

# Mission Newsletter



March - April 2009

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*“Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.” (Isa. 1:16, 17)*

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Without righteousness toward God and toward our fellowman, there is no true salvation. And while we are saved by grace through faith in the shed blood of Jesus at Calvary, there are still responsibilities on our part in living, the Christian life. The prophet Isaiah gives us ten commands that, when followed, will make us true examples of Christ's love in action. And after all, is this not what being a Christian is all about?

*“Wash you, make you clean.”* The first thing we must do after our sins have been forgiven is to “put off the old man.” We do that by studying the Word of God and then applying it to our everyday lives. We wash and make ourselves clean by conforming to its teachings.

*“Put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes.”* We put off the old man not only by repenting of our sins but by forsaking them as well. Even the roots of the old sins must be put away. Don't leave temptation around; even God doesn't want it where He can see it.

*“Cease to do evil; Learn to do well.”* These two seem to go together. A river cannot give forth both bitter water and sweet. Once we cease our sins and wash ourselves by the water of the Word, it is natural that we begin to do well. As we mature in our walk, we take on more of the Christian graces.

*“Seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.”* If a person knows he is going to be judged, he will make every effort to be perfect in that which he does. We will be judged according to our works of righteousness. Wouldn't it be better not to have any surprises on that day because we anticipated and took care of things now?

Summing up, the true child of God will seek out and help those who are in need, such as the oppressed, the fatherless, and the widow.

To encourage ourselves to do these things, let us remember Paul's advice to Titus: *“This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, That they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men” (Tit. 3:8).*

## Ukrainian Pensioners are among those hit hardest by crisis

11 March, 2009 - Re-printed with Permission from Kyiv Post [www.kyivpost.com](http://www.kyivpost.com)

With an average pension of Hr 1,060 (\$169.32 Cdn\$) life is getting tough for older Ukrainians. (\*\* *This comment appeared in the Kyiv Post after this article was printed: “Where did you get this average pension from? I know a lot of pensioners that would love to have this amount per month.”*)

Ukraine's minimum pension is Hr 596 (\$90.89 Cdn\$). Converted into kilos of pork beloved by Ukrainians, it only buys nine kilos of fillet from the supermarket. But a typical pensioner would not succumb to the luxury of regular shopping in supermarkets, or of buying such expensive cuts of meat for other than a very special occasion. Often their diet is based on staples such as potatoes and grains bought in bulk at the market.

An average pensioner receives \$169.32 Cdn., still a pittance for a lifetime of work. Faced with a tiny pension that is constantly devalued by inflation (in 2008, it was a Europe-leading 22.3 percent), pensioners have to rely on relatives to survive, or try to supplement their income in any way they can. They sell flowers or balloons in underpasses or play in the streets with an age-old accordion.





Hardship leads to despair, which can be tragic. In Kyiv Oblast alone, one or two people commit suicide daily, according to the Interior Ministry. Most often these are people in the 40-to-60 age group. Economic reasons such as inability to pay debts to banks, poverty and joblessness top the list of causes cited by the ministry. But personal reasons,

such as the loss of loved ones and remorse, are also common. Abuse of drugs and alcohol are also among the leading causes of suicide. (Photos by Yaroslav Debelyi & Nataliya Kravchuk)

**FM Editor:** (With your help, Faith Mission is able to provide many of the Ukrainian pensioners with clothing, blankets, pillows, and spiritual help.)

## Project - Bibles for Pastors Yakutsk - Way up North

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*Missions Nachrichten*



God has richly blessed the project “One Hundred Thousand New Testaments” which we began nearly two years ago. The donations which came in for this project, allowed us to print 124,240 Russian testaments in two different formats. A total of 50,000 copies were printed in Moscow. Now the missionaries have the joy of presenting a new testament to everyone who asks about God.

The printing of the new testaments into Yakutsk language is still delayed. The translation of some specific portions of Yakutsk text has been very difficult.

An arrangement with the Yakutian Christians has been made. We will compile and print their own Yakutian translation. The necessary legalities are all in place. The requested printing of at least 30,000 copies makes the project worthwhile. Unfortunately, this project comes with significant additional costs.

Now, however, preachers are continuously asking for the entire *Holy Bible*. The need is becoming more and more urgent. A new generation of preachers has grown up in the communities whom we have supported. Our heart's desire is that they will be able to use the same Bible which their fathers had.

We plan to print Bibles in the Russian language in two formats with zippers. To start with, we're planning to print 3,000 copies in each format. The cost of per copy is about 12 euros (\$19.83 Cdn).

In the last 20 years, we have secretly channeled thousands of Bibles into the atheistic country; many in very dangerous ways. Today the borders are open. However, we do not know how long this freedom will last. Therefore, we would like to use the opportunity of freedom that we now have.

*Dear mission friends, our call is to spread the word of God. This is why we have been encouraged to continue this project. We trust that you, also, will be encouraged to support this great project. Missionswerk FriedensBote*

## Our Dear Brother, Jakob Esau, has passed on to his Eternal Home ...

On Friday, April 3, 2009 at the age of 81 years.  
Jakob Esau was born in Ukraine on June 11, 1927.



