



On The Rock In Athens



May, 2009

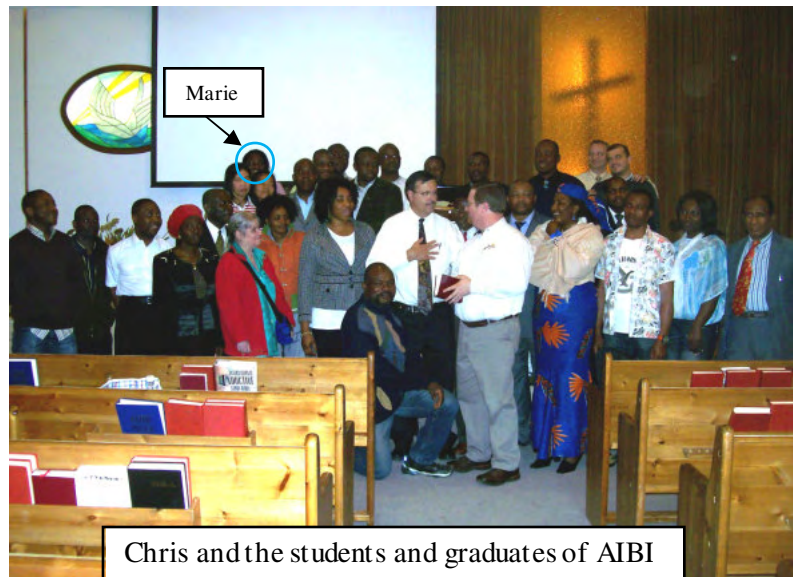
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In the Work of the Lord . . .

"I will bless the LORD who has counseled me; Indeed, my mind instructs me in the night. I have set the LORD continually before me; because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will dwell securely. For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay. You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever." – Psalm 16:7-11

On the Path of Life . . .

Sometimes very special events happen in this school in Athens that makes us pause and consider the greatness of our heavenly Father. Sometimes He sends just the right person at just the right time to bring just the right message when it is most needed. We were so blessed when **Chris Swinford** was with us in late April for our annual Spring Seminar. He spoke to our students and many guests about "**God's Plan for Man's Salvation.**" He based his lessons from the wonderful book of Ephesians. The seminar went so very, very well. The student body was both blessed and excited to take the challenge to go forth and do the work that God has put us here for. Generally we go through this time of year with a little of the "Spring fever bug." No such bug has infected us this year, and the students remain charged up about taking God's message of salvation to the world around us. They see that Chris was just the right person to bring just the right message at just the right time.



Hearing the message of Salvation . . .

I was trying to get this newsletter out a couple of weeks ago, as it is long overdue being sent. But for some reason I was finding it difficult getting started. I was wondering why it just wouldn't come together. I finally figured out this past weekend why I was to hold off in getting this out to you. One of our graduates, **Marie Georgiopolou**, was in attendance at the seminar and was one of those who left the

seminar excited to get out and share His salvation message. Right after the Seminar she heard word that one of the Cameroonian immigrants in Athens had been rushed to the hospital in bad condition. It turned out he was in critical condition. This young man had been running a business and trying to get ahead on the streets of Athens. One day he was attacked, robbed, and brutally beaten by a group of thugs. He was placed in a hospital with not much chance of survival. When Marie went up to visit with him he was in grave condition. She noticed a frightened young woman sitting in the corner of the room with him. It turns out she was this man's girl-friend. Marie sat with this young woman and young man and prayed with them. He soon passed from this life. Unfortunately his part of this tragic story is ended.



Carolyn Musibi

Heartbrokenness doesn't even begin to describe the feelings this young woman must have felt at such a terrible moment in her life. She suddenly found herself without a boyfriend, no job, no money and no place to live in a land alien and strange to her. I suppose some would say her life looked bleak at an early age. However, Marie wrapped her arms around this young woman named **Carolyn Musibi** and began to share "God's plan of salvation" for her life.

This past Saturday Marie brought **Carolyn** to the school to meet with Diana in the early afternoon. Quickly Marie and Diana came to me and said they had something important they wanted to share. Carolyn had expressed a desire to be baptized for the remission of her sins.

Marie wanted one of the men to sit down and talk with her and make sure she really understood what she was requesting. I thought for a moment and called one of our soon to graduate seniors **Jude Mut Uzonwanne** out of class and asked if he would visit with her for a little while. At the next class break Jude Mut came up to me and said she wanted to be baptized, in his words, "right now." I remember just a short year ago when Jude Mut came into my office in the middle of a class day and expressed the very same thing to me concerning himself.



