

# Albanian Prison Ministry Update



## The fields are white ...



Below are just a few of the special daily encounters and stories we experience through our work.

# 4 friends from the UK visited the prison of Durres with Arber, our chaplain. One of the girls had become blind due to police actions. In her testimony she told that she had forgiven the police who did it. The Albanian inmates cried during her story, and thanked Arber for bringing such genuine people to them.

# A pastor shared that he had unintentionally overheard a conversation through the door he was waiting in front of. The mother of the small family asked one of the children if she could please go to the store to get a package of macaroni, and if they could pay for it later.

The daughter said she felt ashamed because they had taken things on credit so often, after which the mother said they would have to go to bed without food.

The pastor had come to deliver a food package on our behalf...you can imagine the joy of this family.

# Denis, our chaplain in the prison of Reç had a conversation with one of his counterparts, a pastor from a local church: "Actually, we go to the prison to encourage the inmates, but how often do we ourselves return encouraged!"

One of the inmates who has been regular visitor of their meetings had just thanked them. "For years, you have seen us when we were unseen, giving us hope when we had long given up on it ourselves. I will get released soon, can I join your church?"

## The Volunteer's Journey - check the video



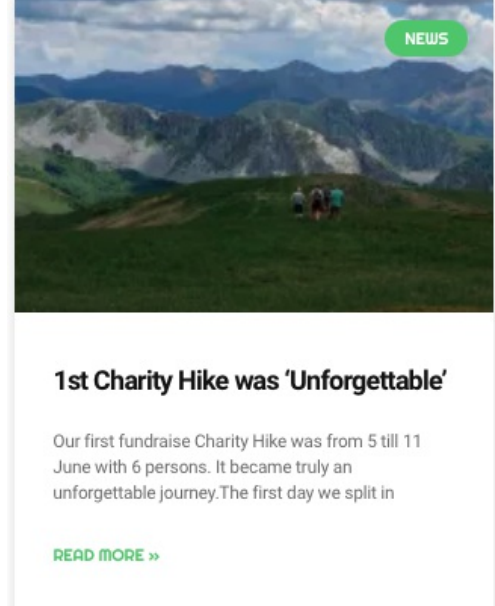
## Shenkollë Project

With the help of a Dutch workgroup and several donors we were able to build overhangs to provide shelter for the incarcerated men, many of them with mental problems.

The cooperation with the prison administration could not be better, and the inmates now have a decent place to hide from the harsh sun and rain.



## News



### An Unforgettable Adventure

Are you looking for an incredible experience, combining breathtaking natural beauty with meaningful charitable impact? Join our second **Charity Hike from October 9-15, 2024**.

Over four days, we'll journey through Shebenik's mountain landscapes far off the typical tourist trail. At night, we'll stay in simple village accommodations, immersing ourselves in the local culture.

We will also spend time with the people Prison Fellowship Albania supports. We believe you'll gain a deeper understanding of the challenges they face and the difference your involvement can make by [joining this Charity Hike](#).

You need to be able to walk up to 7 hours a day, and the all-inclusive price is €1.250,- (\$1.350,-) which already includes the contribution for our work. Flight costs are not included.



### Would you consider making a donation for the Prison Ministry?

Earlier this year, we rather unexpectedly learned that funding for a couple of our projects would be cut partially or completely. This forced us to reevaluate our finances. On top of that, the euro has

plummeted in value in our country, which has negatively impacted our financial reserves.

Thanks to hard work of all employees and a new, tight collaboration with the Dutch organization Antwoord, we're nearly back to full operational strength. **Still**, your support is warmly appreciated and needed to sustain our vital work.

A donation from you today can make a real difference in keeping our programs running strong, sharing the gospel and uplift and rehabilitate lives.

You can easily donate now [using this link](#).



### Amnesty-law finally passed the Albanian parliament.

Last month May, a long discussed and awaited amnesty operation began in Albania - more than 700 prisoners regained their freedom, and hundreds of others received reductions in their sentences of up to a year and a half.

In one prison, nearly all 20 regular participants of our church activities were released. So we need to start over in that prison, but it's wonderful to be able to meet the former inmates now outside of the prison walls.

## Thank you!

Our prison ministry is blessed with people, churches and organizations that support us in so many ways. Thanks to this support we can continue "the good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them" (Ef.2:10).

On behalf of all staff of ShkbsH PFA, I wish you well, and may God's face shine upon you.

Fred Westerink  
ShkbsH Prison Fellowship Albania  
Tirana

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