



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

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23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018

## *Dear Siloam friends and investors*

Siloam's 'ministry of giving' in Bulgaria began in December 1992. This is an area of the world where extreme poverty especially for people living in the rural community, experience real hardship which is exacerbated when the harsh winter descends across the land. Perhaps I am getting old, but I feel the cold much more now than I did when I was younger so I can empathise a little more with the folk I have visited in this bleak corner of Bulgaria.

But for the people living in the seemingly tragic set of circumstances brought about by former communist politics, **Christmas provides an opportunity for local churches in Bulgaria to have a powerful Christian witness.** By empowering our co-worker Peter Georgiev of the New Testament Church of God of Prophecy in Rouse, Siloam supporters can become investors in our ministry and reach into the hearts and souls of impoverished believers who really deserve a lift in their spirits particularly over the Christmas period.

As you look through our colourful brochure enclosed, you will see many smiling faces thanking you our supporters who made it possible last year for our ministry gift of £10,000 to be used to bring so much Christmas joy in their desperate need. I know from personal experience that if you provide a gift of love to someone who is not really expecting it, and who can see no way they could be worthy of such a gift, their attitudes to Christianity can change, because I have taken part in food distributions in different parts of the world. In Bulgaria most poverty has been caused because of politics which has affected many in different ways particularly the old, the sick and the infirm. Youngsters also still derive pleasure from simple things they receive rather than from the latest iPhone or computer game.

**Please look at our little chart overleaf and see how you could really improve someone's happiness this Christmas** by making it possible to provide one or more bags of groceries, a package for a child or perhaps a Christmas meal at a local church. We are not giving away



'Elena' was so thankful to receive your gift last Christmas. You made her difficult life more bearable over Christmas.



The old, the sick and the infirm are often those who suffer the most because of political change which has caused the real value of pensions to drop in Bulgaria.



Please help us make another impoverished grandmother smile this Christmas.



These youngsters have known nothing of the grim past that Bulgaria went through in the communist era. They are just having to live through the transition to democracy which we hope in the future will bring happier times.

*Names of individuals have been changed to provide privacy.*





Last year the children received 600 special gift parcels each costing £1.64.

When you think of how many hundreds of thousands who have already left Bulgaria seeking a better life and employment, consider those left behind who because of age and infirmity travelling abroad to escape poverty is not an easy option.

**THIS IS HOW WE PRAY AND PLAN TO RAISE OUR BUDGET TARGET:**

2 benefactor gifts of £1,000 would provide	£ 2,000.00
4 major donations of £500 will add up to	£ 2,000.00
5 church collections of £200 will supply	£ 1,000.00
30 Christmas gifts of £50 will yield	£ 1,500.00
30 family gifts of £25 will furnish	£ 750.00
150 personal donations of £10 will account for	£ 1,500.00
And, 250 'widows' mites' of £5 will bring in	£ 1,250.00
<b>Total required by 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018 please</b>	<b>£10,000.00</b>

Christmas turkeys or plum puddings but for some in Bulgaria, a stick of salami or a wedge of cheese is a 'luxury' they could ill-afford.

And, we also include with our gift parcels of groceries an item of Christian literature to minister for the soul of a person and hopefully quicken their spirit and make them more receptive to the gospel message of Jesus Christ.

Investment donations of £5, £10, £50, £100 or even more will I know cause you to rejoice in your own heart knowing that you have made provision for someone 'for whom nothing has been prepared' this Christmas. May I take this opportunity of inviting you to invest with Siloam again this month so you can be part of this means of ministering to others at this significant time of the year.

Please look through our photos and allow the Holy Spirit to prompt you as to how much you should invest with Siloam this month – thank you.

Yours sincerely



Richard Norton  
Director-Siloam UK

**P.S.** If you really want to experience the joy of the believers in Bulgaria as they received their Christmas parcels last year, please request a copy of our free DVD and share this with your friends at home or church, or just go to our special slide show on [www.videobulgariaparcel.org.uk](http://www.videobulgariaparcel.org.uk) and send it to a friend.

**P.P.S.** A postcard featuring our eye ministry in India is also enclosed if you would prefer to support that sight-saving ministry as an alternative.



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“... and share gifts of food with people who have nothing prepared ...”

