

Director's Report

June 5, 2010

Dear Friends of ABI,

We are very happy to share with you that our school year ended last week on a celebratory note. At our end of the year dinner on Friday night, students expressed appreciation for staff and the hard work they have done. It was also an encouragement to hear staff speak words of appreciation for the students. Even the cooks and cleaning ladies got in on the act and spontaneously shared how glad they were that they work in such a joyful place. What a great year it has been!

Albanian Bible Institute has been a life-changing experience for our students. We continue to get good reports from those who have graduated over the years. This week I was encouraged to hear from two of our former students who are serving as missionaries in nearby countries and to hear what God is doing through them in those places. It is also good to see some of our former students still serving churches they served six, eight, even ten years ago when they were students at our school. I admire this kind of faithfulness and perseverance, especially in times when fruit is slow to come. I would not want to think of where these church leaders would be without the foundation of discipleship and training received at ABI. Our school has been far more than an academic institution for them. It has been a place of spiritual growth and character formation.

Although our summer break has just begun, we are already preparing for the fall semester, which begins on September 15. This year we are promoting a plan that we started a few years ago. Now we want to give even greater emphasis to it. This is our student sponsorship plan, which is sometimes called "Investing in Trainable Church Leaders." This past year our costs have been down considerably, which is something we are grateful to see. However, it still costs approximately \$5000 a year to educate each student. We are asking churches, Sunday school classes, mission groups and individuals to invest in a student for a year. Each "share" of the investment costs \$500. Over the course of the year, you can get to know a specific student, communicate with them, and pray regularly for him or her. We would really like for you to get to know them and feel a part of their life and ministry. The money given to sponsor a student will be an investment that will bring fruit for years to come in places that we cannot yet imagine. Only God knows the full extent to which your investment will impact lives for Christ.

Currently, our goal is to find 30 individuals, churches, Sunday School classes or small groups to sponsor students for the upcoming school year. We are asking you to prayerfully consider this need. We would also ask that you take this need to your church missions committee or Bible study group or to whomever you think might want to get involved. In fact, please share the need with those you think would not or could not get involved. By all means, everyone can pray, even if they cannot help financially. You never know how some will respond. Time and again we have seen God use people that we never imagined would have the desire or the resources to help.

In the last several weeks, the story in II Kings 4 of the poor widow has given me great encouragement. All she had in her house was a little oil. Elijah told her to go to all her neighbors, who were probably

almost as poor as she was, and ask for empty oil jars. In fact, he told her, “Don’t ask for a few.” She did exactly what he told her to do, even when his instructions seemed impossible to explain or understand. The neighbors gave her more jars than she expected. From her small bottle of oil she was able to fill all the jars, which she used to pay her debt and keep her sons from becoming slaves. It is amazing to see what happens when we make our needs known and obey the Lord. When God responds to our faith, the results are miraculous.

If you or someone you know would like to sponsor a student for the upcoming school year, we would be very appreciative of that. You can use the envelope that is enclosed. Please send your gift to International Ministries FEC, 1420 Kerrway Ct., Ft. Wayne, IN 46805 and designate your gifts for the ABI General Fund. If you can send at least \$500 during the coming school year, please include a brief note to let us know you want to sponsor a student so we can get that relationship started.

If you can’t sponsor a student, but would like to give a gift to help us with our ministry, we would appreciate that as well. A gift of any amount will help us accomplish our mission of training Albanian church leaders. Every donation counts!

Thank you for praying about this need. I hope we will soon be able to give you an encouraging report of how God has come through for us as a result of boldly asking for your empty jars. God is good!

Sincerely,
Lee Bradley
Director, Albanian Bible Institute

P.S. We also ask you to pray for God to send us students for this school year. It is clear that there is a need for more Albanians and Kosovars to be trained for ministry in their churches and in missions. Pray that God will raise up people who are eager to study, grow and be trained at ABI for life, ministry and world impact.