

# Mission Newsletter



November - December 2011

Number 95

*“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” (Luke 2:13, 14)*

This is the season of the year when goodwill and love for others spreads warmth and cheer around the world. In sending His Son into the world, God manifested His goodwill to us. Therefore, it is only natural that we give glory to Him who designed and planned our redemption. It was for our joy and comfort that the angels sang “on earth peace, good will toward men.”

In Christ, peace was brought into this world of turmoil and strife. He alleviated the ill will that sin had raised between God and man. If we are at peace with God, we have complete peace -- peace of conscience and peace with our fellowman.

Peace is the fruit of all the good that flows to us from the union of the divine nature and the human nature in Jesus Christ.

Since all the good that we can ever hope to have is due to God's goodwill, He must receive all the glory. Our peace and goodwill cannot be inconsistent with the glory of God. There can be no peace in sin or self-indulgences, but only in Jesus Christ.

Many years ago, tidings of joy to all people were proclaimed by the heavenly host. Those tidings of great joy still ring out today -- for all peoples, races, and tongues. Jesus still invites mankind to come to Him.

It is a glorious blessing to really know Jesus and the true significance of His birth. Time was divided forever as God became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14). He brought to an end the division between God and man because of sin. He brought peace to all who will accept Him as their Saviour and Lord. (It is a peace that goes beyond all understanding and penetrates the very soul and spirit of man.) Mere words could never express Jesus to us. We must be ever seeking to know more of Him through His Word, prayer, and the Holy Spirit. ❧❧❧

## Thanksgiving time in Siberia



As we have mentioned in previous Newsletters, we were able to help out some Russian farmers this spring with seed wheat. We had hoped to ship them some seed from Canada but due to the Canadian Wheat Board rules, we were not able to get an export permit to ship seed wheat from Canada. However, we were able to purchase good quality seed in another area of Russia where the drought of 2010 had not been as severe. Here is a translation of a letter we recently received from one of the Siberian farmers as well as a few of the photos they sent us.

*Dear friends!*

*I am very glad to receive the letter from you. Now I can personally write to you and thank you for your generous gift.*

*This idea to sow wheat came up 2 years ago when we had many people without work. We sowed our first crop of wheat in 2009. The 2009 crop did quite well but, unfortunately, in 2010 we experienced a very severe drought and received no crop at all.*

*Therefore, the timing of your generous gift to purchase the seed wheat was perfect for us. After this year's harvest, we took most of the wheat to a mill and had it milled into flour. The flour has turned out to be of excellent quality for baking bread. We were able to help*

many poor families. We have made 400 (four hundred) packages of essential products. Because we could exchange some of the flour for vegetable (sunflower) oil, and sugar, we were able to include these items in their packages consisting of a 10kg bag of flour, some vegetable oil, butter, sugar, etc. These small packages have been a big help to many poor and needy families, to pensioners and the sick. It has been a special blessing to the families with many children to feed. Yes, may the Lord bless you and continue to generously provide for you. Many people thanked you for the help.



Below I will write some results of this year's bountiful harvest which came from the high quality seed we received from you.

The sum for seed from you - 238,800 rubles (\$7500.00)  
 The field of wheat - 201 hectares was sowed.  
 Productivity from hectare - 2200 kg./hectare.  
 59.5 tons of wheat - net profit (minus all expenses. We paid for fertilizer, and land and machinery rent with wheat from the harvest.

I am sending some photos during harvesting. On this photo our youth went on a missionary trip and were photographed in the field. (I stand on the extreme right).

We also sow spiritually on the fields and, thank God, He cultivates and the Spiritual Crop turns out. The Lord gives Grace and brings the saved into the church. (1Cor.1-6). We are working on a new church by helping with evangelizing in the neighboring villages and cities.

Once again, please accept our humble gratitude for your generous gift and, for your participation. If we get another good crop next year, we can again help many more poor people.

2 Cor.9:12 "For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;"

**GOD'S RICH BLESSINGS !!!**  
 In HIS Love,  
 Your brother Alexander

## Christmas Blessing.....

### *Putting a Sparkle in the Children's Eyes*

*(Translated from Missionswerk FriedensBote Nachrichten Nov./Dec 2011 - by permission)*

The church in the village Tschertsche (north-west corner of Ukraine) consists of about 120 members and is very active in missions and evangelization. Hospitals and orphanages are visited on a regular basis and much time is spent in relief operations. Missionswerk FriedensBote has enjoyed a very close-knit relationship with this church group for the last eight years. One of FriedensBote's truck

drivers comes from Tschertsche. Every year, two truck loads of humanitarian aid are delivered to this community and distributed by the local church. It is then distributed in the region - in the area of Wolynien which is spread out over more than 20,000 square kilometers. People from adjoining Belarus also come to fetch their portion of the aid. Here is a short report about the situation and what the mission means to the local people.

*Michail Tokartschuk writes the following:*

The village Tschertsche lies in the area of the marshes, rivers and woods. There is no industry in this entire west Ukrainian region.

The main employment of the area consists of raising cattle and other farming. With good weather conditions the people harvest wheat, potatoes, herbs and turnips. With unfavorable weather the harvest is poor or nothing. The ground in this area of Ukraine is very sandy with poor nutrients. Also, after more than two decades since the fall of the Soviet collective farm system, some things have remained the same. There are only very few individual people who ventured into private business of farming or any other business. In the beginning, several ventured into their own business, however, due to lack of state support, high taxes and the corrupt state bureaucracy, their enterprise did not survive.

However, most villagers do not go hungry. Many are able to benefit at least in some small way from the agricultural enterprises. Some may be able to deliver potatoes, although, the price may only work out to be 5 cents / kg; not much for a profit! The pension and the child benefit barely cover utility costs. So, most people lack the means for clothing, bedding and other necessities of life.

