



BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

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Dear family and friends,

First of all, special thanks to all of you who gave toward Rick's travel expenses so he could teach Bible doctrines classes in Central Asia. (Where is Central Asia? Find China, then look just west of it. You'll see several –stan countries. You're there!) All of the needed travel funds did come in, and the pastors and laymen who attended the sessions were very appreciative.

In that part of the world, Christians are less than 1% of the population. Therefore, to receive Christian brethren who travel to teach God's Word and to fellowship was a special event for them. After the team returned to their various countries, one Central Asian pastor emailed Rick. Here's an excerpt, translated into English:

I am thankful to God that we got acquainted in _____. God spoke much to me through your seminars. I shared these discoveries in our church. That seminar pleased me very much, as did fellowship with all of you. All here is well. Ministry continues, but since we live in the very farthest region, where 99% of the population confesses Islam, we experience many difficulties and need the prayer support of brethren. Would you like to be our prayer partners and maintain contact?

Of course, Rick replied that we definitely do want to do that. (At the seminar, the young song leader humbly shared about getting beaten simply because he follows Jesus Christ, so you can imagine the "difficulties" the pastor referred to.) On the return trip, Rick ended up with a 15-hr layover in Moscow's Sheremetevo Airport and slept on the floor there. But that was small discomfort compared to the joy of ministering among believers who rarely receive visitors from the West.

Here in the U.S., it was time to create BIEM's *Challenger* newsletter (now being printed) before writing this letter to you. Next up—national missionaries' reports are waiting to be translated from Russian to English for supporting churches.

Thank you for your prayers. Please pray for God to work out details for more projected travels to various parts of Eastern Europe this summer.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rick and Pam Barry