

UPDATE FROM THE DIRECTOR

JULY 24, 2008



Greetings from Albanian Bible Institute!

There has been much to celebrate at ABI since my last update to you in May. In this day and time when we hear so much bad news about economic woes and a general attitude of pessimism persists, it is good to share a lot of good news with you.

First, although economies worldwide are facing tough times, God's people have battled the tough times by their generosity to our school's ministry. God's people have given much to help us fund the expansion of our school's new dormitory. Sometimes the money has come in big chunks like the sizable and timely checks that came last month from Liberty Baptist in Chelsea, Alabama and Mt. Hermon Baptist in Danville, Virginia. More often, the money has come from individuals who love the Lord and support our ministry. Those checks of \$30, \$50 and \$100 have added up. To those of you who have given checks of this size, your donations may have seemed insignificant to you. When they have been combined with the gifts of others, they have made it possible for us to have what the estimates say we need for building the dormitory. To all of you who have given, thank you! You have encouraged me greatly.

After saying this, I do not want to give anyone the impression that we do not need any more money. **We still need it** since prices rise each week and the dollar falls each month (7% drop since March of this year). As in any building project, unexpected expenses come. Some of you understand this since you have built your own homes or have been involved in church building projects. If by some chance we have more money than we can use, we will apply the money to laying new tile on the floors and installing a central heating system for all three floors. We are going to need to do that within the next year.

In addition to this good news about the financing of the new dormitory, I am glad to report that the building itself is taking shape. Today I counted 16 frames that have been built this week which will be used for forming new columns for the third floor. I am told that concrete is going to be poured this weekend. After this is done, the walls and a roof are going up. Step by step this project is taking shape. The engineer says that we should be finished sometime in October. I am cautiously optimistic that this is going to happen. The work team that is here is serious and they are staying focused on their job. I do not envy them when they work out in the hot July sun.

Although it is great to see progress in the building, Albanian Bible Institute is not centered in a building. We are focused on God and his people. Two weeks ago, Brandon Clark, of Rosebud, Montana came to join our staff. He will be teaching some courses and assisting with chapel services and student activities. He is appointed by the International Mission Board, SBC. I am happy to have him here. In November we expect Kent and Angie Morton, of Ft. Wayne, Indiana to join our staff. We are looking forward to their arrival. He will be serving in administrative responsibilities and teaching part-time.

By the end of this month we will have had 6 interviews with potential students who have applied for admission to ABI. We may have a few more coming in August. This has been an encouragement after a year when we had so few who came to our school. Some of these want to serve as pastors, church planters and missionaries. It is exciting to see God continuing to stir people in Albania to serve his church.

The young couple that we sent to Elbasan to start a church this summer continue to be faithful to meet new people and develop relationships for witnessing and discipleship. They are getting out in their neighborhood and talking with people every day. They also go to the park each night and meet new people. Having a 2 year old daughter really helps them have open doors to share.

Luka Sema, who graduated in June and has also been our long-time school maintenance man, is now working his last week at ABI. On August 6 he will take his family to Peje, Kosova to work on a missionary team for one year. We will really hate to see him go, but simultaneously we will be glad to see

one of our ABI family go to the mission field. This year in Kosova will be preparation for going to Pakistan as missionaries.

Tonin Koceku, one of our Bible-Theology students, is being given the reins of leadership at the Paskuqan church (periphery of Tirana) next Sunday when the missionaries who have been leading the church leave to live in England. This will be quite a challenge for a 25 year old single guy, but one which he is willing to take. Please pray for him as this will be a great time of growth in his ministry and people skills. Paskuqan is not an easy place to serve, as many of the people in the area are resistant to the gospel and any kind of change. Although it is in the capital city, Paskuqan is more like a village in mentality. There is not one single adult over the age of 30 in this church.

Albanian Bible Institute is making an impact in Albania. Now that influence is going even further. We thank God for all that He is doing to help us move forward for His kingdom. Many of you pray for us, some even praying daily for ABI. Others of you give financially to support our work. All of us working together are accomplishing something for God's kingdom that will last longer than ourselves. Please be aware of how grateful I am for all of you. It is a great privilege to work in this ministry of leadership training at this time.

God bless you!

LEE BRADLEY