



28th October 2016

Dear Siloam caring friend

Last December during the run-up to Christmas I was privileged to share in the food parcel distribution in Bulgaria which Siloam has sponsored since 1994.

Even though I had asked a number of pastors and others to visit this project last year, for a variety of reasons none were free to attend so at the last minute I went myself to see how your 'gifts of love' blessed so many last Christmas.

Our brochure enclosed contains many images of the joy of Christmas for so many in Bulgaria, will speak far louder than this inadequate letter in terms of how much our Christmas love was appreciated by so many widows, 'shut-ins', desperately poor old people as well as needy children in orphanages and care institutions.

Each food parcel cost roughly £7.70 but there were also transport costs. I can tell you though, that each bag of grocery unexpectedly received by so many folk was a tremendous Christian witness for 'The New Testament Church of God of Prophecy', in Ruse who seek to minister to the needy folk around them using social work as an expression of God's love.

Apart from the 1,300 food parcels and the 850 parcels given to poor children and those in orphanages, many widows and members of very poor families, enjoyed a special pre-Christmas church lunch as well. In addition to this, a special breakfast was also served during the December morning prayer times.

Siloam also enabled the churches at Lom and Vidin to receive special gifts towards their heating needs during December/January when the weather in Bulgaria can be especially harsh. Medical expenses for Pastor Asen in Sliven were also paid as was a gift of a special heating allowance for the home church at Ruse during the cold winter period.

Last year when we sent our newsletter, we asked for £8,500.00. At the beginning, we were a little concerned about how the funds were coming in but then a church in South Wales made it possible for our gift of £8,500.00 to be increased to £12,000.00 which we sent to Bulgaria at the beginning of December.

This month I am just asking you to make it possible again to bless so many in Bulgaria with a simple gift of a food parcel. In our own country, Christmas can so easily become a time of 'tinsel and turkey' when we all spend far too much on our own families rather than on the needs of others overseas. I am so pleased that at least Christians value the time of Christmas to use it as an opportunity to show God's love in a practical way to many who are deserving of a gift of encouragement especially if they are old, sick, 'shut-in', or seemingly forgotten about.

This Christmas I have set a target of raising £10,000.00 before the end of November so that we can be the 'hands and feet' of Christ again in Bulgaria through this generous food parcel outreach.

Because of last year's pre Brexit exchange rate, we received 2.768 Leva for each £1.00 we sent to Bulgaria but this year, our financial transfer will not be so favourable!

Please look at our budget chart which will give you some indication

more over page ▶▶▶



Receiving gifts of practical Christian love. What better witness could we have?

Could we survive on a monthly pension of less than £70.00 per month?



The Church Secretary Donka, a former University Lecturer now using her talents as an Administrator in the church.

The church's notice board.



Last Christmas I was spiritually uplifted to be among such believers as Pastor Yankov whose Christian testimony thrilled me as he explained he was a former member of the secret police in communist times.



This Christmas your love does matter, your gift of £15.00 could really make a difference.

of the value and volume of the gifts we need to receive. Please pray before you give because I would not want you to give under any kind of pressure or obligation.

Please click on our special website to see a slide presentation together with Bulgarian music of what was achieved last year, I know you will be blessed. Please click on www.videobulgariaparcel.org.uk and just imagine how your gift will be appreciated this year.

A gift of £15.00 will not just provide a food parcel but also the transport costs within Bulgaria. Any administration or fundraising costs for this appeal will be paid for out of our reserves, so whatever you send this month will go to Bulgaria to help Peter Georgiev and his dedicated team.

Your gift of £100, £50, £25, £20 or just £15 will bring real joy to a needy one in Bulgaria this Christmas and could prepare the fertile soil in a dear soul's heart to receive God's message of love, forgiveness and the opportunity to learn how to receive the 'gift of eternal life.'

Thank you for your patience in reading this letter, please look carefully at the photos in our brochure and go to our special website if you want to be really convinced how much your love will matter this Christmas in Bulgaria and, please share our website with those around you on Social Media so this message could 'go viral' and make it possible for Siloam to reach many more people with this practical message of Christian love.

Yours sincerely on behalf of those in need in Bulgaria

Richard Norton
Director-Siloam UK



P.S. Last Christmas my heart was really touched as I visited those who were 'shut-in', and as I shared and spoke in churches where the congregation blessed me with their reciprocal love. Let's please make it all happen again – thank you.

