



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

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Dear Siloam ministry investors

Last year we funded our first ever Christmas outreach to the Ukraine empowering Pastor Peter Bevez of the Baptist Church in Chernihiv to distribute 300 bags of groceries during the bleak winter months of January and February. The response of the recipients was as tremendous as it was humbling for those who got involved practically driving many kilometres to the outlying villages and small towns around Chernihiv. The Chernihiv region is one of the poorest in the Ukraine which is why our outreach had such a positive impact as these dear folk had never been blessed with a grocery parcel project before.

Although the Ukraine is very poor, it does receive some help during the summer from Christian friends in neighbouring countries that venture across the border to bring valuable gifts of help.

But, in the winter no one seemed to have done this before which is why Siloam stepped out in faith to fund Peter's ministry last Christmas, just like Siloam does in Bulgaria and Portugal.

The opportunity was given to Christian friends who attend the various Baptist Churches and 'houses of prayer,' to invite their non-Christian friends and neighbours to attend a special meeting entitled 'two kinds of bread' so they could hear the gospel message and learn more about the Christian faith. A good number of folk declined the offer as they were suspicious of the Christians and Baptists in particular. The effect of communism has greatly influenced many even though they have lost faith in that failed political system which impoverished most Ukrainian people during the communist era.

Most young people have deserted the villages for better opportunities in the towns or even travelled abroad to find work. Those left in the small outlying districts find it difficult to make ends meet during the winter as there is little or no seasonal work. Many are forced to collect berries and mushrooms from the forest to sell in the local market to help keep body and soul together.

One pensioner Raisa, Laktyushina came to the meeting by invitation of the Christians who attend a 'house of prayer.' She explained how the church elders talked to them in a simple way about God and Christian young women sang uplifting Christian songs with the congregation later joining in. Raisa said she wanted to thank all the people who had organised this joyful event. 'It helped our bodies and souls a lot,' she said. She would also like to thank the Siloam supporters who invested their hard earned money and the Ukrainian people who had brought the grocery parcels to them from the Chernihiv Baptist Church. Raisa



Pastor Peter Bevez of the Chernihiv Missionary Baptist Church in the Ukraine. We have known Peter for many years and have supported his ministry both with funds and aid. Last year's Christmas outreach featuring 'two kinds of bread' was a powerful Christian witness to poor pensioners in need of our Christian love.



There are several organisations providing gifts to children at Christmas time but not so many giving to the old and neglected like these pensioners. Siloam's grocery parcels were really very much appreciated.

At the church of Grybova Rudnya which is 70 miles from Chernigov and not far from the border with Belarus. At least two people prayed the sinner's prayer and many others were touched by the love of God. The scripture on the wall refers to Revelation 22:12.





Many folk were invited to attend the meetings to hear the message of Peter Bezv entitled 'two kinds of bread.' Not everyone took up the offer to come and hear the gospel message but a good number did and were greatly blessed by the grocery parcels they took home afterwards.



For just £10 you could feed a pensioner in the Ukraine this winter for at least two weeks, possibly longer!



said, "It was the first time in her life that she had received such a welcome grocery parcel. All the food is very helpful, it is an essential addition to my minimal pension," She said, "may God bless you all."

Another pensioner Vera Ivanovna, explained that in February 2019 she was present at the meeting entitled 'two kinds of bread.' It was held in the local 'house of prayer.' She appreciated and enjoyed very much the evangelical sermon and Christian songs as well as the prayers. "I want to thank the people who provided the money to buy our parcels of groceries." She also received a gospel booklet to give her spiritual bread which she liked very much.

Peter Bezv and his team confirmed that the grocery parcels were a great help to the old people as their meagre pensions are pitiful, the dear souls all live from hand to mouth!

Peter Nosovets thought his food parcel would keep him going for two months, well let's hope so!

You don't have to be a student of theology to appreciate that a gift of Christian love makes a tremendous impact on a needy soul looking for hope, encouragement or just something positive for now. Your gifts of £5, £10, £15 or £100 when added together with others, will make this year's target of £5,000 possible, which will enable 500 parcels of grocery to be handed out after Christmas. Please consider how you may help and possibly share this investment opportunity with your church or other Christian friends who will surely benefit from the future dividends if they invest in this programme as a token of their Christian love, this Christmas.

