

Dear Friend & Brother,

22 Years ago we met in Albania during a trip led by Stefan (OostEuropa Zending) and from that moment we became very good friends.



Henk, you were so a special person: with a lot of love and a lot of care. You were a quiet man, always walking silently in the group, never telling or showing what you were doing for the poor people in Albania. No one really noticed you – not from the group, not even from the Albanians – when you were shaking hands with the poorest and secretly leaving in their hands the euros you had saved, which I had already changed for you into lek (using our “secret codes”).

You were always the first to take the food parcels from the car and bring them to the families. During every visit, you always had a word to encourage people, always a prayer, for each of them, and for each of us.

You were sick for quite a time, and Dieuwke had told us to be prepared for this moment. But I cannot cope with it. I cannot accept that I have lost your physical presence forever.

The 17th of March was our last meeting at your home. We prayed together and said goodbye. That moment will stay in my memory for the rest of my life.

Brother, what a heavy task you have now left on my shoulders, now that you are no longer with us. Did you ever think how hard it is for me, for us, to tell Linda, Anjeza, Memli and Luiza, and also the families you visited every year in Korça, the people in the elderly home in Shkoder, the families in Iba and Petrela ... to tell them that you will not visit them again!

Yes, brother, I know you will be their protection angel and that you will continue praying for them and for us. But we, I will miss you so much.

I will miss your encouraging words!

I will miss your smile and your jokes!

I will miss your loving care and attention!

I will miss your loyalty!

I will miss my friend!

From now on, it will be very hard for me to guide a team coming from Bunschoten to Albania.

Oh yes, I am crying here alone in Albania, so far away. My heart is broken.



Renato Jani

Ji i Parajsës – Wees van de hemel