

Mission Newsletter



January - February 2019

Number 137

And he said, "Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed. (Gen. 32:28)

Jacob, after serving Laban for 21 years, received a call from God to return to Canaan. During the journey home - before he met with his brother, Esau -- Jacob spent the night on the bank of the Jabbok and there wrestled with an angel of the Lord until daybreak. The prophet Hosea tells us that Jacob *"had power with God: Yea, he had power over the angel, and prevailed: he wept, and made supplication unto him"* (Hosea. 12:3, 4).

As dawn approached, the angel said, *"Let me go, for the day breaketh."* But Jacob replied, *"I will not let thee go, except thou bless me"* (Gen. 32:26).

So the angel said, *"Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel."* "Jacob" means supplanter, or one that takes the place of another by way of force or deceit. Jacob used Esau's hunger to obtain his birthright, and he used trickery to obtain the blessing from Isaac. After leaving home, however, Jacob developed into a man who believed in the power of prayer.

Many people today prefer to use their own means to achieve a solution rather than to trust God to work in His way. We need to learn, as Jacob did, to trust God totally.

Jacob's name was changed to Israel, which means *"the prince that prevails with God."* This was a mark of honor upon Jacob. He had power with God, as we can if we will be people of prayer. David said, *"In the day of my trouble I will call upon thee: for thou wilt answer me"* (Psa. 86:7).

The change of Jacob's name to Israel signified a change in the man himself, a change that God recognized. He also recognizes the change in us when we accept Jesus Christ as our Saviour: *"old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new"* (II Cor. 5:17).

God has placed a mark of honor upon us, making us *"a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people"* (I Pet. 2:9). And just as Jacob received a new name, so shall we who leave this world as overcomers: *"To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it"* (Rev. 2:17). ♦♦♦

Recent Correspondence from Eastern Ukraine.....

(Photos and letters received within the last week.)

**Our last Container shipped:
#2018-08-243 to Mariupol, Ukraine
Right into the War Zone in Eastern Ukraine
(unloading the Container in Mariupol)**



"FOLLOW ME! I WILL HELP YOU WITH EVERYTHING!".....

Last summer the youth of our church held evangelization services in one of the larger villages in the region. Generally children come with their parents or grandmothers. However, one 15 year old girl came to the camp all by her self. She had just found out about the camp so she arrived late. She was truly shocked by the atmosphere of kindness and love among the Christian youth. She showed a willingness to learn more about our church and wanted to attend the service. On the first Sunday after camp she was at the Church service. Soon, Lira began to attend regularly - both youth services and Sunday meetings. The church camp had made a very powerful impact on Lira's life. She told us the story of her life. Lira's father died from cancer, before he reached the age of 50 years. Her

grandmother also died of cancer. Lira lived in constant fear, dreading that she would also die of cancer. Her mother shared Lira's fear with her new Christian friends. She too had learned to depend on prayer after finding Jesus. However, Satan did not want to give up this sweet soul. Some people who were also in the camp, (unfortunately, some from Christian families) provoked her to conflict, hinting that she should leave home. She prayed earnestly about the temptations and one night, in her dream, the voice of God spoke to her: *"FOLLOW ME! I WILL HELP YOU WITH EVERYTHING!"* After waking up, she resolved to follow the Lord and to remain faithful all her life. Till today, she visits our church and has invited her family.

This year we had a camp in the forest, near the village of Sokolovo. People slept in tents because it was the only accommodation that was affordable. This made camp possible for about 200 people. Many of these people were disabled or



struggled with a variety of health issues.

One such camper was a young guy, Dima. He has multiple sclerosis. His mother abandoned him, when she married a young man. Christian brothers and sisters had come to visit him at his home, but now he was surrounded by Christians. Dima depends on constant medication for his health needs. His meager monthly pension (about 1500 UAH / or \$72 Cdn) doesn't always cover his expensive medication. However, God is loving and kind and has promised not to forsake His children.



Dima in a black t-shirt

We received several short emails from Ukraine following Gift Box distribution.....

..... We are very grateful for a great gift. Merry Christmas!
 My brother Bogdan, my sister Angelina and I, Nadezhda, received your gifts for which we sincerely thank you. Thank you from everyone in the village of Rozhniv. May God Bless and protect you!
 We received your gift. We appreciate it very much. Everything is very beautiful. May God Bless you!

Now I can die too... (FB)

A service that not everyone can do, "The service to the Omis." That is what the Ukrainian Christians call the Sokolovo villages in the Kharkov region.

Around Sokolovo, there are several small villages known to be "uneconomic." There is no infrastructure and no future prospects. Most inhabitants of these villages depend entirely on themselves. If they are lucky, they may find employment in distant larger towns. However, those who are not mobile, old, sick and without relatives to care for them, life is very difficult for them.

