

Mission Newsletter



January - February 2011

Number 90

“For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

Matthew 6:14-15 (KJV)

The following true story is the second in a series of short stories taken from the book, “Voices in the Wilderness” published by Advancing Native Missions in Charlottesville, Virginia. Advancing Native Missions has granted us full permission to re-print the stories in our Mission Newsletter.

The Power of Forgiveness

How could the Lord expect Sunee to forgive her husband? Didn't He know what he had done to her?

Sunee's past life was a string of bad decisions. Marrying her first husband and having a child by him was a big mistake. Then thinking that another man would solve her problems, she gave away her little daughter and got married a second time. But the second husband proved to be worse than the first. Prone to fits of violence, one day he stabbed her in the neck and left her for dead. She survived only because someone found her lying in a pool of blood and rushed her to the hospital.

During her rehabilitation, two of her physical therapists shared the gospel with her. Though Sunee had been a Buddhist all her life, she was so touched by what she heard that she decided to become a Christian.

As she grew in her faith, she learned that one of the key tests of true Christianity is whether or not a person can forgive his enemies. At first she found this teaching too difficult to obey, as she could not bring herself to forgive her husband. But as she continued to grow in the Lord, she knew He was calling her to completely obey Him.

After much prayer, Sunee decided to visit her ex-husband, who was by then in prison. When she arrived there, he was completely shocked to see her alive and well! Sunee explained to him how the Lord had saved her and had completely changed her life. Every week she went to visit him, bringing him gifts of food to supplement his meager prison rations. Through her witness he almost became a Christian, but unfortunately he was transferred to another location before she could lead him to the Lord.

Sunee then set out to reconcile with her daughter, Oh, whom she had given away years ago. Oh was filled with bitterness against her mother for abandoning her, and initially she did not want to have anything to do with her. But church members began reaching out to Oh. In time, she also became a Christian.

As Oh grew in her faith, she also learned that she had to forgive those who had hurt her. So just as her mother had previously done, Oh also prayed for grace to forgive. The Lord answered her prayer, and today Sunee and Oh enjoy what was unthinkable in years past: a stable mother-daughter relationship.

The Lord always blesses us when we forgive those who have wronged us. Have you forgiven those who have hurt you?

Christmas Comes to Ukraine.....



The Faith Mission Christmas Gift Boxes were shipped before Christmas arrived in time to bring

joy and happiness to many children in Ukraine. Here are just a few pictures that we recently received from the Chernivtsi area

of the country. For some of these children, these gifts are the only gifts that they get all year. Many of their parents are living in extreme poverty and have a very hard time providing for their families.

Surprise visit from Ukraine at the Faith Mission Warehouse

We recently had a surprise visitor from Ukraine at our Faith Mission facility in Winkler. Lubov and her son-in-law, Valeriy, who now lives in Winkler, Manitoba, stopped by our place on a workday-Thursday afternoon for a short visit. Valeriy did a wonderful job interpreting for his mother-in-law, who does not speak English. We had a great visit and are now working on getting a container of clothing into the Cherkassy region of Ukraine where Lubov is working with the orphans and a ladies' prison. She left us a copy of her testimony which we want to share with all of you.

My name is Lubov Beregova. I was born in Ukraine, when Ukraine was still a part of the Soviet Union. At that time it was still under communism. People didn't accept God. They were taught that they come from monkeys, and my generation believed it. Countless youth came to be like this monkey, turning to alcohol and tobacco, which was readily accessible everywhere.

My parents were non-believers and didn't live a good lifestyle. They had idols on their walls. My father also started drinking more and more alcohol. My mother became a believer through our Christian neighbors and soon her husband, my dad, left us. I was the third child in our family.

When I was 16 I accepted Christ into my life and was baptized at 18 years of age in a Baptist Church. I soon got married. My husband was also a believer. He would often preach in our church and after a while he became a pastor in a very small village church.

