

NORTHERN *Albania*

ABOUT:

- POPULATION: 750,000
- MUPG: GHEG ALBANIAN
- ENGAGED YET UNREACHED
(1-2 FELLOWSHIPS) (1-2 WORKERS)

HISTORY OF PLACE

NORTHERN ALBANIA IS THE AREA NORTH OF THE SHKUMBIN RIVER WHERE MOSTLY GHEG SPEAKING ALBANIANS LIVE IN AN ISOLATED AND MOUNTAINOUS REGION. SUNNI ISLAM WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE CATHOLIC DOMINATED AREA IN THE LATE 1300S BY THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE, AND BY THE 20TH CENTURY IT WAS THE DOMINANT RELIGION AMONGST THE HIGHLANDERS OF THE NORTH.

AFTER THE COMMUNIST REGIME THAT OUTLAWED ALL RELIGIONS FROM 1945-1991 FELL, THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN ALBANIA RETURNED TO THEIR MOST RECENT HISTORICAL RELIGION, SUNNI ISLAM.



Northern Albania

Why Northern Albania?

Northern Albania is a gospel desert. Historically it has been influenced by tribal folk religions, Catholicism, Islam, Atheism, and Islam once again. But never has there been a wave of gospel presenters to bring the good news into this region. Even now, in 2022, there are maybe 1-2 workers in the region (1:750,000), and little to no fellowships among the very few MBBs.

The dense mountains that make up a majority of the northern region have kept, and continue to keep, foreign workers from this area as living conditions are very tough. The rural culture and little economic growth in this region have led to few opportunities and the people remain hesitant and skeptical towards outsiders and their ideas about God.

OPPORTUNITIES

Prayer house: there are a couple of places that teams can gather for prayer and hold discipleship meetings.

Teaching: those with educational skills will find no shortage of work amongst the mostly uneducated northern Albania.

Sports: a great way to connect with the local population and engage with everyone no matter the age.

Health: we have a small building that is dedicated to physical therapy and similar medical services.



PRAYER POINTS

01

Pray for more workers, and more long-term workers, who can build relationships over a sustained period of time.

02

Pray for an opening of hearts and minds amongst this extremely tribal and traditional region that Islam has dominated for the last 600 years.

03

Pray for the Albanian church in the central and southern regions of the country to be motivated and mobilized to engage the north.