

**UPDATE FROM THE DIRECTOR
ALBANIAN BIBLE INSTITUTE
LEE BRADLEY
OCTOBER 1, 2008**

Greetings from Albanian Bible Institute!

It is with joy that I greet you today. We just finished our first two weeks of school with students here for two weeks straight. Now we are in our first non-school week when the students are back at home and doing ministry in their local churches. This is the week that faculty meets and reviews what happened in the previous weeks and prepares for the upcoming classes. Our faculty is working hard, but we also know how to have fun. Yesterday after faculty meeting we went bowling. With all humility I can say I was very much like Christ in my two games. I made myself of no reputation.

God has been very good to us over the last two months. Most of our faculty were outside the country getting some much deserved rest. It was a joy to see everyone back in September looking and feeling refreshed for the task ahead. I appreciate mission organizations that give their missionaries time away to recharge their batteries.

We welcomed seven new students for preparation week on September 15. This year's group is our largest incoming class in several years. They immediately started bonding together and showed great seriousness about learning. This was impressive to us because sometimes it takes awhile for new groups to get in the groove of being students. This year's group has three members who are over the age of 40. It is so unusual in this culture to see people that age in school. We have three students from Kosova this year. This is our first time to have students come from there. Their trip is an 8 hour overnight bus ride. They arrive in Durres on Monday mornings at 5:00. The sacrifice some are willing to make to be here impresses me.

The building is making progress, though this seems to be a slow phase. Maybe this is my impatience showing more than what is actually true, but I am eager for this to be finished. The steel frames for the roof have gone up and the guys are up there welding them together. The roofing tiles are here and ready to go up as soon as the steel frames are finished. The engineer tells us we will be finished by the end of the month. Of course, we would like to be finished by then, but more than likely we are looking at another month or more before all is finished. My main desire is to see the work be quality work rather than work that is rushed and poor quality. The immediate concern is getting the roof finished before the rainy season begins. We were surprised with a big, unseasonal rain a few weeks ago that brought water into the building. Fortunately, we suffered no permanent damage from that, but we don't want that to happen again.

Your prayers for us over the last several months have sustained us and been a great help. I am so grateful for you and your churches who have lifted us up in prayer many times. I will include a prayer and praise list with this letter. We have been blessed to see progress on many fronts.

I am especially pleased with the progress of last year's students. Tonin Koceku has been given the leadership reins at New Life Church in Paskuqan, a suburb of Tirana. This is the first time he has worked without the help of missionaries alongside him. This is a big challenge for him, but so far he is doing very well. He is out in the community meeting people every week and sharing the faith with them. Gjergj and Mira Lleshi have also done an outstanding job in their church planting efforts in Elbasan. In three months they think they have had over 250 conversations with people about Christ. At their opening worship service on September 14, there were 23 unbelievers who attended. This is very impressive these days in Albania where people are very distracted by economic pressures and not too interested in anything that is spiritual. Luka Sema has just gone with his family to Kosova to work with the Operation Mobilization team in the town of Peja. We hear good reports from them.

Be assured that your investment of time and finances are making the ministry of Albanian Bible Institute a fruitful one. You are a blessing to us. Thank you for all you are doing to help us!

Sincerely,
LEE BRADLEY