



On the Rock in Athens

AIBI Newsletter

www.athensibi.org

Teaching others to teach others

“... commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also...”

2 Timothy 2:2



“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations”

Our world is changing too fast. Daily life activities and circumstances that were unthinkable 20 years ago are the way of living for many people today. No more homogenous countries in the developed world and it seems that cultural, religious or national borders have ceased to exist.

When I first came in Greece back in 1991, this country was a nation with very little or no knowledge at all about emigrants or refugees. The truth is that till 1996 there were no specific laws in the Greek legislations about emigration because they never dealt with it before. Look at Greece today; it is the country that faces the first wave of emigrants and refugees moving to Europe. Almost every single refugee from Africa or Middle East who is living today in the rest of Europe has passed through Greece who is not any more the one nationality country that it used to be. This is true for almost all the developed world, no homogenous countries.

Living next to somebody who is different from you (many time you cannot understand a word of what he is saying) is the reality for many of us. As Christian we are called by God to love this unknown neighbor and preach the Gospel of Jesus to him instead of being afraid and hate him for being different. We are called to see souls not people.

Of course, treating other people with dignity and respect, being there for their needs are the pillars of all democratic societies who are mainly build upon the teachings of the Bible, but I believe that we are here to find ways and methods of how to make Jesus Christ known to all of them. You see, we may feed every single refuge in the world, every day for the rest of their life, and if we do not give Jesus to them, we have given nothing.

Seeing the need of evangelism among the refugees in Greece (mostly Muslim), we in AIBI have done every effort to recruit students from among them, having this goal as one of our priorities for the last 5 years. We had some success back to 2012 with Lambros Mehri an Iranian who was with us only for two terms and then moved to Germany where he plays today an active role with the Church. Also, there is a group of Egyptians here in Athens that I have reached during these years trying to convince them to attend AIBI without any success. Of course, a lot of prayers have been offered to this direction and last December Hadi Hossaini, an Iranian who speaks fluently English was registered in our school. Please, keep praying that God will touch his heart and will give him the strength and the patience to continue through hard studies of the Word with AIBI. Also, pray that more students from the Arab world will join our school and will be trained to share Jesus with their countrymen and to be leaders among their Churches.

Beni

Meet some of the New Students



Malvina Palaj, Albania.
She has been a member of Lord's body for a long time. She came to Athens from Tirana, Albania two years ago

Chris Faluyi, Nigeria
He has been in Athens for 25 years and joined the school with his wife last September



Maria Faluyi, Nigeria
Together with her husband Chris, she is excited to be with AIBI. She is a cook.

Christina Kanu, Greece
She was born in Greece from Ghanaian parents and has graduated Greek High School



Hadi Hossaini, Iran
He arrived in Greece one year ago as a refugee and registered with AIBI last December.

“Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word”

Acts of Apostles 8:4

AIBI Teaching & Life

www.athensibi.org

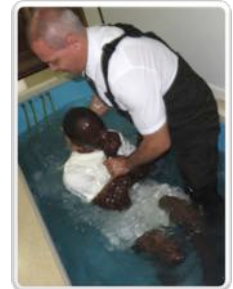


With Peter and Peace Ozah

During the Fall Trimester 2016 we had no visiting instructor. This period I decided to have Peter Ozah teaching full time with AIBI. For those of you who do not know him, Peter is a graduate of "AIBI 2014 Class" with very good results. He was distinguished among his fellow-students and was elected the Chairman of the Students Body. After the graduation we called him to serve with AIBI, at the beginning as an assistant of Victor Akande and then monitoring video courses. Mid 2015 as Victor moved in Nigeria, I started having Peter instructing some low credit courses (few hours) and teaching every Wednesday a Bible Class organized by AIBI at Evrou Church building for graduates and students of the School. Peter responded very well in these duties and has grown so fast in his teaching skills for the last 2 years. Teaching 20 hours per week with the academic requirements of AIBI is not easy, but it is a pleasure to see him reaching in a relatively short time such a high standard of teaching. Sonila and I are so proud of Peter and his wife Peace and we thank God for guiding us in our choice of calling them to service with AIBI. Also, for the last year, they are involved some with English speaking congregation at Evrou, and it is great to see them serving the Lord wherever is needed.

