

# Mission Newsletter



# FAITH MISSION

May - June 2008

Number 74

---

*“And God Almighty bless thee, and make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a multitude of people. And give thee the blessing of Abraham, to thee, and to thy seed with thee; that thou mayest inherit the land wherein thou art a stranger, which God gave unto Abraham.” (Gen. 28:3, 4)*

---

In this Scripture, Isaac is speaking such an abundant blessing upon Jacob that one would think Jacob would have no more problems. But Jacob's life was full of troubles and persecutions. He had to flee from his brother whose birthright he stole; he worked seven years for his wife and then lost her through manipulation for seven more years, having to marry her sister instead; he lost one of his dearest sons at the hands of other, jealous sons; and when he was old, he had to sojourn to Egypt to escape the famine in his land. But through all of this, God never left him or forsook him.

Just as Jacob was bestowed with abundant blessings yet was not spared problems later in his life, we too may experience great spiritual blessings and peace and still suffer persecution and tribulation in this life (II Tim. 3:12; I Thess. 3:4). Also, like Jacob, we have the Lord, and He will never leave us nor forsake us.

Part of the blessing given to Jacob was that he would inherit a land that did not belong to him - Canaan, the Promised Land. Jacob looked beyond earthly Canaan, however, to his heavenly Canaan - the city which has a foundation whose builder and maker is God (Heb. 11:8-10). All the patriarchs looked beyond the earthly and looked with eyes of faith into the spiritual. They knew they were strangers on this earth, just passing through on their way to God's heavenly planet (Hebrews 11:13,14).

Christians today - like Jacob - look in faith beyond this natural existence. We seek after and prefer spiritual blessings, for "[we] desire a better country, that is, an heavenly" (Heb. 11:16).

Jacob was given a promise that the children of Israel would multiply, and through them would come Jesus Christ, through whom all the families of the earth would be blessed. Let us remember, as did our forefathers, that little things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal (II Cor. 4:18). ∞ ∞

## *God can really do everything!*



*Camp Article translated and reprinted with permission from "Missions Nachrichten May/June 2008"*

Summer is just around the corner and this means it's time for the Youth and Children's Bible Camps in Ukraine.

Our Christian brothers and sisters in the former Soviet countries take Proverbs 22:6 very seriously; "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." They sacrifice their time, their work, sometimes even their health. Very often they face the challenge of a shortage of supplies needed to run the camps. It's usually when they face these challenges that they come to us for assistance.

Dear mission friends, we feel that supporting these camps is possibly the best investment we can make. The following stories from last year's summer camps can confirm this and encourage us for further assistance for this coming camp season. We want to take the opportunity to use the relative religious freedom in the former communist countries.



*Camp Story 1*  
**The Challenge**

The officials of the orphanage in Tscheboksary near the Volga River were already well aware of the positive effect the Christians had on their youth. Therefore, they encouraged their children to participate in the Christian summer camp. However, there was one nine-year-old boy, Jewgeni, whom the orphanage directors considered impossible to work with. The manager of the orphanage warned the Christian worker from the camp: "You will certainly bring this young guy back by tomorrow. He is impossible."

Jewgeni is not an orphan. However, as a result of strong alcohol dependence and the complete disregard of parental duties, his parents were denied parental rights for him, (not a rare case in Russia).

The Christian camp leaders took the challenging warning of the orphanage worker very seriously and kept a particularly close eye on Jewgeni.

**Jewgeni prayed ... not for sneakers**

Two days into the camp, one of the camp leaders, Swetlana, told the children that they all have a Father in heaven, to whom they can present everything in prayer. During the course of the day, Swetlana jokingly asked Jewgeni why his toes were peeking out of his shoes. Jewgeni explained he only received one pair of shoes for the year at the orphanage. The quality was poor so they soon wore out. Swetlana's response was: "Jewgeni, you should simply share your shoe problem with Jesus. He is able to do everything." "Ok, I'll do that," answered Jewgeni.

When time came for evening prayer, Jewgeni's voice softly prayed, for the first time, and everybody listened attentively: "Good evening, God. How are you doing? Actually, for me it's going quite well. God, I want ..... that my parents come to me."

This request was not what Swetlana had counted on at all. It caught her by surprise. She had already bought a pair of quality sneakers for Jewgeni and her plan was to give them to him the next day, as an answer to his prayer. However, now Jewgeni had asked God for something entirely different. Swetlana knew, how these homeless children long for a life in a loving family setting. However, she had no idea where Jewgeni's parents lived.

The next morning Swetlana gave Jewgeni the new sneakers. He immediately put them on the table and admired them. At lunch time, Jewgeni took off his shoes and once again put them on the table beside his plate. Swetlana kindly asked him to take them from the table. She told him that the shoes did not belong on the table. She was very happy that Jewgeni was so impressed with his present, and she hoped, he would forget his request for his parents. However, she could not help but notice that Jewgeni looked a bit depressed.

**"God! You are really able to do everything!"**

On that same day, late in the evening, Swetlana noticed the car belonging to the state orphanage driving into the camp. The lady from the home got out of the car and

greeted Swetlana with a friendly handshake. Then, without any delay she explained why she was there: "It has given me a lot of trouble to find you here. This afternoon, absolutely unexpectedly, Jewgeni's parents appeared at the orphanage. They traveled a great distance from their village just to see their son, even if only quite briefly. I was very busy and informed both of them that Jewgeni was well taken care of at the summer camp. I told them that I did not even know the way to get to the camp."