Our family grew and we were blessed with three sons and six daughters. We taught our children poems and songs and all of our children were very musical, praising God with their musical talents. Later my husband was offered a choice of two other churches because there weren't enough pastors in the area. We discussed the move, and my husband accepted the offer. Our whole family supported the move.

I wanted to know more about God and talked to my husband and soon got a chance to go to a seminary. I asked God to show me another way to serve him. Our family was growing up.

In our town, a hospital for men with alcohol problems had been closed and converted into a women's jail. That was in 1990, right when the Soviet Union was falling apart. Ukraine became independent at that time and with that came extreme poverty. The government kept all the money to themselves and people became poorer and poorer. That was the start of rich societies and poor societies. People started to drink even more. This immoral lifestyle led to more and more orphans everywhere. The orphanages and

jails got full and overfull. We also had a really hard time feeding our family. My husband also became unemployed so we didn't even have money for bread and milk. Our family prayed that God would provide for us and give my husband work. One day I went outside and found an envelope with

money in it. This was such a blessing that we could feed our children with for a month. We had no idea who it was from. It was through these tough times, that we were better able to understand those who lived in poverty.

When I found out that there was a women's jail in our community, I couldn't understand how people could take these young women away from their families. I had a burning desire to tell these women about God, his word, and His love. It was not easy for us to get permission to get into the jails but God made it happen.

When I started this my

whole family was behind me. I prepared myself to tell them about how Jesus loves all people. We collected food and clothes for these women. Many of the women accepted Christ and got baptized right in prison. There was no place to baptize them so we built a large container where we could baptize the women. Time went by and some women were released from jail while others were incarcerated. My husband opened several new churches around town. It was a challenge for him because of the alcohol and drug addictions everywhere.

Every Sunday, our whole family would go to visit these churches which my husband had planted. Some were as far as 50 kilometres away. On the way there we often observed some children watching us from behind a fence. We wanted to know what was going on and discovered that there was an orphanage for mentally challenged children, many with health problems. They were all hungry and were dirty, many wore ripped clothes and worn-out shoes. Most of them had lice so their hair were shaved off, making it difficult to tell them apart. We decided to help them. We wanted them to understand God's word too. After we taught them how to pray we heard them praying for their parents.

We didn't have our own car at that time, which made it difficult getting from place to place. But, we never stopped praying; we kept serving God. At this time God blessed us with a washing machine. Up until this time we never had one. Someone from town just gave it to us. It was about this time when I got to know a German woman, named Anna Martens



Top photo: Lubov and her husband with a group baptism candidates in prison.

Bottom photo: Lubov with a young woman being released from the Ladies Prison.

from Wiesbaden, Germany. She invited me to come to Germany. There she introduced me to another lady, Anna Rogalsky. When I came back home we continued writing letters to each other. We kept serving in the churches and the orphanages. By this time we had saved a little bit of money to buy a small five passenger car. Although there were eleven of us, our entire family managed to drive around in this compact car. We had prayed for a larger vehicle, when suddenly the phone rang. It was Anna Martens. She told us that Anna Rogalsky would move to Canada and that they had bought their van for us. It was a miracle! God's timing is always right! Never too late! Like a loving father, He teaches us to trust him.

Making a living in our country became more difficult everyday. The unemployment rate surged upward. Many of the Christians were able to emigrate to America. We also had the opportunity to move. We desired a different lifestyle too and wanted our children to experience better opportunities. Our immigration papers and medical tests were done. It was almost time to leave our country! We prayed for the work that we had done because we knew of no pastors or preachers that would continue our work. We also prayed that God would help us to make a decision after his will. We were really looking forward to moving and having an easier lifestyle.

