



## Eric & Stephanie Chapman

Missionaries in Moldova & Malawi



Dear Friends and Supporters,

Back in September I met some incredible servants of God in Tajikistan. Rustam Begaliev stood out as a man attempting to do the impossible with almost no funds. Rustam worked as a doctor in Afghanistan with the American military. After he received Christ as Savior, he took his medical skills to the mountains of Afghanistan. God used Rustam's compassion as he spread the Gospel of Christ. He especially loves children; I personally saw photos of his times playing games and teaching the Afghan children there in those mountains. Eventually he was forced out of Afghanistan and returned to his home village in Tajikistan. The village, as the country, is predominantly Muslim, and it has always been a difficult job to spread the Gospel in this area.

Five years ago Rustam (roos-tām') had a vision for a center to reach children in his region. Though he had little money, he knew it was important to begin. The lack of secular work in Tajikistan is a fundamental problem. The collapse of the Soviet Union left this area poor and without industry. Because so many men go to Russia and work for 8 or 9 months a year, this doctor consistently sees the pattern of a child born 9 months after the father's visit home. This has produced a baby boom in a region of 190,000 people, of which 120,000 are under-aged children. Many of them are raised by their mothers or grandparents alone, and the schools are overwhelmed.



Rustam's dream is of a trade school with computers for children to focus or supplement their learning and to have Bible lessons before the morning and afternoon programs begin. With his meager funds a few years ago, he bought several shipping containers and started building a school and recreation center for the children. He now draws children from 38 small villages around his ministry. Through the use of his own funds, the school is now under a roof, but he has no funds to finish the project or to buy the computers. Even now, with nothing but a soccer ball, he has before-school and after-school programs where hundreds of children come, all from Muslim homes. While

visiting, I was blessed to speak with some of these children about Jesus and witnessed the miracle of them singing Christian songs. I was moved to partner with Rustam to help in this great effort.

But first we need to finish the school! This is no small endeavor; they need help in finishing the facility in a way that communicates to the village elders the serious intent Rustam has for this ministry. The basic needs are at least 30 desks, chairs, and computers... and much prayer from faithful hearts.

Pray! All of us can pray. God has put Rustam there specifically for this mission.

I have been doing missionary work a long time, and it is rare to see such an obvious chance to reach hundreds of children - who could reach into other countries for Jesus. Tajikistan is in the middle of one of the greatest mission fields in the world; millions in the surrounding countries do not know the saving grace of Jesus.

Share this vision with others! Ask if you need more details! Let us know how you can help!

Thank you for your prayers,

Dr. Eric Chapman

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