

Mission Newsletter



FAITH MISSION

FriedensBote Inc

January - February 2013

Number 102

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report.” (Heb. 11:1 - 2)

Verse one of Hebrews 11 gives us a concise definition of faith, which we will elaborate on here.

The Bible tells us that *“faith is the substance of things hoped for.”*

Webster defines substance as the essence of something, the ultimate reality underlying the outward manifestation.

That which we have as Christians, we have by faith. Salvation is ours by faith: *“if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved”* (Rom. 10:9). Though we have yet to *“put on immortality”* (1 Cor. 15:53), our faith is the assurance that we shall.

We petition God for the needs in our lives, and we believe He will provide. Even though we cannot see the material result right away, the faith we have in our hearts lets us know that it will be ours.

The Bible also tells us that faith is *“the evidence of things not seen.”*

God told Abraham, *“Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee”* (Gen. 12:1). So Abraham left his homeland, Ur of the Chaldees, and *“went out, not knowing whither he went”* (Heb. 11:8). Abraham believed God when He told him that he would become a great nation and would receive the land of Canaan for a possession.

During his lifetime, all that Abraham actually owned in Canaan was a field he purchased for the burial of his wife, Sarah. Nevertheless, by faith he knew that what God had promised was reality. Though it had yet to be manifested in the physical realm, to Abraham it was as good as done. And not only did he believe for Canaan, but he also believed for that heavenly land which God has prepared for His own: *“he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God”* (Heb. 11:10).

By faith *“the elders obtained a good report.”* Many saints have gone before us who fought *“the good fight of faith”* (1 Tim. 6:12). The heavenly record speaks highly of them because God was pleased with the battle they waged. If we follow in their footsteps and walk in faith each day, we too will obtain a good report. ♣♣

Christmas in Ukraine



January 2013

Two Faith Mission Board members spent 3 weeks in January in the country of Ukraine. Abe Unrau and Jake Elias arrived in Odessa, Ukraine on January 3rd and flew back out of Kiev on January 23rd. The Ukrainians celebrate Christmas on January 7th, so there were many Christmas activities that they were able to observe.

Tour Highlights

When we first started to plan this mission trip, we were planning to be in Ukraine for Christmas and be there to distribute the Faith Mission Christmas Gift Boxes we sent there in November. Well, for some reason, things did not turn out like we planned! God's ways are not always our ways! I guess we were quite disappointed and still are, that the 2 containers with the Gift boxes are still in the Port of Odessa, waiting for Customs clearance. The first container with gifts arrived in port on December 15th and the second one arrived on Dec 24th, which would normally have been

plenty of time to clear Customs. Their explanation was that because of the election in Ukraine last fall, there was a new person who is responsible for importing Humanitarian Aid. However, we still had a wonderful trip, confirming the tremendous needs for Humanitarian Aid in the country and also finding many new projects where Faith Mission can help these needy people.

Our first stop in Odessa was at a large complex that we had visited on our last trip to Ukraine in 2008. When we visited this place in 2008, it was used for a church and school. Since that time the local church, has added a Drug & Alcohol Rehabilitation Center to this complex. There are currently 15 men and 1 lady in the rehab program. They are hoping to add on to the facility in the future.



Ivan (at right - a former alcoholic himself) is now manager at the Rehab Center. The ladies are his office employees.

We were given a tour of the entire building. The school children were busy preparing for a Christmas concert. Several of the people working in the kitchen have come through the Drug and Alcohol Rehab program and are now very anxious to work in the facility where they can help others who are fighting addictions of any kind. Several of the men shared stories of their past life and told us how they ended up in this rehab center.

When Meesha took us to the train station in the afternoon, we left him with a small donation to cover what we thought were expenses for traveling around the city and providing night accommodations for us. Well, a few days later he had sent us an email, thanking us for the special donation which they were so grateful for. He informed us that it would be used to purchase a much needed dough machine for the Rehab Center Kitchen.

We took the overnight train from Odessa to Chernivtsi, arriving in Chernivtsi in the morning on January 5th. Our friend Peter and two of his sons were there to pick us up. We had breakfast at Peter & Elena's house and then prepared to go to the Carpathian Mountain villages to spend Christmas there. Peter shared some stories about the exciting things happening in this part of Ukraine. According to Peter's information, he claimed that more than 600 people attending the village churches, have come as a direct result of receiving some form of Humanitarian Aid from Faith Mission or from FriedensBote. Peter's ministry in the area is now celebrating 15 years. There are still many villages in the Carpathian Mountains that do not have any Christians or

churches. There is still so much work to be done!

On our way to the camp facility in the village of Steich, we



These 3 men were very excited to move into their "very own" home shortly.

stopped in at the Tuchapy Church. I have written about this small church earlier. When the church was first built, it was designed to accommodate a family who would take care of several adopted or foster orphans. We picked up 2 young "orphan" men who were now

living in the church. These two young men had been busy the last few months building a small house at the opposite end of the church property. A third young man, also an orphan, joined us at the Steiche house during the week-end. These guys were really excited to feel loved and to be active in the church wherever they could help.

