



Center for Christian Leadership

c/o AEP #58, KP119, Tirana, Albania

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Donations may be sent to:

Christar, P.O. Box 14866, Reading, PA 19612-4866

Prayer Requests

Pray for the 11 students that they will learn well how to be servant leaders.

Pray for Genti. He was just recently hired as an assistant for the director, Peter Bowers. Pray that he will learn quickly and relate well to the staff. Pray that he will be a good fit with the CCL.

Pray for effective distribution of the newly published book A Case for Christ. Pray for this book to be an encouragement to the Albanian church.

Pray for wisdom for Anita Gonzalez as she works on a new group mentoring program for the students. Pray that it will be used to build character in the students lives.

Pray for the staff of the CCL—pray that God will give each staff member His wisdom and strength as they serve Him.

Pray for funds for the CCL general budget, as well as for new computers for the CCL.

Pray for Austin and Beverly McCaskill as they share their lives with the students—that God will use them to influence a nation for Christ.

Pray for Judy Peinado as she is teaching all of the English classes this year. Pray for energy and patience for her.

Pray for Jack Dabney as he teaches a class in November—that God will give him grace and just the right words and that the students will learn well.

From our Heart

Jesus said, “The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed.” (Matthew 13:31) While he was speaking of the unnoticed growth of His Kingdom, I can’t help but think that sometimes we *feel* like a mustard seed as evangelicals in Albania. Small and insignificant, wondering if our labor is making a difference. The task seems so large, the workers so few. The enemy seems too strong, the battle too hard, the odds too long. Although the Albanian church has experienced spectacular growth, from zero believers 16 years ago to somewhere between ten to twenty thousand today, still evangelicals make up less than one half of one percent of the population in this Muslim country. Corruption indices reveal Albania to be among the most corrupt places in the world. The capital city, the economic engine of the country, still has its power plug pulled several hours each day. And the CCL only accepted three applicants this year. These are some realities that could possibly contribute to a sense of despair.

Yet our God is the God of the impossible. He relishes showing himself mighty in desperate situations. I was recently reminded of this through the story of Gideon. God whittled Gideon’s army down from 32,000 to 300 (Judges 7) so the Israelites would not miss seeing God’s mighty hand in the victory. With only a few he brought forth a might victory, victory clearly from his hand.

The CCL is an exciting place to work! Here we train the head, heart and hands of future Albanian church leaders and missionaries. Students are trained academically in the Word (the head), receive continual one on one mentoring to apply the Word (the heart), and learn practical skills like computers and English to support themselves (the hands). We also provide national conferences on issues like reconciliation and parenting in order to serve the church. And we devote a lot of time to the much needed task of translating and publishing Christian books. We are

Scott Ogburn, Academic Dean



making an impact in the lives of our students and the church in Albania.

On the surface the fact that we accepted only three students seems discouraging. But I am inwardly praising the Lord. These few could be God’s army through whom he will work great things in Albania, wonderful things that can only be attributed to His hand. God does not save by numbers. He does not use the techniques the world uses. His purposes are not more likely to succeed with greater numbers. He simply wants us to believe in Him and watch him bring about a great victory. Let’s rejoice in the great victory God will win. To Him be all the glory!

Testimony of A Second Year Student



Klodiana Xhakollari,
Durrës

This summer was very special for me. And the CCL has its part on this. For 2 months I went to Gostivar, Macedonia, as part of the “Caleb” project. I worked with Albanians there who are very strong Muslims. They don’t know much of Protestantism. Some would ask about our faith: who are you? Why are you called “protestant”? Last year at CCL we had a class—History of the Church. This helped me a lot to explain to them how Protestants started. Another thing that I learned last year was that when we are evangelizing someone who doesn’t know anything from the Bible it is better to start explaining it from Genesis. They seemed to enjoy it because they like stories. Another thing that I practiced at the CCL was typing—and that helped my team because I could do interviews and type it on the computer. What challenges me this year is that I really want to take every class seriously and with that I mean even the professional classes. You never know how and when we are going to use them for the glory of God.

Currently in the life of a CCL graduate



Klodian Beqiri,
CCL graduate

I just finished CCL and I miss so much all we have been doing there. I miss all the process in class, explanations of the lecture, the great stories, and relationships with teachers, students and staff. I don't ever preach the same in church now. Being trained in this area has made me so effective and has given such a confidence and a humble evaluation of myself. I'm so different in relationships with people in my city too, because of the training in

computer hardware. This possibility of service has provided so many new relationships and chances to share the gospel. People see my work and want to know where I learned it. This brings up the chance to talk about my belief and desire to be trained more effectively while also being trained to support myself financially. My city is small and people know I'm part of the church leadership and they see that I'm not staying and waiting for others to donate and pay for my service in church but I work to provide for myself and my needs. I will never be the same!

November 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	New Testament Survey (Jack Dabney)					
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	NT survey (cont)					
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	NT survey (cont)			Communication		
25	26	27	28	29	30	

December 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Systematic Theology (Dr. Brian Byer, CIU) 8am-12					
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Theology, cont 8am-12 Psalms with Byer 3-5pm					
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

A Met Need

In the spring, the CCL had shared about a need for a phone system—something that would replace our current failing system that we had outgrown. Through the generous giving of his people, God provided that need! The CCL is receiving those phones this week and all of the staff is praising God through this answer to prayer! Thank you!

A Current Need

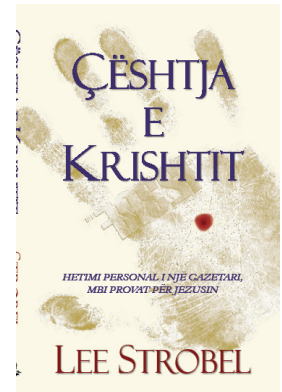
Anri was translating a book when the power went off.



Before the battery system could start up his computer shut down, losing the last 60 pages of translated notes. Working with graphics on Eda's computer take so long she often make copies while waiting for her computer to respond. It makes it difficult to do any computer related work. And so it goes with the computers our Albanian staff use on a daily basis. The CCL needs 5 new computers in order for the staff to work more effectively. Because of the electricity situation and constant power cuts, we will be moving to laptops in order to not lose information. Pray that the Lord will provide \$600 for each computer or \$3000 total for all 5 new computers.

NEW PUBLICATION!

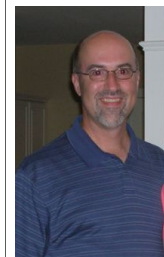
Case for Christ
by Lee Strobel



The Case for Christ by Lee Strobel was just recently published in Albanian by the CCL. How would you cover the hottest news story in history? Find out Strobel does it in this fantastic book! Interviewing 13 top Christian scholars, he ferrets out incontestable historical and scientific evidence to support the claims of Jesus. A trustworthy resource that helps you present Christ to others! Thank you for those of you who made this publishing possible! If you are interested in taking a project on such as this, please contact Peter Bowers at pbowers@pobox.com

Upcoming Events

Dr. Brian Beyer, from Columbia International University, will be returning to teach a class in December. He is a recognized author, renowned teacher, and specializes in Biblical languages. He will teaching 2



courses. **Pray** that his communication in a foreign language will be effective and changed lives will result.