I attempted to put them off until a later time when the boy would again be at home. They had not shown any interest in him for more than a year. However, they did not give up. "Now, we are here - now we want to see him," they persisted

Swetlana saw a married couple get out of the car, looking around with uncertainty. Both looked somewhat unkempt. Suddenly, everyone heard a scream coming from Jewgeni! "God! Now I know that you are really able to do everything!" In an instant everyone witnessed the moving scene. Jewgeni came and jumped into the arms of his father. He could not restrain his emotions and repeated over and over again: "God, you are really able to do everything! God, you are so good!"

Tears rolled down the cheeks of Jewgeni's parents. All the group leaders were crying with joy. ☺ ☺

*(More Camp Stories in the July \August Newsletter)*

**News from the Carpathian Mountains**

*Dear Faith Mission friends!.....*

*From May 18th till 25th we had a great crusade in the Carpathian Mountains. We had a crusade every day and over 400 unbelievers were able to hear the Word of God.*

*In some of these villages we want to buy houses for our services. We decided that we need to buy three small church buildings to continue our ministry. The decision was made because of the desire of the local people and the distance from our main church (20-30 km). It's not possible for them to make such a long trip several times a week. We don't want to loose these people for Christ.*

*We need to resolve this problem in a short period of time. So, we would like to ask you if you would be interested to participate*



*in this and buy at least one house. The minimum price is USD \$15,000-20,000 per unit. In the same houses we will also have camps for the local village people.*

*The names of the villages are Cheremoshnya, Golovy, Zelene. You can find them in the maps. We visited these villages many times before but we feel it's time to move ahead now. ....*

*We plan to have camp for 150 campers this summer.....It costs US\$6 per day per camper. We will have 150 campers for 6 days. So, all together it will be \$5400. This is more than last year because the US dollar is getting weaker everyday. Last year it was 5.05 hryvna per dollar, now it's 4.40 - 4.50 hryvna. Fuel prices have increased dramatically. As a result of that, everything is getting more expensive. You know this as well as we do because I know the same is happening in Canada and the United States.*

Peter Nastasiychuk  
Carpathian Region - Ukraine

*(Faith Mission will again be sponsoring the Youth & Children's camps for this summer. However, the support for the meeting houses in the 3 villages will depend on the support that we will be getting for this project.*

***If you wish to support the Meeting House project or the Children's Camps, please indicate your choice on the donation card or on your cheque.)***



***Setback - Reason for New Challenges and Reinforced Prayer***

*Translated and reprinted with permission from German "Missions Nachrichten May\June 2008"*

During the last few years the Grizai family orphanage in Krasnodar (Russia) had become a blessing to many orphan children. Unfortunately, this Christian family was not spared from setbacks and losses. We want to inform you, our dear mission friends, that the Grizai family experienced countless challenges during the course of the years. They worked through many difficulties but due to a recent crisis it is no longer possible for them to continue their work with the orphans.

We as a mission board have determined not to let down these orphans. Thanks to the generous support from you people, we, as Missionswerk FriedensBote, were



↑ Board Members from Missionswerk FriedensBote (Germany), Walter Penner and Alexander Goss, with the orphans who are with the Zarenko family .

↵ Dear little Valeria, an orphan child without arms, found her new affectionate mother in Maija Zarenko.

↵ Valeria at her chores, cleaning up the shoes.



privileged to do provide them with financial support as well as many material goods and necessary items. We are committed to

continue supporting these children.

The orphans who were with the Grizais till now, are now living with two Christian families. At the beginning of May members of the FriedensBote board of directors, Alexander Goss and Walter Penner, made a quick trip to Russia to discuss the situation. We would like to reach out to the families who have accommodated the orphan children. We want to help these two couples as they carry this overwhelming load. Otherwise, they would become overloaded and break down under this stress. One of these families, a married couple, Vladimir and Maija Zarenko, write to us:

*"Now eight orphan children live with us; ages from 6 to 18 years. The two oldest children are in professional training at college. Though they share accommodations in the flat at the vocational school, they are, however, very*



often with us.

Sweet little Valeria, an orphan without arms, is also with us. Dina Grizai has invested many hours of love and training in her. Although she may never be completely healthy, she is a very bright and happy child. She has already outlived what the doctors predicted her life to be when she was born.

We had not expected that our family would suddenly become so large. However, we feel that the Lord has laid it on our hearts. The government assistance, (child care money) is barely sufficient for food for the family. All the other expenses are our responsibility. One of the biggest challenges is taking the whole family to church services, which is not that close to our home. Together with some of the older children, we have made some renovations in our house. We have altered the halls; now with the installation of a boiler we have hot water, a shower and a heated bathroom in the house. We are planning to do some more renovations later.

It will not be easy for us. It is our sincere prayer that the Lord will teach us to love these children, to understand their problems and to teach them to love our creator and Savior. Our greatest desire is that all our children get to know Jesus as their personal Saviour.

Please, pray for us. We thank you for all the help which you provided for us."

Vladimir and Maija Zarenko



## 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.

## Faith Mission (FriedensBote)

Box 34

Winkler, Manitoba R6W 4A4

Phone (204) 325-4086

Toll-free Fax (866) 478-0345

Email: [info@faithmission.ca](mailto:info@faithmission.ca)

[www.faithmission.ca](http://www.faithmission.ca)

Office and Warehouse located at

500 Cargill Road

## Board of Directors

Peter Penner (204) 325-8606

Jake Elias (204) 822-6063

Henry Penner (204) 829-3318

Henry Elias (204) 822-3871

Abram Unrau (204) 685-2209

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



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.....