Please look through our brochure again and allow the images of those we helped last year to speak into your soul.

Yours sincerely on behalf of Peter Bezv and his team in the Ukraine

Richard Norton
Director-Siloam UK



P.S. Please forward your prayerful investment before the 30th of November to help us be in time for this year's after Christmas outreach - thank you.

P.P.S As an alternative, you could perhaps consider our 'Love to the Needy' project in Israel - please look at our postcard enclosed.

Tatianna Shramko worked formerly at Chernihiv Polytechnic Institute for 30 years. She has now retired and has severe mobility problems with her legs. Sadly, Tatianna cannot walk so she stays most of the time at home and seldom ventures outside. Her husband Vitaliy is a former construction engineer who worked for over 40 years. He is also retired on a meagre pension of around \$70 Dollars a month.

They also have a 40 year old son who lives with them and is physically challenged. They not only have to care for themselves but also consider the wellbeing of their disabled son.

PARTICIPATING CHURCHES:
Chernihiv Christian Mission 'Charity and Spiritual Rebirth'
Chernihiv Missionary Baptist Church
Staryy Bilous Missionary Baptist Church
Chernihiv Baptist Church - 'Bethany'
Mena Baptist Church
Grybova Rudnya Baptist Church
Plus: many Baptist Church groups in villages such as Radychiv, Chernotychi, Dnieprovske, Krysky and others.

Please make all your donations payable to: Siloam Christian Ministries

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Siloam's ministry is directed to perhaps the poorest area of the Ukraine within 100 kilometres of Ukraine's second city of Chernigov. Some villages are within the contaminated zone caused by the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl in 1986.

Siloam's Christmas outreach to poor pensioners in the Ukraine 2020

Project: 011

The outreach is entitled **'2 kinds of bread'**, one which will feed the body, the other the inner man and provide the means of salvation.



Each grocery bag weighed around 13½ kilos can contain enough food for some over a month. And, there was an item of Christian literature enclosed to minister to the soul.



Providing parcels of groceries in the deep snow are vital where village people cannot find seasonal work due to the harsh weather.



One lady Anatonina, testified that it would probably be enough food for her for the whole month! Another said this is sufficient for two months, they were all so very thankful.

In the Ukraine, most pensioners exist on meagre pensions of between £30 and £60 per month. Our simple bag of groceries provided during the winter months of last year proved a real lifesaver and gave many people new hope for the future.



Siloam Christian Ministries

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

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Visit our website www.siloam.org.uk and scroll down to view our many projects



“And giving presents of food to one another”

The whole programme was organised by the Chernigov Christian Mission “Charity and Spiritual Rebirth,” the home church of Pastor Peter Bezv. Many young volunteers took this opportunity to minister to their own people and gave up their valuable time to pack and transport the bags of groceries.



Small churches like this one at Grbova Rudny away from Chernigov were greatly blessed by Siloam’s supporters who helped this community.



The outreach continued through January and February and the food was purchased so that 100 bags could be prepared at a time to avoid certain perishable items going out of date.

The church volunteers welcomed this opportunity to be of Christian service to their unsaved neighbours.

Altogether 300 bags of groceries were prepared over the 2 months and distributed during meetings and people were invited to come and hear the gospel beforehand.



Many pensioners took the opportunity to come to church for prayer which they had never done before. Although some were declined out of suspicion of the Baptists, a number did take up the offer and heard the word of God. They receive salvation through Jesus Christ who provides life for the body but also the soul.

One pensioner Vera wanted to thank the people who gave her money to buy the food parcels. She said she liked the ‘bread’ very much. She said she appreciated and enjoyed the sermon, songs and the prayers of the people who were there.



At another village Chernotychi, 104 kilometres away from Chernigov they were greatly pleased to hear the good news of the death of our Lord Jesus Christ and what it meant for their way of salvation. Gifts of food really warmed their hearts for the gospel message for those in the area.



Pastor Peter Bezv visiting Alexander and Lyudmila, 75 years old and all his life worked as a train driver. In addition of alcohol and 8 years ago, he suffered a stroke. He is severely disabled and bedridden. His wife Lyudmila takes care of him but they live in a very difficult financial situation. 2 years ago Alexander invited Pastor Peter Bezv to his home. He repented of his past life and found new life in Christ.

and gifts to the poor.” Esther 9:22 (N.L.T.)



around 70 kilometres from the generosity of the city last year.

