



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

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Project:
050

The Conker Chronicle

September 2026

Dear Siloam Investor in the Kingdom of God,

I was prompted to send this letter to you after I recently received a scribbled note from a disgruntled supporter who wrote to say that he was not happy with Siloam money being sent to Israel. He went on to say he believed 'Israel' was not a country that was unable to help its own poor people; instead, he said Israel spends money to wage war on innocent people in other countries!!

It was sad to read that note, but I am sure there are some others receiving letters from Siloam who may unfortunately feel the same. So, I said to myself that it was time to remind us all again how grateful Great Britain should be to the Jewish nation as we approach the celebration of the 109th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration. Let me begin with the scripture, as that is surely the best place to focus our attention.

There are many today in the world who are indeed grateful for the efforts, talents and skills of Jewish people who have given so much to this fallen world. But, down the centuries Jewish people have been persecuted as a nation and as a people and you don't need me to give you a history lesson to explain the former glories of Egypt, Babylon, Persia, Greece and Italy. Many of those nations are now financially in trouble, and the UK has nothing to boast about either. Indeed, it was in 1290 when King Edward I issued the 'edict of expulsion' forcing the Jewish community to leave England. It was not until the Lord Protector, Oliver Cromwell, during the Protectorate in 1657, that the Jews were finally permitted to return to live in England.

Some would say that I am being too simplistic, but I do believe as leader of our mission, that if we bless people in Israel, our organisation itself will be blessed. Over the past year we have seen that blessing develop as many of our supporters have given sacrificially and in some part, I believe that is due to the fact that as a mission we have stood by our co-workers Chaim and Cheryl Barak, who are working among the poor as missionaries in Israel.

Like you, I sometimes have to disagree with the politics of the Government of Israel, but that doesn't stop Siloam as a mission from continuing to have a love for the people. They are, after all, God's chosen people, and we are exalted in the scripture mentioned earlier to bless them.

This is a little bit of history which you may want to be reminded of so that you can witness convincingly to those who are uninitiated about how the current re-establishment of Israel came about. As we walk around during the next few weeks, we will be tripping over horse chestnuts on the ground, so be like me and pick up one or two so that you can use them as a focus point as you explain the following story to others, perhaps using your own words.

At the beginning of the 20th century, Britain was arguably the most powerful nation in the world and we sent missionaries to the four corners of the globe taking the Word of God and trying to win souls for Christ from every nation. Queen Victoria was on the throne and although there were many social injustices at home and in Ireland, there was freedom at least and opportunity for godly men to rise up.

Perhaps the most important man to mention at this time was Arthur Balfour (later Lord Balfour) the Home Secretary who was responsible for signing the Balfour Declaration on 2nd November 1917. Arthur Balfour was a Bible-believing Christian who believed in a literal Jewish return to the land of Israel known as 'The Holy Land' but politically at that time as Palestine.

This is how things developed to the UK's advantage. During World War I, Britain's naval power found itself short of gunpowder and the situation became desperate. Winston Churchill, at that time the First Lord of the Admiralty, had been advised about the work of a brilliant Jewish chemist, Chaim Wiazmann, who had found a way to make artificial gunpowder known as 'cordite' to be manufactured in huge quantities from acetone.

Wiazmann had become a British subject in 1910 while a lecturer at Manchester University and he was well-known for bacterial fermentation used to produce large quantities of desired substances. Indeed, he is considered to be the father of industrial fermentation and his work enabled our government to have access to 30,000 tons of acetone, an important ingredient for manufacturing explosives, i.e. cordite.

A simple pilot project was set up at the premises of J & W Nicholson and Company in a gin factory in Bow, London. Later, another 6 distilleries were requisitioned for the purpose of making acetone in 1916. However, the availability of the ingredients, primarily grain, became a critical problem as this produced a food shortage among the population!

"I will bless those (the nations) who bless you (Abraham) and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you."
Genesis 12:3 (N.L.T)



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conkers anyone?

Many ships bringing grain from the USA and elsewhere were also being targeted at sea by the German navy. So how could we overcome this dire problem which threatened to cause a calamity for our nation?

The answer came with the discovery that the humble 'conker' or horse chestnut could be used as another source of starch, which is why in October 1917, shortly after the beginning of the school year, schoolboys were urged to become prolific conker collectors to boost the war effort. These young lads in their short trousers, no doubt throwing sticks and stones at the chestnut trees, were not told exactly what the conkers would be used for, but they were assured they would be helping King and country in this urgent war effort.

