

Developing and Equipping

Life in Albania/Leven in Albanië

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Dear friends, family and interested,

A large part of the recent year has been characterized as to settle in the Netherlands; to get used, new ways of working, new routines for daily life etc. When we look back we are thankful. Because unless some ups and downs in our emotions this process went well. A positive influence to that process is the fact that we are still very involved with people and projects in Albania.

Three visits to Albania

This year we have made three visits to Albania and area around. In March Peter went by himself to start the translation of the second FiCM Discipleship course into Albanian. In September, we went together. Main subject was to execute the schoolbook project. This means that we bought locally a lot of school material, school bags and school books for those children in the project. We visit all 35 children and we evaluated their results and listened to their stories. The final trip this year was recently in November. A school in our home town in the Netherlands made 235 shoeboxes with presents for children. All the shoeboxes were transported to Albania and we brought them by ourselves to Lura a village in the mountains.

A cold (-10 gr. C) but heart-warming trip. And we could share a couple of times the gospel. Peter likes to organize a summer camp for the children of Lura. A camp which will be led mainly by some young adults from a Dutch church together with some youngsters from an Albanian church.

On our way to Lura we visited the OAZE centre for disabled in Burrel. The extension to the building was finished and is now ready to use. As a foundation, we could help with this as well. We encouraged the team by listening to their stories and by handing over a gift for three wood stoves.

During the last trip in November Peter went together with an Albanian pastor to Macedonia. They presented for 40 church leaders the Freedom in Christ discipleship courses and material. It was a blessed trip with a lot of positive reactions.

In the Netherlands, we do speak regularly with several other foundations to look where we can cooperate. Besides the translation of the second discipleship course we try to develop a few projects to help people. In most of the cases it is about disabled people. We would like to organize to send three wheelchairs to Albania.

Mission statement:
1. Supporting people, disabled or in a weak position in Albania and help the to live a full life.

2. Preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and proclaim in word and deed the life in Jesus Christ in Albania



Carla and Sajmir together with a 'cliënt' around one of the new stoves for the OAZE-centre for disabled in Burrel.

Bought with a fund from another Dutch foundation we are working with.



Carla in the new room for physio therapy, which is a part of the extension



Freedom in Christ Ministries

After a few months of working together, the baton was officially handed over during a FiCM National Gathering Day, the fourth of June 2016. Jan en Nelly, the previous leaders of FiCM Netherlands are still involved in the board and Nelly with translation issues. That 4th of June were around 160 people together to hear more about the content of FiCM and Steve Goss (international leader) told a lot about that. Annemarie leads the prayer work which is key for the work and has recently organized a national prayer day. Around 38 people receive regular a prayer letter. Peter is coordinating all the work e.g. regarding translating etc. to get more and more material available in the Netherlands. Checking on language and theology is time consuming but important work. We equip people in order that they can work in their churches with the courses and other material. Regularly we give presentations to (church)leaders en make the work known during huge Christian conferences and festivals in the Netherlands. It is a privilege to see often people becoming free, and changing their way of thinking according Romans 12. Believers start to live from their identity in Christ. The international leaders for FiCM asked us to organize a conference for all the European FiCM representatives. In March 2017, we hope to gather together with 45 people in the Netherlands.

To develop and to Equip

Besides the familiar *Life in Albania/Leven in Albanië* on top of this letter you have seen the two terms Developing and Equipping. These two terms describe exactly and shortly the existing situation.

Both elements are applicable for Albania;

- still we manage a few *developing* projects.
- and we may *equip* people both on spiritual and professional level.

And in the Netherlands, it is mainly 'equipping'. And of course, we will take care that all material we need will be available in Dutch language.

Prais and Prayers

- give thanks for the past year in which we could get used in a good way to live again in the Netherlands
- give thanks that we could pay three good visits to Albania
- give thanks for handing over the FiCM work from the previous leaders to us and for the continuing good cooperation
- pray for the right house since we still live in a temporary renting house
- pray for wisdom for which things we can do from a distance and for which we should travel to Albania
- pray for churches that they will have an open heart and mind for equipping and teaching about discipleship

**Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.
Colossians 3:16**