



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

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Project: 039

... and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared. (Nehemiah 8:10)

Let's make Christmas 2024 more positive for the less 'well-off' in Bulgaria

October 2024

Dear Siloam prayerful ministry investors

One of Siloam's favourite winter projects is our Christmas outreach providing Christmas food parcels to needy folk in Bulgaria. Indeed, Bulgaria is a pretty grim place to spend Christmas particularly if you are without money in your pocket and food in your stomach. In the northwest corner of Bulgaria, which is probably the country's poorest area, Siloam's Representative Pastor Darin Ivanov seeks to minister the love of God and provide practical tokens of Christian compassion to poor and needy folk in 26 small towns and villages in this area of great deprivation. For more than 25 years, Siloam has provided funds for simple parcels of groceries that provide so much encouragement and practical help in holding 'body and soul' together for so many. Every parcel contains valuable foodstuffs like we all have in our own larders or refrigerators e.g. canned fish, tinned pâté, canned meat, rice, flour, spaghetti, sugar, salami, macaroni and to provide some much-needed spiritual encouragement, a book entitled 'God's Word for every day'

Overleaf, you can see a list of the 26 villages and small towns that were helped by your generosity if you were one of the 188 supporters who participated with Siloam in this outreach last year. In fact, Siloam overreached itself last year because we had forwarded £10,000 'in faith' to Pastor Darin Ivanov in late November, which was substantially more than we actually received for the project!!

In fact, Siloam only received £9,021 by the 31st of December although we did receive £397 in late gifts during January 2024. But, if we deduct our modest fundraising costs which were £1,105, we were still left with a shortfall as the total raised was only £8,313! Thankfully, we were able to take the deficit from our 'general fund' which exists for such a purpose as this.

But, our Trustees this year have asked me to show a little more caution because we all realise that many of our supporters who are now becoming less wealthy as the cost of living rises and therefore have less disposable income, so we are only aiming our provisional target for Christmas 2024 to be £8,001. This drop in budget we know will be a disappointment to Pastor Darin Ivanov although we know he will be very grateful for

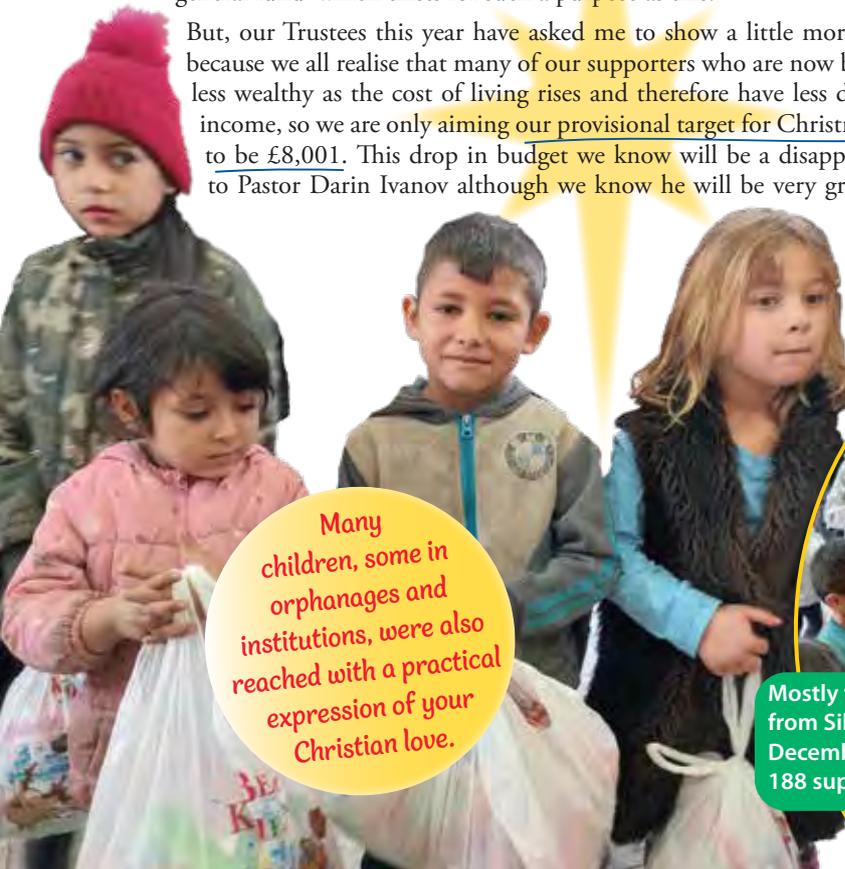
P.T.O



Many families exist on meagre pensions in Bulgaria so our Siloam's parcels of Christmas food were extremely welcomed, particularly by those who were not expecting anything this year.



