

Mission Newsletter



July - August 2018

Number 134

"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." (II Cor. 5:1)

The redeemed of the Lord need not quiver with uncertainty at the thought of death. Man is more than flesh and blood. When God created him, He *"breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul"* (Gen. 2:7). So the dissolution of our earthly tabernacle does not mark the end of our existence; it just marks our transition to a different form of life. Paul said, *"As we have borne the image of the earthly, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly"* (I Cor. 15:49). And the heavenly is far better, for it is eternal and dwells in the presence of God. We read in II Corinthians 5:8, *"We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."*

What is heaven like? Jesus told His disciples, *"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you"* (John 14:2). As Christians, we can be happy knowing that as *"the heavens are higher than the earth"* (Isa. 55:9), so is the place Jesus has prepared for His children more magnificent than any earthly palace. But the grandest thing about it is -- Jesus was the architect!

The Bible, in Hebrews 11:10, says that Abraham *"looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God."* Multitudes of people -- the seed of Abraham - considered themselves *"strangers and pilgrims on the earth"* (Heb. 11:13). A pilgrim is one who journeys in foreign lands or who travels to a holy place. Christians are pilgrims in both senses of the word. The world is much like a foreign land to the Disciples of Christ, of whom He said, *"They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world"* (John 17:16). And we are certainly traveling to a holy place: *"There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High"* (Psa. 46:4).

We *"have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."* Jesus said, *"He that overcometh shall inherit all things"* (Rev. 21:7). While we are on earth, spiritual war rages and we must fight until the moment we make our exit. But, if we overcome, we will eat of the tree of life and enter through the gates into God's city (Rev. 22:14). ❁❁❁

Please Note 2017 Financial Report on Mailing card

Carpathian Camps –2018



"Under the cover of the Highest"....

That was the name of one of the camps in the Carpathian Mountains, Ukraine we had from June 18 till June 30.

Dear brothers and sisters, friends and supporters of Faith Mission in Canada. This is the 20th year since we started the first camp in the Carpathians. The theme that first year was – **By the Steps of Jesus**. After that we have had about 60 camps – unfortunately, I don't remember the exact statistics. We have had thousands of children from dozens of towns - all have come from Orthodox or Catholic background. We praise the Lord that he protected the children and also sent our friends from Faith

Mission who provided the funds to make these camps possible. We are grateful for the churches in Canada and Western Europe for their support of this ministry.

We are especially grateful for the prayers. Without them, I know we couldn't do this. It's God's mercy that allowed us to minister to so many of the people by organizing camps in public schools, Community Halls and our church buildings.

This year we had 6 camps – 2 at Staische, 1 in a Community Hall in Dovgopole, 1 in the church in Rivne, 1 in a school in Khodak and 1 in a Community Hall in Kutu. All together there were 450 children and 30 staff members. We had teachers from Kharkov, Odessa, and Poltava. In recent years we have often not had enough teachers. Usually we need from 8-10 leaders, but we often only had 3-4. For the last camp we had 10 teachers and there were 130 children.

Weather was quite a challenge this year – we had very many heavy rains. We haven't had rains like this in a decade. So, I had to put all kinds of containers in the places where the roof was leaking. We need to fix the roof on the old building.

One day we had snow up in the mountains. It was 0 degrees Celsius at night and 3-4 degrees in the day time. This is the first time we have had weather like this in the 21 years we have been ministering here.

At the end of the camps we invited parents and gave them humanitarian aid. They were very thankful & happy for the clothes.

On the last day, of the last camp at Staische, we had an adventure with the children. It started from a house where we had a Supper like Jesus had and finished at Calvary which was located outside our property. We were concerned as it started raining in the morning. God showed us that He is the Almighty and the rain stopped right before we started this adventure. After everything was done we came back to our big tent and 3-4 minutes after that it started raining very hard again. It was so loud that we couldn't hear each other. The children could see that God manages all the powers and we thank Him for answering our prayers.

The children were able to participate in the Supper. They visited the Garden of Gethsemane and Pilate's palace. They also witnessed Peter denying that he knew Jesus and his repentance. The children were encouraged to carry the heavy cross, visited the "pretend" Calvary and listened to one of the warriors who told them about the crucifixion of Jesus.

After the final service was finished, I asked the children if there was anyone that wanted me to pray for them, to change their life to better serve the Lord. I told them and I repeated it several times, that they should think it through very well, before they would stand up. Most teenagers stood up, but the younger ones didn't understand everything. We praise the



Lord that the children left with a desire to be closer to God. I am sure they will not forget what they've been told.

One of the boys misbehaved during the camp. I wanted to send him back home several times. He promised me that he would behave himself. Before going back home he came up to me, gave me a big hug and said, "Thank you, Uncle Peter, for helping to change my life."

