



Siloam's Ministry of Giving (2 Corinthians 8:6)

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Siloam's current partner Pastor Darin Ivanov the new National Overseer of the Church of the God of Prophecy in Rousse, Bulgaria.

Dear Siloam ministry investor

Although last year was extremely challenging for Siloam, as I am sure it was also for you, we were able to help our partner in Bulgaria, Pastor Darin Ivanov with a ministry gift of £10,000. This provided 1,150 food parcels for adults and 550 smaller gift packs of 'goodies' for the children we help in orphanages and those living in abject poverty.

The funds were provided to the area pastors living in Lom, Silistra, Duloovo, Bogdanzi, Tutrakan, Razgrad, Vidin as well as the main church at Rousse. The pastors then obtained the best prices they could from their local supermarkets and recruited volunteers from their churches to put the food parcels together. Because of the different prices in various locations, obviously the food parcels differed slightly in contents.



Many of the older generation really suffer hardship during the Bulgarian cold winter. Gifts of food are really appreciated.

However, each parcel contained canned fish, **paté**, canned meat, rice, flour, spaghetti, sugar, salami sausage, macaroni and an important booklet entitled "God's word for everyday" to meet spiritual needs.

Altogether 26 churches in northeast Bulgaria received food parcels to distribute to their poor church members and those folk in the locality whose dire need was known to the churches. This meant that many hearts were softened and made more fertile for the gospel message of God's love and hope of salvation. The testimonies were very touching. One aged widower, who was bedridden, was visited by the pastor from Lom, started to cry and asked "who would think of me?" The pastor replied, "Jesus thinks of you." When the pastor told him the 'good news' about salvation and how he could receive eternal life, the man repented and accepted Christ into his heart.

Another young lady, also bedridden and suffers with epilepsy, received her food parcel, then raised her hands and started to thank God for His mercy and that someone had actually thought about her.

In the small village of Mihailovo, there were 4 children who live alone. The eldest sister is 14 years old and she came along to the church meeting with her brother of 16. He was actually 'tied' to her skirt. Two younger siblings were also in front of her, tied with ropes like horses. When the pastor asked the young girl why they were in this condition, she answered that her elder brother is blind and the two younger brothers have mental problems.

This was a tremendous shock to the pastor to come to know about this family's tragedy, he promised to visit the home and provide clothing and food.

On another pastor's report, he mentioned that as he travelled with the food parcels in his car, he passed by a home and noticed a boy of 8 years of age cutting wood with a chainsaw! Two smaller children then took the logs and arranged them on the other side of the yard. The pastor stopped and asked the children if they had any parents. Their answer was only their father. The children were delighted to receive a Christmas food parcel, there were tears in their eyes.

Each food parcel contains items like canned fish, **paté**, tinned meat, rice, flour, spaghetti, sugar, salami sausage, macaroni and a booklet entitled 'God's word for everyday.'





Food parcels are provided during the special Christmas services at the local churches if the folk can attend.



Church volunteers are recruited to help pack the food parcels and later deliver them to the deserving families.



The food is purchased in bulk at the keenest possible price to get the best value for Siloam's money.



Pastors use their cars to transport food items from the area churches to the satellite churches.

This is how we pray and plan to raise our budget target:

2 benefactor gifts of £1,000 would provide	£ 2,000
4 major donations of £500 will add up to	£ 2,000
5 church collections of £200 will supply	£ 1,000
30 Christmas gifts of £50 will yield	£ 1,500
30 family gifts of £25 will furnish	£ 750
150 personal donations of £10 will account for	£ 1,500
And, 250 'widows' mites' of £5 will bring in	£ 1,250
Total required by 20th November 2021 please	£10,000

As Pastor Darin Ivanov says in his letter of thanks, there is 'huge poverty' inside Bulgaria, many poor villages, ill-equipped orphanages and much human pain.

Whatever we have all lived through during the past 12 months, it can't be as bad as the folk we help in Bulgaria who are really suffering as they live on the edge of the E.U. in this forgotten northeast corner of Bulgaria.

Because the need is no less severe this year than it was last year, I really would like to send another £10,000 to Pastor Darin Ivanov at the Church of the God of Prophecy in Rousse so we can share our 'Ministry of Giving' to these desperately poor people we have the privilege of ministering to in this practical way.

Gifts of £5, £10, £100 or whatever you can invest with Siloam this winter, will I am sure provide the wherewithal with which we can show practical Christian love to a needy family, individual or child in this desperately poor country. Just look at our little chart above and pray as to how much you should invest with Siloam this month to make our 29th year another tremendous success in terms of giving and providing help to those in great need. We hope to raise our target of £10,000 by 20th November. Please share with us if your heart has been touched – thank you.

Please look at the photos on the following pages and continue to pray for these dear people, that their hearts will be touched and their bodies ministered to during this Christmas season, which for so many in Bulgaria will just be another season without hope or reason to live with no encouragement for the future.

Please include our Christmas outreach project: 039 in your Christmas budget and receive the blessing that will surely follow as you express your love in this practical way to others in great physical need.

Yours sincerely on behalf of those we love and serve



Richard Norton
Director-Siloam UK

P.S. Please use our 'Freepost' envelope and enclose your precious gift that will be wisely and carefully used to minister God's love and peace to a family or individual in desperate need of hope and encouragement in the difficult days ahead. – Thank you.

"Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone - especially to those in the family of faith." Galatians 6:10

Project:
039



Photos from our 2020 programme

Youngsters enjoying their special gift packages put together by the church but financed by Siloam supporters.



The average bag of food for an adult is roughly £7.00 - £8.00. Contents vary depending upon local prices and availability.

Gifts of food really do bring joy to the hearts of impoverished folk who feel they are forgotten and without hope.



Sometimes it's difficult for a mother to provide for her children on the meagre allowances provided by the state.



The older generations that were brought up under the era of communism still struggle to comprehend the 'good news' of the Christian gospel. So many were taught that there is 'no god' and no one can help you apart from the communist state.



As well as poor folk in the church receiving gifts of food, others are invited by church members to also receive a food parcel.



Many single mothers have a really lean time during the winter months so they are glad of this social support.



Children deserve a better life than many experience in Bulgaria. Unemployment and long term sickness cause many to fall into poverty.

Delivering food parcels to those in the outlying districts served by satellite churches. Siloam's practical 'love in action' ministry reaches folk far and wide.





The church is able to make the Christmas season a time of wonderful Christian witness to those in need of support. Siloam's financial help and your partnership make that possible.



There is great joy when people come together and experience an outpouring of love made possible by others like us unseen. Your gift of love will make others smile this Christmas.



"Thank you for providing such a wonderful gift," sometimes words seem inadequate in these situations.



For some it can be humbling to accept a bag of food and our co-workers understand that, and try and provide as much dignity to the recipients as is possible.



Older folk are sometimes visited in their homes during the inclement weather.



No Christmas turkeys, no plum puddings here, just basic gifts of groceries that will simply keep body and soul together.

Those who are bedridden or perhaps in palliative care, are really touched by gifts of love sent from foreigners like us. Just ministering to poor families in great need is possible only because folk like you see the need and share your love.



Church Secretary Donka with some of the Christmas food parcels at the mother church at Rousse. Sadly, Donka lost her dear brother Peter Georgiev last August, Peter had been the Pastor of the church for over 30 years.



Thank you for reading this letter, please join with us and make Siloam's 29th year of operation in Bulgaria, a tremendous success again - thank you.

Please make all your donations payable to: Siloam Christian Ministries

member of evangelical alliance together making Jesus known

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