Published: 00:00 GMT Standard Time - Thursday 03 December 2009

Youth Groups Born out of Persecution

Country/Region: UZBEKISTAN

“Huram” heard the truth about Jesus from a Christian friend in his home town near Samarkand, Uzbekistan. Filled with enthusiasm for his new-found faith, Huram left his family home to follow Jesus.

A map to show the location of Uzbekistan

Huram’s parents, who were Muslims, disapproved of his conversion, and in an attempt to make him forget his new faith, they sent him to stay with relatives in another town. But Huram joined a church there and set up a youth group. Angered by this, his parents sent him to relatives in yet another town; again he formed a church youth group. At a loss as to what to do with their son, Huram’s parents brought him back home and got a job for him to try to stop him going to church, but he continued to worship in secret with local Christians.

One day Huram was arrested by police because of his Christian activities. He received a heavy fine from the courts and was warned that if he was arrested again during that year he would face imprisonment. His fellow Christians have told him that if he does go to jail he should use the time to study his Bible and deepen his relationship with God. Through his steadfastness and courage, Huram is fulfilling the Lord’s purpose of preaching the Word despite being “scattered” by persecution to new places (Acts 8: 1-4).