

jb and abbie

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Partnering with you to see the Great Commission fulfilled
among unreached university students

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A Whole New Language

Privyet ot Nalchika! Hello from Nalchik! It's hard to believe that we've already been here a month. Our first four weeks have consisted of settling in, getting to know our team, planning for the year, and beginning a regular routine of meeting with students. To get a head-start on the language, we've been spending regular time with tutors. We're now able to pay our phone bill, invite students over, and introduce ourselves without too much stuttering.

Recently, a friend and I (JB) went to buy a hammer. We knew we'd said something wrong when we got a strange look. We realized after a few seconds that instead of asking for a small hammer, we'd asked the hardware clerk for some milk! Our skills at charades have improved dramatically since moving here, but God gives us grace to be understood, and we're eager to keep learning.



Settling In

God has blessed us in so many ways as we've begun our year. Our first huge blessing in settling in is God's gift of a great apartment (see picture, top left) and a fantastic landlady. It was the first place we looked at! The apartment is completely furnished, so we've had to purchase very little apart from a cheese-grater, a rug, and some silverware!

Some other "settling-in" adventures have centered around the university (see picture, bottom left). Our Russian classes begin on October first, so one of the first things we had to do was register for classes. Another thing that we had to do here as foreigners is register our presence with local authorities. Both of these things have a reputation for taking a long time and being complex processes, but the Lord allowed us to get all accomplished in a mere three hours!



please pray

- Please pray for the Caucasus Cross-Cultural Foundation's relationship with the Institute of Art. Praise God for this huge open door, and pray for open hearts, for continued favor with faculty, and more opportunities!
- Pray for the believing students who are involved with our ministry. Pray that they would become active participants in sharing the gospel with their fellow students alongside us!
- Continue to pray for our language acquisition, especially in our first month of real class. Pray for patience, quick uptake, and boldness to practice every chance we get!

Open Doors at the Art Institute!

In addition to working with students from Kabardino-Balkaria State, a door has been opened for our organization at the Northern Caucasus Institute of Art. This is a small institute where students study music, art, cultural management, art history, and literature, to name a few (see picture, top right). Our director has been invited there to give a series of lectures on music and culture, creating amazing opportunities for our team to meet with students outside of class.

These students are extremely spiritually open. One girl said, "I believe that God has a plan for everyone." We asked her if she would be interested in studying the scriptures, to learn more about the plan that God has for her personally. She is eager to do so, and we've had similar responses from many of the women from the Institute!



"What's My Tado's?"

About a three-minute walk from our apartment building is a restaurant whose branding bears an astonishing likeness to that of America's most successful fast-food chain (see picture, right). It may look like McDonald's, but look again! My Tado's means My Joy in Turkish, and is the closest thing we have to fast-food in Nalchik.



The Believers We've Met

One of the greatest encouragements we've had since being here is being able to meet students who have come to faith in the past three years of the ministry. An important part of our work here is to see local believers raised up that will be able to reach their own people. Our first week, we had the opportunity to hear testimonies of two students who have recently believed—one a young Balkar man, and one a Kabard.

After our time with these young men, one of them pulled JB aside and said, "Amazing! Perfectly different people from all ends of the earth around one table, and what brought us together was not alcohol or drugs, but JESUS! WHAT A GREAT GOD WE SERVE!" Please join us in praising God for these followers of Christ, and please lift them up in prayer. These believers face being greatly misunderstood and even rejected by their families, and are a very tiny minority here in Kabardino-Balkaria.



"For yet in a very little while, He who is coming will come, and will not delay. But My righteous one will live by faith; and if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul." - Hebrews 10:37-39

Thank you so much for your partnership. We would not be here without your support and encouragement.

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