

# Tom & Claudette's project in Albania



We retired two years ago and decided to try and do something meaningful for others with our time. With this in mind we approached ADRA (Netherlands branch) and asked them if we could be of service.

ADRA is currently one of the leading non-governmental relief organizations in the world. In 1997 the agency was granted General Consultative Status by the United Nations, a unique opportunity giving ADRA added voice in the international community. In 2004 it assisted nearly 24 million people with more than US\$159 million in aid. More than 4,000 ADRA staff members currently work in 125 countries. As new challenges and needs arise, ADRA continues to strive to realize its mission of reflecting God's love through compassionate acts of humanitarian service.

They have two schools in Albania which need rebuilding and asked us to go and have a look which of the two were the most urgent. Tom is an engineer and they need someone to go there with 20 volunteer labourers and oversee the project.

We went in August and could not choose one school above the other. They are both completely derelict and in desperate need of urgent repair. The primary school children have to walk between three and five kilometres to school (most of them up a mountain) in rain and snow in minus twelve degrees. Once they reach the school, there is no heating except for a little black wood burner, leaking roofs, and damp walls and floors.

We spoke to the principals and some of the teachers and they were so grateful and encouraged by our interest alone, that we went away determined to repair/rebuild both the schools.

ADRA Netherlands has a budget for one school only, as understandably they have thousands of needs everywhere. So we have told them that we will raise the funds for the second school. Now we have to make our promises true! We are appealing to all our family and friends to help us achieve this by donating any amount they can afford. The total amount we need to raise is 23,000 euros.

Should any of you feel moved to help this project, please send your donations to either:

A.C. de Bruin, ING Bank, Assen, Netherlands.  
Account number 654671583  
Marked "Albania".

or

ADRA-Nederland Zeist  
IBAN: NL81FVLBO699910498 BIC FVLBNL22  
Marked: "Albania"

Should you want to donate in your own country for tax reasons, please contact us and we will give you the details of your local ADRA office.

Thank you in anticipation.

Our fondest greetings,

Tom and Claudette (de Bruin)



*"It is not how much we do, but how much love we put in the doing.  
It is not how much we give, but how much love we put in the giving"  
- Mother Theresa*