Nehemiah 8:10 (NLT)

*Siloam's gifts of Christmas love for needy and vulnerable folk in Bulgaria. Enjoy your Christmas more by sharing with others!*



Reporting on project: 039

'Ivanka', is just one of the 'shut-in' ladies who received a parcel of groceries to help her over Christmas.



Over 600 parcels were distributed to the children each containing biscuits, a chocolate egg, Wafer biscuits, corn sticks, crackers and other small sweets.



During the run-up to Christmas, 195 poor and needy folk were served lunch at the church in Rouse at a cost of £2.13 a head.



Please request our DVD of last year's outreach.

Altogether, 1050 food parcels costing £8,295.00 were distributed among the poor and needy through 24 satellite churches in the northeast of Bulgaria.



Expressing Christian love through the 'ministry of giving' to a poor widow is a powerful witness for the local church in Bulgaria.



# Siloam Christian Ministries

FREEPOST, Box 4198, Leamington Spa, CV31 9BP Tel: 01926-335037

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE [www.siloam.org.uk](http://www.siloam.org.uk) and scroll down to view our many projects, also [www.christmasparcelsbulgaria.org.uk](http://www.christmasparcelsbulgaria.org.uk)





Peter Georgiev through whom we have worked for over 30 years oversees this mammoth aid operation from his church in Rouse, north Bulgaria. Goods are purchased at favourable discounts from sympathetic supermarkets who are happy to sell food items in bulk.



Each Christmas parcel contains – canned fish, canned meat, rice, flour, macaroni, sugar, salami, noodles, shampoo, toothpaste and a Christian book entitled 'God's Word for Today.'

The food parcels provide much more than comfort for the stomach but an assurance that another Christian in another land loves them enough to want to care about them over Christmas. Please also pray for Pastor Peter Georgiev at this time as he has suffered severely with his health this past year both with heart problems and an inoperable tumour in his left shoulder.



Each gift parcel of groceries is worth £7.90 at wholesale prices. Packages contain sufficient food to provide for a person in poverty over the Christmas period.



Church volunteers spend hours organising the packing of food from the wholesalers/supermarkets into clear plastic bags of groceries that can be carried home.



Many in Bulgaria exist on meagre pensions and live in great hardship. By motivating church members to show practical expressions of Christian love, a bond with the community is established and hearts are made fertile for the gospel message.



In the gipsy church at Iskra, the testimony of Pastor Yankov has resulted in many from this gipsy community coming to faith in Christ.



In the outlying churches far from Rouse, folks' hearts were warmed by receiving bags of food with which to celebrate our Saviour's birth.



The church is the focal point of this outreach and we are working with 24 satellite churches throughout northeast Bulgaria who use this opportunity to provide gift parcels for those who desperately need them, as a powerful Christian witness.



'Radka' would have had a very lean Christmas were it not for the gifts of the church in Bulgaria shared with her and so many others who are 'shut in.'

Over 24 churches were blessed with your gifts of love made possible by Siloam's outreach last Christmas. - Please let it happen again this year.

Children who were not expecting Christmas gifts received a parcel of 'goodies' which brought much happiness.



Pastor Yankov (far left - front row), leads the congregation in a time of thanksgiving after the Christmas parcel distribution. The church now occupies a building which was a former cinema.





Last year because of your help Siloam was able to empower the church in Rouse, Bulgaria to provide 1050 parcels for the sick, lonely, poor and those who are invalids.

Please donate by 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018 - thank you.

For many outside the social security safety net in Bulgaria, time is especially bleak during the Christmas season. Siloam's gifts of love empower the local church to show Christian kindness in a very practical way.



Over 600 children including many from orphanages received Christmas parcels that were unexpected for which they thank those who contributed towards this outreach.

If 'Elka' could thank you personally she would hug you and thank you for sharing out of what the Lord has blessed you. It has given her hope for the future knowing that there are those who love the Lord Jesus and seek to be 'His hands and feet' in a desperate and needy world.



Children in the satellite churches are grateful for simple things in Bulgaria. Here there's hardly a mobile phone in sight, least not among these children who still enjoy more simple pleasures.

A child's gift only costs £1.64



By administering a Siloam Christmas outreach programme through the local church in Rouse, we can reach the poorest area of Bulgaria that few other agencies visit to offer assistance.