



Evangelistic Campaign in the Taliban's Back Yard!
Kyrgyzstan's Mega-City Campaigns



A New Era For Russia

An Orthodox Russia

It was not the golden age of history when the Czars ruled Russia. All churches were persecuted, with the exception of the Russian Orthodox Church. Christians suffered abuse and were killed. They were accused of being heretics and holding heretical doctrines.

Soviet Russia

The Soviet Union also made its historical mark on the Church. Atheism was the official “state religion” for over 70 years. Services were disrupted and Christians were labeled as a danger to society. Christians were routinely imprisoned committed to insane asylums. Many of them died in harsh labor camps.

The Perestroika era

The 1990’s ushered in the era of glasnost and perestroika. For once, a golden age seemed to be upon the Church in Russia. And so it was—for a short while.

The Gospel was seen and heard at local markets, on television, radio and other media, in schools, prisons, hospitals and even the military. “Pokayanie” was on the lips of many; it meant repentance. This era only lasted for a short time.

The new reality

The church in Russia is now faced with a bleak new era. The signs are evident—Russia is threatening to close down religious freedom once again. (see next page).

What does it mean for a country

when the Gospel message is forbidden and banned? By forbidding their people to hear the Gospel, Russia is throwing out their only chance for spiritual healing. Atheism is akin to an immune deficiency, opening the door to a myriad of diseases. The Gospel is the cure-all medicine for it.

Wounds

According to Russian statistics, 40% of adult men suffer from alcoholism. Statistics for women have not been made public, but they are no less immune. The excessive use of alcohol dramatically lowers the quality of life and productivity of a nation. A drunken workforce is not a blessing for a country. God’s Word has the power to make responsible, hard-working, productive and creative citizens.

Family, the foundation of a country

The family unit is the foundation on which a society is built. It is like equity to a government. As the family copes in life, so does society and government. Family breakdown in Russia has skyrocketed. It is estimated that 4 million children now live on the streets, fending for themselves. Russia’s population is in a dangerous downward spiral.

The “glue” that holds a family together is love. Love is the strongest where God’s Word can reach the people’s hearts.

The new restrictions that Russia’s churches face today are turning the tide against the spiritual healing of the nation.

Russia’s news media is purposefully

claiming congregations and evangelical Christians as bad people—engaged in mind control, dangerous and harmful to society.

Medicine that heals

Russia needs higher values more than ever before. Corruption, injustice in the courts and deceitfulness infect the nation like a raging epidemic. Respect for one’s property and reputation has gone by the wayside.

The Bible teaches us that all evil thoughts and deeds are born within a person. Prisons and laws are not able to change a person’s heart.

What then is the medicine for this condition?

In Psalms we read, “He sent forth his word and healed them...” Psalms 107:20, NIV) God spoke to the wise King Solomon, “If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” (2 Chronicles 7:13-15, NIV).

Evangelistic campaigns

Since 2003, IRR/TV has completed 20 unforgettable evangelistic mega-city campaigns. The message is the same for every campaign: “God gives everybody the power to change! He heals the spirit, body and soul and restores your dignity, which sin had taken.”

The Gospel is needed more than ever in Russia.

Hannu Haukka

Do You Remember These Photos?



Wilkerson's warning

In August 2001 David Wilkerson paused during his sermon and, with uncontrollable sobbing, warned Russian pastors with these words: "A time is coming...there won't be many meetings like this anymore...so God has to do it now...Did you hear what I prophesied...do you understand? There won't be many more meetings like this...I know it."

After the fall of communism in 1990, this type of prophecy didn't seem too likely to ever happen. There were no signals of any kind that Christians would soon face severe restrictions. Many thought and said that there is no way they would return to the old Soviet style of rule.

But it has happened. This prophetic word is coming to pass before our eyes.

Prophecy fulfilled

Will countries in Central Asia be closed to the Gospel forever? All indications point to that unfortunate inevitability.

The current list of religious organizations to be banned by Russia should sound an alarm to the Church everywhere. Good times do not last forever. Everything has its own time and season.

As increased Russian homeland security measures have been introduced, the Russian Orthodox Church has steadily strengthened while any institution with even loose ties to the West has come under suspicion. Russian media speak negatively of non-Orthodox Christian churches and unions. Christians in every region of Russia are falsely accused of being a danger to society, preying on the weak-minded and desperate.

