

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

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Fall Retreat!

A Spiritual Movement is characterized not by large numbers, but by faithful people committed to seeing the Great Commission fulfilled in their sphere of influence. It is dynamic and expands to new areas as a result of heart-reaching evangelism and life-changing discipleship. As we put more and more responsibility into the hands of students, this is what we are praying for on university campuses in the Caucasus.

Our fall student leadership retreat, which took place the last weekend of September, was another step in this direction. We invited a Russian staff member to come to the Caucasus and speak to key believing students on three topics: Evangelism, Discipleship, and Building Spiritual Movements. About 20 students attended the retreat, most of them from Nalchik but a few from neighboring republics as well! Among these 20 students, there were seven ethnicities represented! Some of the students who attended came from some of the least-reached Islamic and Buddhist peoples in Russia. What an answer to prayer!



Each of the three main sessions at the retreat was followed by a time of practical training. Students were trained in how to share the Gospel using the Four Spiritual Laws, and by using their own personal testimony. Students were given practical advice on how to disciple a new believer. They were given time to seek the Lord and ask Him to show them His plans for their campuses.

In order to practically model these three things, we also asked three students from a more developed campus movement in Russia to join us at our retreat. They spoke about how they had seen and personally done evangelism and discipleship in the context of a student movement. Their practical examples served to embolden our students and help them think, "Wow, other students are doing this too! I could do something like this!"

Students were challenged to be part of starting movements on their campuses. We are very excited to "debrief" the students from Nalchik about the retreat, and hear their ideas about reaching their peers for Christ. I asked Madina, a Kabard girl who came to Christ last spring, what she had learned at the retreat. She said, "Well, I learned a lot about how to share my faith and why I need to do it. I learned a lot from the Four Spiritual Laws book." Nick, who came to Christ last fall, said, "God is teaching me to love people. We talked a lot about evangelism and discipleship, and I'm praying that God would give me people to disciple, and that He would lead me."

Pray that we would maximize the effectiveness of this retreat in the weeks to come. Pray that we would be faithful to entrust more to students. Pray that God would lead our students to take responsibility for the lost souls on their campuses.