



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

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Project: 038

Christmas 2020



A typical Christmas food parcel for Portugal costs around £20. Note the 'Bacalhau' salted codfish at the back of the table.

Pastor Oscar now retired but still active in the ministry for Siloam providing bags of Christmas groceries to needy families.



Dear Siloam friends and ministry investors

One thing you have surely noticed on your TV is the absence of any mention about Portugal in the 'Covid-19' ongoing saga. It may be that Portugal is such a small country by comparison with only 10.28 million inhabitants, a good number of whom come from ethnic backgrounds mostly from Africa from the former Portuguese colonies in Africa.

But, England has a long shared history with Portugal as we have the oldest existing treaty in the world going back to 9th May 1386 when we 'both agreed to pursue each other's enemies if required to do so.' The last time this treaty was called into action was during the Falklands War when our Vulcan bombers needed to land in one of their territorial islands to refuel.

In earlier times when a tremendous earthquake hit Lisbon on 1st November 1755 killing over 30,000, the British Parliament were very swift in organising shipment of aid to the stricken city.

Siloam firstly began helping in Portugal back in 1984 and our first Christmas parcel outreach took place in that same year.

Siloam continues to have strong contacts with Portugal even more so now with Portuguese national Mrs Ave Teresinha becoming married to the UK Director in April 2011.

Every year people are invited to come to the church to hear a Christmas gospel message and then at the end of the service, the food parcels are handed to each family in need.

Last year, we provided 130 food parcels to needy pensioners and poor people to see them over the Christmas/New Year period. This was provided for a ministry gift of £3,158 from Siloam.

This year, because Portugal has also shared and suffered with us in the 'Covid-19' pandemic, we would like to empower Pastors Oscar Segura and Jorge Jacinto at the Filadelfia Church in north Lisbon, like we have in previous years.

Those old folk who are 'shut in' or too infirm to travel to church will be provided with a food parcel during a home visit.

Because Portugal is more 'developed' than most of the theatres of need where Siloam ministers, the

Senior Pastor Jorge Jacinto at the Filadelfia Church in north Lisbon blessing families with food at Christmas in 2019.



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“And giving presents of food to one another and gifts to the poor” Esther 9:22

contents of a Christmas grocery parcel are more varied and a little more substantial than we would normally provide in Bulgaria or the Ukraine.

So, this month we are just providing this opportunity for those Siloam friends and investors who would like to partner with us, to provide 150 food parcels in Portugal to be distributed around Christmas.

Gifts of £10, £20, £50 or even £100 will be wisely spent to assist those who are desperate for a bag of groceries over the Christmas/New year period.

Although we don't provide Christmas puddings or turkeys, we will treat our Portuguese beneficiaries to a portion of 'bacalhau' or salted codfish which you can see clearly in our food parcel photo with its triangular shape. This is a delicacy enjoyed traditionally on Christmas Eve. The other ingredients are cooking oil, pasta, cheese, sugar, sardines, salami, eggs and flour.

Please may we count on your support? I know you will enjoy your Christmas even more having provided for those for whom nothing has been prepared.

For further information concerning this annual Christmas outreach to Portugal, please visit our website and scroll down to project: 038 to see our updated webpage.

Yours sincerely on behalf of those we love and serve in Portugal



Richard Norton
Director-Siloam UK



Thank you in anticipation of your valued support. Unfortunately, because of the 'Covid-19' travel restrictions, Teresinha and myself will not be travelling to Portugal this year to take part in this ministry distribution.

P.S. Please stand with Pastor Oscar and Pastor Jorge to make this a more positive end of year occasion as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ. – Thank you.

We are grateful for the free short term use of some warehouse space to put the Christmas grocery parcels together.



Providing 130+ bags of groceries takes a lot of effort. Please pray for protection for Pastor Oscar and his family as he continues to minister among the poor people.



Elisa (far right) Pastor Oscar's wife is also involved in distributing emergency bags of groceries.



Pastor Jorge Jacinto ministering among the African Portuguese who are so pleased to be recipients of a Siloam sponsored parcel of groceries.

Please make all your donations payable to: Siloam Christian Ministries