*Jakob Esau speaking at the Revniya Church dedication Service in 2004. His stories and messages would captivate audiences of any age.*

World War II added inexpressible heavy suffering to his family. Firstly, it took the Esau family several months to flee from Ukraine to Germany. Many refugees succumbed to the hostile bombs and shells, famine, illnesses and homelessness. Then came the real test; the terrible trek to the vast Siberian "everlasting exile".

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During this time, Jakob learned to put his complete trust in God, although it meant painful and difficult experiences. Already as a young boy, Jakob had been quick to share God's plan of salvation to those who were in hopeless unbelief. However, this posed many hard consequences for him: Jakob was arrested four times and spent eight years of his life in the worst Soviet death camps.

However, in spite of all the hardships, Jakob never doubted the sovereignty of God. This is also confirmed by the title of his book, "Trotzdem Macht Gott Keinen Fehler"; ("Nevertheless, God Makes No Mistakes!") This German book is helpful to those who search for security in Christ and is available from Faith Mission for \$15.00.

In 1974 Jakob, with his wife, Katharina, and 10 children, immigrated to Germany. Finally, he should have been able to enjoy his much deserved rest. Oh, no! Not for Jakob! Exactly the contrary happened. Jakob could not forget the hundreds of imprisoned Christians, still behind the barbed wire fences of the east. Responding to the prayers of these people behind the iron curtain, Jakob Esau spent more time traveling than at home.

Jakob traveled many miles with three close friends, Abram Hamm, Johann Janzen and David Klassen; all with the same burden on their heart; helping the people in the communist Soviet Union. The other three courageous witnesses of the Gospel are already with Christ. Jakob Esau was the last representative of the "old guard" among us.

For many years, Pastor Esau was very active in his pastoral care service, prison ministry, and on occasion serving as speaker at FriedensBote mission presentations.

However, the symptoms of illness and age took their toll in the last few years. In 1998 Jakob underwent a major heart operation. Since that time, he had several mild heart attacks. In addition to his heart condition, he suffered from rheumatism and dizziness.

We would like to encourage you, to pray for the Esau family as well as his co-workers at Missionswerk

FriedensBote in Germany. It is through Jakob Esau and the FriedensBote missionaries that God has blessed and comforted very many people. May God richly repay them, both here and in eternity. ❖



*Pastor Esau, telling stories to a group of young listeners at a Ukrainian Children's Camp. He loved the children, and they loved him!*

Here is a response to a letter from some Private School students here in Manitoba who recently corresponded with Pastor Peter Nastasiychuk. Faith Mission arranged for the letters to be translated for them in Ukraine.

*Dear Mrs. (Teacher, and all the students, names left out),*

*Greetings from a far away country Ukraine, as we live thousands of miles away. We, Peter and Elena, are very grateful for your letter. We don't remember exactly if we visited your school while in Canada because we visited so many places and now we are somewhat confused. We like your country, but we like Ukraine more because all the people here speak Ukrainian, and we understand each other. But, a time will come when we are going to understand each other when God gives us one language. But, it will be a new heaven and earth.*

*We attend a Baptist church in Chernivtsi. We also have many children in our church. Chernivtsi is a big city (population of about 200,000 people), so we don't have cows and other animals. When we were children we lived in the countryside and we had sheep, cows, goats, etc. It was interesting to take care of them and bring them to our local pastures everyday.*

*My wife Elena makes wedding dresses at home and I have a ministry in the Carpathian Mountains. It is 130 km from our city of Chernivtsi. I drive to the mountains every week to preach about Jesus Christ. We go to villages where there are no real Christians. We have many children there. That's why we have many camps every year. We also had a winter camp this year. We had about 110 children from non-Christian families. We told them about the Lord Jesus. Children enjoy camps like that very much. In summer time they have holidays and we are going to have summer camps too.*

*The Carpathian Mountains are beautiful in winter as well as in summer time. This year we had lots of snow. It was very cold, minus 20 to minus 30 degrees Celsius.*

*It has been more than 12 years since we started going to the mountains. I personally live more in the Carpathians than at home while my wife Elena stays at home because she has to work.*

*When you grow up, I wish you could tell others about Christ because we should do it as the Lord commanded.*

*Mrs. (teacher), please read the following verses for children Jeremiah 1:1-9, Judges 13:5, Luke 1:13-17. Christ wants all His children to not just be farmers or workers, but He wants us all to be witnesses, to bring people to Christ. If we don't, who else will do it?*

*We also have many schools but they are mostly public. We have just a few private schools but they all are very expensive. So, be very grateful for your school and listen to the teachers what they have to say. Also always ask God what He wants you to be.*

*Send greetings to your parents, all your teachers. If you want to see the Carpathian Mountains, you may fly over the ocean to us. We'll be glad to see you here.*

*May God bless you!*

*Pastor Peter and Elena Nastasiychuk*

## Order Books Online using Paypal

Go to [www.faithmission.ca](http://www.faithmission.ca) and place your order now.

Also available by mail or at the Faith Mission Office during office hours.



For your convenience, Faith Mission Donations can also be made online using PayPal. Or, maybe you prefer to have your donation transferred from your Bank account to ours automatically every month. Simply complete the enclosed ADP Card and return it to our office.



## 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.

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.

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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.

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