The village of Polyanka finally has a meeting place where the



Christians can get together to worship. Faith Mission provided some financial assistance to make the purchase possible. When we met at the small log cabin which is now their house of worship, we met a 70 year old man who happened to be the son of the man who had

started the Kingdom Hall many years ago. It all started back in 1938 when one of the villagers received a Jehovah's Witness literature package from someone in America. He is now a born-again believer, very active in this Baptist church. Although the group is



still small, the small meeting house was packed with children, when we gathered for a Christmas meeting on January 8th. These children were very excited to learn a new Christmas song, scripture verse and then received their special Christmas gift. It was

unfortunate that we were not able to present them with the Faith Mission gifts. However, the children were happy to accept the gifts that were sent from another mission.



On Christmas day (Jan.7th) Peter took us to the central area of the village of Verchovyna. Many of the people were dressed in their traditional Ukrainian costumes, marching about, chanting



some sort of Christmas carol; at least they called it caroling. It was apparent that many were celebrating Christmas but did not know the real meaning of the celebration. They were not celebrating the Birth of our Saviour. Even though it was a beautiful mild day with a light snowfall, some of the carolers needed to keep themselves warm with vodka.

Later on in the afternoon we joined one of the Christian groups who went caroling door to door in this same village. Most people were very receptive to the Christmas songs and recitations. Several families invited us into their homes and asked us to keep singing. I think this warm-up time was very much appreciated by the guys who took turns playing guitar. Their fingers were getting quite cold.



Although many Ukrainians celebrated Christmas in a much different way than we are used to, we also noticed that the Christians celebrated the Birth

of the Baby Jesus the same way we do. Singing "Silent Night" in three languages felt so much like home!

In our Sept \ Oct 2009 Newsletter we shared an article and some photos of the new Church \ School building project in Sokolovo, Ukraine. We had visited the village in November of 2008 when they were using their church building for the school. The new building is almost finished and they now teach 85 students in the school. We were very impressed with what we observed in the beautiful facility. Pastor Paul gave us a tour of the great facility. According to their church population, 140 children in church, the school will continue to grow. Thirty of the 140 children in the church have been adopted. Paul also



mentioned that there are right now 16 children in school whose parents are not able to pay the tuition fees of about \$25.00 per child. This fee is only one-third of the cost of operating the school. The church is covering two-thirds of the tuition fees to make the school more

affordable. We would like to help them out with the shortfall if this is something that the Lord lays on your heart.

A very special part of our trip was the time we spent with Poliktin's family in Khmelnytsky. Poliktin had again arranged a meeting with officials from many local organizations who have received Faith Mission Humanitarian Aid in the last years. All of the people at the meeting shared their stories and how they or the people they represented had benefitted from the Humanitarian Aid. Here we also heard how grateful they were for the pillows that been received from Pillow Ministries International, shipped through Faith Mission. One of the ladies who represented the cities homeless shelter was asking for more blankets. She shared some heartbreaking stories about the needs that were out there, stressing the need for blankets and footwear.

Another lady represented the Khmelnytsky Regional Invalids Association. She shared that there were about 22,000 people living with some sort of disability in this region alone. Many of these people receive no support so the Humanitarian Aid is their only source of clothing and footwear.

One lady shared how she was working with 80 needy disabled women in the city. She also expressed a note of gratitude for the Humanitarian Aid.



Special certificates of appreciation that were presented to Faith Mission for Humanitarian Aid provided to the many different organizations in the Khmelnytsky region of Ukraine.

Many of you may remember when we shared a story about the Flour Mill near Cherkassy, Ukraine. With your support, Faith Mission has been able to provide financial help to purchase milling wheat for the mill in the past. Although the mill was not in operation now, because of the cold, we did get to see it and would like to continue our support in the future. The building where the mill is located is on an old communist farm. Many of the buildings are dilapidated and need a lot of work. However, the people in charge of the milling operation are very optimistic about the future and are planning to refinish the entire building and add a full-scale bakery. This would provide full-time employment for a number of area people and generate more income. Much of the wheat that is milled now is used in the "Heart-to-Heart" program where food and Humanitarian Aid hampers are prepared for needy families across the country. Faith Mission has also been involved with some of the "Heart-to-Heart" aid programs in the past.



The people in the larger urban areas may not be as dependent on the Faith Mission Aid as they used to be, but for many of the people in the remote villages, it remains a daily struggle, just to provide heat and food for their family.

Even for city people who are employed full-time..... how would you set up your budget???:

Actual monthly wages:

- Flooring installer: \$180
- Ultrasound Technician: \$600
- Elementary School teacher: \$250.

Cost of living:

- Gasoline about \$1.45-litre
- Milk \$1-litre / Bread \$1-loaf
- Meat cost very similar to Canadian prices
- Average Winter boots \$75-100-pair
- Warm Ladies Coat \$175 - \$195
-How would you manage?

I have tried to provide a small glimpse of what life is like in Ukraine. We saw the need to continue our Humanitarian Aid program and have seen countless new opportunities where Faith Mission could provide aid, either as Material Aid or Financial Assistance. Humanitarian or Financial Aid is often the key to the door through which people can be reached with Spiritual Aid. Together, we can make a difference!

Want to see and hear more? Please call to arrange a presentation in your Church or Community Center 204-325-5446

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

Name.....
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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.

Board of Directors

- Jake Elias (204) 325-5446
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- Abe Unrau (204) 685-2320

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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