

Mission Newsletter



January - February 2018

Number 131

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. (Matt. 7:13-14)

Living for God and serving the Lord Jesus Christ with all of your heart, mind, soul, and spirit is what separates the men from the boys, so to speak. Of all the people who have ever lived, are living now, and will live in the future, most will not go to heaven. I would to God that were not true, but it is. Most will not be saved. Only a few will stand before God one day and hear Him say, *"Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."* (Matt. 25:21).

Jesus Himself said the way to heaven is narrow, *"and few there be that find it."* Why is it that so few people are able to find the road to everlasting life? First of all, because heavenly eternal life lies beyond a straight gate. There is only one way to enter that gate, and that is by accepting Jesus Christ into your heart and following His direction. This is not always an easy route to travel, for Paul said, *"We must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God"* (Acts 14:22). Jesus did not promise us that the road to heaven would be easy, but He *did* say that *"...he that endureth to the end shall be saved"* (Matt. 10:22).

Unlike the road which leads to life, the one that leads to destruction and death is broad. It can accommodate as many as desire to travel it — and, at the present time, multitudes are travelling it. This downhill path is easy to follow. It makes no demands, it sets no standards — and it does not give any type of warning as to what lies at the journey's end. Proverbs 16:25 says, *"There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."* The wide path may seem right because so many people are choosing it, but you have the power to pursue the way of life. Though most never find this path, we should continually witness to others and try to get as many souls as we can to accept Jesus. There is no attainment great enough to merit the forfeiture of a soul to Satan, for Jesus said, *"What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"* (Matt. 16:26) ♦♦♦

FAITH MISSION 2 WEEK PRESENTATION TOUR TO WESTERN CANADA



John Peters leading the Faith Mission Presentation in LaCrete, Alberta

On January 27th, 2018, two couples from Faith Mission, John and Anne Peters and Andy and Katherine Elias, packed up their families and left on a 2 week tour to Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. The main purpose of the trip was to make more people aware of the dire needs in Ukraine and surrounding countries. John Peters was part of the Faith Mission tour group to Ukraine last summer, and was able to report first hand the importance of the clothing, Blankets, Christmas Gifts and other aid we provide to the needy people. Of course, many of these people had never been introduced to Faith Mission so



Yellow Grass, Saskatchewan

they were interested to see the pictures of our sorting / baling facility and operations in Winkler.

The tour started in Osler, SK where we enjoyed the warm hospitality of friends and an encouraging Sunday morning church service. January 28th was our first presentation with an attendance of about 125 people. It was encouraging to see how many people throughout our tour in one way or another are involved in the mission, some sew blankets, some donate clothes while others share in the work financially. Our next presentation was in the Musidora Old Colony Hall in Two Hills, AB. About 140 people were present. From there we went north to La Crete, AB. The scenery was breath taking; they had just gotten a beautiful blanket of snow. In La Crete we saw where the ladies sew many blankets for Faith Mission and we



LaCrete ladies busy making blankets.

also visited the Care and Share Thrift Store where they bale clothes and make blankets for Faith Mission. On February 1st there was a fundraising soup & pie supper where about 360 people attended.

There was singing and sharing with a presentation afterwards. We spent some time visiting relatives and friends in La Crete and also had the privilege of going to the bush to see the loggers at work. It was a good experience for all of us.

The next presentation was on February 5th at the Reinländer church in Cleardale, AB. On February 6th we were in Grimshaw, AB where there is also an active ladies sewing circle, sewing blankets for local projects. February 7th we were in Prespatou, BC. We had the privilege of stopping in at John Fehr's for a short visit and singing. This couple also sews blankets for missions. Sunday, February 11th we enjoyed a refreshing church service in Vauxhall, AB. We spent the day visiting with Bishop John & Esther Hiebert and Rev Peter & Eva Bergen. About 380 people attended the evening presentation in Taber, AB. Once again we were blessed to hear how many people were involved in the mission. Our final presentation was in Yellow Grass, SK on February 12th where



Prespatou, BC. We are so thankful for the interest and support from western Canada.

we enjoyed the hospitality and fellowship of friends. We arrived back in MB on February 13th. We were blessed and encouraged at each place by the interest shown in the work of the mission.

Many questions were asked about Faith Mission.... Do you always need clothing to bale? Do you need more blankets? Do you always have funds available to ship containers and help out with various projects? It was very encouraging for us when we were asked... How can we help? *(We will continue to present our needs in the Faith Mission Newsletter)*

It was a wonderful experience! We want to thank each one for their support, hope to see you again!

Christmas 2018

Jan. 25, 2018 Recent Letter from Pastor Peter...

Christ is born! This is the way people greet each other in the Carpathian Mountains these days.

Peace be unto you, dear co-workers at Faith Mission!

We are counting the first days of the new year, 2018. Ukrainian Christmas is on January 7th. These are very days of celebration for us. In the last 20 years I have never celebrated a Christmas with only my family. This Christmas, God once again sent us many friends with whom we were able to serve and celebrate with.

During these special holidays, we go to different places where we can bring some joy and hope from God because "Christ Our Savior was born!" Nobody can take this wonderful news away from us even though life is so extremely difficult in the war ravaged Eastern part of Ukraine. We saw hundreds and hundreds of surprised eyes of children and their parents when they heard why Jesus was actually born. For many it was probably for the first time ever hearing this story.

Christmas is not just a Christmas tree, nice dinner or many guests. It's not even a family dinner on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. It is so much greater. Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior came to this earth to save us!