Last Christmas Siloam provided 1,100 food parcels for deserving families and 600 individual small packages filled with Christmas goodies for the children.



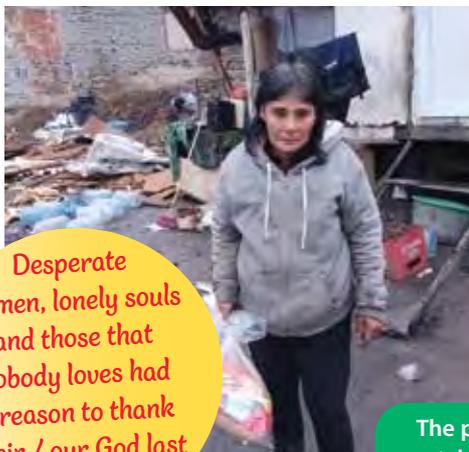
Many children, some in orphanages and institutions, were also reached with a practical expression of your Christian love.

Mostly the old, the frail and infirm benefitted from Siloam's Christmas food parcels last December outreach which were funded by just 188 supporters last year. - Thank you!



... and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared. (Nehemiah 8:10)

For many families living in desperate poverty, this was indeed a lifeline which you helped us to provide.



Desperate women, lonely souls and those that nobody loves had a reason to thank their / our God last year.



The parcels contain simple basic groceries, no Christmas turkeys or plum puddings here!

Those 'shut ins' because of sickness, age and infirmity, were extremely grateful that so many folk in the UK cared enough to help.



Siloam's Representative in Bulgaria Pastor Darin Ivanov (far right) together with his wife Vesy and his young son Darin junior.

any funds he receives for this Christmas outreach to the needy people in northwest Bulgaria.

On our postcard which you will find enclosed in our package, you will see our giving plan telling you how we plan to raise the funds to provide the £8,001 that we need for Pastor Darin Ivanov and his recipients this Christmas. This year I am also sending out this appeal to you early to give you all enough time to pray and prepare so you can help Siloam fund this outreach again this year

which so many poor folk in Bulgaria can be helped physically and blessed emotionally by your generous hearts.

You don't have to have a great knowledge of theology or a degree in economics to understand the needs of these desperate people you see portrayed on our newsletter. All you need is a compassionate heart and a love for those you will probably never meet in this life and be motivated by the Christian gospel to want to help another needy soul.

Please ask the Holy Spirit how you should respond before you reach for your wallet, credit card, etc... so you can be a part of this 'Ministry of Giving' to those who are patently less 'well-off' in northwest Bulgaria. Please take a look at our postcard enclosed and on the reverse side, try to identify where your generous donation will fit in our scheme of things. Then, after you have resolved what you are going to share this Christmas in Bulgaria, pass the postcard on to another friend at church or work who may be also motivated to want to bless another soul in Bulgaria this Christmas whom they will probably never meet.

Thanks again in anticipation of your due consideration for the desperate situation I have presented before you. Your love does matter – your gift could make a real difference.

Yours sincerely on behalf of those we love and serve and care for in Bulgaria

Richard Norton
Director-Siloam UK



WHERE YOUR DONATIONS WERE SPENT – DECEMBER 2023

TOWNS AND VILLAGES HELPED WITH YOUR GIFTS:	£ Amount
1. Medkovetz, Lehchevo, SeptemVriizi, Lom, Archar and Barkachevo	£ 2,919
2. Poroino and Dulovo	£ 229
3. Tutrakan and Staro Selo	£ 442
4. Razgrad	£ 943
5. Sliven – 1 (Pastor Mihail)	£ 512
6. Sliven – 2 (Pastor Dean)	£ 557
7. Sliven – 2 (Pastor Georgi)	£ 391
8. Silistra – 2 (Pastor Yanko)	£ 45
9. Vidin – 2 (Pastor Nikolay)	£ 364
10. Aidemir – 2 (Pastor Peter)	£ 92
11. Rousse, Dve Mogily, Byala, Straklevo, Goliarno, Vranovo, Slivo Pole, Boddanzi, Nova Cherna, Delenkite and Ivanovo	£ 3,383
Plus: Taxes and Bulgarian forwarding charges via Ekont	£ 449
TOTAL:	£10,326

P.S. My distant relatives in the Salvation Army always remind me that William Booth, the Founder said that, "We cannot preach to a man until we have fed him!" This Christian philosophy is embraced by Siloam and its overseas co-workers.

Please make all your donations payable to: Siloam Christian Ministries

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