



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

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Winter 2020

Dear Siloam ministry investors and enquiring friends

It gives me great pleasure to invite you to share with us again this winter towards our food parcel outreach in the Ukraine, which will be conducted between Christmas 2020 and Easter 2021.

Last year we were able to share with Peter Bevez the Pastor of the Chernigov Baptist Church, almost £3,000. This provided over 300 bags of groceries distributed among needy pensioners and very poor people desperately in need. Further in this letter, you can read about some of the individuals that our gifts helped, made possible by your generous giving.

Although our actual appeal raised £4,560 from 110 giving friends, an almost equal amount was designated to projects in Israel, Bulgaria, Pakistan and our 'general fund.' Because we sent our £2,950 off to the Ukraine before the end of the year, we still have £1,440 left in that project account towards the £5,000 I would like to send off this year.

But, first let me tell you a little of the personal battles of dear Pastor Peter Bevez and his team, after last year's outreach completed.

At the end of May, Peter was infected with 'Covid-19' through contact with his doctor! His doctor found out only later by which time Peter had already spread the virus further to his family and many of his co-workers. As the doctor did not know himself, he was a carrier of 'Covid-19', this was a local disaster!!

On 7th June Peter was admitted to the hospital and the following day, his father of 89 sadly passed away. Neither Peter nor any of the family could attend the funeral due to the pandemic 'lockdown.'

A week later Peter's wife Tamara and his son Roman were also consigned to the infectious disease hospital, a hospital I am familiar with, because Siloam took aid there back in the 1990s. Tamara stayed in the hospital longer than the others as she has diabetes and is in general poor health so the virus caused pneumonia in her lungs. In spite of the news TV channel saying that Ukrainian hospital treatment is free, sadly it's not and many of the people treated have to pay for some or all of their medical treatment.

This Christmas outreach which extends into the spring of the following year, is a powerful practical Christian witness to a generation who had been brought up being told there was 'no god' and no help apart from the communist party.



Pastor Peter Bevez (left) before he was severely affected by 'Covid-19', standing with a dear pensioner desperately in need of food in a Ukrainian village.



Many older folk who were helped are not regular churchgoers, many are still fearful about associating with Christians or Baptists as they were in the Soviet era.



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Lyubov' is a pensioner, she lives with her son who is now also a pensioner but sadly he lost his job earlier due to the 'Covid-19' quarantine. Lyubov' is rather weak so she needs to buy a lot of medicines which are costly. She was surprised that there were people who were ready to care and help her. She was indeed deeply touched that Peter and his team provided this much needed practical support.

Anna Litvin is a pensioner and she also lives in desperate need. Anna suffered a stroke not so long ago so the help that she received was just in time. She thanks God and the church for the help and care she received.



Lilia lives in a village, for sometime now she has not been able to find an official or legal job. However, she has a small kitchen garden and an orchard which helps her to survive. We know that Lilia lives in deep need so we offered her a food parcel but she suggested that "there were probably other people who may have a greater need than she did." Lilia was ready to refuse our offer of help to her for the sake of others but thankfully we had enough food parcels so we blessed her with one.

After Tamara had spent altogether a month in hospital with 'Covid-19' she sadly had to return to hospital again with a broken leg where she spent another couple of weeks after enduring surgery. Praise God, Roman reported that his dear mother was now back home but she can only walk with a frame, crutches or she can use a wheelchair.

Although their Baptist Church partly resumed ministry in July, many believers are afraid to attend church.

It goes without saying that Siloam's Bible camps in the Ukraine were cancelled this year but we are looking forward, God willing, to being able to assist in summer 2021.

Our Christmas/winter outreach last year came at a very opportune time to help those in desperate need so our gifts were deeply appreciated. On the following 2 pages you can see accounts of some of the people we were able to help with your generous support which I believe is a "wonderful Christian testimony to those 110 supporters who responded to our appeal last November."

Gifts of £5, £10, £15, £20, £25 and £50 when accumulated together will provide the £3,500 we need to send a gift again this year totalling £5,000. The food costs will no doubt be a little higher this year so we would like to keep the contents of the parcels pretty similar to what we did last year and there may be additional costs because of travelling expenses unless people are actually able to attend the churches where the food parcels are generally distributed.

Please pray before you invest with us this winter, to help Siloam make this another successful outreach to these desperate people who are still reeling from the ongoing economic uncertainty caused by the breakup of the former Soviet Union and exacerbated by the 'Covid-19' pandemic.

Please look at the pictures and read the accounts of those that were helped who represent many others who would no doubt like to thank you personally, if you were one who shared with us last year.

Yours sincerely on behalf of those we love and serve not just in the Ukraine but throughout the developing world

Richard Norton
Director-Siloam UK



P.S. Gifts are also still required for our much more ambitious appeal to help the church in Rouse, Bulgaria now headed up by new Pastor Darin Ivanov, who was elected as the new Pastor by Bishop Clayton Endecott, on 4th October. – Thank you.



Svyatoslav is also a pensioner, he lives alone and receives a minimal pension so he lives modestly. The food parcel was a great blessing to him as it is really not easy to survive on the meagre Ukrainian state pension.

Please make all your donations payable to: Siloam Christian Ministries

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Reporting on the success

of Siloam's sponsored winter/spring food parcel outreach to deserving pensioners and poor people in the Ukraine 2019-2020

Please let us help again! Just read about the happiness it provides.