For us, preparations for these days started last fall. Many people started asking a long time ago if we would visit them this Christmas. Our goal is not just to distribute the gifts but the most important thing for us is always to deliver the Word of God to them and show people the reason to live. This Christmas, we invited three groups of Christians to participate in our Christmas services and meetings. One group was from Cherche church and two groups from Chernivtsi. Also, many local church members from the mountains and Tuchapy village volunteered to help us out. All together about 15 cars were involved. I am so glad that no one refused our invitation to come and share Christmas with local unbelievers.

About 30 workers from the local welfare organization were also involved; inviting children and parents to our meetings in different places. With so many volunteers, God helped us to have 25 meetings in just 9 days. We had them in our church buildings, community halls, orphanages, nursing homes, welfare organization, public schools, a kindergarten and even a café. The café idea happened when the local Orthodox priest refused to give us permission to have a meeting in the school or their local community hall. So, we had decided to have the meeting right on the street. However,

there was a café nearby and they gladly invited us into their large dining room.

We spoke to about 2400 children and more than a 1000 adults during these meetings. We had meetings in Kosovo, Snyatyn, Kutu, Verkhovyna, Stopchativ, Zavallya, Dovgopole, Aseniv, Rivnya, Staische, Khodak, Khutor, and Tuchapy.

We also had a winter camp in our central church in Verkhovyna where we had 200 children. A special blessing for us was our German guest Irina. She shared her testimony how God changed her life. She also sang some German songs



Peter and his family, sharing the Christmas story to the men in the senior's home.

for us.

The gifts were very special this year. They brought a lot of joy to the children as well as their parents. It was very good that many of the gifts were more universal for boys and girls of different ages. That was much easier for distribution. We also distributed 1500 calendars, hundreds of New Testaments and

Christian books. Also a few tons of Canadian clothing was given to local people. That helps them a lot in needy times.

I think that the photos will show a lot about these meetings. Looking at the faces of these people will show you much more than words can express. They show what's in their hearts. I also bought 1100 small gifts, 500 kilograms of sugar and food packages with the funds from the mission. Local church families made 380 gifts for disabled people in the orphanages and a nursing home.

Our volunteers will also visit some more orphanages after the children come back from winter holidays. They will distribute clothing and gifts to those people. We recently met



Sharing the wonderful news of Christmas with the youth visitors from war-torn Donetsk.

with a group of teenagers from Donetsk (the main city where the war is going on). They came to the Carpathian Mountains for Christmas. You will see that meeting on the pictures with a fire place. I plan to bring some more clothing to Donetsk this week.

We are also invited to some new places where we have never had any meetings before. However, I had to tell them that we will visit them later because we are out of resources right now. People have gotten used to the fact that we never come empty handed.

Thank you, my dear friends, for everything God is doing through your ministry. My words cannot express my gratitude to all our friends from Canada, Germany and France. Please, pass on a big thank you to all your churches and church members. Many people said they've never even seen gifts like these before!

Many new things are waiting for us this year. I just got a call asking for help to accommodate a poor family with children. I plan to meet with this family this Friday. There is so much need and sorrow! However, it seems

like God is always sending us to the places where the need is.

May God bless you all abundantly!

Peter from the Carpathian Mountains, Ukraine.



Peter & his wife, Elena delivering a Christmas package to the shut-ins.

Carpathian Plans for Spring.....

Feb. 11. 2018 Greetings, dear coworkers of Faith Mission!

We are planning a number of crusade services next May in several regions. We have been doing this for a few years, right after Easter. Usually your Christmas gifts that came after Christmas were used for these crusades. Unfortunately, we didn't receive Canadian gifts this year. We understand they went to Georgia.

The meetings have been scheduled already and we have invited an orchestra for this year. The last crusade will be on May 13, 2018. We are planning to invite 1500 children who gladly come with their parents. We want to prepare small gifts valued at 2 euros each. (This works out to about \$3.12 Canadian. **If you would like to participate with this project, please mark your donation as "Gift Box" on the Mailing Card.**)

Container #2017-07-235 for Tbilisi, Georgia.

In our Nov/Dec Newsletter we reported that we would be shipping about 1,250 Christmas Gift Boxes to Georgia. Well, we ended up way beyond our expectations. We loaded 1,397 boxes into the container. Praise the Lord!

On February 17th, I chatted with Alex, one of our fellow-workers in Germany who had just talked to the Pastor in charge of the container shipment in Georgia. Apparently the container has been unloaded and some clothing has already been distributed. There are many people in Georgia who are in

desperate need. Please pray that those people will be first to get the clothing, footwear and blankets.

Alex mentioned that they really appreciated the Gift Boxes. They are saving them in a safe storage at this time and plan to distribute them at Easter time. This will be an excellent opportunity to share the true Easter story with the Georgian people, especially the children.

As we have often shared before, God's timing is not necessarily our timing.... His Way is the Best!



Unloading bales and Gift Boxes in Tbilisi, Georgia.



Georgian man, happy to receive a clothing package



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.

Bags or boxes of clothing may be dropped off at the "DROP-OFF" door on the west side of the Faith Mission warehouse building. This drop-off room is opened 24 hours a day and is emptied on a regular basis. However, if you have more than a few bags or boxes, please call ahead to arrange your 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.

**Mailing Address: 425 Roblin Blvd East
Winkler, Manitoba R6W 0H2**

Phone (204) 325-4086

Toll-free Fax (866) 478-0345

Email: info@faithmission.ca

www.faithmission.ca

**Office and Warehouse located at
425 Roblin Blvd East**

Board of Directors

Jake Elias (204) 325-5446

Peter Penner (204) 325-8606

Henry Penner (204) 331-3309

Abe Unrau (204) 685-2320

Andy Elias (204) 325-6446

John Peters (204) 325-1383

Phillip Elias (204) 750-8187

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 10010019940-9

*I would like to receive the Bi-monthly
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