

Mission Newsletter



March - April 2013

Number 103

*A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.
(Prov. 15:1)*

This simply phrased proverb of Solomon is far from simple in the truths it encompasses. First of all, we must understand that even though the tongue is a little member, it can be a great force for good or evil. *"Death and life are in the power of the tongue"* (Prov. 18:21). Spoken words can hurt feelings, destroy reputations, and even drive people to suicide. Words can also instill confidence, strengthen public images, and put lives back on the right course.

How many times have we seen someone with a kind and reasonable spirit say a few words and bring peace to a troubled situation? We have also seen quick-tempered people who often "blow up" verbally and with grievous words stir up anger and cause hard feelings.

Solomon said, *"The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness"* (Prov. 15:2). If those who have knowledge - especially spiritual knowledge - are willing to share with others in a spirit of humility and love, then much good can be accomplished. Such use of words is a mark of wisdom. Those who make insensitive comments and think nothing of spreading malicious gossip are fools.

Solomon also said, *"A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit"* (Prov. 15:4). Witnessing to others about Christ's mercy and grace and His love for a sin-sick world is like being a tree of life. Considering the number of people who are lost, the need is great for more trees of life which can offer the fruit of the gospel to those who are searching. Whereas a wholesome tongue offers healing, perverse speech can only wound. We should always choose our words carefully lest we cause injury to someone's heart that might hurt his relationship with others - or more importantly, with God.

Jesus said, *"out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh"* (Matt. 12:34). The world will know if your heart is right with God by the words you speak. You can try to disguise your speech, but the real you is certain to show through sooner or later. If you are having problems with talebearing or just generally negative speech, seek God and ask Him to cleanse your heart and change your attitude. Christians, of all people, should seek to build people up, not tear them down. ♦♦

".....then you visited me" **(Matth.25:36)**

(The following two articles are translated and reprinted with permission from the March/April 2013 Missionswerk FriedensBote Newsletter)

It was way back in the summer of 1994 when our mission team from Germany together with a team from Faith Mission, Canada reached the Southeastern Ukrainian city of Zaporozhe. We were exhausted and



Here is a recent photo of 8 year-old Liesa with her family.

We met the Druschina Family during our first trip to Ukraine. *(I will never forget the wonderful time we had, singing with Larissa (center of photo) and her sister, way back in 1994 - Jake Elias)*

tired when we arrived at 2:00 am. *(In 1994 the city of Zaporozhe had a population of about 850,000 people.)* All we knew was the street name and the house number. We had been told that the people we were looking for were very hospitable but we ourselves didn't know them personally. After a brief search, we found the house that we were looking for. It was completely dark;

everyone was asleep. We knocked on the window and soon the lights were turned on and that's when we experienced true Christian hospitality as everyone in the house was aroused. We were offered to take a bath and a meal was prepared for us, probably from the scanty reserve they had. After we had eaten we were given the best places to sleep for the rest of the night. This family poured out their love to us and told us we had brought them much joy by our coming to stay at their house.

We have also spent time in the Druschina home since that first visit. They were always so warm and hospitable! It wouldn't matter to them how many people would come at a time or for how long they stayed. We always felt very much "at home" with this family. Some years have passed since we last visited them. The father of the family, Jaroslav, is now widowed for a few years. His eight children all have families of their own. He writes to us several times a year. The most recent letter that we received from him touched my heart deeply. In his letter, Jaroslav shared that his granddaughter, Liesa, was hit by a car and dragged along for approximately 80 meters. Her body suffered many broken bones. Her left foot, her pelvis, her left arm, her jaw and her skull were seriously injured. In just a split second this happy, healthy eight year old girl became totally disabled.

Liesa remained unconscious for more than a month. After several surgeries she had to spend seven months immobilized in a cast. The initial fears that the child would suffer brain damage have still not been confirmed. Many, many people spent much time praying for poor Liesa. Miraculously, her brain function has progressed to the point where she is already ahead of her peers.

The left side of her body remains partially paralyzed at this point. More surgeries will be required to get the muscles and tendons to work properly.

This family has a deep love for our Heavenly Father and they want to carry this load that the Lord has placed on them without complaining. Maybe some of the people that stayed with the Jaroslov Druschina family and experienced their true Christian hospitality will be reading this now. We know that this is a very heavy load for them to carry and your prayer and financial support would be much appreciated.

Eduard Ewert \ Missionswerk FriedensBote, Germany

If you would like to make a financial donation to support this family, please mark your donation Card for "Liesa". We will make sure the funds go for her surgeries and hospital stay. ♦♦

When Missionswerk FriedensBote started their program "From Heart to Heart" several years ago, they did not leave out the children of the many villages in Ukraine. This Christmas, a small Christian Youth Group from the

church in Tuchapy, took some gift packages from "Heart to Heart" ministry, and visited one village we will just call Village 'S'. After going door to door in the community, some gifts were still left over so they decided to visit the school to present a Christian program and distribute the rest of these gifts.