Standing and greeting co-workers in the village of Radychiv about 165 kilometres from Chernigov (just over 100 miles). Many villages in the Ukraine have now been completely deserted as folk have migrated to the cities to find work and better housing. Those that remain find life in the winter time extremely hard.



A typical bag of groceries costs around £7.50-£8.50, plus transport costs.

The contents of grocery parcel:

- 2 bottles of Sunflower oil
- 2 kg of wheat flour
- 2 kg of buckwheat
- 2 kg pasta
- 2 cans of fish
- 2 kg of rice
- 1 packet of Lipton tea
- 1 packet of condensed milk
- 1 packet of biscuits
- 2 kg sugar
- 1 can peas
- 1 piece of salami sausage



to a church or 'house of prayer' though many invitations were given to the Christians, a good number of people decided as to how they could survive the winter. The decision was not only for the

one who had donated the 'two kinds of bread' enjoyed very much the message which led the meeting.



way from Chernigov, about the life and death of Jesus for them in terms of the needs of their hearts and prepared to give up the last dunn of their lives.



Lyudmila. Alexander is 73 years old. Sadly, he had an aneurysm and a stroke. At present, Lyudmila takes great care of Alexander's special situation. But, 3 times a day she prays with him so he can receive new life in Christ. - Praise God!



Food was transported in cars and church minibuses so it could be given to those in most need during the harsh winter weather. 'Shut in' folk were visited in their own homes.



Carrying food parcels home in the snow was a real blessing to those who had accepted the invitation to come and hear the Christian message about 'two kinds of bread.'



For most of the older people that came to the 'house of prayer' and heard the gospel, it was their first time. We are sad that many others received invitations but did not take up the offer to come and hear the important message about 'two kinds of bread.' But, our co-workers have done their best and tried to show Christian love to those who were most in need of it.

One homeless man Ivan, had been begging near the gates of the Orthodox Church for sometime. On receiving his bag of groceries, he was overjoyed although he found it difficult to walk and could hardly drag his feet, he really needed help.

One old lady shared that it was the first time in her 70 years life that she had ever received a present. Another lonely lady said 'thank you very much, the food parcel will be enough to eat for several weeks. I am ashamed to get help but I came to the meeting because I am willing to hear how I can receive new life in Christ.'



The centre of this outreach operation was at the church in Chernigov where many local people who had never attended a church previously, came to hear Christian songs of worship and hear the message about the life of Jesus and what he could do to rescue them from a lost eternity.

One testimony from a local sister said she wanted to thank the church for the good news that Peter and his team brought to our town. The inhabitants started talking about God. Former medical workers were also invited to the programme, they knew almost all the inhabitants of the town. That is why some old people were cautious about going to the 'house of prayer' but they enjoyed it anyway and afterwards explained they could understand the simple clear message about God and enjoyed the Christian singing which uplifted them.



It's the old who stand at the door of eternity. For them there is not much time left to make that vital decision as to whether to accept the gift of eternal life or the alternative of rejecting God forever!!



Siloam's vision is to bring help and empower local churches worldwide to show Christian love in practical ways. This Christmas by donating £20.00 the cost of a simple bag of groceries to someone in the Ukraine, you will have that assurance that your gift of Christian love will really be appreciated.

Giving bags of toys to children we know is more appealing but for pensioners who don't have the means to put a good meal on the table, Siloam's outreach last year proved extremely popular and provided an opportunity to share the gospel.



When you enjoy your festive turkey and plum pudding this Christmas, just think how fulfilled you will be knowing that you have contributed towards a pensioner in the Ukraine receiving a practical expression of your Christian love.

Please donate before 30th November for our 2020 outreach.



Last year, we empowered Pastor Peter Bezv to provide 300 bags of groceries to those living in one of the poorest areas of the Ukraine. **This year, we are planning to send enough funds that will purchase 500 bags of groceries to minister to these dear folk in the Chernigov region of the Ukraine** – please invest with us so you can share in the harvest that will surely follow. – thank you.