

Mission Newsletter



January - February 2023

Number 161

“...but they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.” (Isaiah. 40:31)

We live in a wearisome world and in an age and a time when the pressures of life weigh heavily upon us. Decisions must be made; problems must be solved. We may notice ourselves getting weaker and weaker, and we need to set aside more and more time each day to seek God’s face, to study His Word, and to wait upon Him. Many of you may say, “I don’t have the time to do this.” I realize this is not only a weary age, and a tiresome age, but it is a busy age. We’re all busy. But if we will take the time, even if we have to set the alarm at two or three o’clock in the morning, we will be blessed by it. Spend some time with God in the Bible, studying His Word. Then spend some time fellowshiping with Him. Tell Him about your cares, your needs. Make your requests known unto Him. Ask Him to help you with your weaknesses, your difficulties, and your problems. You will find yourself gradually growing stronger and stronger. Your remaining time will become more productive. The Bible says, *“They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.”* We must, however, be willing to wait. Then, the Word promises, God will renew our strength. We will run and not be weary; we will walk and not faint. Whenever you can, each day, wait upon the Lord. Offer to Him the “sacrifice of praise.” After all, if we would expect God to restore us to Himself, we must be willing to contribute to the process. We wait with a patient waiting, for God is in no hurry — but in all things He is faithful. He will remake and restrengthen us so that we will never again be in the condition of committing willful sins. Remember this, if you forget all else: God is faithful in all things and able to do whatever needs to be done. He possesses a wisdom that we can’t begin to know and will perform every good work in perfect order and timing.



The Beginning of the Carpathian Ministry

How many of us have ever had an idea about how to be more effective Christians, thinking of different ways to witness for God? Peter Nastasiychuk had an idea back in 1989, very soon after the fall of communism and the dispersion of the Soviet Union. His Idea! A Christian mobile library set up on the sidewalk in downtown Chernivtsi Ukraine. They set up a small stand right next to the city hall and lent out books every Saturday. They were met with many eager readers that would read the Christian books they had. After 7 years of running this mobile library there happened to be a young lady in Chernivtsi from Verkhovina, a village in the Carpathian Mountains. She borrowed a book and took it back home where she read it and also gave it to another man to read. This man, Volodia Potyak, read the book and asked the girl to go back and ask whoever ran that library to please come to visit him. She delivered the message and Peter and his family headed off to the request Carpathians for the first time in May of 1997. On that first visit Volodia gave his life to Christ, and with that, the first



Henry Rempel, Andy Elias, Alex Janzen, Peter Nastasiychuk, & Nathan Elias spent a week together sharing the Christmas Message to over 3000 children in the Carpathians from Jan 4-12.

Christian church was born in the Carpathian Mountains. In the last 26 years of going into the mountains to tell lost souls about God's love, Peter has spent countless hours driving, covering many miles, organizing the construction of 4 churches along with multiple other buildings on one of the church yards where the children camps have been

held for the past 17 years. We can look at the size of the churches now, we can count the children that have been at the camps, but only God truly knows how many souls have been reached and been spared hell's fury. Because of one man's idea, not only having the idea but also doing what needs to be done to fulfill that idea. Peter and Elena are dear friends of mine, I lived together with their family for 6 months back in 2004, and he has inspired me to be a better Christian. When we went to visit him in the Carpathians this January he showed us a stack of 65 school notebooks where he had transcribed the entire Bible over the past ten years.

When we asked when he had had the time to do that his response was a simple "when I couldn't sleep at night" he would write for several hours at a time (it took him roughly 13 months or 9360 hrs which averages out to 2.5 hrs/day). I have to ask myself "what do I do when I can't sleep? What do I do with any of my idle time?" So, let's be more like Peter and when we have an idea let's make it a reality because maybe God has churches that need to be built. And when you have idle time, spend it wisely, I'm certain he will never regret transcribing the Bible. *Nathan Elias*

In Matthew 22:37-40 Jesus said unto him, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

I was thankful for the opportunity to go to Ukraine and Moldova to see first hand the needs of the people living in a suffering nation due to war and poverty.

