

## The Falconer: Open Doors in the Zero Zone

There's a place in Central Eurasia that one missionary has named the Zero Zone. He calls it the Zero Zone because in this area there are zero missionaries, zero believers and zero churches—it's absolutely unreached and unengaged. Missionaries have tried to get into this area in the past and have been unsuccessful because the culture is so closed to outsiders.

But this one missionary has been able to do things in the Zero Zone that no one in the past has been able to do. And the way it happened was a complete act of God. This missionary grew up in an area of the United States with wide-open spaces. When he was a child, his father let him run wild. He collected animals and birds, and his relatives taught him how to do falconry and hawking. When he grew up he even got his degree in ornithology—bird science. Later, after God called him to the mission field, he was able to go out into the Zero Zone to do birding, counting and banding birds.

As a result of his falconry work, the doors in the villages opened wide to him. He was able to sit down with the village elders and develop relationships with them. He was able to go into this area as a believer and as a missionary and share the gospel in places that had been closed to the gospel for centuries.

The vision for the future in the Zero Zone is that through the relationships this missionary has developed, we will be able to create a boot camp or internship program for college students or young missionaries who want to learn more about reaching unreached peoples, about sharing the gospel among Muslim people groups, about living and working in a village setting rather than an urban setting. This program will allow us not only to cut the frontier, but also to create the capacity we will need to train new missionaries to go into both this Zero Zone and other Zero Zones throughout Eurasia.

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