



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

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Project: 031



Meet Pastor Paulo Durao and his wife Jessica (far left). They felt called to minister to the tribal people in this former Portuguese colony.

Siloam's extra Christmas parcel outreach to Guinea-Bissau

These pictures portray the contents of our unexpected Christmas food parcels last year. This simple outreach brought so much joy that some ladies were emotional and cried when they saw the contents of the parcels that they were receiving. Most folk were overwhelmed and wept with joy as they accepted our gifts of Christian love which brought real encouragement and hope for the New Year.

Dear Siloam ministry investors and giving partners

It was sometime ago, since before the beginning of the 'Covid-19' pandemic, that Pastor Oscar Segura last visited a missionary project he had set up many years ago when he was serving his military National Service in the Portuguese Armed Forces.

Guinea-Bissau an area of land of less than 14,000 square miles on the extreme west coast of Africa, it is one of the poorest countries on the planet! With a population of 2,074,861 (October 2022), the country has suffered in recent times from a military coup and draughts.

The country was eventually granted independence in 1974 at a time when many Portuguese former colonies were gaining independence from their European masters.

The Christian witness in Guinea-Bissau is extremely weak being just 5% of the population with 65% of the people clinging to tribal religions although 30% adhere to the Muslim faith.

This is a brief background about a country you would probably know nothing about and certainly having no historical connection with Britain. Situated just south of Senegal in the north and Guinea to the south, the people suffered over a hundred years of Portuguese colonial rule and in more recent times 11 years of war to gain their independence.

As Pastor Oscar was unable to travel to encourage the missionaries, he helped establish a ministry there so many years ago, last Christmas Siloam sent a gift of €1,000 to bless 50 families living in 8 remote villages not far from the capital Bissau.

The funds were entrusted to Pastor Paulo Durao and his wife Jessica, Portuguese missionaries to Guinea-Bissau. They oversee a small church to minister the gospel and have settled there with their two young sons Isaac and Tiago.

The €1,000 which we sent from our reserve funds brought tremendous happiness and encouragement to the 50 families who received their first ever Christmas food parcels containing rice, cooking oil, onions, garlic, potatoes, flour, sugar, milk powder and soap.



Situated on the west coast of Africa, Guinea-Bissau, a former colony of Portugal, it suffers greatly with poverty and deprivation.

Last year, €1,000 provided staple food stuffs desperately required to keep 'body and soul' together.

Read more over the page

Happiness and encouragement to the 50 families who received their first ever Christmas food parcels

The purpose of this leaflet is to encourage you with what could be done with just €1,000 by providing 50 bags of food so desperately needed for these impoverished people who really had no one else to go to for help.

It's Siloam privilege to share these photos with you so that you too can share in the joy that our modest gift brought last December.

This year we are hoping to double our efforts and empower the Duraio family with a gift of €2,000 so that our Christian love can be spread far and wide to bring even more encouragement in these desperate times.

We are also funding a Christmas parcel outreach in Portugal itself but at the time of writing, the details are yet to be firmed up, but we hope to be working with another church partner in a different part of Portugal than previously so that we can share Christmas love in a practical way to bring a seasonal powerful witness of the love of God.

Please share with us if you feel prompted to do so and only at a level you are comfortable with as we are conscious that many of our faithful supporters are facing personal hardship this winter because of rising fuel and energy costs.

But, thank you if you feel you can share with us, we know the Lord will bless you if you do and He will still love you if you feel unable.

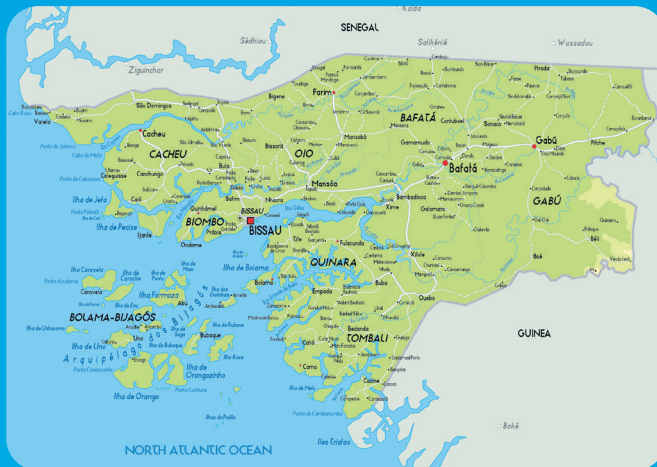
Thanks again for letting Siloam be the 'hands and feet' of Christ this Christmas to help desperate people in Guinea-Bissau.

Yours sincerely on behalf of those we love and serve in the developing world



Richard Norton
Director-Siloam UK

P.S. We are also still in need of funds to help put the new roof on the Siloam Gospel Clinic in Ghana in early 2023. Funds have been slow coming in for this project which we hope to start before the end of January. Please feel free to support Siloam as we 'stand in the gap' for our co-workers in Ghana – Thank you.



A montage of 'thank you's' for these unexpected Christmas food parcels provided for Christmas 2021



Please make all your donations payable to: Siloam Christian Ministries

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