



ESPECIALLY FOR THE GREENWAY TEAM AND FRIENDS

FALL 2003

greenway report



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DUSHANBE, TAJIKISTAN

Flying from Almaty, Kazakhstan to Dushanbe, Tajikistan, one crosses over the Pamir Mountains, a mountain range that dwarfs anything found outside of Nepal. The Pamirs (Roof of the World) are located primarily in Tajikistan with thousands of snow-capped peaks, glaciers, and mountain climber challenges. Three of the five highest peaks in the former Soviet Union are in the Pamirs.

A Greenway team recently crossed these mountains when it made its site visit to Dushanbe to look at a construction project there in October. "Assalom u aleykum" was the Tajik greeting we heard when our group arrived. "Valaykum assalom" is the response I learned the next day.

The region has been a crossroads between Europe, the Middle East and Asia, being a route for conquest and trade. Cyrus the Great, from Persia, came through the land in the sixth

through on his reign of conquest, stopping long enough to marry a Tajik woman. The Russians invaded in 1717 and took total control in 1917 after the Communist Revolution.

Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, means "Monday" in the Tajik language. Its name grew out of the practice that goes back to 1676 when the villagers from the surrounding area would bring their produce to this site on "Mondays". The city was called Stalinabad from 1929 to 1961. Tajikistan was engaged in a civil war from 1992 to 1997 after independence from the Soviet Union took the lid off of clan-based rivalries. Almost 50,000 people lost their lives in that war. The literacy rate in Tajikistan is 98%. In the United States it is 97%. There are nine languages spoken in Tajikistan. Most Tajiks speak Russian as well as their native language. When the Soviet Union collapsed, Tajikistan became an independent republic.

route for conquest and trade. Cyrus the Great, from Persia, came through the land in the sixth century and two hundred years later Alexander the Great (he must have been greater than Cyrus, since he conquered Persia) passed

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A country of 55,213 square miles and a population of 6,213,000, Tajikistan is a little more than 1/3 the size of Montana but has over