

RUSSIAN MISSIONS

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Serving Christ in Russia since 1996

THE PLASTERS



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EASTERN EUROPEAN RETREAT

This retreat took place near Ephesus, Turkey. Tammy was a featured speaker at this retreat. She spoke on Parenting Triumphant Third Culture Kids, a subject close to her heart. Missionaries in attendance were from Moldova, Romania, Africa, Ukraine and Russia.



SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA (three day) TOUR

This was definitely the highlight of the trip for me. In the book of Revelation John addressed seven churches and those attending the retreat toured the cities where these congregations were located. I loved every minute of it, even the part where the bus broke down.

SEDAT (the meaning of the name is "Truth")

He was our tour guide. Of course, he was Muslim, spoke of it, and began the tour from that perspective. I asked him two questions about his religion which opened the door for witnessing. #1. Why do Muslims worship on Friday? He did not know the answer and asked if I knew why Christians worshiped when they did. I told him Saturday was the original day of worship because it was the day God rested after creation. Worship changed to Sunday because Jesus Christ rose from the dead on Sunday.



At this point he calls his Imam (Muslim pastor) and learned the supposed reason for worshiping on Friday and shared it with me.

#2. What is the greatest act of God's love found in the Koran? He did not know and asked me about the greatest display of God's love found in the Bible. I was able to explain God's great sacrifice when Jesus died on the cross for our sins.

Before calling his Imam the second time he paused, smiled and asked me if I was going to continue to question him on his religion. I think he wanted to know how many times he needed to call the Imam.

After the call he returned to me (I was sitting near the front of the bus) and said he got an answer, but it was not "the" answer. The next morning I met him on the elevator and he greeted me by saying, "Here is the man who keeps me up all night." He said he called six people looking for "the" answer, one of them a respected Imam and none could give "the" answer. Then he said he searched the internet all night looking for "the" answer. The best he could do was an animal sacrifice. He gave me his email address assuring me that he would do his best to find a suitable answer.

CULTURAL EXCHANGE

MELIKE (the meaning of the name is “Queen”)

She is 24 years old and was the contact in Turkey responsible for the arrangements for the retreat. I told her I wanted to talk with her (witness) while she ate supper. I did not know if it was culturally appropriate or acceptable for me to talk to her privately. So, I asked her to choose a place where we could talk. She chose a place next to the salad bar, which had seemingly more traffic than any other place around.

NAGINE

She was a 17 year old Iranian girl who spoke excellent English. Her mother was fully dressed as a Muslim, covered from head to toe, except for her face. I spoke to them on several occasions (it seemed like they just kept appearing). Once they told me to come to Iran and visit. I said, “I’m an American. Don’t you hate me? Don’t you want to kill me?” Nagine said, “Please don’t think of us like that. The normal population of Iran does not hate you. We love you. It’s just the government that hates you.” Her mother said, “If I could get a visa I would go to America right now.”

I was sitting in the lobby and Nagine approached and said, “We are returning to Iran now. I would like your email address.”

I was told that more than 50% of the guests at the resort where we stayed were Iranian. Being around, talking with them, and experiencing some of their customs and manners was quite a learning experience.



BACK IN RUSSIA

Immediately following the retreat Lynn and Brenda Raburn joined us in Russia for a week. Lynn was the featured speaker for the “Parenting Triumphant Third Culture Kids” conference at the International Academy.

TRACTS

In the past two months we have spent more than \$2000 for materials to produce Gospel tracts. One of my friends walked up to me on the street and handed me \$500 for materials. I was shocked, but grateful. I have printed and produced two more tracts for evangelism.

THANK YOU

Tammy and I are so grateful for your continued prayers and support. A special “thank you” to our Sponsor, First BC who paid our expenses for the retreat; to those who came to the retreat to serve the missionaries—you truly were a blessing; to ladies of Trinity BC of West Memphis, Ark. who sent a special offering for Tammy.

Sincerely, Kevin