We visited a refugee centre in Chisinau, Moldova. The administrator, Irina, was very hospitable and showed us how



Peter & Elena Nastasiychuk have been missionaries under Faith Mission Support for many years. We were very happy to spend a week with them and help them with their work on our trip to Ukraine.



The Ukrainian Refugee center in Chisinau Moldova. Ivan Nedeoglo has supplied this center with many needs, including furniture and appliances purchased with funds from Faith Mission (FriedensBote).

the refugees lived there. There were 81 refugees in the centre, of which 15 were men and the rest were women and children. Each family had a small room as their living quarters. Because there were not enough separate rooms, a large room was divided into smaller rooms by portable office dividers. The families ate together in a common dining area.

The refugees had the opportunity to learn different trades such as cooking, hair dressing, waiter and sales person. The program allowed the refugees to stay for 2-3 months, in the meantime helped them find a job and a home.

We met an elderly woman there. She expressed her gratitude for the humanitarian aid and said, "We are living like in Paradise!" I was touched by her thankfulness.

We had the opportunity to help with the firewood project in the surrounding villages of Singerei, Moldova. One cubic meter of firewood is brought to each family in need. Most of the families that are chosen to receive firewood are families of whom at least one of the household attends the regular church service. Most people who live in the village are very poor. Work is hard to find in Moldova, many of the parents work as guest workers in Romania leaving one parent and the children to live alone or often the children are left to live with



from abuse due to the parents turning to alcoholism and prostitution. The need for humanitarian aid was evident, as we would see children outside at -0 temperatures in thin sweaters and sandals that were much too small.

We brought firewood to a Christian home. One of few homes where there was both a father and mother raising their children together. It was evident that when a family had been converted that they kept their yard and house clean as best they could under the circumstances. Christs' love in the centre of the home produced gratefulness and motivation in life.

We brought firewood to a grandmother that was raising her three grandchildren. The children were abandoned by their parents. To make a living, she would buy a sack of walnuts, shell them, dry them and sell them. This lady came to church with her grandchildren.

One grandmother to whom we brought firewood raises her ten grandchildren. Her paralyzed brother also lives with her. The grandmother comes to church with the children. They moved out of their house into the garage because the house was not warm enough. There was a room in the garage that they could keep warmer. In many homes there were blankets and rugs hung on the walls to keep out the cold.

Many heartbreaking stories come out of these homes. Innocent children being abused due to the choices of the parents. A fourteen year old girl attends church regularly. Her mother has many men that come and go who have also abused the girl. This young girl was also on our bus Sunday morning. Pain was written on her face, but she showed joy in the presence of the church family.

Vasili & Dina together with Jurij & Lilia led the Sunday morning service. Friedensbote has supplied the church with three buses that they use to pick up children from nineteen villages. Sunday morning we boarded the bus and went along to gather the children. Few adults show interest in the gospel but through the children some of the parents have

come to the services and become Christians. Our bus had 60 seats, but we had 115 people onboard. There were about 400 children and close to 70 adults at church that morning! The children are all given a 'kringle' (soft pretzels) and something to drink when they come to church, after their snack they are filed in an orderly fashion into church. After the service the children were each given a Christmas giftbox. The enthusiasm in their singing is an amazing testimony of the grace that God has poured out to these children in their suffering.

-Andrew Elias

Hi my name is Henry Rempel. I work with Faith Mission in Alberta. I had the privilege of going to Ukraine and Moldova with Nathan Elias, Andrew Elias and Alex Janzen.

