

# Mission Newsletter



March - April 2008

Number 73

*“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.” (Matt. 16:24)*

What does it really mean to be a Christian? Jesus tells us, as He told His disciples, to sit down and count the cost. If we are really serious about following Christ, we will examine our security and sincerity by the standards set forth by Jesus. We will follow Him with total consecration - and we will teach others by our lives and our testimonies.

Jesus said that if we would follow Him, we must deny ourselves. Self-denial is possibly the hardest lesson we will ever learn, the greatest test we will ever face. It is the way of the straight gate and the narrow road. It is the way of total selflessness on a daily basis. We renounce all our self-interests and independence; we renounce all personal pursuits that are contrary to the will of God. And when it comes to our relationships with other people (spouse, friends, business acquaintances, etc.), we

deny ourselves by being totally unselfish and putting the other person first, by preferring the other person's happiness over our own.

Then Jesus said, *“Take up [my] cross.”* The cross is the common lot of God's children. Just as each Christian has his own special service to render to God's kingdom, so each has his own cross to bear. But we are to rejoice in our afflictions and trials, bearing them patiently so we will not become stumblingblocks.

*“... and follow me.”* This is not a one-time, emotional high. It is a continuous following - not only when it is easy, convenient, or popular - regardless of the price. It is not a command to go before Him, but to follow Him. Following gives the comforting assurance this is not a new path we are treading. It also makes the statement to the world that we are not in the lead; we are not in command.

We are walking in obedience to another. He sets the pace and He chooses the way; our responsibility (and privilege) is to follow - all the way. He has not promised a safe journey, but He has promised a safe landing!

Jesus also promised, *“I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee”* (Heb. 13:5).

*“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us”* (Rom. 8:37).



## Thank you for supporting Peter's Van Project

Faith Mission would like to extend a special thank-yuo from Peter Nastasiychuk for the support that so many of you have shown for this project. With the help of Missionswerk FriedensBote in Germany, we were able to purchase a much newer diesel VW van. The van was bought in Germany for about 10,000 Euros (\$15,000 Cdn\$) and then delivered to Ukraine. So far we have been able to pay about \$12,000 of this. Praise the Lord! As you can see on the above photo, Peter has again printed a scripture passage on the front of the vehicle. He is planning to add more verses to the sides and the back. The old van also had verses printed on the front and the sides. Peter is “preaching” with his van even when he sits behind the wheel, driving through town or to the churches in the Carpathian mountain villages.

## .....Republic of Georgia



side rooms. Once again I prayed: “Oh Lord, you know my desire to be in the big room. However, it is all filled up.”

Then God reminded me of His Word: “If somebody invites you to a wedding, go and sit down on the lowest place, so that they who invited you may come and say to you: “friend, come in!” Then you will have honour before those which sit with you at the table.” (Luke 14: 8 & 10)

That's exactly what I did! After I took my seat, I prayed and the truth in God's Word was once again revealed. When I opened my eyes, the master of ceremonies, Tamada, came up to me and invited me to the best seat in the main auditorium. From here, everyone could see and hear me it was the hand of God!

After a short while, Tamada handed the microphone to me so that I could congratulate the bride and groom. The Georgian custom is for the speaker to hold a glass of wine in his hand during his congratulatory speech. I, however, held up the big Bible which I had brought as a gift for the bride and groom, and wished for them to live their new life together, according to the word of God. Then I turned to the audience: “I am truly honored to be allowed to be part of this wedding. Are you all aware of the fact that God has invited everyone here to participate in a heavenly wedding banquet that he will prepare? The only way to this great banquet is through your personal conversion .....

The guests listened carefully to my lengthy speech. A few of the people huddled into a small group and began discussing this speaker. “He is no orthodox! He must be some sectarian.” Nevertheless, others contradicted: “No, he is no sectarian; he is teaching from the Bible.”

### *Where will I Sit at the Wedding.....?*

*Reprinted by permission from Missions Nachrichten März \April 2008*

*Omari Sazeradze / Republic of Georgia*

In February I was invited to officiate at the wedding of a distant relative in the mountain village Gethsemania. I was happy about the wonderful opportunity to share the Gospel to the many non-believing people in the area.

This last winter the area experienced an unusual amount of snow. Our bus soon got stuck in the snow. I had to climb the remaining seven kilometers up the steep mountain road.

With the wedding about to begin, I prayed secretly to God: “Lord, give me the opportunity to preach your Word to the many guests.”

The large auditorium in which the bride and groom sat was already filled with the most distinguished guests. The other guests sat in smaller



*Omari, “toasting” the wedded couple with the Holy Bible.*



*At the wedding, Omari (right) met a former friend. They used to be card-playing buddies before Omari met Jesus Christ. His friend was very surprised at the changes that he noticed in Omari's lifestyle. What a difference Jesus had made!*

After the wedding many people came up to me with questions which I willingly answered. I encouraged them to read the Bible for themselves, to hear how the voice of God would touch their hearts.

As I headed back, my heart was overflowing with the joy of the Lord. The seven kilometers of snow-covered and rocky footpaths seemed to me like seven steps. I thanked God for his guidance and prayed that He would cause the hearts of the wedding congregation to repent and spread the fruit of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

## More from Georgia.....

Dear mission friends, we pray to God that He will send us into areas where the need is the greatest and gives us the tools we need to convey his love to the needy. The many letters in our mailbox are filled with joy and gratitude. As we share these letters from Georgia, we would like to share the thanks with you and ask for your continued support for this work in the mission fields.



