



# CONTACT



A good completion of Year 2007  
and a good time for the Christmas

## *A Brilliant Victory for SPCU in the CJS Competition*

There is a long time tradition in our country for organizing special competitions among young people where they can show their joyfulness and intelligence. The abbreviation of this competition is CJS (Club of the Joyful and the Smart).

Recently a CJS Competition took place in SPCU. There were three teams who were competing for the title of the best: SPCU students with the special name of "747-25-47" (which is the university's phone number), youths from Logos Church, and youths from a church in Pushkin by the name of "The 21st Kilometer."

All Teams were to present the theme, "Neighbors." The Conference Hall of SPCU was overcrowded that evening. Everybody wanted to see this extremely interesting competition. Not only friends of these three teams, but also the young people from Campus Club came.

The competition began with special greetings from each group. Team "747-25-47" started with rhetorical questions having double meanings, such as one about the original name of the university, which is also the name of the group from Logos Church. There was a jab at Coca-cola (to drink or not to drink?) and a lot of various fun comments.

The other two Teams also did very well. Logos, in particular, presented some smart and very clever rabbits, which delighted the spectators. The rabbits received very high marks from the jury.

The next stage of the CJS was a presentation of short videos with the same theme of "Neighbors." At that time, "747-25-47" was the best, although other films were also very good.

The third stage of the Competition was undeniably dominated by the SPCU team, "747-25-47." The hall literally cried with laughter. Some of the spectators were applauding, standing and laughing all at the same time. A scene with elite neighbors helping Daler (one of our Tajikistani students) on a toilet and many other amusing situations led to an impression of complete triumph for the SPCU students.

The winners received a special prize – a golden cup. Our best compliments to them!



## *Our Projects: "To the Ends of the Earth..."*

### **Projects '08**

A Buddhist temple larger than any in Europe, regions of Yakutia which are difficult to reach, a place where children have never seen soft toys, a town with hostile gangs and a rehabilitation center located in the backwoods of Crimea.... Is there anything in common among all of these? They were all visited by the students of SPCU with evangelistic programs.

These trips were quite short but very fruitful. Our students helped local churches in the work with young people, teenagers and children. They held interesting meetings with non-believers and visited orphanages, ...and their own faith grew stronger.

The trips were well planned, and although the students faced some difficulties, they found help and their work was not in vain. It seems that 10 days is not enough to do everything that

was planned. But the initiative and energy of our well-prepared teams really left a good memory in the hearts of the people.

The students got to know a lot and are ready to go again, even to places where it is difficult to travel, in order to bring God's love there.

We invite you to take part in our evangelistic trips.

May be you don't have enough strength or time for such trips but you can help young people to use their strengths and talents in serving God. Take a look at our reports of the trips and the plans for the future.

Join in with our prayers. Help financially in the organization of these missionary trips. Even a little financial support can play a decisive role in the life of children and teenagers. May God bless you in your future deeds!

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## *Short Reports*

### **An Evangelistic Trip to Soltsy**

One day a group of our students visited an orphanage in the village of Viebiti, where they had gone last year. It turned out that the children there remembered the students of SPCU; they and even the teachers of this orphanage had been eagerly waiting for them. After various sports games which expressed Bible lessons, our team led a Bible study on the theme of "The Good Shepherd."

Our students were delighted with the response! Many of the students started to really love the young people in this city and want to continue serving there. They said, "Glory to God that He gave us an opportunity to be there and to make friends with these young people! We saw how God showed Himself, how He kept us safe us during our extended trip."

*Many of our students loved the children of this city and would like to continue their ministry there. We believe that God will continue His work through us and that these young people will be our friends.*





### Summer Practice in Crimea

From July 1-15, 2007, a group of students from St. Petersburg Christian University went on a missionary trip to the Crimea.

We spent two days in the outback, in the city of Belogorsk, where we helped a local missionary hold a worship service. We also helped spread invitations to the church and in the evening we sang and prayed for that church. The next day we took rakes, choppers, and spades to clear the area in front of the city's central hospital, serving the people not only by words but also by actions. The last few days of our trip were spent in Listovoe, where we helped with housekeeping chores at a rehab center, organized games and Bible studies for the children, and participated in a service led by a local missionary.

Glory to Jesus for this trip, for the revelation of new possibilities! We have a new perspective on missionary service and gained practice on overcoming cultural barriers. We learned a lot from the children about the style of their life, about life in a Tatar family.

*We hope that we manage to fulfill another missionary trip to Crimea in the next year.*

### About a Missionary Trip to Yakutia

One day we planned a trip to the village of Kachikatsy, to a large family. We went there by car. This village is situated on the other side of

the Lena River. It was necessary to go by ferryboat. One sister in Christ from my church arranged with her brother that he would take us over for free. But when we came, he wasn't there. So, we paid the required sum for the ferryboat –and it turned out that we didn't have money to go home.

We brought a lot of soft toys, pampers and food and gave them to the family. The words their grandmother spoke to the children were quite amazing to us; she said, "Wait a bit, please, don't touch anything. Let's just look. We never had such toys." It seemed that boys 6-7 years old would not be interested in these toys. But some time later they took them and didn't let them go.

Then we had to return. When we were going to the river we pinned our hope only on God's will and a miracle. And wonderfully God was merciful to us. They took us on the ferryboat for free.

*All the members of this trip want to go once more. Now we are solving the question about adding more people. We need some of the brothers to go with us. We are also keeping in communication with the local churches and leaders. We want the project for next year to be not only our ideas; we want it to be a combined project.*





### A Missionary Trip to Elista

The main purposes of this trip were to learn something about the culture of Kalmukia and to provide a special program for local children and youth. The people of Kalmykia, as in old times, believe in different spirits and they also accept Buddhism as their religion. There is a Buddhist temple in Elista, the capital of Kalmykia, which is larger than any in Europe. People there would more easily believe a Buddhist monk than a Christian, even if they talk about the same things. That is why one of the purposes of the trip was to learn more about the culture of this region.

When the group arrived in Elista, all the students stayed in the building of a local church. The first days of the trip were devoted to learning the culture of Kalmykia, to sightseeing and so on. During this time the group, together with the pastor and the youth-leader of the local church, were planning strategy for the upcoming events. At the end of the first day of the planned activities, someone told them that they had to stop because they didn't get prior approval from the local government.

The next day the same man came with police and told the team to stop their activities, in spite of the opinion of the children and their mothers, who wanted the program to be continued. So

the team spent the rest of the evening in a police station, giving their explanation of who they were and what were they doing. The following morning the team was taken to another police station because the policemen there had received a complaint from a woman who said that the students had been talking to children about God without permission. So the students had to give their explanations again and then they were released.

The pastor of that church invited the students to come next summer and to help organize a summer camp for children.

*Today we are praying that God will give us not only a desire but also the possibility to go again to Kalmykia and do more there for Him.*



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***Please, accept our warmest greetings with  
Christmas season!  
We wish you a blessed and joyful year 2008!***

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