Is there time for mega-city campaigns in the future?

This November nine evangelistic city campaigns are taking place in Russia; spearheaded by IRR/TV, working alongside local churches in their respective areas. The campaigns are being held in: Astrakhan, Kaliningrad, Kaluga and Novosibirsk. A new record was set for calls received on the opening day of the campaign in Novosibirsk.

We will know this month if we are able to successfully complete these city campaigns according to plans.

Hannu Haukka

Russia's Justice Department Bans Christian Organizations

The Russian Ministry of Justice is demanding that 56 religious organizations cease all operations in Russia.

Below is an abbreviated list of some of the more known organizations that have now been banned in Russia:

Missions Organizations

- Billy Graham Evangelistic Association
- World Vision International
- Logos-Bible Institute
- YWAM (Youth With A Mission)
- Walk Thru The Bible

Church organizations

- Evangelical Lutheran Church of Russia
- Inkeri Theologian Institute
- Presbyterian Church Association
- United Methodist Church

- Russian Methodist Church
- Union of Slavic Churches of Evangelical Christians and Slavic Baptists
- Baptist Churches in Perm and Udmurtia
- Baptist Churches in Tjumen, Hanti-Mansiysk, Jamalo/Nenetsia
- Baptist Churches: Word of Life in Samara, Ulyanovsk, and Orenburg
- Baptist Churches in North Ossetia, Chechnya, Ingushi
- Russian Assemblies of God
- Pentecostal Union in Western Siberia

- Pentecostal Union in Northern Caucasus
- Russian United Pentecostal Union
- Adventist Church in Western Siberia
- Adventist Church in Central Siberia
- Association of Catholics in Novosibirsk
- Ukrainian Orthodox Church
- Armenian Apostolic Congregation

Other Faith-Based Organizations

- Muslims (8)
- Jewish Organizations (2)
- Buddhist Organization (1)

City Campaigns in the "B

Normal hustle and bustle of life came to an abrupt stop in the Fergana Valley on May 13, 2005. The Taliban had attacked the central government of the Fergana Valley. The valley is located on the border between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. At the time, the Internal Affairs Minister of Uzbekistan had been finalizing a new, restrictive law on religion, which threatened the very existence of all evangelical churches in the area. Christians all over Uzbekistan were praying for a miracle. The new law was shelved as a result of the attack.

On that day 20 trucks loaded with Taliban and extremist Islamic soldiers as well as heavy artillery vehicles crossed the Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan border. They headed straight for the strategic city of Andizhan, in the middle of the densely populated Fergana Valley.

Their mission was to overtake the government, take control the valley of 10 million people and establish an ultra-Islamic state. Their plan did not succeed—without warning, Uzbek military forces opened fire on unarmed protesters, who

were being used as human shields by the Taliban and extremist Islamic soldiers.

