

Stamatis Status – June 06, 2009

We completed the 4th term of this 2nd year for the current students. We have four more to go until they graduate in December. This break week has been busy with finalizing lessons for the courses that will be taught this next term: Hebrews; 1 and 2 Peter; and,



Daniel. On the final Friday of last term we took the students to the top of the mountain, Dajti. We shared a nice lunch in the very relaxing atmosphere of “King’s Park”. As we were leaving Durres that morning the skies opened up and transformed the streets into rivers.



On our way to lunch at the top of Dajti, we paused in Tirana to have a coffee with a young man, Ervin Lala. He has committed to begin the two year program beginning in January, 2010. On Thursday, two days ago, we met with two men



who had expressed an interest in IBIA. They are from Elbasan and Lushnje. There is another young man completing a Masters degree that I will meet with in the next few weeks about attending the school. He is engaged, so there is the possibility that we will have another married couple in the school next year.

We will fly to the States on Tuesday, July 7. We are excited that we already have several guests and friends scheduled to come visit us at our house. I will be speaking in Waterbury and Manchester, Connecticut on Sunday, July 26. I am in the process of scheduling other opportunities to share what is happening with IBIA. Please continue to pray that God will provide for IBIA’s and our personal financial needs.



I enjoyed yesterday on so many levels. It was a beautiful day. Deb and I were enjoying our expanding sphere of influence. We had joined friends and fellow saints for a nice walk. The light and warmth of our time together was greater than the light and warmth generated by the sun. For each of us the destination would have different impressions.

We had a coffee under the shade of an awning with a white-capping sea on one side and a green embankment on the other. The breeze was almost as refreshing as the laughter seasoning the conversations. Eduart was there with his parents. Altin was there with his mother (Flutra) and his girl friend (Vosiana). It is amazing to be a part of and see God’s sovereign plan working. God has been sewing together the circumstances of eight different people to form the journeys of our lives. God had brought us together at this place at this time for one purpose. We watched as God victoriously and joyfully reclaimed two precious souls yesterday. They declared Jesus to be



their only Lord and with conviction and trust experienced their spiritual rebirth into Christ. Altin’s mother became his sister and his girl friend became his and his mother’s new sister. We witnessed God’s kingdom expand as Flutra and Vosiana were freed



from the penalty of their sins because of Christ's blood and now have the gift of God's Spirit that enables them to have the power to say no to the power of sin. God is faithful!



We are grateful to share this journey with those of you who partner with us in this fellowship of service. In God's grace He uses the diversity of our capabilities and partners with us to sow His seed. It is amazing to see the power of His Word as it is planted, nurtured, matured and harvested.

It is encouraging and humbling to see multiple concentric circles rippling out from our place of service with IBIA. We pray that God receives the glory He deserves and that people continue to benefit.



In the field,
Steve and Deborah