Reality far exceeded expectations during our first visit to this school! Students listened attentively for more than two hours as our youth group shared the gospel with them.

We did not know whether our visit would be accepted, therefore, we prayed to God for direction. As we all know, "With God nothing is impossible!" The hesitant principal questioned our representative very much about the purpose of our visit but eventually agreed to our visit, if we wouldn't exceed the 45 minute time limit.

When we arrived in the school assembly hall, approximately 40 students with their teachers and the principal were anxiously waiting for us to begin. After singing a few songs, we introduced the group to our subject: "The Bible-God's Holy Word". When we gave opportunity for discussion, many of the teachers flooded us with questions: "Who are you?", "Do you have CD's?" "What is your recording called?" "We have never heard such beautiful songs!" We were so happy to answer their questions. A girl from our group shared how her life had completely changed after she started reading the Bible.

We had hoped to close the program after about 45 minutes. However, the principal begged: "Please, keep on singing and sharing."

So, we extended the visit with sincere joy. After another hour the principal turned to the others present and said: "Today, for the first time, someone has told us how important the Bible is, and how we should respect the Bible and live our life according to God's Word...."

Without anticipating it, the principal had delivered his first sermon. Then he said to us: "Ordinarily we have to tie some of our schoolboys to their desks during the lessons. However, today they were listening attentively for two full hours. I can hardly believe that these are the same boys I taught yesterday!"

We are so very thankful that you came to visit us.”

Then he continued: “Soon we will celebrate Easter. Please, come again to tell the children about the resurrection of Jesus Christ. And please, put our school on your regular visitation schedule.”

It is not too often that we are greeted with such a warm welcome. The principal was ecstatic and so inspired as if he had been visited by some royal



celebrity. We were so glad that God was beginning a work here in this school. In the end we distributed the gifts that we had brought for the students.

P.S. We discovered later that, many years ago, there had been a group of about 60 Christians in this village. Nobody seemed to know the cause of their disappearance. Our prayer is that the seed from God's Word, that was planted now, will sprout and bring forth a great increase in this village.

P. Nastasiychuk / the Carpathian Mountains, Ukraine



**FAITH
MISSION**
FriedensBote Inc



Faith Mission

Soup & Pie Supper



Saturday, April 13th

from 5:00 to 7:30 pm



at the Winkler Mennonite Church

Sunday, April 14th

at 7:00 pm at the

Winkler Mennonite Church

(31 Willowdale Cres, Winkler, MB)

A full presentation and report on the recent trip to Ukraine on Sunday Night.

Freewill Offering

All Proceeds going toward the ministry of Faith Mission

Everyone Welcome!

Why go to Summer Camp?

The Children preparing them to follow the footsteps of Jesus!

Children keep asking questions! Who can answer these questions? As the summer approaches – the excitement builds. At this time of year a very common question will be: “Will we be able to go to camp again this summer?” The children do not accept a “no” answer. Also, they do not understand much about inflation, rising prices, unemployment, economy measures and many other problems the adults are facing. With a deep sigh, the parents look into the eyes of the children, determined to not lie, and answer with a short: “We hope so. Please pray about it.”

Faith Mission is again committing to sponsor the Carpathian Mountain camps this summer and if there will be enough support for the camp project, we may also sponsor another camp in another part of the Ukraine. If you wish to support this summer's camp projects, please check the “Camp” box on the donation card. Thank you!



Praise the Lord.....our bins are filling up again!

We are very happy to report that our supply of clothing is going up again. We have been very low for the last few months for some unknown reason. We also had some problems with the containers being held up in the port in Odessa. This was apparently due to a change in the government in Ukraine and they changed the entire

Humanitarian Aid Law. From what we have been told the new law is in place and this should not happen again. We are planning to load a container for the country of Moldova on April the 11th. We have shipped to Moldova in the past but not in the last few years. We have heard from reliable sources that there is a tremendous need for Humanitarian Aid in that country.



Please continue to pray for us as we work with the many challenges that seem to fall onto our path.

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



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.

Faith Mission (FriedensBote), Inc.

Box 34

Winkler, Manitoba R6W 4A4

Phone (204) 325-4086

Toll-free Fax (866) 478-0345

Email: info@faithmission.ca

www.faithmission.ca

Office and Warehouse located at
500 Cargill Road

Board of Directors

Jake Elias (204) 325-5446

Peter Penner (204) 325-8606

Henry Penner (204) 829-3318

Henry Elias (204) 822-3871

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
Box 1060, Winkler, MB R6W 4B1
Account Number 19940-9



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