The children would take the conkers they had collected to their local railway stations where they would be shipped in wagons to various chemical plants for processing. A large factory in King's Lynn finally solved the problem of the starch from the conkers, which was sadly lower than expected in yield, so it closed in July 1918. By then, new chemical plants in the USA and Canada began to supply acetone so the shortage problem was solved. – Praise God.

The remarkable and timely discovery of acetone from starch to produce cordite was a remarkable and timely discovery using Wiezmann's fermentation process. This history-changing discovery earned Wiezmann hero status, which gave him access to important British Government figures. Indeed, Wiezmann became a national hero and when asked what he wanted for his valuable services, he replied, "I want a national homeland for the Jewish people."

The outcome resulted in the Balfour Declaration, a short letter from the British Government that effectively changed the course of Middle Eastern history. We celebrate the 109th anniversary of that Declaration on 2nd November, although, sadly, it took many years for Britain's promise to the Jews to come to fruition.

There were many political wranglings after the Balfour Declaration had been issued, and Britain sadly was slow to honour its commitment. According to "The Fall and Rise of Israel" by Hull published by Zonovan, British politicians later divided Palestine giving the Arabs the best land (with the oil). As a result of this, Jewish immigration at that time was cut to a trickle and eventually stopped. When Israel became a nation in its own right on 14th May 1948, the British Government opposed the new Jewish State, backed the Arabs, disarmed the Jews and even staffed the Trans-Jordan Arab Legion with British officers! So what indeed happened to the promise of the 2nd of November 1917?? Most of you know the more recent turbulent history of the Middle East, so I don't need to go into that right now, but I am just giving you a few reasons why Siloam as a mission should support people of a 'like-mind' doing social work and providing education and medical needs to Jewish people and others in Israel.

If Arabs or Palestinians living in Israel need help, it will also be given to them and our primary focus in helping 'Love to the Needy' is to provide the resources needed by Chaim Barak's co-workers to help folk who have fallen through the overstretched and overburdened social security safety net in Israel.

Siloam currently has around 400 supporters who have a keen interest in helping the poor in Israel. In 2025 our ministry gift grants totalled £13,243. This year so far up to the end of July, we have sent £10,087.

I would, however, like to increase the amount that we send to Israel significantly so that we can help more poor people by providing the funds for Chaim's co-workers who operate throughout the country.

This month I am enclosing a brief report from Chaim Barak highlighting his recent activities and sharing with you what he and his co-workers have accomplished.

I trust you enjoy reading through Chaim's report, I am sure it will encourage you and motivate you to continue to love people from Israel because they are God's chosen or blessed people. Don't forget, as you go out for a walk, pick up a conker and just relate that story to someone who doesn't know the history of how the present state of Israel came about. You can hold that conker in your hand and explain to others who are uninformed how the 'humble conker' helped us to win the First World War! Thank you for patiently reading this letter, which I trust will help you to understand more about our need to support and identify with the Jewish people. Remember, I am not asking you to endorse the Government of Israel or its policies in any way, just to have an open-heart policy of love to the Jewish people.

Please read through Chaim's newsletter which I hope will encourage you to stand with his co-workers so they can continue to be the 'hands and feet of Christ' in Israel at this present time.

Yours sincerely on behalf of those we love and serve in Israel and elsewhere,



Richard Norton
Director-Siloam UK



P.S Remember to pick up a conker this week, keep it in your pocket, it will help you to remember this story and confidently relate it to others who need to know how great our God is.



Please make all your donations payable to: Siloam Christian Ministries

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September 2026

Press Release
Project 050: Love to the Needy

Dear Siloam Friends and Ministry Investors

Some may wonder why the need of the poor in Israel is so great. One major factor is high immigration. In Israel, many emigrants from Ukraine and Eastern Europe continue to arrive, but now also from Western nations as antisemitism sadly increases.

The real problem is the language barrier. After arriving, often very distressed, the government places the new immigrants in language schools, but even after the accelerated programme, what is learnt is not really enough to secure employment. The government stipend only lasts 6 months but Hebrew is a very difficult language to learn. Even professionals with higher education cannot find work because the level of Hebrew necessary for employment takes several years to learn. The help each emigrant receives over the six months of language training amounts to £ 5,563.00.

This low amount of assistance, coupled with the high cost of living, results in food insecurity and/or financial distress. The question is often asked, 'why doesn't the government have more to give?' The answer at present is the regional conflict. It costs the government of Israel £ 30,770.00 to stop a short-range missile from killing civilians, and it can cost up to £ 2,700.000 to stop a long-range ballistic missile from Iran. So, one single massive multi-layer attack such as Israel recently experienced can cost £ 7.70 million, combined with other war-related efforts such as the sharp decline in Israel's tourist industry that has cost 6% of Israel's national employment budget, plus the £ 3.8 billion lost in tourist spending. The result is that people are in dire need!!