Then, God answered our prayers! He made it clear to us that we should stay where we were. Our family stayed in Ukraine, except for our oldest son in law. He ventured to Canada to start a new life. The separation from him was very hard. However, we kept on serving the Lord and he didn't let us down. It made us happy when many people accepted Jesus into their lives. The children in those orphanages grew in their social behaviour, making their teachers wonder about their changed lifestyle. We could see that God was working in them. Then God touched the hearts of a congregation from a church in Germany. They provided these children with new beds and showers and supplied a washing machine and a kitchen. Even today, several members of the churches remember the time growing up in the orphanages.

The women in the jail anxiously waited for us every Sunday. They provided a room for us at the jail, where we could preach sermons and teach these women about God's word. In the winter it was very cold in this room. Although we were dressed warmly, we could see the white vapor clouds come from our mouths. Often I would bring wood for heating the room. The leaders of the jail observed the changes in these women. They obeyed; they didn't smoke; they worked diligently. There were times when we talked to a woman in the jail and then found out that her child was in the orphanage. Many of those women and children came to our house because they didn't have anyplace to go after

being released. We did everything we could possibly do, but it was very hard. It wasn't easy to do everything God wanted us to do. His command is for us to go out and tell his word to the whole world.



Lubov (bottom center with white scarf) with a group of women in the prison. Praise the Lord, He has given Lubov a passion for these young ladies and for many also their families. (Sorry about low resolution photo)

We prayed for a place where these women and children could stay after they were released from prison. Our prayers were answered! In one of the village churches where my husband was a pastor, an older woman responded. Her good life was a wonderful example of how Christians should live. She loved the Lord! Before she passed away, her desire was that her house would serve God in some way. That was an answer to our prayers. Although it was a very old house, this was an ideal home where these women and children could now live. We did some renovations, fixing up whatever we could. We prayed that these people who lived in this house for a while, would be able to earn their own

money for food. Some women moved in after prison, till they found their own place to live. The vegetable garden provided work and rewarded them with much of their own produce. We are praying for ideas and projects for the people living in this house so that they will be able to earn some money and make their own living.

Today, many of our church members come from these jails and orphanages.

God's word is being spread all over the world through them as well! We are very thankful for the prayers from friends and churches and the many people that God motivates to support us.

Love & prayers.....

Lubov

Prices of housing and utilities services in Ukraine to triple in 2011

2 days ago at 16:04 | Interfax-Ukraine

The expenses of each household for housing and utilities services, including housing fee, water, electricity, gas and other fuel, in 2011 could grow by about UAH 1,700 (\$212 Cdn) per year, according to a posting on the Web site of the National Forum of Trade Unions of Ukraine



Calculations are based on the 35% increase in heat tariffs that, according to the decision of the National Electricity Regulatory Commission of Ukraine, should come into force from January 1, 2011 after a relevant order of the local authorities.

In addition, the 50% rise in gas price for the public is expected from April 1 that is the obligatory condition of the International Monetary Fund for granting the third tranche to Ukraine. The government of Ukraine is mulling the possibility of doubling electricity price for the

public from April 2011 and increasing it by 39% from August 2011. The Energy Ministry has drawn up a forecast for the average wholesale market price of electricity, according to which the price will grow by 15% in 2011 from 2010, to 55.07 kopecks per kWh. This sum contains the increased tariffs for the population (by 100% in April and 39% in August).

“2010” What a Blessed Year!

In spite of the major disasters all over the world in 2010, our donors remained faithful in their giving and Faith Mission had a wonderful year. In November and December we had a record number of groups coming to help with sorting and baling, which was an added blessing due to being swamped with clothing, much of the year. We were able to ship a total of eleven containers of clothing overseas; ten to Ukraine and one to Moldova.

We closed off the year with more money in our account than we normally have so the Board recently decided to invest \$5,000 in wheat for the flour mill in Ukraine and donate another \$5,000 towards a Drug & Alcohol Rehabilitation Center. What a Blessing! This is only made possible by the many faithful donors, inspired to give by our loving Heavenly Father. May all the Praise and Honor go to Him!



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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