2015 EXPENSES	
1. Food for 1,300 Christmas food parcels for the poor, lonely, 'shut-in' and invalids.	£ 9,933.16
2. 850 Christmas gifts for the poor children and those in the Orphanages.	£ 807.65
3. Christmas lunch for the widows, members of poor families, invalids, lonely and generally 230 very poor folk and prayer breakfasts for 420 believers.	£ 557.83
4. Gift towards the heating costs at the Lom church.	£ 72.25
5. Heating grant for the church in Vidin	£ 54.19
6. Medical gift towards the needs of Pastor Asen in Sliven	£ 74.53
7. Transport courier costs for sending Christmas food parcels to Vidin, Lom, Sliven Lenchevo and Septemvriizi.	£ 71.85
8. Special heating gift towards the host church at Ruse over Christmas.	£ 98.15
9. And clear plastic bags to contain 1,300 parcels of food.	£ 89.05
10. Transport costs for ferrying food parcels in church minibus to many villages in northeast Bulgaria.	£ 205.92
11. Bank charges for receiving Siloam's generous gift.	£ 20.00
TOTAL EXPENSES FOR CHRISTMAS 2015	£11,984.58



Although we have food banks and ways of helping the needy in the UK, there are few if any such agencies in Bulgaria.

I will be praying that both your heart and your wallet will be touched by this special Christmas appeal.

providing visual aids



www.decadeministries.co.uk

affiliated with



www.childcareworldwide.org

member of



Please make all your donations payable to: Siloam Christian Ministries

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Registered Office: 18 Mulberry Avenue, Turnstone Business Park, Widnes, Cheshire WA8 0WN

Thank you for partnering with Siloam last Christmas (2015) and for helping us excel in

Project 039

“The Ministry of Giving”*

to the poor and needy ones in Bulgaria

(N.B. * 2 Corinthians 8:6)



850 orphans or poor children received Siloam gift parcels last Christmas.

Many of the outlying villages in the northeast corner of Bulgaria are unbelievably poor and full of needy ones looking for a happier Christmas.



Pastor Peter Georgiev and his sister Donka, a former University Lecturer and now Church Secretary, act as Co-ordinators for the careful administration of Siloam's Christmas outreach in Bulgaria.



This is our host church, The New Testament Church of God of Prophecy based in Ruse just across the river Danube from Romania.

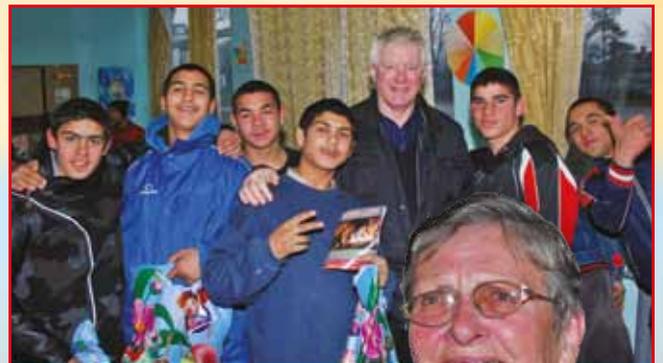


Meet Pastor Plamen, one of Peter's right hand men visiting one of the 'shut-in' believers in the city of Ruse in northern Bulgaria.



In many of the interior regions, it was like stepping back into history to see those that the world had seemingly forgotten as we travelled to distribute Siloam food parcels.

Right; A good time sharing with boys in an approved school was spiritually rewarding for me as UK Director of Siloam.



Below; This image typifies the emptiness spiritually of Bulgaria as well as highlighting the fact that over a million have left the country looking for work and security in other parts of Europe.



Joy expressed with tears, an honest response to an unexpected 'gift of love.'



Siloam Christian Ministries

FREEPOST, 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, also www.christmasparcelsbulgaria.org.uk





Above; Perhaps you feel this family could need a new or remodelled bathroom? But this is how many folk live in the villages where life has stood still for ages.

Below; As caring Christians, we are the 'hands and feet' of Christ. Please help Siloam make Christmas 2016 a time of great happiness for many in Bulgaria.