The contents of a typical food parcel



- ✓ Macaroni
- ✓ Sugar
- ✓ Buck wheat
- ✓ Split yellow peas
- ✓ Fine ground barley
- ✓ Wheat porridge
- ✓ Rice
- ✓ Sunflower Oil
- ✓ Tomato paste (puree)
- ✓ Fruit juice
- ✓ Sprats (canned fish)
- ✓ Sardine (canned fish)
- ✓ Canned green peas
- ✓ Canned sweet corn
- ✓ Tea
- ✓ Yellow millet grain

350 food parcels provided

Project: 011

OKSANA

Oksana lives in the small village of Staryi Bilous, which is not far from Chernigov. She used to work as an elementary school teacher and her husband Vadim formerly worked as an engineer at the Geology Institute. Sadly, her husband Vadim got cancer so now he is disabled and due to this, Oksana had to change her job. Over the past years she has been working as a part-time nurse at the Tuberculosis Clinic while at the same time she takes care of her weak husband Vadim.

Vadim is a man of the former Soviet ideology. His granny was from the Crimea. She was a Baptist believer and she suffered terrible persecution because of her Christian faith and was eventually sent to a Siberian camp during the Soviet era.

Vadim stays in bed but he can get himself up when he needs to. Oksana asked Peter Bevz if they could help by supplying some nappies and sheets for her weak husband as he is often incontinent.

They themselves cannot afford these expensive items so Peter and team prepared nappies and sheets together with the food parcel. When Peter called Oksana to arrange a time of the visit, Vadim discovered it was the evangelical Christians who would come so he got very concerned as he remembered his grandmother's story.

Vadim told his wife Oksana "You will only invite trouble into our home. Remember what problems my granny had because of her faith in God."

Oksana was able to convince Vadim who was still very frightened, but they were hospitable. After some fellowship with the team from the Chernigov Baptist Church, Vadim could see that they were not terrible or dangerous people and he even smiled eventually. The couple were happy to receive the food parcel and the hygiene items. A New Testament was also given to them, it was indeed a great opportunity to witness and share the good news of the gospel with both of these dear people.



VLADIMIR and VERA

This couple had experienced bad times recently so they were both in need of food, hygiene items, bedding and clothing. Praise God the Baptist Church could help with all those things through Siloam's aid. Vera has suffered three strokes and Vladimir also has a trauma in his arm. Both of them constantly need medicine. They learned through harsh experience to save on groceries and other things in order to survive.

The church team had a good time of fellowship with this dear couple and prayed with them and gave them a Ukrainian New Testament.



A great opportunity to witness and share the good news of the gospel.



Pastor Peter Bevz

Please continue to pray for the ongoing recovery of Pastor Peter Bevz and his family. His wife Tamara suffered with 'Covid-19' and ended up in hospital and they also lost Peter's father aged 89 at this time and they could not attend the funeral.

Our next outreach will take place between Christmas and Easter at a time appropriate for the team at the Chernigov Baptist Church. Please pray that the weather will also be less severe than normal this winter so that the poor people do not have to spend so much money on expensive heating fuel.

VLADIMIR

Vladimir lives in great hardship because he became unemployed. He's been taking care of his sick mother in Chernihiv for over four years. His wife went away to care for her sick mother in other village. Vladimir has been known to our church and mission for about 20 years.

A long time ago Vladimir received some humanitarian aid for his mother from the church. At this present moment, he asked for help again as it is very hard for him to survive. We were able to deliver a food parcel and some hygiene items for his mother. We prayed at their home and his mother received Jesus. It was a joyous event and Vladimir appreciated it. We gave them a New Testament and shared the good news about Jesus with them both.



NATALIE LES'

This is her mother. Sadly, Natalie Les' lost her job during the 'Covid-19' quarantine so now she just takes care of her sick mother who is a pensioner who helps her to raise daughter Lisa. Lisa aged 15, is the only one in the family who attends the Evangelical Church, she also sings in the worship group.

Natalie was deeply emotional by receiving our gift and had tears in her eyes. Because of that she declined to have her photo taken but you can see her grateful mother with the food parcel in the photo. Our visit to their home became a great opportunity to share the love of Christ.



NATALIE TONKIKH

Natalie was laid off without pay because of the 'Covid-19' pandemic. But, Natalie had been thinking a lot about God in her life lately. When the team arrived at her home, she said, "I am sure you haven't come here by chance." She heard the Word of God from the team and she asked for a Bible in Russian. She appreciated the gift of the food parcel very much.



DNIPROVS'KE VILLAGE

Dniprovs'ke village is situated roughly 20 miles from the old Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station. Every fourth person in the region has thyroid gland enlargement or cancer. Most people live in very poor conditions and are jobless. There is a school there but the number of its pupils decreases every year, families tend to move to other safer locations.

One Sunday we invited people to the local church in Dniprovs'ke both Christians and non-Christians. We had good fellowship together and after the evangelical service, every person received a food parcel, just one per family. It was a good testimony to the unbelievers and a great blessing for the ones who had already committed their lives to Christ.



MARIA SINITSINA

Maria Sinitsina lives alone, both her sons sadly died. Now she is in a difficult physical condition and can hardly move around her apartment. Maria doesn't get a pension as she is actually a citizen of Russia so she needs to go and arrange all her papers but it is impossible now due to the pandemic conditions, she cannot travel anywhere. The food parcel that Maria received was a life saver to her so she wants to extend her grateful thanks to all those at Siloam who made this possible.

Natalie heard the Word of God from the team and she asked for a Bible in Russian.