First off I would like to thank you for your prayers of protection and safe travels and also for our families at home. A lot of new experiences for me, being fairly new to the mission. Like, getting used to the power being turned off for a few hours almost every day. Then one day when I went to shower and the lights turned off. Ok, we went across the hall to visit, just to find that they have power, guess we need to find the breaker. Another time we needed to eat supper in the church by candle light. Saw and heard a lot of sad stories. Like young girls having children due to the circumstances of the war, or moms giving up their children to be raised by their elderly mom's so that they can continue in their

care-free life. But we also heard good stories. It was so good to see people taking time out of what could be a good and busy life for themselves, to spend so much time and energy into the children in the local communities. To the point where the local authorities would give a certificate because they see it making a positive difference, crime rates being lowered considerably because of the efforts of these people. We also heard the testimony of a lady that got saved at children's camp and is now serving in the ministry, together with her husband. I would like to ask for further prayers for willing workers to be sent, a lot more could be done if the help was there. (John 4:35) *"Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."* - Henry Rempel



During our trip to Ukraine we started a WhatsApp group to keep our friends and family up to date with our travels. Upon our return it was suggested to keep that group going to regularly update supporters of Faith Mission that are standing behind us in prayer, we will do our best to give updates regularly and also when there are specific prayer items that do come up. This is not a public forum as only the admins can comment or post but if you have questions or comments please feel free to message one of the admins (board directors) personally. If you want to join simply scan this QR code and follow the link.



URGENT - PLEASE TAKE NOTE!

Special Reminder for all our supporters with NEW ADDRESSES in Southern Manitoba....

Please return Change of Address slip below or, send us your changes by email. It is almost time to mail out receipts so don't delay!

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.

Mailing Address: 520 Circle K Drive

Winkler, Manitoba R6W 0K4

Phone (204) 325-4086

Email: info@faithmission.ca

www.faithmission.ca

Office and Warehouse located at

520 Circle K Drive - Off of Cargill Road

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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- ☐ Please send my Newsletter in PDF to my email:

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Office Hours



Tuesday (Office only) 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Clothing sorting & baling:

Thursday 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. & 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Drop-Off locations

Bags or boxes of clothing and bicycles may be dropped off at the "DROP-OFF" door on the east side of the Faith Mission building in Winkler.

Faith Mission also has drop-off containers at
821 - 1st St North in GRASSY LAKE, AB.

325 Queen Street in WEYBURN, SK.

These drop-off locations are opened 24 hours a day and emptied on a regular basis. However, if you have more than a few bags or boxes, please call ahead to arrange your delivery.

-Winkler,MB	Jake Elias	204-362-7575
+Grassy Lake,AB	Dave Teichroeb	403-308-6523
*Weyburn,SK	Henry Goertzen	306-450-8871

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE CLOTHING DONATIONS OUTSIDE!

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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John Peters (204) 325-1383 Philip Elias (204) 750-8187

Nathan Elias (204) 212-1041 David Teichroeb (403) 308-6523

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.

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6

We greet you, dear friends of Faith Mission with these wonderful words spoken by the prophet in ancient times. But even today they delight all those who raise their eyes to heaven, and are looking for a Savior, looking for peace for the heart, and look forward to that meeting when we meet Christ in the clouds and we will always be with him in Eternal Joy. Today, as never before, the inhabitants of the planet, Prince of Peace and us, the inhabitants of Ukraine, where, unfortunately, adults and children continue to die. There is a war, but the enemy was defeated even 2000 years ago by Christ on the cross. It was with this joyful news that we went to the people in these wonderful days of Christmas. Meetings with children and adults began on December 14 in the Carpathians and are still ongoing, at least 3 more meetings with children are planned.

This year, our meetings were special because we had friends Nathan, Andrew and Henry, from Canada, and Alex from Germany with us. It is a blessing for us when guests come to us from time to time, and participate in the service. It is a great support, especially in this difficult time for our Ukraine. We are grateful to God that we have friends in different countries who are experiencing with us what is happening to us. A total of 23 services have been held, and we are planning at least 3 more. A total of 3,030 gifts were distributed from Germany and Canada. Along with the future meetings planned, all the gifts from Canada will be distributed, so that there will be nothing left for Easter. We have also distributed 75 bales of clothes from Canada in these days. We are very happy that so many children and adults heard the Good News about the Messiah, why he was born, and that there is an opportunity to be forgiven, and inherit eternal life with Christ. This is the main reason why these guests came to share the word.