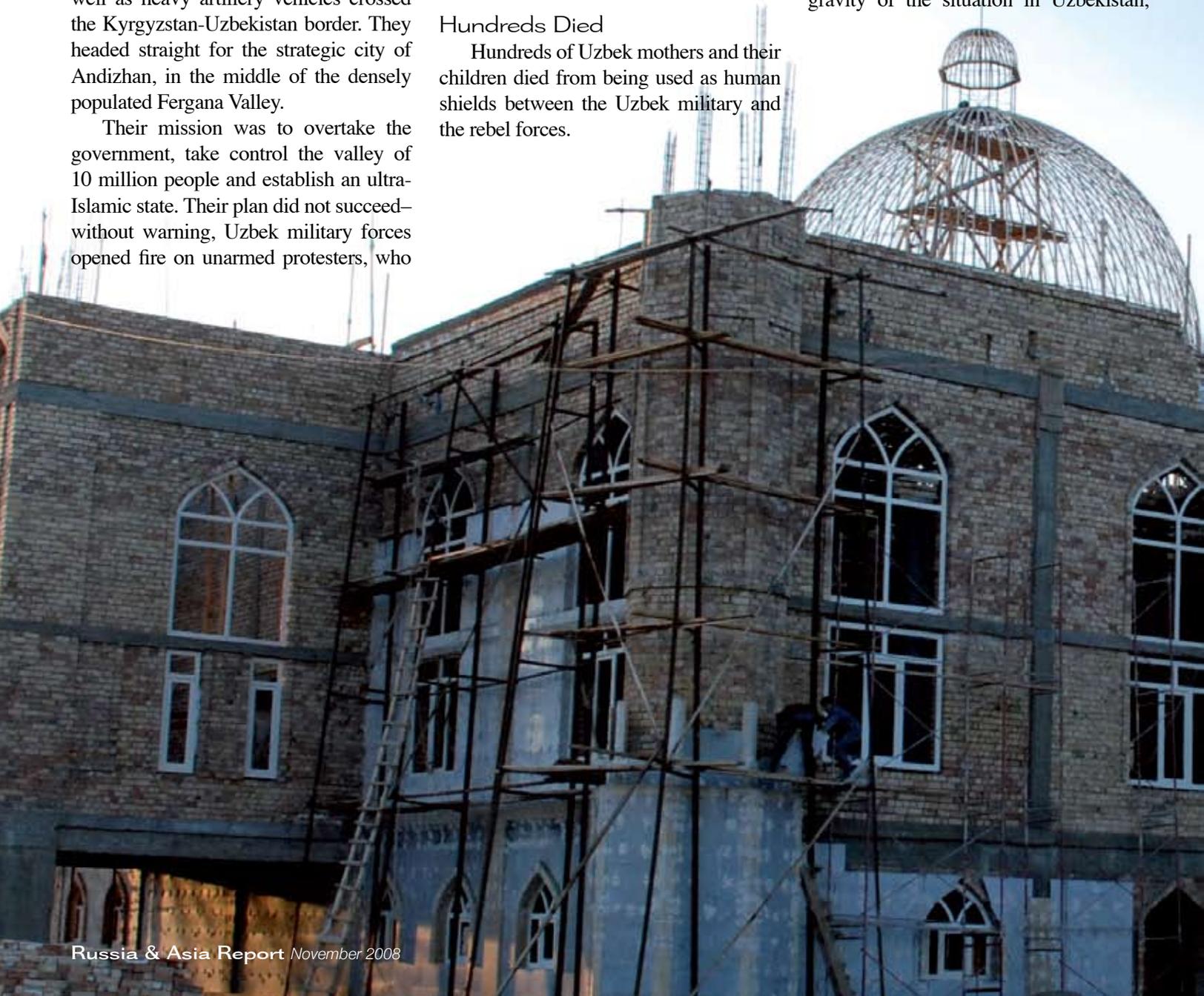
Hundreds Died

Hundreds of Uzbek mothers and their children died from being used as human shields between the Uzbek military and the rebel forces.

If the Islamic soldiers had succeeded, it would only have been a question of how long it would take for a Taliban-like regime to spread throughout Central Asia. Christian Missions work would have certainly ceased if they had succeeded.

The restrictive law of religion was tabled in 2005, but the churches of Central Asia were given a full three-year grace period to continue their work. God had his own plan.

Without really understanding the gravity of the situation in Uzbekistan,



Back Yard" of the Taliban!

IRR/TV representatives travelled to Kazakhstan, only days after the bloodshed, to negotiate a mega-city evangelistic campaign to be held in Almaty.

Campaign in Almaty 2006

The response from the historic seven-week long city campaign held in the Islamic city of Almaty, Kazakhstan was incredible.

During the campaign, 2.5 million people saw evangelistic TV programs on TV-TAN. 11 million people watched the programs aired on Channel 31 across all of Kazakhstan.

Plus, over 137,000 evangelistic leaflets were delivered to homes and 200,000 ad inserts went out in

