

...following in His step

A Messenger Couple from Illyricum



Alfred and Diana Zike

Lord's servants at Adriatic Church of Christ
Beach Area in Durres, Albania

Mail Address: Rruga Mahmut Fortuzi,
Nr.10/1, Tirana, Albania

Home Phone: (011) 355 42 270 620

Mobile Phone: (011) 355 69 25 26 680

Email Address: alzike02@yahoo.com

"If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin." 1 John 1:7

Dear Christian Friends,

Brotherly greetings in the name of our Lord Christ Jesus! May His Love and Grace richly bless You!

Here is our fall 2012 newsletter of our work and life in God's Kingdom in Albania.

THE WORK and LIFE at ADRIATIC CHURCH OF CHRIST (Oct. – Dec. 2012)

God continues to bless our family work and life abundantly as we follow in His steps regardless of several challenges we face. Praise Him!

Alfred has been busy preaching God's Word and teaching various Bible classes while Diana has taught Kids' Bible classes on Sunday mornings. She has been assisted by our daughter, Yvonne. Adult Bible Class has been focused on 'The Distinctive Nature of the New Testament Church' on Sunday mornings and 'The United Kingdom and the Kings of Izrael' on Wednesday evenings.

Two new family couples were added to Adriatic church by God as they obeyed the gospel call by being baptized for the forgiveness of their sins (Acts 2:38, 41, 47).



Baptisms of Luan and Monika (Oct.14, 2012)



Luan & Monika Menalla (Kids: Luka & Jona)



Baptisms of Kujtim and Lili (Oct.21, 2012)



Kujtim & Lili Hyqmeti

Diana and Yvonne do a wonderful work with the kids. They both cooperate teaching Bible lessons and doing art work with the kids. And the kids enjoy so much learning from God's word and doing these godly activities together. We thank the Lord for them.



Yvonne assisting Kids' Class on art work



The little drama play: "The Savior is Born"



Kids Singing Hymns of Praise to Jesus

ADRIATIC CHRISTIAN ACADEMY (Oct. – Dec. 2012)

Adriatic Christian Academy (ACA) is a mission and an outreach in the community of Adriatic church as a tutoring school teaching an after-school program to the kids of the Beach community in Durrës. It teaches and assists them in English language, Math, and Bible principles. Diana continues teaching Bible lessons and singing and Alfred continues teaching Bible principles, English language, and Math. There are 58 students in total, combined in 4 group classes of kids of age 9-16. The academy has a very nice and comfortable facility.



Diana teaching Bible lessons



Alfred teaching Math



Alexander teaching English

A new English and math teacher was added to the academy staff on November 2012. He teaches English grammar at present. His name is Alexander Xoxi. Alexander is a senior math student in the State University of Tirana and a faithful member of Adriatic church. He attends his studies in the morning at SUT and teaches in the afternoon at ACA. We are very thankful to his work. ACA has blessed the Lord's work in the community of Adriatic church.

ACA work is sponsored by Adams Boulevard Church of Christ in Bartlesville, OK., to whom we are very thankful. We invite you to join us in this ministry. There are several areas you can fit and assist us in the work of ACA. We need your prayers. We also need finances to continue and develop further academy, being very confident that this education project will serve the mission of Lord's work and will assist us in evangelistic efforts to expand the boundaries of God's kingdom in the beach area of Durrës and further in Albania. Thank You.

For further information and details, you can visit the Adriatic Christian Academy website: www.adriaticchristianacademy.org and, please, feel free to contact us/or our sponsoring congregation through Mr. Larry Johnson, the chairman of Mission Committee at Adams Blvd.: ltamjohnson@bartnet.net

LORD'S WORK IN ALBANIA

Tirana Church of Christ in Tirana city, capital of Albania, celebrated the 20th Anniversary on September 8-9, 2012. It was planted in 1992, when the first American missionaries came to Albania preaching God's word. We both were students of God's word then enrolled through free Bible and English courses of WEI. Through these intensive courses we came to believe in Jesus and we obeyed His call. Tirana congregation used to be our home congregation where we grew up in the Lord in our first steps of service. Alfred's ministry as a gospel preacher and teacher had the first steps at Tirana church.



