

Mission Newsletter



**FAITH
MISSION**
FriedensBote Inc

September - October 2018

Number 135

"The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower." (Psalm. 18:2)

David wrote this psalm of thanksgiving when the Lord delivered him from the hand of his enemies and from the hand of Saul. His love and joy soared to lofty heights as he called upon the Lord.

David said, *"The Lord is my rock."* Many people have someone special to whom they turn in times of trouble. That someone always seems to be there to offer understanding and support, comfort and encouragement. We often call them our "rock." It is good to have such a person in our lives, but there are times when even they may be unable to help. When Saul sought to slay him, David was forced to flee alone. Scripture bears witness that when David fled from Saul, he went to Nob, where Ahimelech the priest asked him, *"Why art thou alone, and no man with thee?"* (I Sam. 21:1). It is in such times of isolation, when no human being can help us, that God is our rock. He is our source of stability in the midst of turmoil.

"The Lord is . . . my fortress." He is a permanent fortification, or place of defense, for us. He is eternal. *"Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God"* (Psa. 90:2). He will always be there to protect us in times of trouble. *"The Lord is . . . my deliverer."* When we find ourselves in the midst of difficulties from which there seems to be no escape, let us remember that God can deliver us, and He will if we call upon Him in trust. David said, *"The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid"* (Psa. 18:5). But despite the situation, he believed in God. He asked the king of Moab to shelter his mother and father *"till I know what God will do for me"* (I Sam. 22:3).

"The Lord is . . . my God, my strength, in whom I will trust." Even when we feel we cannot fight any longer, we can rest in the words of Christ, *"my strength is made perfect in weakness"* (II Cor. 12:9). *"The Lord is . . . my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower."* A buckler is a shield that protects and defends when one is engaged in combat. God is our buckler. He protects us from the onslaught of the enemy. He is also the horn, or source, of our salvation and our high tower, a place of safety in a world where the winds of adversity often blow. ❁❁❁

Diana's Story:

I was born into an average poor family in the Soviet Union. God was never mentioned. My grandmother sometimes took me to the Orthodox Church. The fact that I still live and speak is a miracle in itself!

Since early childhood, God knocked on my Heart. I loved watching the Christian movie, "Superbook". That is where I obtained an address where I could order Christian literature for free. So I grew up as a good, obedient and helpful girl.

By the time I completed the tenth grade, my life had plunged into the "pleasures" of this world. My parents and relatives tried to persuade me to give up my rebellious lifestyle but I refused to listen. Sin gripped me slowly but surely. At first it was cigarettes, then alcohol and finally drugs. Constantly I longed for a bigger "Thrill" and I wanted to be considered "cool". I dedicated 15 years of my life to these sins. My dream had always been to start a family and make lots of money. However, the drugs destroyed all those dreams and plans. In the beginning it gave me pleasure and satisfaction. I did not realize the danger and the consequences of drug dependence for a long time.

I lost many friends and relatives. To fund my drug addiction, I



Diana, just before she was freed from drugs & alcohol



The "new" Diana, with Jesus In her life, after jaw surgery.

sold everything I had. Without realizing what was happening, I ended up moving in with the “scum and hopeless” street people. This mire was getting deeper and deeper.

I soon realized that I could not get out of this on my own strength. Constantly, I kept asking myself: “What am I living for? How much time do I have left in this lifestyle?” My drug-addicted friends were dying one after the other.

My health was deteriorating rapidly. Everyone despised me.

Then, one night I had a dream where I woke up and did not crave for the next dose of drugs.

In the neighbour's courtyard I saw how they were treating and feeding stray dogs. I was surprised that these animals were treated better than I was. Suddenly it hit me! I knelt on the floor and started to pray to God. I was screaming from the depth of my soul: “God, if you are real, then take my life or change it! I can't go on living like this!”

Out of desperation, I tried to commit suicide, but I could not do it. Then, an acquaintance of mine told me about a young man who had been through a drug and alcohol rehabilitation program and was now living for the Lord, rejoicing in life. She promised me that she would arrange for me to talk to him. The very next day, she met him when he was riding his bicycle.

He was ready to help me. So, with God's help, I was taken to the Kramatorsk Rehabilitation Center in Eastern Ukraine. There I encountered a completely different life. With shame and humility, I realized that my language consisted mostly of swear-words and the prison jargon. I could not believe the love, tenderness, and kindness that everyone showed. I did not understand why I was shown this love and compassion.