Maybe 1,300 food parcels is too much for your mind to encompass so just imagine how your gift of £15.00 this Christmas could provide for a needy pensioner who is unable to manage the stairs or venture outside to do her own shopping.



Enjoying fellowship with the pastor at Dulovo while expressing his appreciation for Siloam's partnership with his church last December.

Below; Many of these gipsy folk are despised and often abused if they go to more populated areas. Our gifts of Christmas love were the first they had ever received!



THIS IS HOW WE PRAY AND PLAN TO RAISE FOR OUR BUDGET TARGET:	
2 benefactor gifts of £1,000 would provide	£ 2,000.00
4 major donations of £500 will add up to	£ 2,000.00
5 church collections of £200 will supply	£ 1,000.00
30 Christmas 'love gifts' of £50 will yield	£ 1,500.00
30 'family gifts' of £25 will furnish	£ 750.00
150 personal donations of £10 will account for	£ 1,500.00
And, 250 'widows' mites' of £5 will bring in	£ 1,250.00
TOTAL BY 30th November 2016	£10,000.00



Gifts of 1,300 food parcels would also fill your church hall. Yes, the generosity of Siloam's supporters last year was overwhelming. Please help us to make this year a great success as well.



A gift for an aged grandmother who can now provide a Christmas meal for her family.



The contents of a typical children's gift parcel enjoyed by over 850 children last Christmas.

True religion is to look after widows and orphans in their distress



Above; Everywhere we went people were overjoyed because they came to realise that folk overseas didn't despise them but loved them in a practical way.

Right; It was a privilege too to share with the mentally handicapped children and provide the little extra treats that the overstretched staff were unable to provide.



To visit our special 15 minute long Bulgarian's slide show complete with music, please go to www.videobulgariaparcels.co.uk and also please share this website with your friends via electronic media.



Top; Sharing the contrast between the very new and the desperately old in the city of Ruse. Many of the old buildings are crumbling where old people simply wait to die while living on their meagre pensions.



Above; Another important member of the team Peter's wife Rositsa, with some of the 1.300 parcels of Christmas food gifts in the church storeroom.

Below; Our Christmas parcels are given out at a time of worship in most of the churches that we visited. It's important to realise the significance of Christmas and the gift of the Christ Child to the people of the world.



Above; Peter's son-in-law Malan provides much of the muscle for unloading the parcels from the wholesalers so that the food can be made up into the individual gift parcels.

Below; Life in the villages has remained unchanged for decades and formerly many of this folk would have been oppressed by the Ottoman Empire and forced to become Muslims.



Most of these poor pensioners exist on a pension of less than £70.00 per month.

The food parcels contain tinned fish, tuna paste, rice, lentils, flour, macaroni, sugar, yellow cheese, flat Bulgarian sausage/salami, half a kilo of white cheese. Last year because of the favourable exchange rate before Brexit, our Christmas parcels were much bigger than in previous years.

In every parcel of food, spiritual food was also enclosed to reach the hearts and minds of people for the Kingdom of God.

Simple groceries providing everyday needs for those that's often can't make ends meet.





In the gipsy churches, people really live in a very 'basic' way with no frills whatsoever. They were overwhelmed to know that someone from UK wanted to share love with them at Christmas time.



Visiting the 'shut-ins' in the high rise concrete buildings brought great joy to the receivers as well as the givers.

In addition to giving out food parcels for those who are 'shut-in', Pastor Plamen also shared 'Holy Communion' with those unable to get to church.

A food parcel consists of tuna paste, tinned meat, rice, lentils, flour, macaroni, pepper relish (like ketchup), sugar, cheese, flat salami and sweets.



Making up pallets of food parcels to send to the villages of Sliven, Vidin, Lom, and Lehchevo. It was vastly cheaper to send these packaged Christmas parcels off by special courier van than making several trips in the old church minibus, – which really needs replacing!



You cannot imagine the joy our Christmas gifts provided last December. It was so rewarding for me to see the joy on the recipients' faces.



With the aid of the ageing church minibus, we distributed Christmas parcels of food far and wide across northeast Bulgaria.



Providing food for those who have no way of providing such a feast for themselves.



The pastors in the villages were so grateful as were the recipients of the food gifts which Siloam supporters like you, made possible.



For many folk in Bulgaria, Christmas is just another day. Last year we made it special by providing gifts, "for those for whom nothing had been prepared."