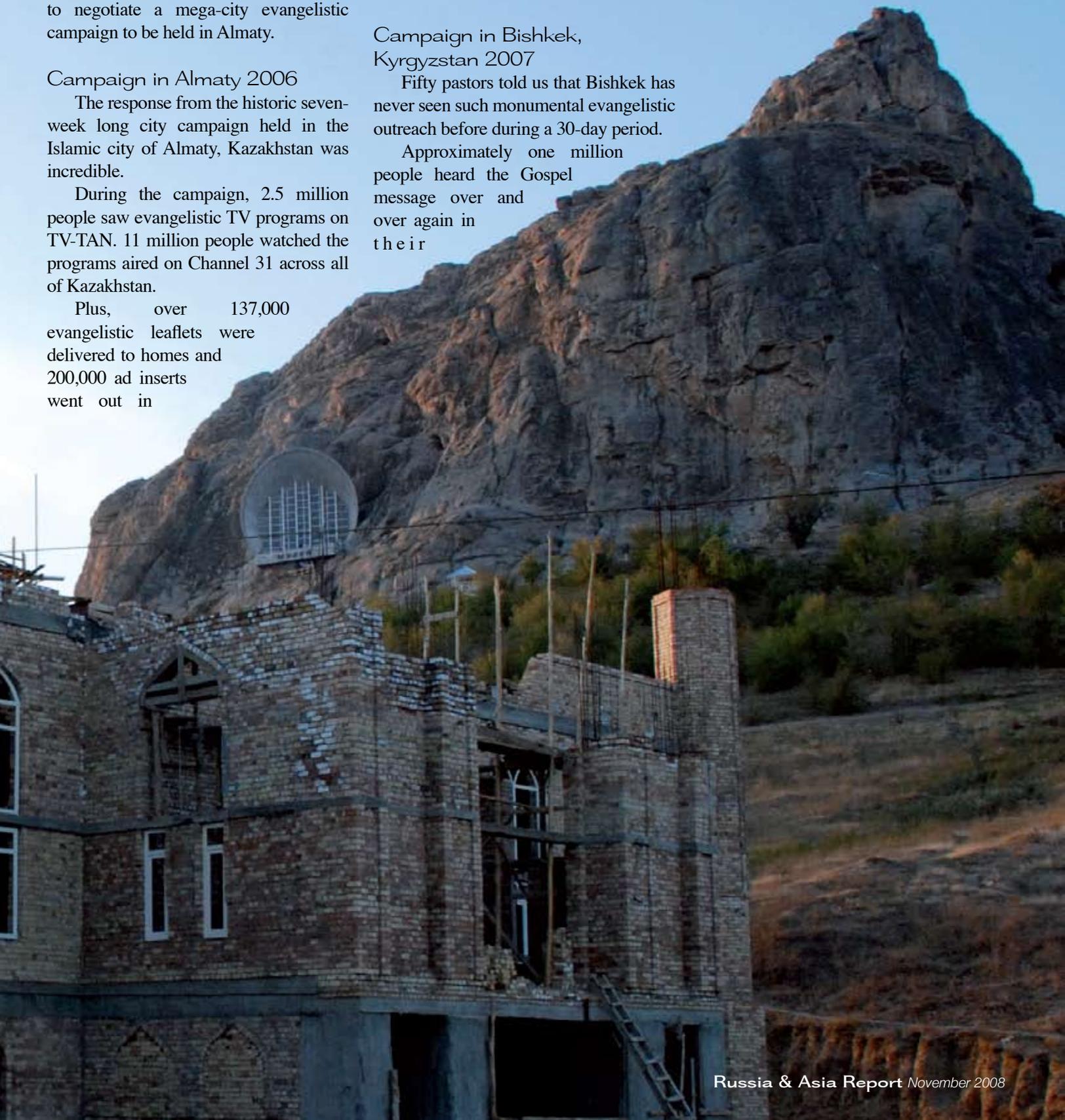
various magazines. Over 5,000 calls came into the campaign call-center.

Campaign in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan 2007

Fifty pastors told us that Bishkek has never seen such monumental evangelistic outreach before during a 30-day period.

Approximately one million people heard the Gospel message over and over again in their

home and through various media outlets in Bishkek.



Over 6,000 families contacted our call-center by phone in this mainly Islamic city.

Campaign in Osh 2008

This October and November, our focus has been on the southern Kyrgyzstan cities of Osh, Dzhahalal-Abad and Kyzyl-Kiya.

These cities are on the border between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. The people here are spiritually starved. The only remedy available has been Islam.

The largest of the three cities is Osh, with 500,000 residents. It is estimated to be 2,500–3,000 years old, established during King David's reigning years. It is very pro-Islamic. We were faced with special challenges when we held an evangelistic media campaign there. But amazingly, the news and advertising media were available to us.

Half way through the campaign, the pastors of Osh report that over 1,500 calls have been logged already. Of these over 1,000 have ordered a special evangelistic DVD and requested follow-up visits. The pastors say that they have never been able to reach so many people using traditional outreach methods. And the numbers of people responding to the Gospel increases daily. The counseling center has now surpassed 250 calls per day.