I began to attend the meetings, read the Bible and I even asked Jesus to forgive my sins. Although rehabilitation was not quite finished, eight months into the program, I made a decision to leave the rehab center. I thought I was strong enough to make it on my own. So, I left the center and started to live independently. My biggest desire was to catch up with everything I had missed in the eight months of my rehab life.

I understood very well that God had freed me from my drug addiction. However, I was not interested in what God had done and what plans He had for my life. I snuck out through the “back door” into my old sinful lifestyle.

Soon I got back into the “muck and mire.” Almost without realizing, I had sunk even deeper into the mire of sin. I lived like this for about one year. I always knew where I could go for

help, but I had no motivation to take the decisive step. Every day I went to my Bible but didn't dare to open it. Satan kept whispering to me, “Why do you even think about the Bible? Look at your life! You don't need it! You have it made!”

Today I can certainly say that I did not find God - He found me and rescued me from the abyss the second time. This was a very hard way! I lay on the floor of another druggie's apartment with blood poisoning and a fever of 40 degrees. The wounds on my body were badly infected. My one leg was swollen to about three times the size it should be. My drug addicted friends kept reminding me of Anna, who had helped to get me into Christian Rehab Center. My pride kept me from calling her, but, fearing that I would die there, they finally forced me to call her.

Ending up in the hospital, the doctors decided that it no longer made sense to fight for my leg. They felt an immediate amputation would be the only way they could keep me alive. My girlfriend Anna persuaded the doctors to operate but not to amputate the leg. Anna had to take full responsibility. If I would die on the operating table, she would have to pay for it.

Thank God I am still walking on my own two legs! The surgery was successful. I was visited by Christian people who knew me. They were smiling as if nothing was out of the ordinary. Later I learned that they had come to the hospital to say goodbye to me, not expecting me to wake up after the surgery. The doctors said to them, “Why are you wasting your money and your time? She'll soon die anyway.” The church continued praying tirelessly and pleaded for my healing!

A terrible fear of eternity in hell came over me. What would happen if I would die right there? I suffered from indescribable withdrawal symptoms. The cramps were so strong that I felt like a sick, curled up worm. My prayers were very short: “God, please.... not to hell!” God allowed me to be in this state and I finally came to the realization that Jesus alone can help me. Now I sincerely asked Him for the forgiveness of my sins.

When I woke up the next morning, I was a new person. In the blink of an eye, God had given me a new life. I was filled with the feeling of love. I loved the hospital room, the plaster on the ceiling and the grumpy nurses. Unexpected even for me, I had the strength to get up and to go to the window and look outside. Then I realized, “That is the beginning of my new life.” The year was 2014.

I became aware of my dependence on God and felt humility deep in the heart. In prayer, I promised: “Lord, you are a great God, and I just want to follow you. I do not care where I live,

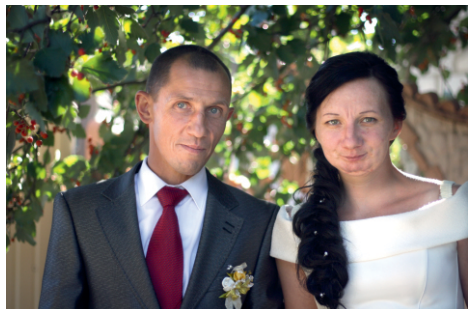


Christian Widow's Camp "Naemi" 2018 near Odessa, Ukraine

Nevertheless, I had to find out what physical pain really was. Because of the drugs, my upper jaw became infected and began to decay. After five surgeries, they fixed my jaw bone using bone from my ribs. In spite of the pain, the peace and joy remained. God gave me the strength to endure all the pain.

Looking back, I have nothing in my life that I can be proud of. I am so thankful to God for the way it turned out. Now I am working in the Rehabilitation Center, helping women who are living in situations similar to mine. I also have opportunity to participate in Evangelistic services at the local hospital.

Every day I observe God's miracles around me. As I heard testimonies of other people who were also dependent on drugs earlier, I believed that everything in my life could change too. Maybe I would eventually find a husband and have a family.



This had been my dream for so long

Literally, both my physical and spiritual recovery started the day I asked Jesus into my heart. Something very important happened after one year. God led me to a wonderful Christian

Brother named Gena. We were married soon after we met. Gena helped me to a much better understanding of God's Word.

Our relationship was very short. Before his conversion he was also addicted to drugs. Although God forgives sins, people often have to cope with the consequences of their sinful life. In January 2017, liver cancer was diagnosed and Gena passed away in April during an operation. That was a very difficult test for me.