Tirana church's Anniversary (Sept.8-9, 2012)

Our family was invited and we all took part on the event as Tirana church celebrated its anniversary. Alfred was honored to give a message to the brethren on that Sunday morning. We bow down and wholeheartedly thank the Lord and pray for Tirana church. May His Grace richly bless Tirana church and its work!

Elbasan Church of Christ in Elbasan city hosted and counducted the Christian Male Meeting of the churches of Christ in Albania on October 13, 2012.

Several male members of Adriatic church attended the meeting including Alfred and our son, Aldi. Alfred served translating to the message delivered from Brother Gerald Cowan from Chicago, IL. It was a very blessing and a building up day, thank the Lord.



Christian Male Meeting (Oct. 13, 2012)



Local preachers meeting (Nov.3, 2012)

Lushnja Church of Christ in Lushnja city hosted a local preachers meeting on November 3, 2012. Local preachers and teachers from churches of Christ in Albania meet periodically to discuss and arrange different events and acitivities together as Christian Camp, Albanian Retreat, etc. These meetings assist the Lord's work in Albania and build up the fellowship among fellow workers.

We would like to thank all of you who have been involved and still are in the Lord's work in Albania personally as well as all of you who have supported and still are supporting it. May God keep Blessing You and our partnership in Albania.

Albania people celebrated the **100th Anniversary of Independence** on November 28, 2012. As native Albanian we are very proud of the Albanian history of independence, but as Christians we are very blessed of the freedom we do have in Christ. Praise the Lord!

As you can imagine, patriotic events and celebrations were conducted all over the country. The main celebrations were hosted in Vlora and Tirana cities. Vlora is recognized as the city of the Independence because there the Albanian leaders declared the independence from Ottoman Empire back in Nov. 28, 1912. Tirana city is, as the capital city of Albania, was decorated in a very joyful and patriotic atmosphere as you can see in the pictures below.



Tirana city on the 100th Anniversary



Flowers and the Clock of Anniversary

Personal Note from Zike Family

Our family is happy and continues to grow in the Lord's work. God has richly blessed our family. Our children continue their studies in the State University of Tirana. Yvonne is in the 3rd year of studies in mathematical engineering while Aldi started his master in finances managing in October. They both are doing well regardless of the hard work they do have. We thank the Lord for them and their Christian lives.



Alfred and his mother

We count as a joy the several trials we face daily because we know for sure that this is the way that the Lord has made for our benefit. **Physical health** is one of the biggest trial we have faced during this time. Alfred's mother (age 87) is having heart problems. Her heart seems to be very weak giving her health so complex issues. We had to sent her twice in the intensive care room at the public hospital. She also suffers from sclerosis syptoms. She forgets things easily and needs an extra care.

We are very thankful to Diana's mother who really has released a lot of our burden. She voluntarily moved from her apartment and is staying with Alfred's mother in her apartment since October. She is serving Alfred's mother needs. Two mothers in-law are living together, thank the Lord

In addition to that, Diana is having health issues too. After several check-ups due to constant pains on her arms, she is diagnosed with *carpal tunnel syndrome*, since October. An orthopedic doctor recommended her to get surgery in her both arms (actually in both wrists) as the solution to get release from those pains. They explained us that the median nerves in her wrists are so compressed and cause pains in her both arms, loss of strength in her hands as well as uncomfortable sleep at night. That came as a shock to her and us. The surgery is expensive and we were not prepared for that.

Regardless of these health issues, God is so very good to us. Please, pray that we can have the strength to overcome any trial and press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called us heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Dear Friends,

As we conclude this newsletter, we would like to thank you for your support and interest on the Lord's work in Albania. We always thank the Lord remembering you in our thoughts and words of prayer. Continue partnering with us for the growth of God's kingdom in Albania and specifically in Beach area of Durres where we serve.

2013 is approaching and we wish that this New Year will be a better one for each one of you and your loved ones.

*Have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
May Your Life be a Joy and a Glory to God each day of 2013!*

Yours in Him,

Alfred and Diana Zike

Lord's servants at Adriatic Church of Christ
Beach Area of Durres, Albania

December 24, 2012

Sponsored by:
Adams Blvd. Church of Christ
3700 SE Adams Blvd.
Bartlesville, OK 74006