

Stamatis Status – February 7, 2010

December 12 – We signed the contract for the apartments for the school and for our personal living space

December 19 – We were encouraged to have six graduates in IBIA's second graduating class.



I was also recruiting students

December 20, 21 - We packed our house and the school

December 22, 23 – We moved our house and the school



December 26 – We confirmed that we had **four committed students**

January 9 – We confirmed that we had **four committed students**

January 9 -15 – We planned and organized a wedding for Altin and Vosjana

January 16 – I preached the wedding for Altin and Vosjana



I was also recruiting students

January 17 - One committed student decided not to come (this student's family had fears that I was a spy) **three definite students**

Throughout January we also organized and arranged the school and worked on furnishing and organizing our own apartment. This is the first unfurnished apartment we have had in Albania.

January 23 - Open House for IBIA



I was told on this day of another student who decided not to attend (this student has economic reasons – he needs funds to support his wife and daughter) **two definite students**

January 24 – I met with a potential student who was very interested but has economic problems (needs funding to support his widowed mother)

January 25 – Classes started with two students



February 1 – One of the students left due to personal problems. We continue to try to work with this person.

February 5 – I met with another potential student who is interested but has economic and personal problems. We will continue to work with him

So, we continue on with our one student. He is so hungry to learn about God and His Word. He is self-disciplined. He loves to study. He loves the devotions every morning. He is everything you want in a student.

We are excited to be mentoring Niri and his wife Lindita as they begin the initial steps of building deliberate redemptive relationships. We are praying and planning that this effort will eventually lead to establishing at least one new congregation in Porcelana which is on the northeastern edge of Tirana.



We also continue to work with all of the IBIA graduates:

Bledi – Downtown congregation in Tirana

Edi and Altin – Fier

Ari – Durres

Ilir – Elbasan

Amaro – Red School congregation in Tirana

Eri – IBIA’s translator and involved in the initial steps of the eventual new congregation. We are in constant contact with all of these workers. We continue to advise them, encourage them and mentor them.

There are many emotions and thoughts that weigh on my mind and heart. There are moments I am very discouraged. Then there are many more moments when I realize that there are many areas of service that we and IBIA are playing in the lives of those in class each day but also all the graduates and the indirect service we offer to the five congregations they are serving.

The idiom, “to roll with the punches” has been very appropriate for the last two months. I know we are not in control of our plans – though I do still try. But I am convicted that God is still on His throne. I am certain that God is still working in the hearts and lives of those that are lost in our world. We still need workers prepared to walk in those fields God has been preparing. Your continued prayers and emails are appreciated and encouraged.

Working locally and thinking globally,
Steve Stamatis