



EURASIA *Experience*

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Experience

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EURASIA

Thank you for considering opening your venue to the *Eurasia Experience*™!

The Eurasia Experience is a multi-sensory journey through the lives of missionaries and national believers within the 44 countries and territories of Eurasia. Without buying a plane ticket, getting medical clearance or obtaining a visa, your audience can learn a lot about life and ministry in Eurasia.

Under the watchful eye of Russian soldiers, participants will meet burqa-clothed Muslim women, a drunken man on the street, an Orthodox priest, a Hindu holy man, vendors selling a variety of items—all different characters from the region. With the combined smells of manure, incense, fresh meat and garlic hanging heavy in the air, visitors will hear the Muslim call to prayer and be confronted with people trying to converse with them about other religions and foreign concepts, and sometimes in foreign languages.

They will learn about the vision of missionaries serving in the region and be challenged by the spiritual needs of the lost. Our goal is to create in participants a desire to pray, to give and, most of all, to go to Eurasia and live out the message of Christ.

Many American have a mindset that “seeing is believing.” We have found the Eurasia Experience opens eyes to believe that reaching people in the tough places of Eurasia IS possible, because it IS happening! All stories and situations shared in the Eurasia Experience are true.

We believe if we work together, with the Lord’s guidance, we can initiate change and share Christ in places that are currently in darkness.

Thank you again for your consideration. If you should desire to host "The Eurasia Experience" after previewing this packet, please contact us at EurasiaExperience@agmd.org

We are excited at the prospect of working with you!

God bless you,

The Eurasia Experience Team

How the Eurasia Experience Began

The Eurasia Experience was first unveiled at the World Missions Summit in December 2005. A joint effort of AGWM and Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, the Summit drew nearly 4,000 university students for a three-day missions emphasis. By the end of the conference, several hundred students expressed a desire to “give a year and pray about a lifetime” of missionary service.

Following the Eurasia Experience at the World Missions Summit there were more than a dozen Chi Alpha students who went out to minister in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on the American University campus. Soon after, students were placed in additional countries, including Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. All of these countries are experiencing spiritual change because of young people who gave a year of their lives to missions.

The effectiveness of the Eurasia Experience at the Summit prompted the National Youth Department to request it at the Fine Arts Festival and General Council in 2006. Here Fine Arts youth and Assemblies of God leadership from around the world participated in the event.

It was from here that Eurasia began to get requests to hold the experience across the country at churches, missions conventions and colleges.

A little about Eurasia

Straddling two continents, the Eurasia region includes the people groups and countries of the former Soviet Union, the Indian subcontinent and its neighboring islands, and the Middle East, North Africa, and the Arabian Peninsula. When you turn on the news, our countries are typically what you see!

Eurasia’s six areas and their countries include:

- ▶ **EURASIA NORTHWEST**—Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania
- ▶ **RUSSIA**—Russia, Siberia and Belarus
- ▶ **CENTRAL EURASIA**—Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan
- ▶ **MIDDLE EAST, NORTH AFRICA AND THE ARABIAN PENINSULA**—The Middle East (Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Jordan), North Africa (Morocco and Western Sahara, Tunisia, Algeria, and Libya), and the Arabian Peninsula (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Yemen and Oman)
- ▶ **SOUTHERN ASIA**—Bangladesh, the Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka
- ▶ **INDIA**

Frequently Asked Questions

1. *What is the cost?*

The cost is \$5,000. A \$500 deposit is required at the time of booking to hold your date. This deposit will apply to the overall cost; the remaining \$4,500 is due once the Experience is complete.

The budget includes:

- "EE" customized to your target attendees and venue
- Coordinator living expenses and hotel while on site
- Coordinator travel to and from your venue
- Set design
- Over 100 authentic costumes
- Transportation of set and costumes
- Promotional Materials

In addition to the above costs we strongly encourage each host to financially commit to supporting an additional Eurasia missionary and/or project.

The \$5,000 budget *does not* include:

- Hats and scarves that are received by attendees upon entering the "holy place" within the Eurasia Experience. They may be purchased for an additional \$2 each.
- Expenses or offering for the featured missionary
- Refreshments/lunches for set up crew and cast

2. *How does this work?*

We send out a team to coordinate the event with you. The coordinators will travel to your location with the equipment, props, and costumes, everything needed to create the Experience. We have sound and lighting options which we will discuss with you, based upon your venue. You will need to provide the sound requirements for your event.

3. *How many volunteers are needed, and should we pre-select the cast?*

The number of volunteers required depends upon number of participants expected. We recommend a minimum of 50 cast members, ages 14 and older. We ask that you pre-select actors for the speaking parts and parts where they have to come up with their own costumes. A few children are great to have as members of the cast. Additional volunteers are needed for support roles, i.e. Prayer Warriors, Set up, Hospitality, Greeters/Ushers, Clean Up, etc. *If you feel you might not be able to adequately staff the event, you may want to consider partnering with other churches in your area for the event.*

4. *When will the Eurasia Experience Coordinators arrive at the venue?*

Coordinators generally arrive three days before the event.

5. *What is the time commitment for volunteers?*

The "Eurasia Experience" is a 2-3 day commitment for most volunteers. Actors with speaking lines may commit to a couple weeks' worth of memorization. Most cast members will need to attend a costume fitting, orientation, and dress rehearsal during the days leading up to the event.