Teaching process during this Fall Semester has continued normally. Peter and myself being the only teachers in AIBI have taught a total of 480 hours of lectures. Students have gone through 72 mid-terms and final exams, over 240 memory Bible verses, 52 sermons prepared in preaching classes, 100 pages of independent work and many other requirements of the last terms. Of course to teach all these materials we as teachers need the same hours of studying, preparation and exam checking. Being the Dean of School I have also academic, financial and organizational work, keeping up with students' records and grades, promoting the school and recruiting new students. And this is only our work with AIBI, because at the same time Sonila and myself serve full time as evangelists with Evrou congregation. The only thing I can tell is that our everyday work starts at 5am and ends 10pm, and we thank God for giving us the health, the desire and the energy to serve Him in any field He needs us.

We are calling for those of you who are qualified, have the credentials and the ability to teach – "come and share your service to Jesus with us in Athens". There is so much to be done but the workers are very few.



Baptism of Ambrose,
1st year student

Relief program, as you know we provide simple meals for all the students during the days of school and once in two months we distribute food to the students who are not working. This Relief Food Program is going on for 4 years now and is the only source of survival for the many unemployed (due to Greek crises) students of AIBI and members of Evrou Church of Christ in Athens. Of course, this is a big project that takes a lot of funds, time and efforts but so far by the grace of God everything is going great unto His glory. During Fall 2016, we had two major food distributions for the students of AIBI and the saints of Evrou Church of Christ congregation, giving more than 8 tons of food serving almost 70 individuals with the needed items. We want to thank all of you, who through your sacrificial giving have made this program possible. Please, continue to donate it in the name of Jesus. God Bless You!!!!



Sonila and Peace preparing food packages



With Art Watson and Chris Paul
Elders from Crieve Hall Church of Christ, our
sponsoring congregation in Nashville, TN

More Pictures from AIBI Life



Explaining to Samuel how to use PowerPoint



AIBI during class session



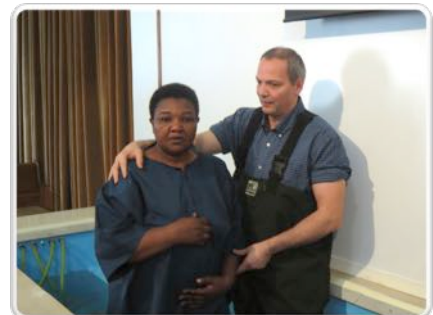
Christmas Fellowship – AIBI together with Evrou Congregation



Peter Ozah helping with food packaging



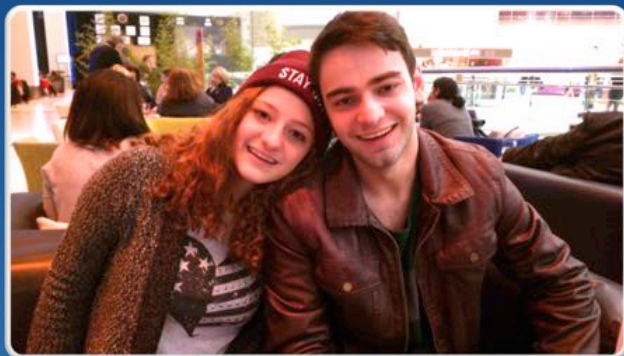
Baptism of Rosemary - 2nd year student of AIBI



Baptism of Smooth – 2nd year student of AIBI



Family News



It was so nice to have Andrew home for Christmas. Being 4 of us again from time to time is such a blessing, but these are the periods when we understand how much we are missing by having him away. No need to tell you, that from the day he leaves mom is in crying-mode for one week.

Christina is doing very well with her school being always very busy and enjoying especially her science classes. We see her growing daily in faith and stature, and we thank God for blessing us with such wonderful children.

Sonila, thanks to a special chiropractic treatment of three-weeks from brother Don Henderson in Nashville TN last August, has no more pain in her foot. It is a blessing to see her being able to perform her daily tasks without any hindrance.

Beni was sick with viral influenza last week, but thank God is doing better.

Thank you for being family to us. May God continue to sing over you!!!

Love

Beni and Sonila Leka

Beni and Sonila Leka **Dean of Athens International Bible Institute**

Epidavrou 64, Halandri
15233 Athens, Greece

Phone: (01130) 210-6892426

Greek Mobile: (01130) 694 5153 798

U.S. Mobile: (615) 810-3190

Email: benileka@gmail.com

Site: www.athensibi.org

With Such Wonderful Oversight by:

THIRD & DWIGHT CHURCH OF CHRIST

P.O.Box 167

Monahans, TX 79756

Phone: (432) 943-4594

E-mail: monahanschurch@sbcglobal.net

CRIEVE HALL CHURCH OF CHRIST

4806 Trousdale Drive

Nashville, TN 37220

Phone: (615) 832-9658

E-mail: missions@crievhall.org