

Director's Report
March 1, 2009

I am unpleasantly surprised to see how long it has been since I last wrote you. The time has quickly slipped away. Going to America in January and February also disoriented me a bit. Anyway, it is time to let you know we are still alive and well at Albanian Bible Institute and the ministry continues to progress in many ways.

Allow me a moment to express my gratitude to those of you who hosted me while I was in the States this winter. I appreciate the continued support and interest that all of you have shown for ABI. In this time of economic uncertainty, we have not lost the support of any church and have even added two new churches to our support base. This is so encouraging! I love seeing churches step out in faith like this.

The second semester has gotten off to a quick start. Sometimes I can hardly believe we are now almost half of the way into the semester. The semester has been both a time of joy and disappointment, though for the most part it has been rewarding for both staff and students. We continue to see progress in our students and their academic work. They are thinking, writing and communicating at a deeper level than when they first came to ABI. Some have made significant progress in preaching. Their confidence is growing and so is their skill level.

Some of our students have also learned some valuable lessons in recent days about character. They have been tested in character and most have come out on the other side of the test as better people. They have been learning how to persevere, to forgive, to seek forgiveness, to always live in the truth, to make the best out of defeat and loss. These have been hard and painful lessons for them, but they are not lessons that will be easily forgotten. These are all a part of the refining process that God uses to bring us to greater fruitfulness and purity. Most of us who have been in the ministry for awhile have experienced these same battles in our early years of ministry. How gracious our God has been! How redeeming it is to see God use us to teach the same lessons that we had to learn ourselves not so many years ago. Perhaps our students have learned more from these tests of character than all the reading and writing assignments we could have ever given them.

In our last letter in November we were on the verge of moving into our new dormitory. The dormitory was open for the first time on December 1, and that was a very happy day for all of

us. During the Christmas break we began work installing a central heating system in the school. The workers came and dug up the floor and laid the copper pipes for the system. Unexpectedly, the manager stopped work on the project, leaving us unfurnished with central heat this winter. Needless to say, this was a big disappointment to us. We have struggled to find another company to complete the work at a reasonable price. Please pray that we can soon find that company and complete the installation of the system. We are eager to get this done.

This summer it looks like we have a volunteer team from Gulf Shores, Alabama who will help us lay tile on the first and second floors of our building. We are excited to have them coming our way! Our building will look so much better when this is finished. We still have many spots on the floor that are covered in cement and need to be covered by tile. Right now the appearance is very tacky, but hopefully by the time the students return in September things will look a lot better. I am counting on it.

Another exciting development for this summer is the Vision Trip to Turkey that our students will be taking in June. The goal of this trip is to see the work of Christ among the Kurds and see where we may fit into that vision. All of our full-time students are going on the trip and even one part-time student is going with us. Four of our staff, including myself, are going. It should be an eye-opening experience. This is the first time our school has ever done anything of this nature and it is a great opportunity for all of us. Maybe ABI will be a major player in equipping missionaries to the Kurds. It is an exciting possibility to think that God could use us in this way.

Thank you again for your support and encouragement in recent months. I am glad that God has brought us together for big things in Albania. Your investment in our students is paying off.

Sincerely,
LEE BRADLEY