We ask for continued prayers for these children and their parents. Dear friends, if it pleases God and he will give us the opportunity to serve people, we have many desires and dreams to go to people and use the possibilities of the message that we can still share. They can end at any moment but we have a desire to bring good news to the dying.

Easter will be quite early this year, I would like to once again hold meetings with children and adults as usual, not with empty hands. Regarding summer camps, we don't know how many we will be able to hold this year, it will depend on the leaders who will come. Unfortunately, it will be mostly sisters as the brothers will not be able to come for obvious reasons, but we will hope and wait.

– Peter Nastasiychuk



January 4, 2023 was the start of a trip that I will remember for a long time. I was the experienced one with several trips to Ukraine behind me, and yet I feel like I was the least prepared for what we saw. Yes, it is true that the time we spent in Ukraine was nowhere near the front-line of the raging battle, but we saw so much evidence that the war is far from over. From the soldiers on the streets of Chernivtsi recruiting more men for the army, to the many refugees that we saw and met in the many services that we took part in. The stories that were told us by these refugees most of which we don't

want to share in a mission newsletter because of how horrific they are. However, what we can take away from all of those stories is that there are still so many that need to hear about the Love of God, so many souls that are dying needlessly. The workload of the pastors/missionaries has gotten so much more difficult, because so many young men have left/are leaving because of the ongoing threat of being enlisted into the army, and also because they have so many more people at the doorstep that they need to assist physically and spiritually. I feel like this trip was more difficult for me than the previous ones because of the immense load of responsibility of sharing all the experiences with as many Canadians/Americans as we can and yet I feel that we can speak about these things for the rest of our days and we still can't express the look of relief on the faces when we told them of the many supporters praying for them in Canada. Or, the look of joy on the young faces when we handed them a "simple" gift box. We noticed so often the anticipation and willingness to listen to an hour-long message about God's love. Many people were willing to stand the entire time, just to receive a gift of things we take for granted because we always have them. So, please take one lesson from our trip: "Don't take anything for granted, EVERYTHING is a gift from God above and it's only because of his grace that we have so much." Everything we have, whether possessions, experiences, or time, we should be willing to share it with others

-Nathan



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☐ \$500 ☐ \$300

☐ \$200 ☐ \$100

☐ \$50 ☐ \$25

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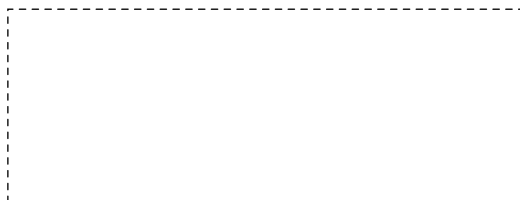
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(2023-#01)



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**Tax deductible
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Presentation Schedule as of February 1, 10:00 am (Subject to changes)

Feb	5	Winkler EMMC Winkler MB	7:00
Feb	10	Wheatland Communiplex, Yellow Grass SK	7:00
Feb	11	Osler Seniors Hall, Osler SK	7:30
Feb	12	Northern Light Fellowship, Foam Lake SK	7:00
Feb	13	Available	
Feb	14	Available	
Feb	15	Taber Reinland Menn, Taber AB	7:00
Feb	16	Grace Christian Fellowship, Bow Island AB	7:30
Feb	17	Vauxhall Reinland Menn, Vauxhall AB	7:30
Feb	18	La Crete Community Hall, La Crete AB	7:00
Feb	19	Hillside Christian Fellowship, Willingdon AB	4:00
Mar	12	City Light Christian Church, Brandon, MB	7:00

* not confirmed yet