Dzhahalal-Abad

The second of the three evangelism campaign cities is Dzhahalal-Abad, a city of 150,000 people.

In the past few years, the churches in

Dzhahalal-Abad had become mired in their outreach programs and evangelism had essentially come to a halt.

But today, by working together on a media based outreach, along with IRR/TV, the churches in Dzhahalal-Abad have over 700 new names and addresses of people who contacted the call-center during the 30-day evangelism campaign. Bunissa, a counselor on the phones at the call-center told us that people are asking for help. They use alcohol heavily and are looking for an escape from that road to nowhere.

"We have never seen this kind of evangelistic outreach before," said Bunissa. "We were able to place a giant billboard ad with the campaign message in the city center, very close to the central marketplace, so everyone is able to see it when they come to shop. Everyday, thousands of Muslims see the ad with our call-center number on it. We constantly receive orders for the advertised, free DVD."

Kyzyl-Kiya

Kyzyl-Kiya has less than 50,000 people, yet it is important to the campaigns.

The only TV channel that was available for the campaign is located here. Its signal can be picked up in Osh, Dzhahalal-Abad, all the border villages and towns, and most of the Uzbekistan side of the Fergana Valley.

Preaching the Gospel in the valley

is not permitted, but the evangelistic TV broadcasts reach across the border throughout the valley while the campaign is on!

I asked our campaign coordinator to show me where the TV station is located, and he took me outside and pointed to a location far up a mountain. I could see the two towers without binoculars.

"Up there!" he said with a smile. "We installed a stronger transmitter just the other day. We had to borrow a couple of donkeys from the mountain shepherds in order to reach the station. You cannot get there by car."

"How far does the signal reach?" I asked in wonder.

"About 200 kilometers (125 miles), all the way to Namangan!"

"Amazing," I thought to myself. "God has opened a door, this TV station, to facilitate the spread of the Gospel to millions of Uzbeks; while other smaller TV stations are not interested in taking our programming. One is enough; we didn't need the other stations."

Central Asia is closing

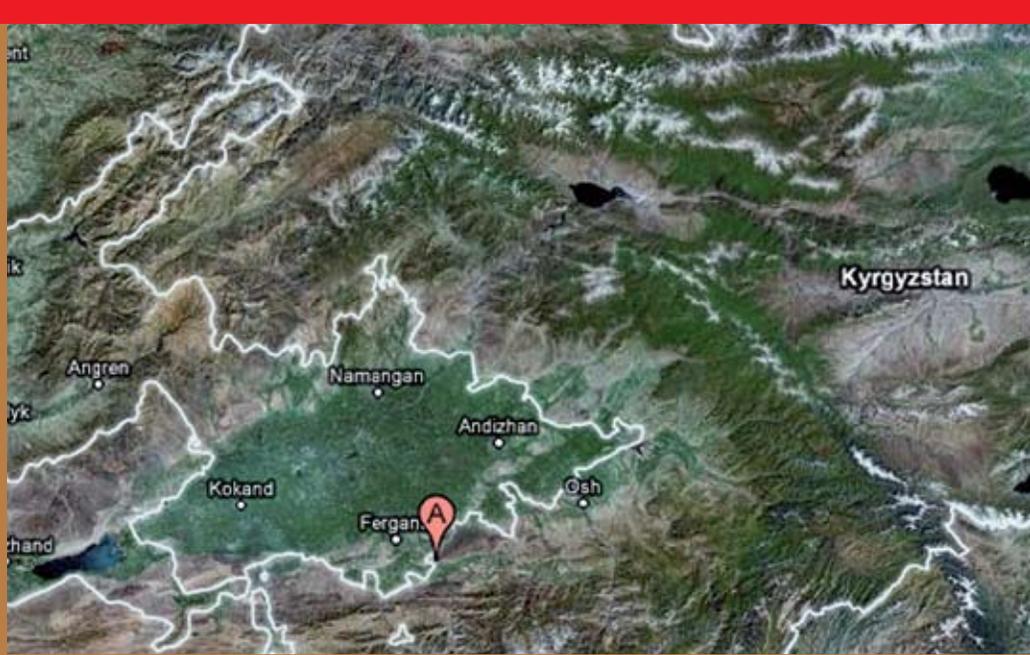
On November 6, the parliament of Kyrgyzstan unanimously passed a devastating law designed to severely restrict the work of the church. According to the new law, all religious organizations,

with less than 200 members, will be outlawed. Those with a minimum 200 members will now have to register every member and have their identities confirmed by local authorities, which will still have the power to decide if an organization meets other arbitrary criteria to qualify for a religion permit. This means most Kyrgyz churches will have to cease operations and meet in secret under threat of criminal prosecution.

