



# On The Rock In Athens



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## In the Work of the Lord . . .

**"And turning His gaze toward His disciples, He began to say, 'Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.'" – Luke 6:20-21**

## And there was Laughter . . .



Nicholas Aduloju, Nifarta Andrews, Jude Mut Uzonwanne, Cynthia Ukpai Onyia, Lawrence Agbeli

**We are so very pleased and honored** to present above our newest graduates of **Athens International Bible Institute**. We were blessed to present these five students with their **certificates of completion** during our graduation exercise on Saturday the sixth of June. The auditorium was packed to overflowing as we gathered to honor these five outstanding individuals who have worked so hard. Several commented that this was probably the most attended and supported graduation of the school so far. These students came to the school when they were poor. They hungered for the word of God in their lives. They struggled and wept. Now they are able to step forward equipped with the love of the LORD . . . and with laughter.

## A Little about our newest Graduates . . .

**NOTE:** We want to thank **Bob Jackson** who prepared these words based on interviews he conducted with each graduate while he was here last month as our visiting instructor. **"Thanx Bob."**



**Nicholas Aduloju** (Nigeria). Nicholas came to Athens in 2003. He first heard about AIBI through Victor who was a student in the school at the time. He had previously studied in a ministry training school in Istanbul, Turkey. He has always loved Bible study from a very early age. His study at AIBI has given his life totally new meaning. Nicholas loves helping others find God. He has a true, evangelistic heart. Now that he is finishing his studies at AIBI he feels very well grounded in sound doctrine. Not only has he gained head knowledge, but his training has helped him become a more humble servant reaching out to a lost world. He sees his example in conduct

and love for people also being important in effectively sharing God's word. Nicholas is investigating the possibility of attending the Residence school in Lubbock to obtain a Bachelor's degree. After graduation he hopes to visit his family in Nigeria. He is single and is "almost" engaged. Nicholas appreciates Ron and Diana Kretz and the visiting instructors who have taught him the truth.



**Lawrence Agbeli** (Ghana). Lawrence came to Athens, he believes by the will of God, in 2001. He had a friend who was enrolled in the women's program who introduced him to AIBI. Lawrence feels the courses at AIBI have helped him understand the will of God more perfectly. He has learned many practical things like how to preach, and how to help people spiritually. His training has definitely helped him in his spiritual life. Lawrence has a burning desire to share the gospel with the lost. He also wants to recruit more students for the school. He is very grateful and excited about the school. Lawrence asks the question, "How can I ever pay back what I have received?"

His conclusion is to share the same gift with others. Lawrence is very appreciative of the AIBI instructors, and he wants to emulate their Christ-like examples by teaching others the humility and love that he has learned.



**Nifarta Andrew** (Nigeria). Nifarta first heard about AIBI through her friend, **Juliana Ngedu**. Nifarta is an amazing lady. During the time she has taken courses at AIBI, she has worked and has earned a doctorate degree in education at the same time. She is an excellent student motivated by the examples of her instructors and Ron and Diana Kretz. Nifarta highly values her Biblical education because it has transformed her, giving her a full knowledge of the word of God. She is pleased with the balance she has been able to obtain between the instruction received and its application in her daily life. She is looking forward to teaching ladies Bible classes in her home country of Nigeria, and feels very confident sharing the

Bible with others. Nifarta has gained boldness in teaching others because of her depth of knowledge. She plans to return to Nigeria soon after graduation. She has resided in Athens for the past five years.



**Cynthia Ukpai Onyia** (Nigeria). Cynthia is one of those people who is so excited about the future. The knowledge she has gained at AIBI has helped her view the future in a completely different light. Cynthia came to Athens in 2004. She first heard about AIBI through her husband, but it was one of our women students who actually introduced Cynthia to AIBI. She feels that her Biblical training has helped her in a multitude of ways. She deeply appreciates the fact that we teach the pure word of God. She has witnessed and experienced other groups who do not. Cynthia is like a magnet to children, and she loves them deeply. She wants to continue her

education so that she can work full-time with children both in schools and in Bible school. She wants to see children have the guidance and love and discipline that she missed growing up. AIBI has given Cynthia a new lease on life. She now knows the Heavenly Father who loves her because of the instruction she has received. Cynthia wants to express special thanks to the instructors who have shared God's word with her.