Jude Mut, Carolyn and Marie

I love it when it happens like this. Just like last year, when we baptized Jude Mut, we again stopped classes and gathered upstairs in the auditorium where we all rejoiced together as Jude Mut **baptized Carolyn for the remission of her sins.** The students always get all excited when this happens. I'm not too sure who's more excited, the students, and angels rejoicing in heaven, or Diana and I.

God indeed gives good counsel at just the right time and place. We are indeed so blessed when we set Him continually before us. With Him we can know we will not be shaken. Our hearts may be glad and our glory rejoices. We can know that Carolyn's soul, while shaken badly, will now dwell securely in His hands. She will not be abandoned to Sheol. I told her after she was baptized that she is now on a . . . **New path of life.**" She's just beginning her journey. She managed a small smile.

Goings on in the school . . .

We are so very blessed to have **Bob Jackson** and his wife **Sandy** with us this month in Athens. We have been trying to get Bob over here for the past couple of years and we are so excited that he has finally been able to come. Already the students are very much enjoying his wisdom and teaching. He is teaching "**Life of Christ**," "**2nd Corinthians**" and "**Wisdom Literature**." One of the students came up to me last week after class and said that Bob teaches as an "Elder." Coming from this student it was meant as a very high compliment. I have been enjoying teaching **Revelation, Colossians/Philemon** and **Church History**. Revelation and Colossians are two of my favorite classes to teach. Since this is the first time I've taught Church History, I've had to keep at a fast clip in class preparation just to keep up. It's proving interesting.

Observations from Diana . . .



Greetings, what a blessed filled couple of months we have had. We have enjoyed great lessons, met new brothers and sisters and have had the opportunity to grow closer to those we already know. We have even welcomed a new sister into the family. But, throughout this time in the back of my mind has been the thought, "in so many days I get to go home and see everyone." I started a list of what to bring back and which restaurants I want to go to first. And I have even lamented over the weight I know I will gain while there.

But then I found myself teaching Wisdom Literature to the women these last couple of weeks. While teaching these women God has once again gently reminded me that my home is not in the United States. My home is wherever He is, and He is everywhere. He is the creator of all the earth and everything on it. What a great and awesome God we serve. And because I know God loves to give good gifts to His children, I will still get to see many of you in a couple of months and I look forward to spending time with all of you. And hey—if it's in a Mexican restaurant, we can give thanks to God for supplying our daily needs . . . and sometimes even our wants. – In His Love, Diana.

On another Note . . .

Many of you have asked about the status of the building we were pursuing as a possible new meeting place for the school. Even though things were coming together in the right direction, due to the uncertain economic situation going on around the world right now, we have decided to put on the back burner the pursuit of a new meeting place for awhile. After much prayer we have decided that instead of investing in brick and mortar at this time, we would be better suited to see how we can better support the students.

We see the harsh economic situation many of these students face on a day to day basis and would like to see how we can help. We would like to try to invest more in scholarship monies for these students. You may be surprised how very little these students get by on a monthly basis. I'm in the process of determining amounts that we can offer to help them relieve the pressures of day to day living. If we can relieve some of the pressures it will help them in their studies. As we learn and develop more we will share what we find with you all. We pray some of you may be interested in helping out.

Final Note . . .

It's that time of the year again. Graduation is rapidly coming up. We currently have five students who are looking like they will be receiving their certificates of completion next month on the 6th of June. Of course this depends on if they get all their work completed in time. I always like to kid them about that. They are working hard and looking forward to graduating. We'll give you more information about that next month. In the meantime keep **Nicholas Aduloju, Lawrence Agbeli, Nifarta Andrew, Cynthia Ukpai** and **Jude Mut Uzonwanne** in your prayers as they complete their studies. They are already casting their eyes outward praying for God to give them direction as to where He wants them to go next.

Prayer needs:

- *Pray for our new sister Carlyne as she begins her new life as a Christian. She still faces some very serious challenges. Her journey has been very difficult and she needs family help and prayers as much as possible.*
- *Pray for our upcoming graduates as they work diligently this month to finish up their studies.*
- *Pray for the new students that God has been sending our way and those who will be joining us in the fall. We are having people express interest in the school on almost a weekly basis.*
- *Pray for the economic situation of the world, that things will start to turn around very soon.*

With much love . . .

Ron and Diana

Drop us a line

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