When my husband died, I was in the fifth month of my pregnancy. One month after his death, I lost the baby. In spite of all of this, I believed the Word of the Lord Jesus Christ: *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."* (Rom 8:28). I believed that eventually I would be able to see how this terrible tragedy, would turn out as a blessing.

I know that you don't necessarily need drugs or alcohol to live in sin. The book of Job teaches us that a heart that is not humbled before God results in a sinful life. I read this again and again and always find strength in it.

This summer, I was so blessed to participate in the Christian Widow's Camp, "Naemi", on the shore of the Black Sea, not far from Odessa. It was such a wonderful opportunity to look back and realize what the Lord had done in my life.....how he had made a new person out of my drug-infested body. He made me a person with a heart of compassion for other people. Like many other Naemi participants, I came from the war zone in eastern Ukraine. We realized it is only the Power of the Holy Spirit that keep us from falling and gives us the strength to carry on.

Thank God, I was able to attend the Widow's Camp! I learned so much. I realized that no matter how many good deeds I do, nothing will save me Salvation is only through the shed Blood of Jesus. I believe He rescued me, cleansed and washed me. He got me out of the Chasm! I will glorify Him!

(Taken from German Missions Nachrichten) Editor's Comments: We met Diana at the Christian Widow's Camp "Naemi". Many widows have found comfort, encouragement and motivation to lead a "new" life. This year we noticed there were a lot more women who came out of the war-torn eastern Ukraine. Many have lost their husbands in the war.

Dear Faith Mission friends, please pray for this ministry! If you feel led to support the Widow's Camp Ministry project financially, please designate your donation to "Widows Camp" on the Mailing Card.

Faith Mission Needs You.....

John 4:35 - 36 "Say not ye, 'There are yet four months and then cometh the harvest'? Behold, I say unto you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together."

.... "Our bins are full, waiting to be sorted and baledbut we really need more volunteers".

We have 2 bins that are almost full and we have a stockpile of excess clothing stored in a warehouse here in Winkler. We are very happy that we have been able to ship 5 containers of Humanitarian Aid this year. F/M number 2018-06-241, the 6th one this year, should be ready to load in a few weeks.

We could have shipped a few more containers if we would have had more volunteers to help with sorting and baling. We have been very fortunate to have a great group of able-bodied men and boys to load the

containers. A number of years ago, we had more than 60 extra groups coming in to help sort and bale.... that works out to more than a group every week. This last year that was down to less than 30. We know that we turned down several groups last year because we ran out of clothing. It is hard to believe that has changed so drastically. Within a year, we have more than we can store in our warehouse.

If you are interested in helping us out please give Helena a call [\[204-362-3406\]](tel:204-362-3406) to arrange an evening or even a day to sort and bale. In the past we have had many different groups that came in - Bible Study groups, Sunday School Groups, School Class Groups, Ladies Sewing Circle, Family Groups, Prayer Meeting Groups, or even just a group of friends. This is a great opportunity to do overseas Mission work right here at home. Or, maybe there is even a group from out of province that would be interested in coming out for a few days?! Charter a bus and make it a Vacation with a Purpose! If you don't have a group, stop in on Thursday afternoon or evening to help us out!



Christmas is less than 3 months away!

You can pick up empty Christmas Gift Boxes at Faith Mission (425 Roblin Blvd East) in Winkler. There are empty Gift Boxes in the Drop-Off room. You can pick up boxes anytime and pack your own. The Drop-Off door is always unlocked.

* Here is a list of items that we recommend you put into a gift box:

* Please include: **Mittens, Socks, Toque, Scarf, Underwear, Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Soap, Facecloth, a Small Gift or Toy, School Supplies, Pencil, Eraser, Pen, Paper or Note-book, Colouring Book, Ruler, Pencil Sharpener, Crayons, and Scissor.**

Send - Bar soap no liquid soap / Glue stick - instead of glue bottles.

* No Shampoo Body Wash, or Perfume.

* **If you put in candies**, please put them into a small plastic bag.

* If you aren't interested in packing the gift boxes yourself, we can do it for you. Faith Mission will buy the supplies and pack the box(es) for you. **Simply send us a donation, and (Mark "Gift Box" on Mailing Card)** The cost to pack a Gift Box is approximately \$30 - \$35.

Thank you for your support!

We do not really have a deadline for dropping off Gift Boxes. However, in order to get them to Ukraine by Christmas, we would like to load the bulk of them in the next container, which we plan to ship no later than



Loading gifts into the container destined for 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.

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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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☐ Please change my address as indicated below.

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