All missions and evangelism will be banned. Sunday schools and other religious educational institutions will also be closed if the government does not issue them a permit.

The future of the Church in Central Asia hangs in the balance. The old ways of the Soviet Union are returning to Central Asia; but the hearts of governing officials can be changed through prayer. Please pray for Central Asia.

Hannu Haukka



A giant billboard ad containing an evangelistic message in the Kyrgyz language is located right next to the central market in Dzhahal-Abad, a city of 150,000 people. Many Uzbeks live here.



Evangelistic TV Programs to

The only TV channel to offer airtime during the city campaign, is located near the top of a mountain that measures 2,000 meters (over 6,200 ft) in height. Donkeys were used in order

to erect the TV transmitting tower at that altitude. The broadcasts cover most of Uzbekistan's Fergana Valley. An estimated 6 to 8 million people reside within the footprint of the Channel's

TV reception. The valley is one of the world's most densely populated regions on earth.

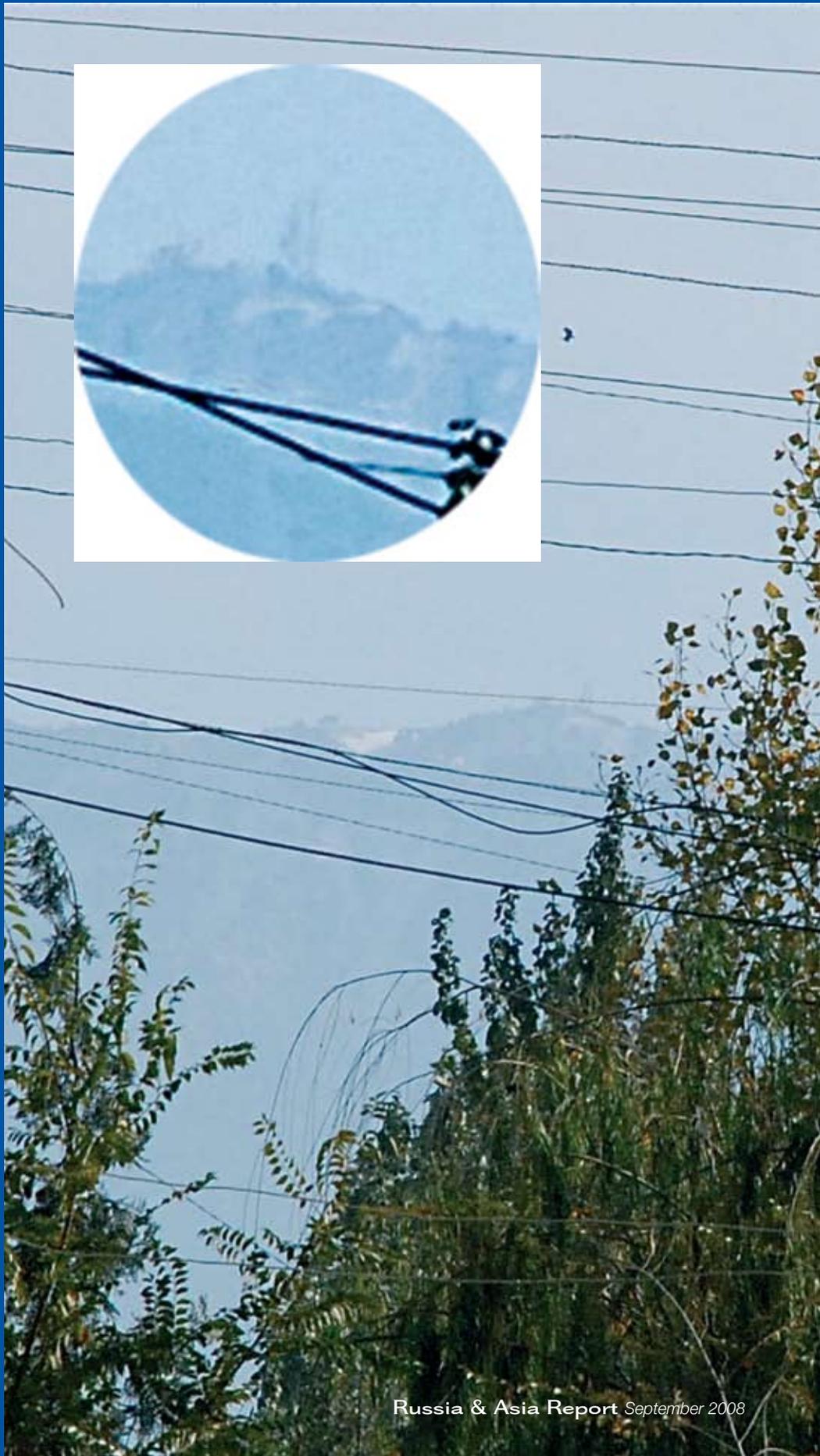
These campaigns will reach over a million people in held in three cities