Thirty to forty percent of the population lives below the poverty line. Their houses, built 80 - 100 years ago have often sunk into the ground up to the windows. The Ukrainian stove takes almost half of the living space. Crude beds have been constructed from wood scraps, with mattresses consisting of a bag stuffed with hay. Furniture is often no more than a table and a simple bench. There is no running water; toilets are basic outdoor, outhouses. For many, clothes are often 30-50 years old; on their feet - rubber boots.

The unannounced visit to the people living in this desolate and hopeless situation seems like a very pleasant surprise. A group of visitors greets them





with pleasant smiles and offers clothes, bedding and a package with fresh food items; simply, free of charge. Dumbfounded the people look at their guests and try to understand their motive.



Why would these total strangers look after them? For many even their own relatives have forgotten about them!

Some responded in a strange manner. One man accepted the gift mattress but then replied: "I can't sleep on this clean mattress because I am simply too dirty." In some cases the people said: "I will wear these clothes only for holidays and special occasions so that I needn't be ashamed when among other people." Or, "I want to keep this pretty dress (or suit) for my burial. In it I will look nice."

Most of the couples in the villages are blessed with many children; not only with the Christians. Adding up the costs for 7-8 winter jackets and 7-8 pair of winter boots for the children is not that difficult but buying these is a different story. It's not possible! They just do not have that much money! The children often take turns going to school because they share clothes.

When we come to such families with the bales of clothing from Faith Mission or from Missionswerk FriedensBote, the same always happens: The eyes of the happy children shine and their parents weep tears of joy. More often than not, they will struggle to find suitable words and ways to express their gratitude and then wish God's rich blessing to all who take part in this act of love. Then I'm again reminded of the words of Jesus: "I was without clothes and you have clothed Me ..." (Matth. 25.36).

One of four boarding schools which we visited is in the Sabolottja region. These children are placed here because they have "special needs"; they do not fit in the "normal" school setting. Often the reason is because of their parent's drug or alcohol addictions. As a rule, these children do not have any contact with their parents.

The sad, "far-away" looks in the eyes of these boys and girls is an obvious sign of their troubled past. Their crying voices sound eerie and pitiful. Although they have a place to sleep and do not starve here, they have been robbed of their childhood. Very sad!

However, a miracle happens every time we hand a small present to a child and say to him or her: "You are not forgotten; I love you and Jesus loves you too." It is as if the sun rises in the smiling face of the child!"

Before our youth started the Christmas program here, the leader warned us expressly: "The attention span of these children is no more than 30 minutes. Even in our school lessons, we never make them longer than 30 minutes."



singing songs and reciting a few poems, before and after the message. Time passed by, quickly; 30, 40, 50 minutes. The children were still just as attentive as when the first song was sung. The head mistress sat there in bewilderment; some of the teachers changed astonished looks; they could not believe what they saw!

After one hour and 20 minutes the program was finished. Then we distributed the gifts which had been provided by Missionswerk FriedensBote. Joy and excitement radiated from the eyes of the children, many whispered a polite "thank-you".

I noticed a bashful, 10-year-old boy sitting apathetically along the sidelines. I asked him: "Why are you so sad?" The young boy answered: "I'm waiting for my mom. She should bring me a big cake." One of the leaders explained that the boy's mother had lost her parental rights. Now, however, things had improved somewhat concerning this situation, and thus she was expected to come by on the next day.



*Are we responsible for them?*

On the way back we discussed what we had just experienced. This experience will be etched in our mind for the rest of our lives! Would God require us to give an account for these little ones some day? What

can we do, so that their hearts will become pliable, so that they have a desire to live their life for God? Sometimes it doesn't take a lot to make a huge difference!

Jesus founded His church on earth, so that it would serve others and be an example to the lost.

Our Christian service to the poor, needy and orphans is only possible through your support of Missionswerk FriedensBote (Faith Mission). We thank all our mission friends for the support you have expressed during the past year. Can we count on your continued support in the future?

*Michail Tokartschuk, - leader of the church in Tschertsche (Ukraine)*



***"Dear Lord..... Bless these Gift Boxes.... and those children who will receive them!"***

We are very excited about our "new" Christmas Gift Boxes that we shipped to Ukraine in the last 3 containers. A very special "THANK YOU" to everyone that packed a box and dropped it off at Faith Mission. Also, to those who came out to Faith Mission to help with packing and loading! We have had a wonderful response to the Christmas Gift Box Ministry. Please pray that the children will be able to feel God's love when they open their Gift Box this Christmas.

Faith Mission would like to thank you for all the financial support that you have sent our way during 2011. We want to encourage you to include Faith Mission in your year-end giving.

**Please make sure that your mailed in donations are postmarked no later than December 31, 2011 in order to be received for 2011.**

Receipts for 2011 will be mailed out in January of 2011.

### ADP - What is it?

ADP is the Faith Mission Automatic Donation Plan which we introduced a few years ago. We have a good number of people using this convenient way of supporting us but we would like to encourage many more supporters to use this method to make their regular donations. All you need to do is to return the completed yellow ADP card and a voided cheque to the Faith Mission office and we will 'get the ball rolling' as per the instructions on the card.

If, for some reason, you decide to stop the ADP, please let us know so that we can process the cancellation.

**Have a Blessed Christmas from all of us at Faith Mission**



## 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!**

Thank you to all volunteers and groups who responded to our recent campaign for more help! We have really made a lot of progress in cleaning up our stockpile in the months of November & December! We have shipped 10 containers in 2011 and it looks like we will ship 1 more in December. Very much appreciated!

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.

**Banking Information** - Access Credit Union  
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