



Bristol, Feb 2010

*Dear Supporter,*

I have just returned from a few days in cold, snowy Bulgaria, which was an experience of mixed emotions, as always.

After several years of economic progress, the world-recession hit the Country hard last year. GDP shrank by 4%, unemployment rose by 2% (Eurostat), and business leaders think the recession will hit hardest in 2010 with 200,000 people, 12% of the population, being unemployed by March. (Sofia Echo)

Over *one million people* in Bulgaria already live below the poverty line as defined by the EU, and food-price increases in 2009 have made their situation worse. So as always, it is the poorest who are suffering most.

Although Bulgaria is now a member of the European Community, families of the unemployed, single parents, and many elderly *still* have to choose between food, medicine and heating. Life is hard when temperatures are well below freezing, sometimes as low as 20 C, and inches of snow lie on the ground for several months.

The Good Samaritan Foundation has continued to support the most disadvantaged with 'Winter-help' food parcels, 'Packets of Love', etc, and would like to do more, but can't until the new Social, Medical and Training Centre is finished.

This will have two buildings, one with kitchen and canteen to feeding the hungry, and the other will provide training, medical and social-development to address longer-term needs for all ages.

Both buildings are already complete, and could be in service by next winter if £315,000 were available now.

Please read our enclosed Newsletter to learn more about how the Bulgarian Partners Trust plans to raise money for this urgently-needed Project, and how you can help.

Indeed, why not visit Bulgaria yourself? See over the page for details.

75% of the money to complete the Centre has already been raised, so in 2010 we hope to be 'over the mountain' and running down towards completion, an exciting time for those who will benefit and for their helpers.

Please help us help them.

*Thank you,  
Geoff Wallis*

PS. We make no deduction from donations so 100% of your gift will go to the Centre

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# Experience Bulgaria

7<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> June 2010

We invite you to come and see the contrasts of Bulgaria.

Spend time getting to know the beauty of its *nature*, hear the songs of the birds, relax in the *mineral pools*, taste the richness of our *cuisine*, get a feel of our local *traditions*, discover unique areas and customs, see ancient towns, churches and monasteries, observe unique antiquities, have a taste of our southeastern *regional culture*.

Experience with us the warmth of Balkan hospitality and the diversity of this ancient land.

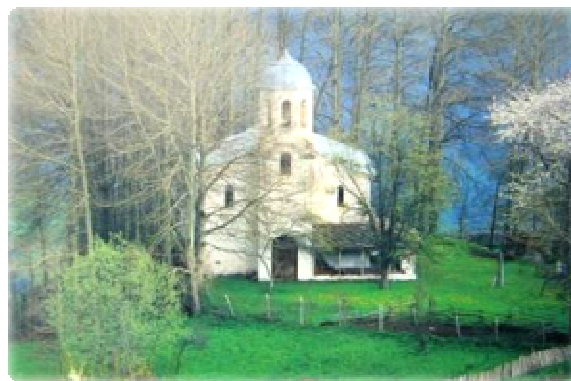


The total cost of the trip is only **£800** per person, which includes return flights from London to Sofia, transportation within Bulgaria, accommodation for 9 nights, visits, meals, translators and tour guides.

As this is a fund-raising trip we would ask you to commit to support us by donating a minimum of £500 per person to the project before the end of July 2010, preferably gift aided to allow the Trust to reclaim the tax you have paid.

Many people have raised money in the past by giving monthly or by selling cards, organizing fundraising events, concerts, car washes, or selling redundant equipment set, and donating the proceeds. We can help you fundraise.

For a brochure please phone Geoff Wallis 0758-4060-806 at any time or e-mail me at [wallis@care4free.net](mailto:wallis@care4free.net)



## ITINERARY

### 7<sup>th</sup> June / Monday

Arrival, settle in at the Jasmin hotel, orientation, dinner.

### 8<sup>th</sup> June / Tuesday

Travel to the towns of Lovech and Troian  
See the earliest covered bridge on the Balkans in Lovech.  
Stay in the Balkan Spa hotel in the village of Chiflick in Stara Planina, famous for its therapeutic mineral springs and their curing effects. The Balkan hotel has its own mineral swimming pool with Spa centre.

### 9<sup>th</sup> June / Wednesday

Visit Troian Monastery and local historical sites.

### 10<sup>th</sup> June / Thursday

Take time to see Troian`s countryside and rest or do activities of your choice, (horse-riding, bird-watching, hiking and more).

### 11<sup>th</sup> June / Friday

Travel to Veliko Turnovo and stay in the village of Arbanasi.

### 12<sup>th</sup> June / Saturday

Ethnographic Museum village of "Etura" and tour of Sofia.

### 13<sup>th</sup> June / Sunday

Visit Sofia Baptist Church and the visionary Church, Social and Training Centre.

### 14<sup>th</sup> June / Monday

Visit Rila Monastery and the orphanage of Stob.

### 15<sup>th</sup> June / Tuesday

Visit the "Literacy classes", the centre of Sofia, and the National Historical Museum, or rest, just as you wish

### 16<sup>th</sup> June / Wednesday

Departure

