

Mission Newsletter



**FAITH
MISSION**
FriedensBote Inc

September - October 2013

Number 106

“.....in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us” (Rom. 8:37).

And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. (Rom. 5:3-5)

Paul always seemed to have such a clear vision of the workings of the Spirit, and he knew how to write this vision in an understandable fashion. He is speaking in this passage about tribulations and the spiritual benefits to be derived from them. The early Christians were often found *“rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for [Jesus'] name”* (Acts 5:41).

Too often Christians today fall into self-pity when troubles strike. Hebrews 11 talks of the torture endured by faithful soldiers of the cross, *“Of whom the world was not worthy”* (Heb. 11:38).

Paul himself suffered greatly for Christ, so he could say from experience, *“tribulation worketh patience.”*

Trials should draw us closer to God and make us realize our need for Him. Paul learned how to withstand poverty and hunger because he discovered he could *“do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me”* (Phil. 4:13). When we are aware of this truth, patience will be produced in our lives.

Then Paul said that patience brings experience. If we have a difficulty and we wait with patience upon the Lord, not only will we learn a great deal, but we will experience His divine consolation. Scripture says, *“For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ”* (2 Cor. 1:5).

Experience, in turn, brings hope. After being tried in the furnace of affliction, we emerge with the hope that God, who started the good work of grace in us, will see us through. Philippians 1:6 says it well: *“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”*

“And hope maketh not ashamed.” Because we are confident that God will give us victory, there is no need for a child of God to be ashamed of his suffering. The Holy Spirit dwells within our hearts in love, so even in the face of ridicule and harassment, we do not bear animosity in our hearts, only love. And we have the strength that comes from knowing, *“in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us”* (Rom. 8:37). ♣♣



Christmas in September.....

When Faith Mission Board members Abe Unrau & Jake Elias visited Ukraine in January of this year, they were expecting to be there to distribute the Faith Mission Gift Boxes. Well, things did not turn out like they planned! Ukraine Customs held on to the two containers for a couple of months. God's ways are not always our ways! Please read the following letter of encouragement that Peter from the Carpathian Mountains sent recently.

“God Loves Us.....”

That was the theme chosen by the workers of the local welfare organization at a meeting with handicapped and crippled people in the town of Kosiv. We met with children, orphans and their parents. They organized the

meeting because of the Faith Mission gift distribution by the Verkhovyna church.

I arrived an hour and a half before the meeting was scheduled to begin, so I decided to have a short walk around the town. When I met a mother carrying a small child, I immediately assumed that they were on their way to our meeting. I was right! When I got back to the meeting place I had another hour to visit with the parents and their children. I thought to myself, 'what a wonderful opportunity it would be to tell them that God loves them!'

It broke my heart to see these poor parents with their sick children. Just to think, 'this is for the rest of their life.' Approximately 160 people came from far and near – a hundred children and the rest were parents or care-givers. I was so happy that we were able to bring them some joy today.

Starting the meeting, I repeated the words, "God loves you all! We have great news for you! There won't be sick or handicapped people in heaven! There won't be any sadness. Everything will be joyful and everybody will be happy there. This hope helps us to overcome all the difficulties we have on earth. But, we need to change our attitude to God, God's Word. We need to prepare ourselves for eternity here on earth."

I asked everybody to stand up and we recited The Lord's Prayer. Very likely, for many this was the first time something like this had ever happened. Everyone prayed in unison. Our meeting lasted for about an hour. We had three short messages. Our brother from Odessa told them how important it is to read and study the Bible. We sang seven songs. I could see that these people witnessed something like this for the first time in their life. It brought great joy to our hearts, knowing that we could use this opportunity to tell these poor people about God's love.

Sometimes God uses different people who are far away from Him, by inviting them into our circles and giving us opportunities to witness to them. We tell them about God's love, repentance, sin, eternity and salvation. For this particular meeting, about ten of the welfare organization's workers went from door to door and invited these people to this meeting.

The first part of the meeting belonged to Faith Mission as we presented the special Canadian gifts to these sick children. God didn't make a mistake that the Christmas gifts arrived here six months late! Christmas in the middle of summer! For Christmas we were able to get other gifts,

but for summer we would have had nothing to give to these needy children. So, God saved them just for this and a few other meetings.

Welfare workers from the villages of Kosiv, Gorodenka, Verkhovyna visited dozens of families, handing out the Faith Mission gift boxes. They were also presented with 9

different tracts, the Gospel of John and a tape with Christian songs. Our Tuchapy Church members also visited several villages.

Later, I received several phone calls from people asking where these gifts came from. Normally we wouldn't be able to visit these villages, some as far as 150 kilometers into the mountains, but God has His own ways. It's a miracle that we were able to distribute about three thousand tracts, hundreds of Gospels and cassette tapes. Just one more way of witnessing! Thank God for the people who delayed that container at the customs!

This opportunity helped to build new crusade plans. Brother Jake, we distributed more than 300 gifts as you wanted to poor, disabled and sick people. We thank God for our friends in Canada because thousands of people could hear about God thanks to this ministry.

At the end of the meeting we gave many of them new sweaters that we had received from Friedensbote in Germany. You can see them in the pictures.

For this Christmas we are planning to meet with a thousand children. I've already told Brother Walter that we will need a thousand gifts. So, we will have similar meetings for people from other villages and towns.