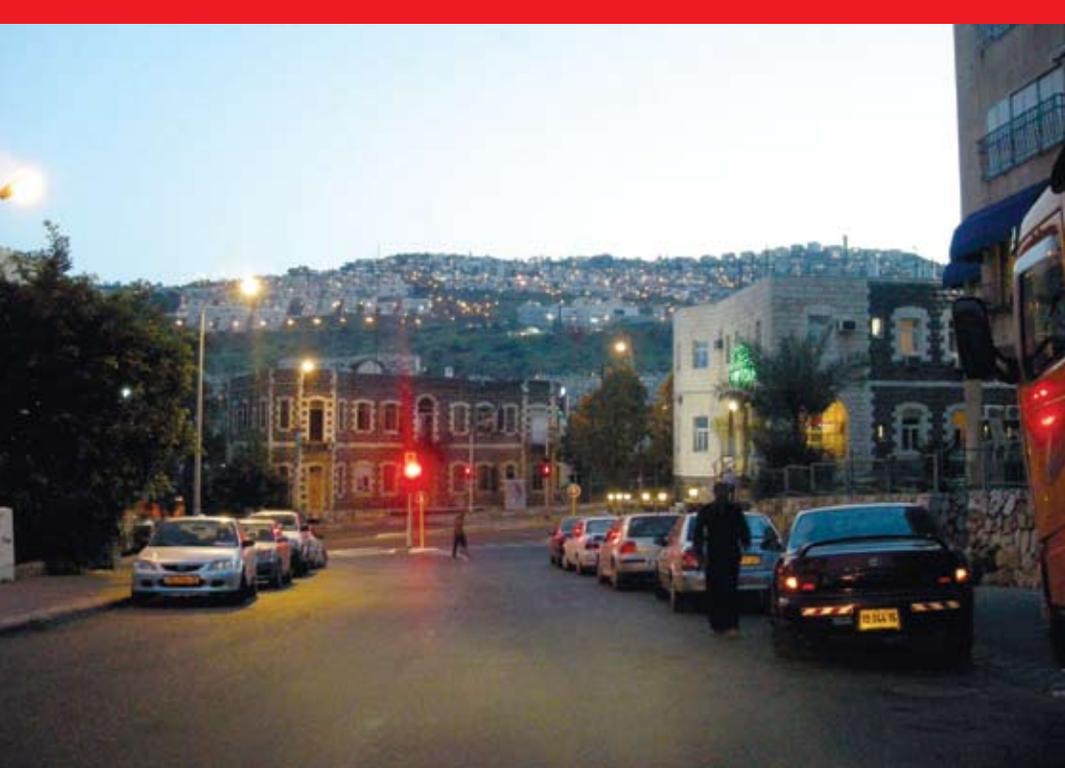
Mt. Solomon flanks the city of Osh. From here you can see the Fergana Valley, where an estimated 12 million people live. The campaign targeted the Uzbek population of the valley.

Millions in the Fergana Valley

in Kyrgyzstan: Osh, Dzhahal-Abad and Kyzyl-Kiya. The call-center has already logged over 3000 calls, mainly from Kyrgyz Muslims and Uzbek Muslims living in Kyrgyzstan.







