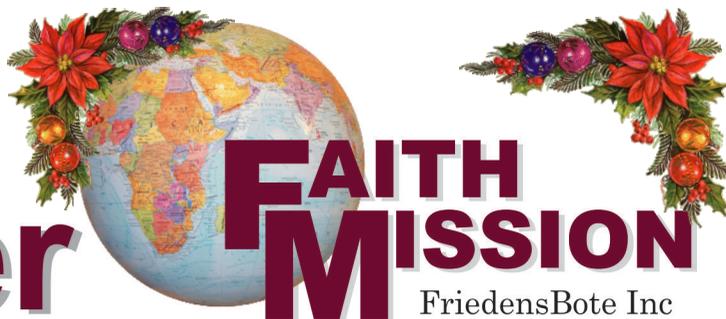


# Mission Newsletter



November-December 2023

Number 166

**“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.” 2 Corinthians 8:9**

**M**y idea of a missionary was fueled by summer visits to our church from missionary families. This was the time of year that the missionary families were “on furlough,” which even as a youngster sounded to me like a temporary break from army duty. They would give Kodak slide presentations of their work when they visited the churches that funded them. I would count ceiling tiles as the projector clicked off one picture after another. I wanted to hear stories about tiger attacks and dodging poison darts. As a youngster all the presentations seemed to depict a white family living amidst tribal people in Papua New Guinea or Nairobi or working with little Australian Aborigines. I wondered what these poor Americans had done to make God mad enough to send them to places. To me, missionary life meant no Pop-Tarts for breakfast, no Fleetwood Mac eight tracks, and no Dallas Cowboys on Sunday afternoons.

In the fellowship hall after one of these presentations, I told one of my friends, “I’ll never be a missionary. I’m gonna ask God to never send me to one of those places.” One of the old ladies in our church overheard what I said, shook her finger in my face and said, “You better not say that, young man, because if you do, that’s exactly where God will send you!” I looked at her wide-eyed and gulped. I thought to myself, “I’ve done it now. Ten years old, and my life is done for.” That pretty much summed up my concept of missions. As I grew older, I admired the missionaries and felt an allegiance to support them financially, but I did not see myself in any way, shape, or form as a missionary. In my mind, missions were something that happened across borders, in faraway places. To be a missionary you had to move to a foreign land. I certainly didn’t feel called to move to any particular faraway place or people, so I knew for sure I wasn’t called to be a missionary. From that point on, when I heard the word “missionary,” there was an immediate mental disconnect between that word and me.

Through many years and conversations with other Christians and church leaders, I came to realize that my concept of a missionary was pretty much the norm. Most of us have viewed missions as something that happens over there. “We have tended to see mission as something we do in ‘heathen nations’ and not on home base. We evangelize here and do mission there. This has rightly been called the ‘geographic myth.’” The reality is that all Christians are not only called to be missionaries but have already been sent to the people they are called to reach. Christians who earn a living as teachers, accountants, store clerks, mechanics, plumbers, doctors, whatever — you are a missionary!

— Alan Hirsch and Lance Ford in Right Here Right Now  
Used by permission from Impactus.org

Seniors are especially grateful for the food products that are sent from Canada as it is very difficult for them to purchase enough food. With inflation rising prices on everything and a war that is making it more difficult to source things this will be a great help to make winter more comfortable.



**I**n this newsletter you are going to see a number of projects written about that we feel/felt God asking us to be a part of. Some of these projects are not common projects for us and fall outside of our normal allocation of funds so it seems that our finances are down some going into the winter months. We trust God will provide and we will continue to receive the donations that we need in order to continue our normal projects as well. Back in January, on our trip to Ukraine/Moldova and especially during our time in Germany I heard of so many opportunities that Faith Mission has, not only at presently, but so many more that could be coming in the next short while. I feel it is a vital time of growth for Faith Mission in whatever ways God sees fit. As a result of our January trip we have had a fair amount of interest shown from family/friends in the USA.

They would like to know more about Faith Mission and so we are planning, for the first time ever, to do a series of presentations in; Texas(Seminole 25/11 & Dalhart 27/11), Kansas(Hugoton 28/11), Oklahoma(Boley 29/11), and Minnesota(Grove City 30/11). We ask that you lift us up in prayer during this time that our travels can be safe and our voices can remain strong and that we will be able to, along with building our base of support for Faith Mission, also be able to encourage people to walk a truly Christian life.