Many of these neglected or abandoned older people are in search of Christians from the community in Sokolovo. It is often a real challenge to go to some of the small shacks where these disabled people live. The smell of the infected, open wounds and bodies that have not been cleaned up for months can make these visits anything but pleasant. The Christian visitors often end up treating their wounds, washing them, and bringing them food to eat. Maybe even, cleaning up their the messy home which may be a small shack or apartment.

The driving force that motivates Christians to do this important service is the true love of God to the Forgotten of this world. For many of these neglected seniors, this act of love gives them a new life.

The most important thing is that all these people, in their hour of dying can have peace with God because they have been led to Jesus Christ. No matter how poor they are. Or, how little they have, Jesus has become their Saviour just like He has for you and me. Brother Nikolai serves as a missionary in the neighboring villages. With help from Canada & Germany, he expands the boundaries of his work and works in new villages and with new people. Although the hunger for God's Word fades, there are still many souls who desperately need it.

In one of these villages, Brother Nikolai visited the house of an elderly couple - an old man who cared for his bedridden wife. Mostly, Nikolai spoke to the man, and the old woman listened quietly.

While reading the Scriptures, they came upon the subject of baptism. Suddenly Galina spoke up and expressed her desire to be baptized as well. It was surprising for everyone because Galina never took part in the talks about salvation; she never attended church services either.

On the next visit with this couple, the church pastor came along. Talking to Galina, it turned out that Jesus had already done His work in her heart and brought her to a new life. Last summer, Galina was baptized in the village of Sokolovo. She was beaming with joy. In the car, on the way home from the service, which took place 30 kilometres from her village,



she said to us: "Well, now I can die too."

At present, services continue to be held in the house of this older couple. Brother Nikolay continues the evangelization in this village.

God abundantly blesses our church through the ministry of these village missionaries. Last year, of the 18 people who were baptized, seven people came from the villages where the brothers work.

Glory to God for the work that is done through your mission to save souls! May God abundantly bless all participants of this work !!!

Serving God in the Sokolovo region!

Sister Tanya Nikolajenko's children's home or orphanage



exists for more than 10 years. Over the years, God has called Tanya to adopt different children with special needs and different illnesses. Among these children, there is a very special girl, Nadja, who is now 15 years old. She was

born with the dreadful disease called Ehlers–Danlos syndrome. Complications may include aortic dissection, joint dislocations, scoliosis, chronic pain, or early osteoarthritis. During her stay with the family, costly operations and the constant maintenance of her health is required.

During the first operation, Nadja was really worried that the surgery would affect her reproductive organs, possibly preventing her from ever giving birth. But, thank God, the Great Physician, the operation was successful and Nadja is at home with her loving family again. She is now in consultation for more testing and possibly another surgery.

Nadja is planning to be baptized this year. She has said that if she suddenly dies during the next operation, she wants to be ready to meet the Saviour in the sky. Thanks to the mercy of God, she has closed the "deal" with Him. He will take care of her soul!

The operation and the rehabilitation are very expensive; (anywhere from \$3,000 to \$5,000 US dollars). Sister Tanya, is very grateful for the help that Faith Mission has provided to

cover part of the expense.

Tanja's family is also very grateful for the support from Faith Mission that made it possible to purchase a new washing machine. Doing laundry for the large "family" had taken its toll on her old washer. The old washing machine was often broken which meant "no clean laundry."

A hearty note of gratitude to everyone at "Faith Mission" for your participation in the life of Tanja's family. Your help makes the life of the big family so much easier. Thank you very much.

Praying that God will repay those who work there and are concerned about the needs of others!!!



We need more Bikes!



Photo Above: Bicycle storage in 1999 or 2000

Photo below: Bicycle Storage in fall of 2018



Please help us out.....

A number of years ago, as you can see on the top picture, we were blessed with hundreds of good bikes during one season. The last few years our bike donations have really gone down. We receive many requests from Ukraine for more bikes so we are hoping that you will donate your bike to Faith Mission this spring so that we can ship them overseas. For many people in Ukraine, bicycle transportation is their only option because

fuel is so expensive that they can not justify buying fuel instead of food for their family. For many it is their only means to travel to church, so they may need to take turns attending services because there's only one bike.

If you decide to support the Faith Mission Bike Ministry, please bring us bikes that are in driving condition. If the tires are low, we can fill them with air but if the tires, seat, sprockets or gears are "shot", please reconsider. We have piles of wheels and bike parts but very few bikes. Last year we spent several thousand dollars on parts and tires to repair the bikes that were donated.

If you want to make a Donation towards our Bicycle Ministry, please designate your donation as "**Bicycles.**"



25th Anniversary Celebration Fundraising Sausage, Baked Potato & Dessert Supper
Saturday, May 11th, 2019
 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm
 at the
Winkler Mennonite Church
 31 Willowdale Cres - Winkler, MB
 Call: 204-325-5446
Freewill Offering
 All Proceeds going toward the ministry of Faith Mission
Everyone Welcome!
Mark your calendars

 **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.

Board of Directors

- Jake Elias (204) 325-5446 Henry Penner (204) 331-3309
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425 Roblin Blvd East

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

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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.

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