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Thomas J. Bremer, President and CEO

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Dear Friends,

A brother, a mother, a friend, a wife, and a father and mother were there and standing behind their loved one. Each one shared what it meant for their respective loved one to be free from drugs, and now following hard after Jesus. There were tears of joy as well as plenty of laughter. It was a day of celebration!

This event took place mere weeks ago at the men's Teen Challenge center in Albania where 5 men were graduating from completing the program. In true Albanian fashion, they roasted 5 lambs on the spit and served up a small feast for the nearly 100 in attendance. Other than participating in a baptism service, nothing touches one's soul more than seeing formerly addicted people set free and reunited with their families. Moments like this remind me/us that this is the reason we do what we do. I wouldn't trade this work for anything!

Also in attendance that day was a government official from the Ministry of Health in Albania. She shared a few nice words publicly but told us privately: "We have a lot of NGO's (non-government organizations) that solicit us for funds, and we try to help them. But nobody is really doing anything effective. You at Teen Challenge are doing something that is making a difference! I am amazed."

Through this government agency 4 portable housing units were donated. These units are already set up on the new Teen Challenge property where they will soon begin building a facility that will double their capacity to reach the addicted. Thanks be to God for His indescribable blessing and favor on this work!

During the graduation service that morning, the graduating men each shared a testimony giving thanks to God for their new life in Christ. Then, several of us shared brief reflections from God's Word for the event. While we were feasting after the service, I sat together with another person from the government office. He told me: "We are deeply touched by the strong spiritual aspect we witnessed here." Of course it was likely the first time in his life he had ever witnessed such an event.

Musing on this event, a smile comes on my face, and a Bible verse comes on my mind: "Father…let you Kingdom come, and your will be done here on earth as it is in heaven." God, let your Kingdom come to Albania, and all European countries where we are working!

Once again, we extend our deep thanks for those of you contributing to this work. We couldn't do it without you all! Therefore, we pray God's abundant blessings will be given to you!

With deep thanks and gratitude,

Tom