



On The Rock In Athens



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In the Work of the Lord . . .

“And He was saying, ‘The kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed upon the soil; and he goes to bed at night and gets up by day, and the seed sprouts and grows – how, he himself does not know. The soil produces crops by itself; first the blade, then the head, then the mature grain in the head. But when the crop permits, he immediately puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.’” – Mark 4:26-29

Watching the Seed Mature . . .

That’s what the kingdom of God is like, isn’t it? We don’t know how it all works exactly. We are glad that God is in charge. We cast the seed. We teach, we preach, we share and we go forth all over this world carrying the word of God with us. We cast it into the cities, the towns, the villages, the homes and into people’s hearts. And then we notice the sprouts, often times when no one else around us sees it. Praise God. There it is. There’s the spark of that first blade. It may seem to waiver at times. Sometimes it may not look strong in the heat of the day. But it’s still there. And day by day the soil produces its crop. Then one day that person you have so patiently been waiting on walks to where you are and expresses a strong desire to be baptized.

And you sit there with your heart leaping in your chest. You realize this sprout has reached the level of maturity where he or she is ready to begin their lifelong walk with the Lord. You go to the water and baptize this young man or woman for the remission of their sins and they receive the wonderful light of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. They are all smiles. You and all around you are all smiles. The angels in heaven are rejoicing. And you know the Father must be very pleased. . . And it’s all because someone took the time to carry forth and cast the seed.

And Because the Seed was Cast . . .



We have been so very blessed these past couple of months with the wonderful fruit God has added to His Kingdom. Since our last report we’ve had the privilege of baptizing four men into His Body. On 27 February, while **Ray Hull** was still here teaching, **Oliva Bawa** came forth in class one day and expressed a desire to be baptized. What a joy it is to see this young man from Nigeria make this commitment in his life. He comes from a background of many family challenges, and he knows he faces many difficulties in his life. He now

faces those challenges with the Lord beside him and a smile on his face.

Later that afternoon another brand new student in the school by the name of **Franklin Ahanotu** came into my office and wanted to talk to me. He said that he had a sin problem he needed to take care of. Seemed he had lived a pretty sinful life before he came to Athens and began his search for a new life. He found the church, the school and started studying. He wanted to know what this baptism for the remission of sins was all about. So we studied for awhile and on a Monday afternoon in early March he too was baptized for the remission of sins. Sorry I don't have any pictures of Franklin's baptism. Wouldn't you know it; I left my camera at home that day.

Reginald Anokwuru has been a Sunday student with us for quite some time. During the past year or so, I have seen a tremendous amount of growth in this man. I've watched his heart soften even more towards the Lord and I watched him slowly grow and mature as he learned eagerly in the school. On the last evening of our annual Spring Seminar with **Sammy Flanary** with us, Reginald came up and said he wanted to be baptized the next day. I was overjoyed. The next day, on Monday the 29th of March, we had the privilege of immersing him for the remission of his sins. What a joy it was to be able to finish up our Spring Seminar with such a joyous occasion. Reginald is also from Nigeria and his family is back in his home country. He so much desires to finish his studies so he can return to Nigeria and be reunited with his family, and begin his ministry with the Lord. Being a Sunday only student, he still has a little ways to go, but it's a joy to see the eagerness in his eyes.



The very next weekend I got a call from one of our outstanding graduates of the school, **Timothy Ukegbu**, who said that he had been studying for awhile with a man who has been worshipping in the congregation where he has been preaching. This man had finally arrived to the point where he wanted to be baptized into the Lord. That call came on Saturday, the 3rd of April. The next day, on Easter Sunday, 4 April, Timothy had the privilege of baptizing **Charles Onuba** at the end of our Sunday night worship services at the Evrou congregation.

Timothy is excited about this young man and is working now to develop his interest in becoming a student at AIBI. We look forward to seeing how that develops.

Goings on in the school . . .