Tens of Thousands Heard the Gospel Message in Northern Israel

The media evangelism campaigns in northern Israel continued this fall, from the Golan Heights all the way to the Mediterranean Sea.

The Jews For Jesus organization partnered with IRR/TV in this mission outreach.

Our coordinator in Israel, Dan Sered, reported on the results of the campaign in the Upper Galilee region.

The identifying slogan for the campaign was: Behold, your God. It covered an area stretching from the city of Tiberias, Akko, Nahariya, Rosh Pinna, Kiryat Shmona and Karmiel.

About 900 thousand people live in the area. About 400 thousand are Israeli Jews and 500 thousand are Arabs.

During the campaign, 56 thousand evangelistic brochures were distributed. Giant video monitors in city centers were used to repeatedly run short gospel ads thousands of times a day. Campaign ads also appeared in newspapers and on radio. A good response came in from these ads. Here are some excerpts from Dan's report:

"Altogether 2,405 Jews wanted to

know more about Jesus. We prayed with 41 Jews who wanted to make a decision to accept Jesus Christ as their savior. Four others (Jews) were prayed with during further counseling. Also four non-Jews made a decision for Christ. They were former Muslims.

Follow-up ministry is substantial. We have names and information from over 2,400 Jews to follow up on. We have a team of counselors in the north that will visit each person who contacted us.

We had radio ads prepared but the ads were taken off the air because of extreme pressure from religious Jews. A small group of ultra-religious Jews controls what the majority of the people may or may not hear on the radio.

Between 3,000 and 4,000 people have contacted us. We continue to receive hundreds of call every day.

We were handing out evangelistic leaflets in the city of Kiryat Shmona. A Rabbi there gathered 50 or so students from religious institutions to disrupted and threaten us.

I was there and got kicked by the

students. One of the students grabbed a rock and was intending to throw it at us. We called the police and they came to our rescue. We were able to hand out 56,000 leaflets.

We understand that to openly discuss the Gospel message is a very sensitive thing (in Israel). But we have to preach the Gospel, as the Word of God says. People in Kiryat Shmona and Galilee have not heard the Gospel.

We are prepared to face persecution and opposition during the campaign. We have been trying to be as creative as possible. We have been calling people from pay phones in order to avoid telephone disruptions. So far we have been able to call 21,000 people at home. About half of those have responded positively so that a meaningful conversation has followed. Because of these calls, 1,300 people have asked for a New Testament and more information on Jesus.

Thank you for your prayers and support of this evangelistic outreach in Northern Israel. Without you, we could not have made it happen."

Your Love is Their Miracle!

*IRR/TV brings aid
and the Gospel
to the boys and girls
in Russia's prisons.*

You can help them know the meaning of Christmas through your love!

Who are these children?

An estimated 4 million children in Russia live on their own in the streets of cities, towns and villages.

Over 18,000 boys and girls occupy Russia's 64 children's prison camps. Many have never known the love of a mother or father.

Families are torn apart by alcoholism, violence, divorce and they simply do not have enough money to cope with living

costs. For these abandoned children no one cares whether they live or die. Yet, they need love, they need to know that they really matter to somebody.

They live in inhumane conditions behind concrete walls and barbed wire. Often, they do not have proper shoes or clothes to endure the freezing temperatures of Russia's winters. The stench of urine permeates their sleeping quarters.

IRR/TV's *Miracle of Love* aid package includes: underwear, winter clothing, boots, socks, personal hygiene kit, and food.

IRR/TV goes to these prisons to deliver clothing packages and serve many of these boys their first ever Christmas meal.

Give these children a Christmas experience they will not forget. Let them know there is someone who really cares.

Thank you for your tax-deductible gift!

Visit Russia's children's prison camps at our website: www.irrtv.org

Your love is their miracle. Here's how it works:

- We have calculated that approximately **\$15** will feed a child for 1 week.* And **\$150** will feed a child for 10 weeks.
- A **complete package** of warm winter clothes costs around \$75 per child.**

* food is bought locally from markets or wholesale distributors and delivered to prison camp kitchens.

** winter coat & pants, fur hat, boots, socks, underwear. Most of the clothing is bought from women's correctional institutes where inmates sew high quality clothing for the children. This is another way of supporting those prisons and institutes and an opportunity to minister to the women.



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