Add to this, due to frequent bombing from Hezbollah in the north, industries have had to move south to safer locations, creating unemployment in the north. When the reservists are called into service, families lose significant income and small businesses have to close. All this creates more unemployment and economic disruption. Also, when soldiers who are husbands and fathers are lost in the conflict, the mothers are forced to find ways to survive economically as well as emotionally.

We believe every picture is worth a thousand words. Please look at the following photos we want to share with you today so you can grasp a deeper understanding of the economic need for the poor people in Israel, which Love to the Needy is trying to address. Through the support of organisations like Siloam and others, we together continue to make Love to the Needy's ministry possible.

"We are so happy to receive your food packages. We just thank God for you"



Pictured left to right:

Olga is a widow from **Migdal Emek** who is a believer in Jesus. She has 3 children and a low income, which is not really enough to provide for her needs. Love to the Needy helps with food, so here she thanks and blesses you for your valuable help.

This is **Daniel** from **Neviot**. Half of Daniel's body is non-functional and he is wheelchair-bound. For a while he had been in a nursing home, but now he is home. He suffers greatly from loneliness and his disability payments are not really sufficient to cover his needs. Love to the Needy helps him regularly with food and spiritual support.

This family from **Nahariya** has four children. Sadly, the father is handicapped and the mother tries to care for her children as the able-bodied marriage partner. The oldest child is six years old and the youngest is just a year old. This lady writes, "We are so happy to receive your food packages. We just thank God for you"



Left: The congregation in **Katzrin** began as a rehabilitation centre and now serves folk in their community who are in need. This family lives near the centre, the husband is in recovery and the lady works hard in a local plastic factory. Unfortunately, her income is not enough to pay their rent, utilities, clothing and other necessities. She expresses her gratitude for the food packages which Love to the Needy has provided, which have helped them so much.

Please turn over



"She needed to know someone cared"

Thank you for your generous donations to this vital project

Siloam's Supporters Giving to Israel

YEAR	AMOUNT
2026 (up to July)	£10,086.91
2025	£13,242.74
2024	£19,001.84
2023	£12,850.43
2022	£ 9,520.11
2021	£11,819.08
2020	£11,751.05
2019	£ 8,508.52
 TOTAL	£96,780.68 (7.5 years)



Left: In **Nazareth**, a single mother visited our outreach centre, fearing she was not able to provide basic necessities. Indeed, she commented that 'every day is a struggle for us. 'She needed to know someone cared' and found that, as well as help with food at our outreach centre.



Left: In the Ethiopian community in **Netanya**, a mother suffers from a debilitating illness which leaves her unable to care for her two children. The father has a low-income job and they need help with basic necessities. This father sends his thanks to all those who make these food packages available for them



Left: In **Hadera**, we receive many emigrants from Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova. This is our outreach centre where Love to the Needy is serving one family whose father couldn't find work for almost a year. During that time, the family were raising two daughters and they were also expecting twins. Love to the Needy helped with food packages and clothing.

Thankfully, today the father has a steady job and they have regained financial stability, but they were so touched by the love and help they received during their time of need that they continue to stay in touch with the centre and the people who gave their much-needed help when they needed it.

These centres give not only material assistance but also respect and kindness and a place where people can hear the hope of the Gospel of Christ and experience the love of Jesus the Messiah.

Each food parcel means meals on the table that might not otherwise be there. These simple packages are possible because others care about their difficulties. Love really makes a difference!

So, our question to you is, **will you help Siloam continue to help 'Love to the Needy' to make a real difference?** Please study our chart at the top of this page showing you the funds that we have entrusted to 'Love to the Needy' over the last six years. Please pray before you give, and please keep these photos and this leaflet in a safe place like your Bible, where you can occasionally look at them to remind you of the need that exists in Israel today. Please ask the Lord how you should respond and how you should pray that 'Love to the Needy' may continue to be the **hands and feet of Christ in Israel**.

With love and deep appreciation for your help and support

Cheryl and Chaim Barak



P.S. Praise: We praise our Father for His protection and for health and strength to be able to help others. We praise Him for His provision which never failed. We praise Him for faithful friends like Siloam who have come alongside us to do this work. We praise Him for His unending mercies and love.

Prayer: Please continue to pray with us that the eyes of those we serve will be opened to see The One who alone can give them peace, hope and eternal life.

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