**Jude Mut Uzonwanne** (Nigeria). Jude Mut came to Athens in 1995. He first became aware of AIBI from one of our graduates about seven or eight years ago. Jude Mut was previously exposed to Biblical teaching that he believes was not accurate. During his time at AIBI he has grown tremendously. He is so thankful for the Biblical knowledge he has gained through the school. He has seen a number of people go through the school through the years, and he appreciates receiving the same education they have received. He now feels equipped to take the pure word of God to his own people in Nigeria. Jude Mut is unsure of the timing of his return to his own

country, but he feels it important to stay in Athens and earn enough money so that he can be self-supported. He is trusting God to lead him in his return when the time is right. Jude Mut has a strong voice. He will make an outstanding, dynamic preacher of God's word.

## Honored with a Special Visit during Graduation . . .



Since the very beginning of the school here in Athens, the **Third and Dwight church of Christ in Monahans, Texas** has been faithful and strong supporters and overseers of the work. The students were very excited this year to have five representatives from Monahans come be with them during their graduation. **Greg Holly, John and Debbie Gambino, and Billy and Sherry Reed** not only aptly represented the wonderful love and support of the congregation in

Monahans, they stood that day representing **all of you faithful supporters** who stand with us diligently as we labor and walk with these students day by day. As these five stood before the students that day, know that all of you were standing with them too. They presented the school with a beautiful banner that day. The students are now looking for a place of honor to hang the banner where they can see it every day. They want to honor you too.

## **Goings on in the school . . .**

We have begun the final term of the 2008-2009 school year this past weekend. Since our seniors have graduated, we only have four classes being taught this term. We are blessed to have **David Burton** from Anton, Texas with us this month. This is his first term here as a visiting instructor, and he has taken to the classroom and his assignment with great enthusiasm. He is teaching "**Life of Christ.**" **Diana**, who has been busy teaching this spring, is teaching "**Biblical Faith in Women**" on Sundays. **Ron**, as always, enjoys his time in the glass room the most and is teaching "**Romans**" and "**Male Leadership in the Church.**" He enjoys this term very much in that he is beginning to introduce some very challenging concepts to the first year, getting ready to be second year, students. These are some classes that challenge their conventional thinking, and encourages them to take that next step in their walk with Christ. Please continue to keep the students and teachers in your prayers as God challenges us through HIS word.

## **Other Dear special friends here for a visit . . .**

Before we were blessed with our current assignment here in Athens, we were blessed with the great privilege of serving the wonderful church in **Scottsbluff, Nebraska**. While in Nebraska we made many close and dear friends. One could almost say we became honorary "**Cornhuskers.**" That's saying something coming from this **Ol' Wyoming Cowboy**. One of the couples we met and had the honor to get to know while in Nebraska was **Rick** and **Sherilyn Eldred** from **York, Nebraska**. We met them early during our tenure in Nebraska and had the opportunity to get to know and work with them on several projects while serving in the state together. We were blessed in that these two had the opportunity to come and visit us here at the school in Athens during graduation. We got to pal around with them and they helped us in many ways during graduation. **We consider this a special privilege** because in many ways Rick and Sherilyn represented all our dear and wonderful friends and supporters from up in the **Nebraska** and **Wyoming** area. Their visit and dear friendship reminded us how special the people from that part of the country are to us. Our hearts reserve a special place for home. We consider that part of the world in Wyoming and Nebraska as our home. **Nebraska** and **Wyoming**; you were represented well at Graduation too. That was very special.

## **Prayer needs:**

- *Pray for one of our students, **Reginald Anokwuru**, who was cornered and beaten very badly by a group of thugs this past weekend in the center of Athens. Thankfully he wasn't injured too severely and is home recovering from his wounds.*
- *Pray for the difficult situations the students here face every day as immigrants working and learning in a foreign land. There are many challenges they face every day. Pray for their continued diligence in their studies at the school.*
- *Pray for the new students who are considering joining the school in the fall.*
- *Pray for Diana's and my upcoming trip to the states next month to come visit many of you. A little over three weeks away from climbing on that big iron bird heading your way.*
- *Pray for continued strength and courage for all students of God's word, wherever they may be, during the upcoming school year.*

**With much love . . .**

Ron and Diana

**Drop us a line**

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