



insight

New Year 2013

REPORTING ON SILOAM CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

Expressing God's love by providing medical aid, education, social help to individuals and small groups in the UK and worldwide.

Volunteer Hannah Rees spent a month helping orphaned babies and children in the Philippines...

At Rehoboth Children's Home

'I spent most of the time helping the younger children with craft activities and teaching the older ones English. It's a real treat for the children to have school here. The curriculum and teaching are fantastic and the children love putting their smart school uniforms on!'

'One of the highlights of my trip was organising a birthday party for one of the older boys. It was particularly special as this boy is now having his adoption papers finalised...

'My favourite part of the day was evening devotions. During this time, there was praise and worship, teaching each other action songs. One of the children would pray and then I would read them a story before bed. It was both challenging and wonderful to see them so thankful for all they had.

'I went to see the Baby Home and Medical Clinic that they are in the process of building. Medical care in the Philippines is very expensive and not easily accessible. So it will be fantastic to see this facility completed and serving the community. With the economic crisis and the increased cost of building materials, there are not enough funds to finish the project. Please pray for this to change.' ■



Above, these toddlers are waiting for their lunch.

Left, 'any skills are useful here – I spent some time cutting the children's hair,' says Hannah.

Below, the medical clinic is nearing completion.



Christmas season journeys often involve hardship...

Help In Sight

project 009



Dr. Devdutt Thomas (left) and other dedicated staff members travel long distances to help patients in need of care.

GOING BACK to biblical times, the coming of Christ brought hardship. Jesus Himself chose to leave glory to enter our fallen world.

His mother Mary and Joseph, as well as the wise men, had to make difficult journeys. Today, in different seasons, dedicated staff members of Siloam Thomas Eye Hospital undertake long journeys to bring healthcare to the neediest people in India. Eye examinations and treatment are offered to all. Additionally, general health needs are met. Team members serve in this way as a practical demonstration of the Gospel in action. ■

INSIGHTFUL EQUATION

Approximately 75% of income = amount the majority of Indian families spend on healthcare and medicine.



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project 038



Main photo, Pastor Oscar Segura (left) and his volunteer teams prepare food supplies to ensure that needy families will not go hungry.
Inset, in Portugal, vulnerable people suffering from poverty are able to turn to Pastor Segura's church for support.

Christmas and New Year provide a time for sharing the love of God through Christ...
Basics of the Season

With a heart for the poor in his home country of Portugal, Pastor Oscar Segura especially ministers to them through Christmas parcels. He and his team work hard to ensure that basics are provided for people who would otherwise go hungry. Sharing God's love in a practical way enables the team to meet specific needs. Although entire families need food supplies, they live without refrigeration. Basic supplies will allow them to have food for an extended period of time. These large parcels show a practical expression of Christian love and include Scripture calendars from the Trinitarian Bible Society. With the changing seasons, Pastor Oscar and his team of workers are preparing for Bible camps. These camps offer children and youth the opportunity to enjoy good food, fun and Bible teaching. Many lives have changed physically and spiritually through this shared Christian love. ■

MATTERS OF FACT
In the EU, 1 in 7 people remain at risk of poverty.

project 039

Harsh winters and poverty in Bulgaria are being countered by Good News put into practice...

Warm Christian Love in a Cold Climate



Needy children receive both spiritual and physical nurture
A shared meal and Christian message from Pastor Peter Georgiev bring hope to those in dire need.
Bulgaria's harsh winter proves especially difficult for the elderly who benefit from local Christian outreach of food and fellowship.

Bulgaria is one of the poorest countries in Eastern Europe with everyone from orphans to widows suffering from cold and hunger. For 25 years, Siloam has partnered with Pastor Peter Georgiev and a network of indigenous churches.

The festive Christmas and New Year seasons are prepared for with well thought-out care. Lunches for the elderly, people with disabilities and the lonely bring cheer. Take-away food parcels ensure that participants have something to look forward to when they return to their homes. Then too, some families and individuals benefit from food parcels to provide supplies such as rice, pasta, flour, cooking oil and tinned goods. Children also receive parcels, and visits are made to venues like an orphanage. With the New Year, Bible camps are important for children and youth. Many come from dysfunctional families and even having good food shared together with others provides a rewarding experience. The joy of Bible learning continues years after camp with the encouragement of a new generation of Christians serving in local churches. ■

* denotes projects overseen by our affiliate partner C

A friendship that began 40 years ago in Cheshire connects with a new family tie in Vietnam...

Together Child Sponsorship

When Alan and Sue Hodgkinson lived in Northwich, their friendship with Olive Palin began. Their caring relationship became more inclusive through sponsoring children in Vietnam. The Hodgkinsons sponsor Nhan, a young girl whom they recently met when they travelled to Vietnam.

Their friend Olive Palin always wanted to sponsor a child. Then, when she sold her bungalow and moved into sheltered housing, the opportunity arose. She started sponsoring Thao Tho in 2006. 'Tho is a wonderful girl,' says Olive. 'And I am so thrilled that her parents look upon me as their second mother; they pray for me every day.'

During their Vietnam stay in March, Alan and Sue spent time with Tho and her family. They recall, 'We had such a lovely time together. What incredible people!'

That special family connection was shared with Olive when the Hodgkinsons returned to Britain. She enthusiastically notes, 'I receive far more blessing from sponsoring Tho than I put in!' ■



Above, Alan, Tho, Sue, Nhan and Vietnam Director Tran Cong Duc enjoyed a tremendous rapport of international fellowship.

