

Mark Rose Family

Russia Inland Mission, PO Box 1304, Hixson, TN 37343 LRose25607@aol.com, russiainlandmission.com

A local Church ministry of Calvary Baptist Church, Chattanooga, TN Pastor Steve Roberson

The American Cultural Rodeo: Bringing the Mission field to the USA



Photos of last year's Tajik ACR finalists during their visit to American local Churches.

This summer we are planning to bring the second group of Muslim Tajiks finalists who won last years **American Cultural Rodeo (ACR)** academic contest. The ACR contest was offered in the 889 schools of Sugd Province, Tajikistan. The contest goals were to teach American Colonial history from a Christian perspective. In teaching this history of America, Tajiks learn that America ***is a nation founded on Biblical principles***. Teaching US colonial history this way counters the incorrect version of American history learned throughout the Muslim world. As an incentive for the children and teachers to enter the contest and learn the truth about America, the summer trip was offered as a grand prize. Last July we brought the first half of the 20 finalists to the USA. They visited Churches in several of the 13 original colonies. Staying in the Church member's homes brought the Tajik Muslim mission field to America and allowed both the Americans and the Tajiks to overcome misconceptions about each other's culture and learn about the Gospel of Christ first hand. The results were amazing. Last year's group returned to Sugd province praising the American Churches and families they visited. No less important was the valuable insight the American churches gained about the need to evangelize the Muslim people.

In order to bring the group this summer, we need to raise the money for their airfare and travel expenses as we did last year. The 10 Tajiks must travel 9000 miles this summer at a cost of \$2.20 per mile. We are praying for sponsors who will **BUY A MILE**. If you would like to help you can send your offering to: ACR, c/o Russia Inland Mission, PO Box 1304, Hixson, TN 37343.

Because of your sacrifice, the Word of God is going into places it would have never gone .

So, we ask you to pray about helping bring this group to America this summer. Bringing them to visit local Churches will allow us to share the Gospel in "Word and Deed". It is truly a unique opportunity to minister to some of the most influential people in the Sugd Province.

Leading the group will again be the Sugd Minister of Education, Dr. Said Jalalov. He is in charge of all 889 schools and 11 orphanages in the Sugd Province. The teachers in this year's group are responsible for teaching English and American History to thousands of Tajik students. The student finalists are Tajikistan's brightest and best. All of the ACR finalists speak English. So, this is a very important and unique opportunity to reach today's influential people and tomorrow's leaders from the Muslim world.

In Tajikistan it is almost impossible to share the Gospel in such a way as we can while the group is here this summer. With just two months before the group is scheduled to arrive, we need to find sponsors for each of the 10 Tajiks. If you would like to sponsor one of the ACR finalists, the cost is \$1980. This will pay for their visa, airfare, and travel expenses. After visiting America last summer, one of the teacher's told me:

"Until this trip, I thought American families pushed their children out. I had no understanding about Christianity. What I learned is that your Christian faith has made your families loving and strong and is the reason America is the greatest!"

-Tajik Teacher/ACR Finalist

Buy A Mile for \$2.20

Miles bought so far: 2,272

Miles remaining: 6,728

Lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ

who is the image of God, should shine unto them...For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:4-6



Above: Shakhrinov orphans playing on top of the 100 ton underground water storage tank. In March, we provided water to the 300 orphans and 60 staff members who live and work there. American believers provided \$7350 so this project could become a testimony to the children!



Hungry Shakhrinov orphans line up and wait outside the dining hall daily at 7am for the doors to be opened. The older girl in the blue dress and black sweater is Alla.

The girl to the left in the above photo is Alla. She is 17 years old and will graduate from Shakhrinov Orphanage High School at the end of May. I spoke with orphanage staff as well as Alla about her life and future. This May, upon her graduation, Alla must leave the orphanage, find a job, and begin to support herself. She has no family and no place to go. Tajikistan is one of the poorest countries in the world. Women are severely oppressed. She has almost no chance of finding honest work that can support her. Her only options, if she does not find work, will be to live a life of crime, sell herself as a prostitute, and become an alcoholic or drug addict.

The situation with Alla is exactly like the situation for thousands of orphans throughout this Muslim country.

I told Alla that God loves her and wants her to know about His Son, Jesus Christ. Alla listened intently as I shared the story about Jesus. Her own personal story is very sad. She believes her mother can be found and that her family house is waiting for her when she leaves the orphanage. The truth is

that her mother was murdered and her home and possessions were sold. She has nothing waiting for her outside the orphanage when she is forced to leave this summer.

I asked one of the orphanage staff members about Alla. She had told me her dreams one day while working on the water project. The staff member told me that Alla was placed in the orphanage by the state because her mother was sent to prison. She does not know who her father is. Her mother got out of prison a few years ago and Alla was never told that her mother was murdered after her release from prison. When I asked, "Why don't you tell her the truth? She thinks her mother is alive and that she will find her and live with her this summer." The staff member looked at me with sad eyes and said, "Why should we tell her such bad news. It will only make her depressed".

This is the soviet psychology used when dealing with children. I have seen it many times before.

Mission Accomplished

In April we accomplished our goal of providing hot and cold running water for the 300 orphans in Shakhrinov, Tajikistan. In March my son, Chuck, and I laid the pipe and installed the plumbing to the bath house (at right), kitchen, and laundry. Now the children can take hot showers!

Thanks to everyone who supported this project!!

