



On The Rock In Athens



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In the Work of the Lord . . .

"And He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace be to this house." And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. . . . Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'" – Luke 10:2-7, 9

Two who have gone out . . .

I would like to begin this month with some exciting things that are developing with a couple of our own AIBI graduates. Often we don't get to see the fruit of what our students are bringing before the Lord with their labors in the field. I would like to share some news from a couple of these graduates right here in Greece.



Timothy Ukegbu, a December 2007 graduate of the school, has been laboring with a local African congregation here in Athens for quite some time. As he studied at the school he learned many things that were contrary to what he had been preaching and teaching with this Pentecostal congregation. While a student and after graduation he slowly began to preach and teach the truth of what God revealed in HIS word. About a year ago he became crossways with the other elders and ministers of this church. As last year closed and this year dawned he found himself first marginalized and finally ostracized by the leaders and some members. He found himself not being allowed to preach and teach. He had been shunned. Finally this past August he called a meeting of this congregation and boldly spoke out. **"ENOUGH IS ENOUGH,"** he said, **"Either we are going to preach and teach the word and truth of God or not. I am through being silent. Either you can stand behind me and support the truth of God's word, or you can leave."** Many choose to leave, but there was a remnant that remained. And that's when something wonderful began to happen. Slowly since August this refreshed congregation in which Timothy has been laboring has been starting to grow and thrive once again. Timothy feels that he has been given a new light and purpose in life. We were privileged to attend a "marriage enrichment seminar" which Timothy's congregation hosted a couple of weeks ago. We are glad to report that a good number of people were in attendance and it was apparent the Spirit of God was present. We stand behind this new beginning for Timothy and encourage the congregation he serves.



Victor Babalola, a June 2006 graduate of the school, has been working and serving very well with the **Evrou congregation** here in Athens. He has been such a blessing to the work and brings a zeal and evangelistic spirit that is inspiring. Very recently he has had the opportunity to become involved in something that may become a very exciting first step for the planting of a new congregation in the city of Thessaloniki in northern Greece. Back in August Victor and **Dino Tzanetos** was contacted by **Darrell Wallace** in the United States. There was a young man in **Thessaloniki** who was interested in being baptized. It seems Darrell has been studying with him over the internet for awhile. It was arranged and Dino met this young man, named **James Lazarus**, and baptized him in late August up in Thessaloniki. Dino has been in contact with this young man via e-mail ever since and it was determined that someone should go visit James and encourage him. **Victor** volunteered and traveled up to Thessaloniki a week ago, with the support of the Evrou congregation and others. What he found was exciting. He came back and reported that this young man is very enthusiastic about the Lord. He said things look very good for the possibility of a new congregation of the Lord's church being planted in Thessaloniki from this seed. Victor is now back and is talking with some of the other graduates of the school still here in Athens about going to Thessaloniki and working with James in developing a future congregation in that city. From such a small seed, perhaps a great harvest may come. We need to be ready to do our part in support and prayers for this endeavor . . . to challenge them to go forth . . . **and see what fruit may come.**

Goings on in the school . . .

Our second term of the fall is in full swing and going fast. Sometimes it's hard to believe how fast time can go when in the midst of a busy term. We are once again blessed with having **Bill Day** here as our visiting instructor. He is always a favorite of the students and they love the depth and challenge he brings to them. He is teaching the **Gospel of John** and the **Epistles of John** this month. The students report that they have never seen these wonderful books in such light and very much enjoy the study. I have the opportunity to teach **Scheme of Redemption** and the **Life of Christ (part two)**. Of course it seems like I say it for all the courses I teach, but this month I say that these are two of my favorite courses to study with the students. It is so wonderful to see God's great plan, through His Son Jesus Christ, come to life for them as their eyes are opened to His Glory.

Observations from Diana . . .



Ron and I had a funny thing happen to us Sunday. We arrived at the school at the same time we usually do, put our things down, and then walked to our favorite restaurant for lunch. It was closed, which was surprising, so we walked to another and it was also closed. We did this for close to an hour. I should mention it was pouring down rain. So even with umbrellas we were getting soaked. We finally realized we had to get back to the building because classes would soon start. We walked back to the building and the Greek congregation had just let out. We thought this was odd since they usually leave around noon and it was after one. We started talking to someone and they asked if we set our clocks back! **I was shocked** that Ron didn't remember it was the day to set the clocks back. I mean this is the man who was sitting in front of the computer with his watch to see if he was set at the same time as NASA when their new rocket lifted the other day! Ah, it's a

comfort to know that even after 33 years he can surprise me! By the way—we still had time to eat and get to class on time so all was well in that area. Thank you for your ongoing support. It is such a blessing to be a part of this work with you.

On a personal Note . . .

In the hustle bustle busyness of this world, and midst all the challenges, rain, and time changes we may face, we often lose sight of all the great blessings God has set before us. Great family, great friends, great brothers and sisters, and great students and fellow workers are indeed great blessings. We pause to look around and are able to see the harvest is still plentiful. What a blessing to be part of this work. We see those who are willing to take a stand, hold out a hand, and go share the truth of God's word. And, we can know that as family together. . . The Kingdom of God has indeed come near.

Prayer needs:

- *Pray for Timothy as he continues to strive to be part of the true body of Christ as he teaches and preaches the truth of God's word.*
- *Pray for James Lazarus and the budding possibility of a new work being launched in the city of Thessaloniki.*
- *Pray that the dollar starts to strengthen some time soon. The dollar seems to continue to weaken and costs continue to rise.*
- *A prayer of thanks as God continues to provide in time of need.*

With much love . . .

Ron and Diana

Drop us a line

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