A typical Sunday event would be coordinated in the following way:

EE Coordinators will meet with volunteers on Friday night and/or Saturday morning. The first meeting will be an orientation, with a dress rehearsal to follow. After rehearsal will be a time of focused prayer. All volunteers are expected to be present at all required times. In some cases, a meal for volunteers may need to be provided (by the church).

The number of Experiences we do is dependent on the size of your church and how many attendees are expected.

Please note: The Experience runs between one hour and one hour fifteen minutes. The Experience can be used as the sole service, or in conjunction with Sunday School or simultaneous with a service in which there is a keynote missionary speaker. EE Coordinators are willing to work with special requests/ time requirements.

6. *For churches - Can we still have Sunday morning service?*

Many churches choose to replace their Sunday morning service with the Eurasia Experience. However, that does not always have to be the case. We ask for the Eurasia Experience to be the focus of the weekend. It is our hope that each church will feature an aspect of Eurasia in their Sunday morning service. This could be a time of focused prayer and intercession for unreached people groups of Eurasia, hosting a missionary guest speaker, or showing a Eurasia video to help church members understand a little more about what Eurasia is prior to the Eurasia Experience.

7. *What if we need to cancel?*

The nonrefundable deposit of \$500 is lost if complete cancellation occurs. If postponement is necessary and re-booking is possible within 6 months, the deposit will be applied to the new date and no further deposit would be required.

8. *What kind of follow-up is recommended?*

- ▶ Make Eurasia a prayer focus for the year. Pray...
 - That laws which restrict the preaching of the Gospel would be abolished.
 - That the Lord would send a harvest of workers to preach the Gospel to those who have never heard.
 - That God would anoint and protect those called to the unreached so that strong local churches are established.
- ▶ Consider taking on the support of an additional Eurasia missionary, or
- ▶ Consider taking a team to work beside your Eurasia missionary on the field, if possible, or visiting somewhere else in Eurasia

10. *How will our building be used to set up the Eurasia Experience?*

We have found it is **not** typically ideal to create the entire Eurasia Experience in your sanctuary. The space can be too open, too familiar and filled with everyday “American” objects.

Generally we will use the main sanctuary or other chapel setting for initial announcements and offering, then the three-minute flight sequence video. A second room or hallway is often used for the Marketplace, and a third large room is needed for the Holy Place. The dimensions needed for the Experience will depend on the scope of your event, but the typical recommended size is 90 feet by 60 feet. Please plan to provide a schematic of your facility and discuss the space requirements with the EE coordinator prior to booking.

The areas used for the Marketplace and Holy Place will need to be available exclusively for setup (no other events can be held in this part of the facility) for the three days preceding the Eurasia Experience.

Checklist

Accomplishing the Eurasia Experience requires a number of volunteers. These may include prayer warriors, unloading & setup & tear down crew, actors, hospitality, and Ushers/Greeters.

A minimum of 55 people will be required, depending on the size of your church. They should be at least 14 years of age (there are a few exceptions). In general, the more mature the cast, the better the event.

Typical Schedule for a Sunday event: (subject to change based on event)

Wednesday

Eurasia Experience Team arrival
Prepare area for next day's setup
Meet with Monologists

Thursday

Daytime – Unloading and setup (volunteers needed)
Evening – Costuming

Friday

Daytime – Complete Marketplace Setup (volunteers needed)
Evening – Orientation and Role Casting

Saturday

approximately 9:30 am – 5:30 pm – Rehearsals and Prayer

Sunday

Eurasia Experience
Tear down and pack up (volunteers needed)

Meals:

Food for cast and crew during rehearsals will be required, including a snack and a meal on Saturday and snacks and drinks for other days. If there are multiple EE events on any one day, a refreshment room for cast and crew is encouraged.

Children's Program:

Because the Experience deals with complex intercultural issues, it is recommended that a special children's program be provided for ages 10 and under. During the time when the adults are in the Holy Place, the marketplace (without vendors) will be available for the children to wander through *under the supervision of and in conjunction with of the Children's Ministries program*. This also allows parents to give their undivided attention to the Experience

A program that provides a Eurasia Experience for children is currently under development.

Advertising and Promotion:

Promotional material templates and ideas are available. Each host venue is responsible for advertising their own event. Eurasia Experience will publish the event dates on the Eurasia Experience website and EE Facebook Fan Page.

Timeline

Up to 12 Months Prior to the Experience

- Reserve date (confirmed when deposit and signed contract is received.)
- Familiarize yourself with requirements of hosting the Experience.

6 Months Prior

- Encourage **prayer support**. People support what they believe in and pray for! See Section Two of this notebook for Prayer Points.

3 Months Prior

- Begin to assign committees for various aspects of the drama. (e.g. Greeters & Ushers, Hospitality, Sound & Lighting, Cast)
- Begin promoting the event – on your website, in church announcements, etc.
- Pray for the event!

4 – 6 Weeks Prior

- Promote your event
- The EE Team will need to have a conference call with your Local Coordinator, Facilities Manager, and Tech Support. EE Coordinators will contact you to put a date on the calendar.
- Submit a copy of your Leadership Team and Master Casting list to EE Coordinators
- Most, if not all, of your volunteers should have been enlisted for the event.
- Pray for the event!

3 Weeks Prior

- More advertising and promotion of your event
- Pray for the event!

1 Day prior to EE Team's Arrival

- Please be sure the main room or area in which you plan to host the Experience is COMPLETELY CLEARED.