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**Whatever you did for one of
the least of these brothers and
sisters of mine, you did for me.**

(Matthew 25:40)

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For you

Dear friends of the word!

We weren't prepared for this level of poverty. During our go for peace camp in Albania we'd come to Fermentim on the outskirts of Shkodra. Suddenly we found ourselves in an area full of shacks. The streets turned to dust in summer and mud in winter. Kids were playing everywhere. Most of the people living here had come from the Albanian mountains. They were foreigners and it remained that way. They were left to themselves, the city council ignored them.

Elona, a young student, grew up in Shkodra. Her family could only provide the basic necessities of life, a roof over the head, a clean bed, enough food and an intact family. When she first encountered the poverty in this area of her home city she was shocked. The images she'd seen wouldn't leave her. Together with her friends and three nuns who were already involved in charitable work, she thought about what could be done.

It became clear very quickly that the parents in this area couldn't take care of the education of their children. They needed hands-on help. Elona and her friends decided to organise fun afternoons every Saturday for the kids. During these get-togethers they would provide extra tuition in Math and English, they helped with homework and played various sports and games. These sessions had been going on for two years now. The best thing about this work, Elona once said, was to see the joy of the kids when they discovered that their grades in school had improved.

Elona is living in Tirana now but every Saturday, when she's on duty, she travels back to Fermentim on the bus, a two and a half hour journey! "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me", Jesus had said to his friends. This concrete love of these young Albanians are credits for the 'account of heaven' because through their actions they're saying: **For You!**

For the OnWordTeam

Meinolf Wacker