



**Gleanings
For The
Hungry**

*A Ministry of
Youth with a Mission*

P.O. Box 309
Sultana, CA 93666
Phone (559) 591-5009
Fax (559) 591-5036
info@gleanings.org
www.gleanings.org

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*“For even the Son of Man
did not come to be served, but
to serve, and to give his life
as a ransom for many.”*

Mark 10:45



- MERRY -

Christmas

& HAPPY NEW YEAR

FOOD REPORT: BULGARIA

Mission Without Borders

The Pavlov-Mihaylova family lives in Krupnik, a small village in south-western Bulgaria. A small community of some 2,000 inhabitants, and the majority of them are Roma. They are very poor. All seven members live in a small room where there are no chairs and no bathroom. The toilet is outside and is shared with several other families living in the building.

The father, Petar, works as a laborer in construction. The job is not permanent, and he often must look for additional work of any kind. He is a very hardworking man, he is not ashamed to work, but in his words: "Even if night turns into day, it is still impossible to cope." The mother,



*"Only people who have gone to bed **malnourished** or **hungry** can appreciate when they are supported with food."*

~ The Pavlov-Mihaylova

Velichka, is unemployed. During the day she is dedicated to housework and caring for their four children.

Despite difficult living conditions and poverty, their children go to school and are content with what they have. The youngest boy, Yulian, is in the first grade of school. It is very difficult for him to go to class because he does not want to study. However, even though Velichka is illiterate, she encourages her children to study.

Dimitar is 20 years old. He is the oldest son in the family. He does not have a permanent job, but he helps his father a lot in improving the living conditions in the house.



The Pavlov-Mihaylova family participates in Mission Without Borders' Family-to-Family sponsorship program in Krupnik, which helps the needy in the region. They are very grateful to receive Gleanings soup mix.

Poverty in the Region of Krupnik

The greatest challenge for the people in the region of Krupnik is to find a job that will bring them a regular income. Many families have loans from the banks that have not been paid for years. Finding a family in which both parents have a job is a rare case. The majority of families live on social benefits—unemployment. The scarce income results in poor nutrition, low level hygiene and limited access to health care. A good number of family couples are also poorly educated, lacking basic life-skills. Deficits are rooted in their upbringing, life attitudes, and expectations, and are often reproduced in children. People feel hopeless and lose motivation to do anything to help their families out of poverty.

In the Krupnik region, the main agricultural production consists of tobacco, vegetables, fruits, and grapes for the wine industry. As agriculture and stockbreeding are the most appropriate in the region, the majority of villagers were once making their living from farming. However, given the low level of mechanization in agriculture as well as the lack of resources to provide the required conditions for stockbreeding (suitable cattle sheds, medicines and forage), only a few farms are left, and vast areas remain uncultivated.

Director's Corner



December is a fun month. Everyone looks forward to time off spent with family and friends. Of course, we also love our Christmas parties, sing-alongs, and special foods. Some of the wins this year are that we are strongly united in our faith and our love for God and one another has grown. The bond we experience is not broken because of opinions about the pandemic or anything else. Together we have served well. I feel the favor of the Lord on Gleanings, which is more important than money or fame. What a beautiful example Jesus gave us. He came as a helpless baby to grow up and show us the way of humility. The King of Kings came to serve and redeem us. It is our desire to draw close to Him during this season and receive His love.

A big thank you to all who served alongside us and gave generously this year. Your acts of love have blessed us. May we be strengthened in His presence and may Jesus have His way in us. Merry Christmas!

Fritz Meier