As you can see there has been many blessings going on with the school this past couple of months. We've had some great visiting instructors and visitors with us. We were blessed to have **Ray Hull** with us for an outstanding term. **Sammy Flanary** was with us and did an outstanding job teaching for our 3rd annual spring seminar on "Preparing for World Evangelism." Tim Burow was also with us for a very good visit and was able to get to meet the students and get to know the school here in Athens. As the new Dean of International Branch for Sunset we were able to talk and dream about the many good things in store for the future of the school here in Athens.

Now we have the privilege of having **Bob Eubanks** back with us again. It's been awhile since Bob's been with us and we are so glad to have him back. He is with us this term teaching "Homiletics" and "1 & 2 Thessalonians". **Beni Leka** as always is

very active, and getting more active with the school as time goes on. This term he is teaching "**Minor Prophets**." I continue to have a blast teaching as much as possible and this term I am blessed with teaching "**Biblical Church leadership**", "**Basics to Christian Counseling**" and "**Christian Home**." All great classes and the students remain very diligent in their studies.

Time seems to be traveling so fast this year. Can you believe it's late April already? The school remains busy and that is a very good thing. I've handed out applications to 4 new potential students in the past week or so. We are blessed. We continue to sow the seed here in Athens, Greece. We're doing a little cultivating, throwing on a little water as He calls for it, and we wait for our Wonderful Father to touch hearts and change lives as only He can. We do our part . . . and continue to wait for the harvest.

Observations from Diana . . .



In class the other day **Bob Eubanks** said he wants to be worn out in his service to the Lord. That statement really made me stop and think. Do I want to be worn out with work from the Lord? Sometimes during my complaining He probably thinks otherwise. On the days that I feel worn out, is it the Lord's service that is wearing me out? Could it be from my worrying over things that I can't control? Perhaps I'm worn out because of my dissatisfaction with the service that God has given me, or perhaps it is work that I have placed on myself that has nothing to do with God. Thank you, Bob, for making me stop and look at my service for the Lord. Hopefully I have passed that on to others.

As always, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your service in the Lord through this school. Your sacrifices for this work have brought many men and women to the Lord and I am convinced that it will continue to bring more to the Lord in the future. – Love, Diana.

On a personal Note . . .

We are also very blessed to have our oldest son **David** with us again. I believe this trip is his forth visit over to Athens to be with us. I joke with him and say that he really isn't coming over to see us. He just like to travel to visit Europe once a year or so. In his ornery way he shakes his head with a big grin on his face. We know he comes to see us too, and we are so glad to have him here. You can probably see Diana's smile from all the way over where you are. I've got a big smile on my face too. We continue to keep him in our prayers as he is starting to think about what direction he wants to take on the next step of his life journey.

Diana and I continue to pray diligently for God's guidance as to where He wants us to serve him next. We have had several wonderful opportunities presented to us to consider. All of them are very intriguing and piqued our interest. We know he has another assignment for us after we finish our duties here in Athens. We wait, we pray and we look for what doors remain open and what doors close. Isn't it wonderful to be a part of God's big plan? Isn't it a privilege we get to trek this journey together? We continue to ask you to walk and pray with us as He continues to bring forth the fruit.

Prayer needs:

- *Pray for the **school** as plans are made for future directorship and direction of the school. Pray for **Beni** as He explores his upcoming role with the school.*

- Pray for **Diana and me** as we continue to seek His direction and will for our lives. We know at the end of this year it will be time to return to the United States. Where does He want us next? How can we best serve Him?
- Pray for **Bryan and Brittany** as they have relocated to Port Orange, Florida where Bryan has started **chiropractic school** at the first of this month. He will be very busy for awhile, and Brittany will be starting a new job as a school teacher at one of the schools there.
- Pray for **David** as he seeks God's guidance as to what steps he will be taking in the next journey of his life.

With much love . . .

Ron and Diana

Drop us a line

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