



# On The Rock In Athens



Graduation Special, 2010

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## In the Work of the Lord . . .

*"Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work. Do you not say, "There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest." Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest. Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal; so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this case the saying is true, "One sows and another reaps." I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored and you have entered into their labor.'" – John 4:34-38*

## Five more head out to the harvest . . .



With this Eleventh graduation of **Athens International Bible Institute** on June 12<sup>th</sup>, and with these **five strong graduates** standing ready, the school in Athens has now prepared and sent forth **57 workers** into the fields. They are fields that remain so very much white for harvest. What a very special blessing it is to be a part of this incredible work here in Athens, Greece.

These students have worked so very hard. They have risen to the many challenges. They have overcome some pretty interesting obstacles while they've been here. But they have remained steadfast and endured through the hardships and difficult times. Now they join with the legions who have accepted the assignment as a graduate of either **Sunset International Bible Institute** or one of its many other branch or affiliate schools. They prepare themselves to go forth and carry the wonderful gospel of Jesus Christ to a world that needs to hear it. We stand strong with them as they go.



**Ivo E-Mbonte** is from Cameroon and has been with the school since October of 2007. He started out as a part time student, only coming to class on Sundays. About a year ago determined that he wanted to devote himself further and made the sacrifice to attend classes on a more full-time basis. He applied himself so diligently to his study he finally earned the position of student class chairman. He has been a very delightful student and we have been delighted to see such growth in him while he's been here. He and his wife Fanny have a daughter, Nancy Grace. They have a desire to return to their native land, yet stand strong and ready to serve where God sends.



**Anthony Adu-Borsah** is from Ghana and has been with the school since February of 2005. He's been with the school for a long time. The reason is that his work required him to work six days of the week with only Sunday as his day off. He spent that day off here in classes with AIBI. He finally took the extra step and started making the sacrifice of working nights on Saturday so he could have the day off to attend class. That little extra step helped him get to the end of his studies. He has always been such a delight to have in the school. He was a favorite student among his peers. He has such a strong desire to serve the Lord wherever God places him.



**Fanny E-Mbonte** has one of those sweet smiles that light up any room she's in. During the time she and Ivo was with the school, she was a very valuable help-meet to him during his studies. At the same time she has been a very diligent student in the women's program, earning her certificate of completion of the women's program with the highest grades. In addition to that, she also gave birth to daughter **Nancy Grace**, and has been an outstanding mother. You can tell it in the wonderful smile she has given as a gift to her daughter. Fanny loves the Lord and desires to serve Him anyway she can as a wife, mother and church servant.



**Emmanuel Mensah Owusu** is from Ghana and has also been with the school since February of 2005. Like Anthony he was a Sunday only student for awhile, but struggled through and finally was able to make the sacrifice to carve out another day from his work to attend classes on a more full time basis. No less hours at work during the week, just more hours at night fit around his studies with the school. We often don't appreciate the sacrifice these students have to make to be a student with the school here. Through the challenges and struggles he has persevered and we are proud he has endured to the finish. He stands ready for where God sends him.



**Yohannes, Woldearegaye** is from Ethiopia and came to the school in September of 2008 seeking direction for his life. He was searching as to where he should go and what he should do. It was like he was on a desert road trying to find his way. We remember his words when he was baptized, "**There will be no more dying now.**" He probably wasn't the smartest student to attend AIBI, but he gets the highest marks for enthusiasm and his dedication to be a servant of the Lord. He grew tremendously in the Lord while he was with us. He humbly goes out now with a renewed sense of direction.

## And God sends more students . . .



Perhaps you remember in our last newsletter how **Yohannes** asked the class to pray for God to send someone to come fill his chair in the school now that he was graduating. It is awesome when **God answers prayers in a big way**. Right after graduation I had six people come up to me and express an interest in attending the school. Five of them were Ethiopians and one of them was from Ghana. Pictured at left we find Yohannes and Ivo standing with three of these new students.

Between them from left to right we see **Reuben** (Ghana), **Abel** (Ethiopia) and **John** (Ethiopia). Not pictured are two women who have also asked to be part of the school, **Petina** and **Nancy** (both from Ethiopia). They want to be part of the women's program. Add them to our other recent new students (**Promise, Moses, Derick and Gladwell**) and we can most certainly see that God has blessed us mightily with answered prayers that excites us.

## Observations from Diana . . .



What a bitter sweet experience graduation was, knowing that it was the last one we might possibly attend here for awhile. It is a sad time knowing that our lessons from these students will soon end. Yes, I did say that correctly. Ron and I have learned so many lessons from these students while we have been here.

Let me share one lesson I just learned. Before graduation started I went down to the classroom, where the graduates were, to put the boutonnières on the men. They asked me to wait a minute before I came into the room. When I finally entered I realized I had to wait because one of the men didn't have a suit, so the other students had pitched in and bought him one. He had just finished putting it on. As

I walked in they were admiring his new suit, and he said, "I have no tie, but that's okay." That was when one of our past graduates, standing there, immediately took his own tie off and put it around this graduates neck and adjusted it. The student paused a moment and then expressed in quiet words how humbled he was because of this.

I too was humbled and could barely keep the tears back. These students have clearly learned brotherly and sacrificial love, sharing and putting others first. That's the true lessons that Christ taught, not all the other stuff we have a tendency to argue about. It also reminded me how much Ron and I have been blessed. Thank all of you for your support in sending Ron and I over here to Athens so we could learn so much from these students. – Love, Diana.

## Goings on in the school . . .

We're off to a great start to the final term before summer break. **Jay Kelley** is with us once again as the visiting instructor. He is teaching "**Romans**" and "**Church of Christ**". He is also hosting a seminar class on Sundays entitled "**Biblical Questions and Answers**". We welcome Jay back with us and enjoy having him with us. I am

teaching “**Revelation**” and “**Male Leadership in the church.**” All are great classes to wrap up what has been an exciting school year.

## **On a personal Note . . .**

We look out the window and see the summer heat continue to build for the summer. We prepare and work for the close of the summer term here in Athens. We look forward to our trip back to the United States this summer to see and hug the necks of many of you. Time and events just keep moving forward at a pace that sometimes just seems to be a blur.

And the fields remain white for the harvest. Let us not lose sight of the reason we are here. Let us not lose sight of the vision of salvation that God has placed in our hearts. God has given us a great journey to be on together. Let us not forget to pause once and awhile and thank him for what he has given us. Let us not forget to share it with all those around us. We thank you for sharing the journey and this mission with us.

### ***Prayer needs:***

- *Pray for the new graduates as they begin preparations for the next stages of their service to the Lord*
- *Pray for Diana and I as we prepare to travel back to the states for business during summer break.*
- *Pray for Beni Leka and his family as they begin their travels this weekend to Albania and eventually the United States this summer as he prepares to assume the directorship of the school in Athens.*
- *Pray for the new students who are just beginning their journey with the school.*

## **With much love . . .**

Ron and Diana

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