I am 29 years old. I would never have anticipated that I would some day depend on foreign help in the form of humanitarian aid. However, the cruel Abkhazian war has severely disabled me. I am very grateful to Missionswerk FriedensBote and Faith Mission for the help to the needy in Georgia. (Gogi Z.)

(<http://www.circassianworld.com/croniclewar.html>)

I was a healthy person; however, suddenly I became disabled. For me, life had lost its purpose. I heard that I could get a free wheel chair, but I could not believe this. However, though very unexpectedly, I was given one by the people who told me about God for the first time in my life. In addition, I was given my very own Bible and some Christian books. Reading them gives me great pleasure as I am learning to understand the source of this love and relief I have experienced. *Gela Tschanturidse (38)*

The chief police officer in our part of town, colonel Dschangiri, invited me to a special meeting in the club building. I wanted to attend because I knew the Gospel would be preached there. However, I was so ashamed of my old rusty old wheel chair with worn-out tires. I was hardly able to wheel my self around, and I feared that the old wheelchair would

fall apart along the way. Nevertheless, after a lengthy debate with myself, I finally decided to make the trip to the meeting. I made it and have not once regretted it till this day. I received some good clothes, shoes and an almost new wheel chair. I was overjoyed and sincerely thankful to those who made this possible for me. (*Gia M.*)

I was born with a severe disability. My disability pension is extremely low. One day our mayor arranged that I would be brought to a club building in the inner part of the city. Representatives of the mission organization, "Mschwidobis Mauzchebeli" (Georgian representatives of "Missionswerk FriedensBote \Faith Mission") were conducting evangelization services. This was the first time someone told me that God loved me. The young people sang beautiful songs about God and His great love, grace and mercy. After the service I got a wheel chair and some clothes. I really appreciated this but, much more important for me, was that I received a new testament. I want to praise God and pray that He will heal my disability. *Madona*



My name is Nani Inaneschwili. I always considered myself a religious woman. However, when I was introduced to the Holy Word of God for the first time from "Mschwidobis Mauzchebeli", (Georgian representatives of "Missionswerk FriedensBote \Faith Mission") it became very clear to me that I had no knowledge of the true God. I received a walker because I have a walking disability. Thank you for your love. (*Nani I.*)

I have recently been converted and get my spiritual nourishment in the church. My favorite hobby is to prepare meals for others. I have received some dishes and kitchen utensils with which I serve others with pleasure. I am very grateful for these items and hope that all of you, dear friends, might also experience this love and friendship. (*Natela Ijaschwili*)



You are invited to the annual  
**Faith Mission  
Soup & Pie Supper  
& Silent Auction**

**Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>  
From 5:00 to 7:30 pm at**

**Gateway Resources**  
(1582 Pembina Ave. West, Winkler, MB)

*Freewill Offering*  
All Proceeds going toward the ministry of Faith Mission  
**Everyone Welcome!**

**May God bless you for your support.....**

*(Recent letter in the FM mailbox)*

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Elias:

My daughter, ..... first learned of Faith Mission at Missionfest in Winnipeg. She picked up a Bale Bank and started to save her money. In fact, last year she asked her friends to make donations to her Bale Bank instead of purchasing birthday gifts! The Lord has helped her to raise \$100.00 and that is how this cheque came to be. May the Lord continue to bless your ministry.

In Christ,  
Kathleen.....



If you would like to use these “Bale Banks” for your children, Sunday School class, or even for yourself, please let us know. We will gladly send you a supply.

**Faith Mission (FriedensBote)**

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Office and Warehouse located at  
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*I would like to receive the Faith Mission Newsletter regularly.*

- Please add my name to your mailing list.
- Please change my address as indicated below.

Name.....  
Address.....  
Town.....Prov.....  
Postal Code.....  
Telephone.....



**Office Hours**



Tuesday 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Clothing sorting & baling:**

Thursday 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. & 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Clothing may also be dropped off in the small white trailer at the south end of the warehouse building. This trailer is open 24 hours a day, emptied on a regular basis, however, if you have more than a few bags or boxes, please call ahead to arrange delivery.

**PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE CLOTHING DONATIONS OUTSIDE!**

**Volunteers Welcome!**

If your Youth Group, Bible Study group, or Ladies' Sewing Circle would like to volunteer for an afternoon or evening (Monday-Saturday), please contact the office to make arrangements. If you would like to have a Faith Mission Director in your church for an oral or visual presentation, please contact the FM office.

Faith Mission (FriedensBote) Inc. solicits your gifts for the purpose identified in this appeal. However, if the project for which the gifts are received has been fully funded or cannot be completed for reasons beyond the control of the charity, the board reserves the right to use such funds for other similar projects.

**Board of Directors**

Peter Penner (204) 325-8606      Jake Elias (204) 822-6063  
Henry Penner (204) 829-3318      Henry Elias (204) 822-3871  
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Faith Mission (FriedensBote) Inc. is a nonprofit, registered charitable organization based in Winkler, Manitoba. Faith Mission was incorporated on May the 16th, 1994 in the Province of Manitoba

**Purpose of Faith Mission**

- to provide humanitarian and spiritual aid to the people of former Communist communities of the world.
- to call others to pray for the suffering people in the world.
- to provide information about the people of the former Communist communities to fellow Christians in North America.

The **Faith Mission Newsletter** is printed bimonthly and mailed at no cost to those people who have supported us in the past or to those who request information about Faith Mission.

**Banking Information** - Heartland Credit Union  
Box 1060, Winkler, MB R6W 4B1  
Account Number 19940-9