



March 2003

# Miracle Growers

Church Planting Newsletter of the Euro-Asia Division of Seventh-day Adventists

## New Congregations in Azerbaijan

Salekh Tofik Kerimov and his family are church planting in Baku, Azerbaijan. Salekh became an Adventist in 1996, while serving in the army. When the invitation came for him to get involved with the 300 Churches Project, he accepted. His wife works with him. The following is a letter he wrote to all of you who have been supporting the 300 Project.

Dear Friends:

“I want to express my appreciation to God for calling me to this service and to Zaoksky Seminary for the training they provided. I’m also thankful that finally our prayers have been

answered and we have received a house of prayer in which we began gathering in October 2002.

“After the documents for the house were signed, we barely had everything in order for the day of our first meeting, which we had announced in two of our communities. We had told everyone that we would be holding meetings in the Azeri language, and many responded to this call. But even before that when I decided to start meeting on Saturdays, I had made the decision that even if there were only two or three people, or even just one, we would still become the first church in Baku to conduct services in the Azeri language. But thank the Lord that He also called some of our other brothers and the sisters to serve him in this project.

“Since I began working two people have been preparing for baptism and one is ready. Interestingly he is from Iran. Possibly the Lord wants to prepare

him to serve in his country. Three more people want to begin preparing for baptism. Currently we have about 15 people attending, and four or five of them are not members yet.



Global Mission pioneer Salekh and his family are church planting in the Azerbaijan’s capital of Baku.

“My task right now is to prepare our new people to walk with the Lord, to teach our current members to bring new people, and to teach them how to teach themselves. We also want to begin some church departments and small groups and make plans for the future.

“We need special prayer for our group, for its spiritual growth, for unity, for love, and for more members. This really is the first group to hold services

in the native Azerbaijan language in Baku.

“May the Lord bless our program and give to us energy, patience, love, and holiness.

“I thank you for your prayers and concern.”

Sincerely,  
Salekh Tofik Kerimov

More than 300 new groups like this are now meeting together now in the Euro-Asia Division, and more than 250 of them have a small church home, thanks to your generosity.

We still have a number of projects to finish, however, and we still need some financial support to finish the project. We’re so close, but we’re not there yet. If the Spirit so moves you, we could use your help in purchasing the last of these houses of prayer for these new congregations. Once again, thank you for you help!

**Churches Purchased: 252**

**To Purchase: 48**

**Funds Received: \$3.02 Million**

**Needed: \$483,000**

## 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

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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 for the personal section. User name: guest. Password: blackberry.

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