

DIRECTOR'S REPORT
August 31, 2009
Albanian Bible Institute

Dear Friends of ABI,

Can you believe this is the last day of the summer? I sit here amazed that three months have passed since school closed and the students went home. Now we are on the verge of a new school year starting in just two weeks! So much to do and so little time. Before we totally get caught up with all the last minute things we have to do before school starts, I want to write and let you know what has been going on since I last wrote to you.

Robbery follow-up

Most of you know that our school was robbed in late June, leaving us with a loss of over \$12,000. We wrote to all of you and shared the needs and the desperation of those days following the robbery. That was a pretty devastating event, but in spite of what happened, we are rejoicing in what God has done. In response to our newsletter that went out in early July, we have been able to recover about 75% of what we lost. All our bills have been paid and we have had a lot of the stress taken out of the situation because of your generosity. Thank you!!! Thank you!!! You really encouraged us and lifted our spirits. That was a very hard time and not one we want to repeat.

In addition to the money we have recovered, we have learned that more gifts have come since the last wire transfer on August 15. I am told that more gifts are on the way. This is so good to know. God is good. He is faithful. You, His people, have shown yourselves obedient to the Lord through your kindness and generosity to us at such a difficult time. Thank you!!!

Some of you were not able to help us financially this summer, but you wrote emails or sent letters. I received a few phone calls through the computer from some of you to let me know you were sorry to hear what happened. Many of you prayed for us! How great that made us feel! Walking difficult roads is not so bad when there are others walking with you.

Tile project

On August 15 a team of six men from First Baptist Church in Gulf Shores, Alabama came and spent 6 days laying tile on the first and second floors of our building. That was no easy job. They moved furniture, mixed mud, hauled it up a flight of stairs, and spent a lot of time down on their knees spreading out mud and laying tile. Making sure a floor is level is hard and tedious work. Mud needs time to dry. It is slow and laborious work. Yet, these men came and gave it all they had. One of our staff members said she had never seen a team of men work as hard as this group. I agree! This was one fantastic group!

The tile team from Alabama completed about 70% of the work that needed to be done and we have some Albanian guys working this week to complete the rest of the work. It should be finished in the next few days. It already looks a lot better with the tile and we can hardly wait to see it all finished.

Beautification projects

While all of the tile work has been going on, we have had the second floor of the school re-wired. We have had new light fixtures installed and by the end of the week will have new doors in place. We will have new living room furniture too. The old set we had was so worn out that we had to get rid of it last summer. We did not have any comfortable place for our students to relax last year. Thanks to an individual gift that was given specifically for beautification of our school's interior, we will be able to buy new furniture and these new things to make our second floor look much better. Last year the people of First Baptist Gulf Shores, Alabama have donated money to help us get the interior and exterior of the

building painted. Thank you First Baptist for helping us have a more beautiful and homey environment.

Central heating system

We are still looking for the right company to complete the installation of the central heating system we need for the winter. This has not been easy. We have made some contacts and are sure there is someone out there, but so far we haven't found the right company. To be honest, finding a heating system guy has not been an urgent priority. It is hard to think of central heating systems when it is 95 degrees outside. Anyway, we are still working on this. I have two meetings scheduled this week to talk with two people about getting this completed. **From what we can tell, we are about \$7000 short of the money we need to complete this project. Of course, we will gladly receive your donations** to help us with this. I am hopeful that we will not be needing your help with building projects for awhile after this heating system is installed. For the last three years we have called upon you for help with building projects. We are grateful for everything you have done and are looking forward to that day when we will not have to ask you to help us with these special building projects.

Student enrollment

This continues to be a great challenge. **So far**, we have accepted 3 new full-time students and 3 part-time students for the new school year. We have done everything that we know to do to try to invite and to attract students to come to ABI, but there has not been very much desire on their part to attend our school or any other Bible school for that matter. If I thought we were the problem, I would be despairing or thinking of new ways to change our approach. The bottom line issue is that the level of discipleship in many of our churches is quite low. The number of people wanting to serve in the ministry is declining. This is a problem that theological schools all across Eastern Europe are seeing. Now as the economy improves, people are seeking employment in secular work rather than in churches. Of course, this is a good thing in one aspect. Now we know who is called to ministry and who is merely working in church as a career.

Would you **join us in praying that God would send us more students?** More important than praying for greater numbers, would you please pray that God would send us only those he wants to be at ABI? The last two years have been good years because our students have, by and large, gotten along well and come to ABI to be taught of the Lord and to prepare for life-long ministry. The students we have received, though lower in number than we would have liked, have been the ones the Lord wanted to come to ABI.

Final prayer requests

1. God to send the students he wants us to have at ABI this fall.
2. The new school year to be a time of growth for all our students and for staff too. We begin September 14.
3. The remaining money necessary to install the central heating system.
4. The salvation of the man who stole money from ABI this summer. We are still praying for him.
5. Pray for Tonin Koceku and Elona Shehu, two of our students who are making preparations to go to Turkey to serve as missionaries. The tentative plan is for them to be on the field before the end of this year.

Friends, thank you for reading this letter and thank you for lifting us up to the Lord in prayer. We are grateful for your help and reliability.

God bless you all!
LEE BRADLEY