Salutations brother Jake, Nathan and all the servants of the Mission. Thank God we unloaded another aid from your mission. It is simply difficult to find words of



gratitude to God and you for your love for our people, which is reflected not only in words but in your actions towards our people in this difficult time. We sent some cargo to different places at once and will inform you and send photos as they are distributed.

Of course, gifts, flour, sugar, soups, including those that we unloaded in Tuchapy earlier, will be distributed throughout the Christmas holidays. Tables and chairs were immediately brought to the Godylov church-house. This is a special gift for us. I think it is possible that you will also have dinner with them. We are preparing a lot of meetings in different places. There will be a lot of children and adults. Yesterday there was a service at Steishche, many people came. I just let them know and people are coming and going. First the service is held and then the distribution is as usual. And for now, we are once again grateful to God and to all friends of Canada who donated so that such an extraordinary gift from Canada arrived to us. God's special blessings to you all, the servants of the Mission. We love you. - Peter N/Chernivtsi (translated by Google/Nathan)



Since the war started again in February 2022, Faith Mission has been scrambling to help the desperate needs of many in Ukraine. It looks like we may be able to ship 12 containers of humanitarian aid this year. We have done this once before and that was 17 years ago, in 2006. This year we have seen substantial cost increases to shipping, partially due to the fact that we need to ship the containers to Germany and get them reloaded into trucks and then transport the goods into Ukraine. Recently lineups at the border have been miles long, with delays up to 6 days. This has also added to the shipping cost.

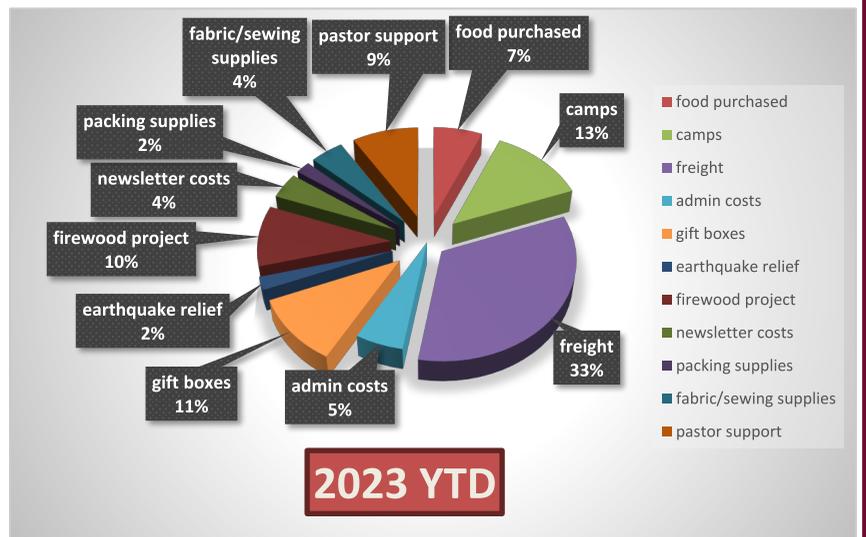
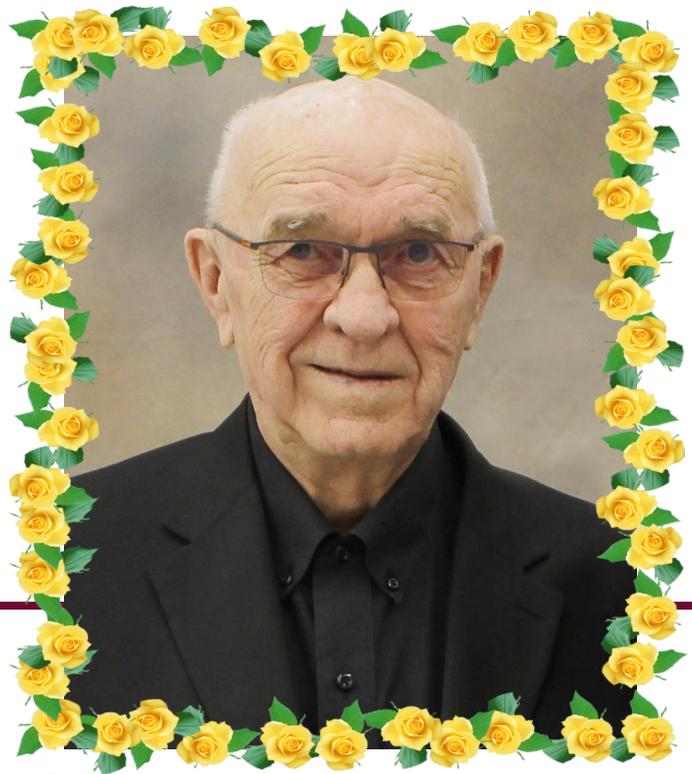
The graph at the right shows the breakdown of the 2023 disbursements upto November 15th. The amounts shown are not from an audited statement but it should show where our funds have gone. JME

On Tuesday, October 24, 2023, God called to his eternal rest Reverend Henry Penner of Winkler, MB formerly of Plum Coulee at the age of 79 years.