On Sunday, the first of July, we again invited the children to come with their parents; 80 of the 130 children came with their parents.

Tonight more than 100 children from the village of Churche arrived, so we had 8 camps this summer with different churches.

We thank God for you and your ministry, dear brothers and sisters.

Peter, The Carpathian Mountains.

A few Camp Photos from Sucholesy Camps 2018

Sucholesy Camp is the camp where Pastor Victor spends much of his time in summer. It is situated deep in the forest not too far from Uzin.

When we were at the camp in May, the grass was just starting to grow on the camp property that is used to play soccer. As you can see on the picture below, the grass has done very well. The camp is right next to a small stream so they have





Sucholesnyy again held a special camp for the handicapped people in the region. This is a very special time for these people to connect with other people living in similar circumstances.

expensive!” Are we surprised that bicycles are in such high demand? No, we are not.

When we visited Peter in Chernivtsi in May, we shared about Faith Mission at about 8 or 9 places. Peter asked me right at the start to not mention our bicycle shipments because if I would mention that we shipped bikes, he would be inundated with calls and requests. The pastors who look after the distribution of Faith Mission Aid would really like to get more good bicycles into their villages.

I did mention earlier that we have a bicycle mechanic who is preparing the bikes for shipment. However, this does not mean that we want piles of bike parts and bent wheels and frames. Please bring us bikes that are still worth repairing. Bicycle parts are getting very costly for us. We are already spending several thousand dollars on bicycle parts.

There are a few ways to support the Bicycle Ministry. You can donate good used bikes to Faith Mission or you can help pay for the parts that we need to purchase to get them into good useable condition. **Just designate your donation as Bicycles on the Mailing Card.** 📦📦📦



been able to irrigate the grass to keep it growing. This is also a camp that Faith Mission has been supporting the last number of years.

Although Camp Season is almost done for 2018, you can still support the camps through Faith Mission. Please designate your donation for “Camps” on the Mailing Card.

Faith Mission Needs Bikes!

This summer we have not been blessed with as many bikes as we often have been. As you can see on the picture below, we now have a great enclosed storage compound to store the bikes that are donated. They are locked up in this enclosure till our



bicycle “technician” comes to pick them up to service them before they get shipped overseas. We do our best to make sure the brakes, shifters, tires and pedals are all in good working order before they get loaded. A big thank you to Mr. Thiessen for faithfully fixing all these bikes for us.

Just for information sake, according to our shipping records we have shipped 3,721 bicycles over the years. The people in Ukraine, Moldova and surrounding countries depend on bike transportation very much. They can’t afford to put gas in their car - if they even have a car. As you can see on this photo of the fuel prices, gasoline is 27.99 Ukrainian hryvnia per litre. With the current exchange rate of 20.48:1, this works out to **\$1.366** per litre in Canadian currency. “We thought our gas was



Gift Box Time Again.....!

Yes, it’s that time again! Please stop by to pick up the easy-to-assemble Faith Mission Christmas Gift boxes.

Remember: **Take advantage of Back-to-School Sales in July & August!**

1. Pick up a supply of “Christmas Gift Boxes” at Faith Mission at 425 Roblin Blvd East in Winkler.

2. “Fill” the box with mittens, socks, toque, scarf, underwear, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, face-cloth, a small gift or toy, school supplies, (Pencils, eraser, pen, paper, note-books, coloring book, ruler, pencil sharpener, crayons, etc). There should be a detailed list attached to the box when you pick it up at Faith Mission. Please put all candies into a small plastic bag.

(Please, no war toys or items that might easily break, leak, melt or spoil).

3. Add a Christmas card, note or picture of yourself, if you would like. *(You may think they won’t respond anyhow but we have had letters that came from those children that received a*

gift box).

Indicate in the space on the card printed on top of the box whether the gift is for a boy or a girl and the appropriate age category: 5-8, 9-12, 13-16.

4. Deliver the box(es) to Faith Mission, 425 Roblin Blvd East in Winkler.

Ukraine war still raging

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) says that people are still being killed in the fighting in eastern Ukraine. Alexander Hug with the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine told reporters that as many as seven people were killed in



July alone. Hug spoke to journalists in Donetsk in eastern Ukraine late on Thursday, according to The Washington Post. Hug described the situation in the eastern Donbas region as "unstable and unpredictable." He said heavy weapons must be removed from the frontline. The separatist conflict in eastern Ukraine erupted after Russia's annexation of Crimea and has killed more than 10,000 since April 2014. A 2015 peace agreement signed in Minsk has helped reduce hostilities, but clashes continue.

Please Continue to pray for the Christian who are trying to witness the Love of God to the people in Eastern Ukraine.



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 Henry Penner (204) 331-3309

Abe Unrau (204) 685-2320 Andy Elias (204) 325-6446

John Peters (204) 325-1383 Philip 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
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