Below, Sue with Nhan and Tho, praising together through music.



Right, at home in Cheshire, Olive Palin experiences a close bonding with her sponsored girl Tho and her family in Vietnam. Olive shares sponsorship of Tho with Mrs. Janet Owen from Bedwas, Wales.



A CHILD'S VIEW

Education, especially of girls, helps the poor in practical ways such as employment of women and better child healthcare.

In India, poor people who are miles away from a hospital, receive medical care...

Physical and Spiritual Healing

Our Childcare Worldwide (CCW) partners tell us about their recent medical camp with 133 patients; almost half were children, several from an orphanage.

'One boy named Vignesh brought his seven-year-old brother, Dhanush, who was experiencing stomach pain and fever. Their mother had died and they live with their grandparents. Vignesh takes care of Dhanush. Although he himself is young, he takes his job very seriously. After a thorough examination, the doctor discovered that Dhanush had the beginning stages of jaundice. He was given medicine and told to get lots of rest.

'A 75-year-old woman named Mrs. Sivagami came to us with pain in her joints and an ulcer on her tongue. With her husband gone and her children married, she has no one to help take care of her. Doctors tested her and gave her medicine and vitamins. Mrs. Sivagami was happy and thanked the doctors again and again for their help.

'Finally, the local pastor was there to pray for each patient and to tell them about Jesus Christ. He told them that while medicine may help heal our physical body, only God can heal us spiritually.' ■

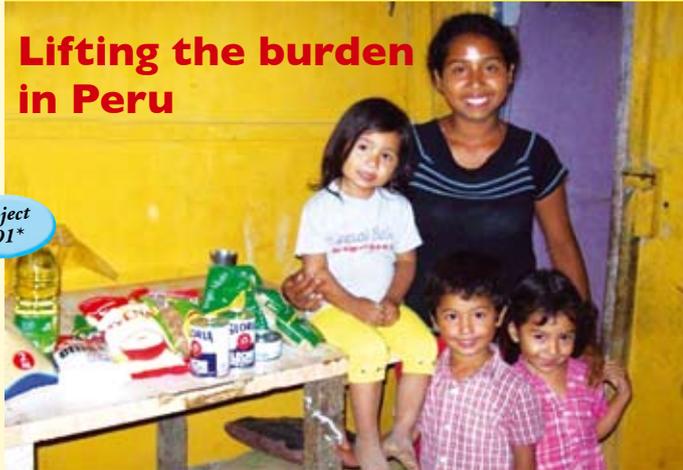


At the medical camp, everyone in need was able to receive health care and medications.

When a man deserted his family, three children and their mother were left destitute...

Lifting the burden in Peru

project 091*



Selene and her children are so happy to finally have enough food to eat.

Although only in her early 20's, Selene Rodriguez had to provide for three small children when her husband abandoned them over a year ago. In Peru, they live in a makeshift house made of wood and cardboard. Because they cannot afford electricity, they use candles for light.

During the day, Selene cooks in a soup kitchen. In the mornings and evenings, she works in a textile workshop close to their home. Even with all the hard work she does, providing enough food to feed her three children was incredibly difficult. That is why she was so grateful to receive Survival Packs.

'Now, not only do the children have enough food to eat, but some of the heavy burden, which Selene was carrying on behalf of her children, has been lifted,' explains Tyrell Johnson of our CCW partners. 'May God bless you, our supporters, for caring for these families who need you!' ■

* STOP PRESS 'God is powerful and answers our prayers at the right time,' says Siloam UK Director Richard Norton. Overseas news has just come through of an imprisoned Christian young man, wrongly accused of a crime, released with praise and thanksgiving from his family. For updates on our persecuted fellow believers, please contact our office: Tel. 01926 335037.

PRAYER DIARY

Please pray for:

SUNDAY – The work of the pastors whom we support, that they may faithfully lead their congregations, especially in areas where there is persecution

MONDAY – Please pray for Christians overseas under increasing pressure and persecution. Some face imprisonment and being wrongly accused of crime.*

TUESDAY – The Emmerson missionary family in South Africa, that, through them, God's love and Gospel may be received by many.

WEDNESDAY – The churches in Bulgaria, Ukraine and Portugal as they plan and carry out the distribution of Christmas food parcels to the poor in their areas. Also, pray that they may be empowered to continue to meet the needs of their communities over the next year.

THURSDAY – The sight-saving mission in Coimbatore, India. Also, our medical ministry in rural areas around Chennai.

FRIDAY – Hope for the Needy in Israel – that their contacts with non-profit Christian organisations to help the poor may flourish.

SATURDAY – Our brothers and sisters in Christ who live in Pakistan and those who minister to them.

SURVIVAL PACK

In Peru, an estimated 19% of the population live in absolute poverty.

Mother and child provide the joyous reminder of Christmas – except for those who suffer from heart-break...

Leamington Christian Mission

Sadly, many families will not be together at Christmas. Leamington Christian Mission reaches out, not only to meet desperate physical needs, but also to show love to those who hurt emotionally and spiritually.

Sometimes, the homeless have become alienated from their families. Then there are some parents who do not look after their vulnerable children so that they have to go into care. One young mother now longs for her children who had to be taken away from her due to her wrong choices. 'She wakes up crying every morning. Not seeing her children at Christmas will be heart-breaking,' notes Steph Devlin, Leamington Christian Mission founder. 'We may not understand her way of life, but I have to come alongside her and love her.' ■

Steph and Geoff Devlin wrapped some of the many Christmas gifts that bring joy to deprived children.



project 017