzbekistan we have 11 small groups operating, 106 people taking Bible studies, and 70 people who have been baptized since September. Four of

the nine house churches have been purchased, and funds have been promised for two others.

Once again I want to thank those of you who are supporting Euro-Asia church planting with your prayers and donations. We have purchased 121 of the 300 house churches we plan to buy, and we have the funds for several more. Still we need your help, especially since the economy in Euro-Asia is improving and prices are going up. Please help us buy before it's too late.

We have an army of enthusiastic young people who are working hard in these unentered fields. I can't wait for the day when each new congregation has its own house church in which to worship.



## 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:

Credit card: Attn: Global Mission  
Check: Attn: Controller/Treasury  
Adventist World Headquarters  
12501 Old Columbia Pike  
Silver Spring, MD 20904

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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](http://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. User name: guest. Password: blackberry.

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