

The past few months have seen John working to complete his doctoral thesis which he plans to submit later this year. It is progressing well and he was happy to receive positive comments at a recent appraisal.

Last November John was invited to give a paper at a large congress in Prishtina, Kosova, concerning the significance of the Bible Society's work in Albania in the nineteenth century. The event was a great success and was covered by the national media. This led to requests for the biography John authored about the life of the Albanian national hero and missionary, Gjerasim Qiriazi ("A Sacred Task") to be republished in Albanian, for it is now out of print. While in Prishtina John met with the pastor of the church we planted in Albania, who also serves as the director of Albania's Bible Society. He visited us at our home in London in April leading to John's involvement in a new project with an Albanian professor of history who is working to produce a comprehensive history of the Protestant movement in Albania from its beginnings in the early 1800s.

Another bit of news from Albania which we were very excited to hear has to do with the fact that the Albanian government recently recognized the Protestants of Albania as one of the country's main religious communities. This is a very important development and was something John worked for in the early 1990s but which never came to fruition.

Lynne continues in her busy job as PA to the Headmaster of a local private boys' school. Her boss is full of energy and new ideas which means her work is varied and interesting. In her spare time Lynne continues her involvement with the iNet mission team.

John and Lynne have served in a mentoring role this year with some of the new young couples looking to go into full time overseas mission with iNet. It has been a privilege to interact with them and draw on their experience of life with young children in an overseas context where there were few of the normal support structures in place.

Next month the iNet team will welcome back mission partners (37 adults and children, working in 15 different countries) for their annual conference. This is an opportunity for them to rest and be blessed for a week of ministry and sharing together.

As for family news, it has been a joy to follow Chloe's adventures in South Asia this year. John and Lynne visited her there in February and were challenged to hear of the work of her organization, the International Justice Mission (IJM). John and Lynne are hoping to support IJM's work in the UK. Nick recently finished the second year of his three-year course in Anthropology. His university is just on the other side of London so he has been able to come home most weekends, which has been good for the parents with Chloe away!