The organizers of this meeting were very pleased the way it went. They gave us Thank You letters (attached) for Faith Mission gifts. They said they would like to have more meetings like this in the future.

Since the beginning of the year, I have met about one thousand people in our Verkhovyna church building because of the clothing distribution. Every Thursday, Friday and Saturday I meet people there. I have preached dozens of sermons during this time - had hundreds of personal conversations. Sometimes I have to talk for 4 to 5 hours, non-stop, because some people leave and others come. Very often I am invited to their homes. In one of the pictures there are six children who were adopted. I visited them several times and their mother is very close to God but still hesitant to make a full commitment.

Many pictures were taken by the welfare workers who then passed them on to me. I think these simple pictures will bless those who personally prepared these gifts in Canada. It's God's way of blessing His people.

May this information give you much encouragement and blessing as you continue your important ministry for the Lord!

God's Blessings,
Peter, The Carpathians



Faith Mission Goes West.....

On Wednesday, October 2nd, Abe & Betty Unrau and Jake & Helena Elias headed west to do a number of Faith Mission Presentations in Alberta and British Columbia. The Faith Mission supporters from Western Canada had been waiting to see and hear about



As you can see here, there is no shortage of clothing in LaCrete. This "mountain" was at least 15 feet high.

the Ukraine Tour that Abe and Jake made in January of this year. The first stop was in Two Hills, Alberta where a small group met in the local CMC church to hear and see what Faith Mission does in Ukraine. This was a new area for us. The next stop was in LaCrete where the presentation was done on Saturday night. After the slide presentation, a number of items were sold by auction. Items sold included a guitar, blankets, buns & bread, as well as an assortment of pies that were left after the evening snack. The LaCrete Care and Share has been baling their excess clothing for a number of years and then shipping them to the Faith Mission Warehouse in Winkler where they are loaded into the Overseas Containers. The ladies also make many blankets for Ukraine. The funds

raised at the presentation went towards the Faith Mission \ LaCrete Care & Share project which they call the "Russian Project."

Sunday morning was spent in church and the rest of the day was taken up with visiting and eating! We renewed some acquaintances from more than 40 years ago. We had a wonderful time!

On Monday morning we had a tour of the Care & Share facility which is located right on Main Street in LaCrete. The manager and the volunteers were very excited to show us around and explained how they planned to renovate part of the store to improve the receiving and baling area and make more room to display and sell their used furniture. Their enthusiasm was really an encouragement to us. After we had seen their facility, we boarded the van and headed for Prespatou, BC.

We arrived at our friends near Prespatou, just before dark on Monday evening. It was so good to sit back and relax after driving all day.

The Prespatou presentation took place on Tuesday evening in the school gym. We were very happy with the turnout, seeing it was on a Tuesday night and during harvest season. I guess the showers were truly a blessing for us! Abe and I again shared about our Ukraine trip in January. These ladies have also made hundreds of blankets for Faith Mission's overseas ministry.

After Prespatou, it was back home, back to work! Great trip! ♦♦

We need your Help!

Well, it looks like we are back in full swing again with our sorting and baling. After being caught-up with our supply of clothing earlier this year, we had to cancel quite a number of groups that had booked to come in for sorting and baling. The summer months have been exceptionally slow with volunteers this year. Recently, there have been a number of inquiries about volunteering. We hope to have enough volunteers to keep up with sorting and baling this winter, and that the supply will be more consistent this winter and into the spring season so that we can get back to shipping about one container per month. So far we have only shipped 5 containers in 2013. We know that there is a great shortage of good clothing, footwear and blankets in many of the former communist countries. We would love to share our bountiful resources with them.



As you see here, our bins are pretty well filled to the ceiling. If all goes well we plan to load and ship another container on October 24th. We will be loading our first Christmas boxes in this container.

Thanksgiving Thought.....

Give thanks for unknown blessings

already on their way.

Church in Uzin, Ukraine Celebrates 20th Anniversary August 23-25, 2013

Victor Marchuk and his co-workers had so much to share as they celebrated their twentieth year of ministry in the Soviet military city of Uzin. Twenty two years ago, this city wasn't even on the map. It was a secret military base for the Russian Air Force. Although not without many challenges, the church has grown to where they recently added a second building to provide space for their youth and children's ministry. During the early years they were bombarded with letters protesting the construction of the church building. At one point, fire destroyed much of the building material before it was constructed. Probably the hardest test of all was when, Victor, on his way home late one evening, was stopped on the road, dragged from his vehicle and badly beaten up. However, God gave them courage! They didn't give up!



When Abe Unrau and Jake Elias were in Ukraine in January, 2013, they spent almost a week with Victor and his family visiting their home church in Uzin as well as many small house churches in the villages. Victor suffered his first stroke in November of 1997. Several mild strokes have followed since then but the Lord has healed him to the point where he is still able to serve as pastor and leader in the church community. Praise the Lord!

This summer Faith Mission was also able to provide some financial support for the Children's Camp and Youth Camp program which Victor and the Uzin Church are looking after.

Thank you for supporting the camp ministry!



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



I would like to receive the Faith Mission Newsletter regularly.

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

Name.....

Address.....

TownProv.

Postal Code.....

Telephone

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