Henry is lovingly remembered by his loving wife, Trudy, and children, Henry (Esther) Penner, David (Mary) Penner, Helena (John) Wiebe, Anna (Abe) Teichroeb, Willie (Helen) Penner, Frank (Diana) Penner and Andrew (Marianne) Penner and their families. He was predeceased by four grandchildren in infancy.

The funeral service was on Tuesday, October 31, 2023 at the Winkler Reinland Mennonite Church with interment at the Church Cemetery in Schanzenfeld.

Henry was one of the longest serving board members of Faith Mission dating back to the early nineties, he has made several trips to Germany and Ukraine on behalf of Ukraine. He has influenced many decisions in the organization over the years with his deep, thoughtful insight and he will be dearly missed by us all in the mission. He has spent countless hours working in many facets and was never scared to get his hands dirty doing the Lord's work.





Container #286 that was loaded in Winkler on Sep 21, included 25 tables and 200 folding chairs that we sent at the request of Peter N. These tables will be an important part of many children's camps, clothing distribution meetings that are not located in their churches they can now load up the tables and take them to where the meetings are. Thanks to your donations we were able to purchase these tables and chairs, for a total of \$12,772 plus the freight of \$4,200, from a wholesaler in Quebec. We got them shipped to MB along with 18 skids of soup mix(which we re-stacked onto 12 skids when they got to Winkler) from Ontario Gleaners in Cambridge ON and were able to split the soup mix over 4 containers that have already all gone into Ukraine. When we first priced the tables and chairs we were quoted \$3200 for the freight for this alone but when we found that we could add the soup mix to the same load. We lined up our own transportation and for only \$1,000 more we were able to get the whole load delivered. The last 4 containers that we have shipped have gone out in very quick succession largely due to the amount of things that were included in the shipments that were not bales. The following chart shows what we have sent this year and approximately what the items have cost us:

12 skids of soup mix	\$1000 freight only
16 skids of flour	100% donated
12 skids of sugar	\$19,965 purchase price
16 skids of (3326)gift boxes	\$30,000 of purchased supplies
180 bicycles	\$1,603 parts and supplies
3455 bales of clothes and shoes	100% donated
354 bags of comforters beyond the blankets included in the bales	

*Greetings to you, our friends! Two weeks ago we traveled in two cars to the Nikolaev region, to villages that have been liberated and abandoned. People returned to their homes because they could not settle down in other places. Mostly people of retirement age who can no longer find work, although there are also mothers with children... There are mines around, no gardens are planted, people make sure to only walk along the paths and from time to time even on the walkways people step on land mines. The houses were all broken, looted, and many were burned. Here we took potatoes, clothes, blankets, pillows, dishes, canned goods... The blankets and pillows are not all visible in the photo, since they are in black bags and we didn't want to ask people to take them out and take a photo. People are already reacting very aggressively to any photographers... I am sending you what I have with photos. Let us pray for God's protection and Grace for our ministry!*

*-Victor M/Uzin (translated by Google /Nathan)*

I would like to add a note here on these blankets. A few newsletters ago we had noted that we were short blankets but had very many blanket tops that we needed to have sewn to backing. We had a good response to that note and have gotten most of those tops sewn into full blankets and we would like to say a special thank you to whoever pitched in to make this possible. I would also encourage you, if you want to get more involved with sewing blankets or other items for us please contact our office.





An over-abundance of clothing donations have us searching for additional groups to come and help us

**B**ack in the early 90s when Faith Mission began, it was in a small, single car garage with the goal of filling one over sea container with clothing. It is hard to understand where all the clothing has come from that we have been able to send to the former Soviet Union countries over the past 30 years. And it is completely mind blowing when we look at how the clothing just keeps coming, at times almost faster than we are able to sort and bale it. With the tremendous amount of donations we currently have in our building we are sure to be able to continue meeting the needs of many more people with clothing, shoes, bedding and many other necessities. As I'm writing this we are nearly bursting at the seams with clothing, our bins are full and overflowing, we have totes in storage upstairs and more on it's way that will surely go into storage as well. I want to be clear here that I am not saying we have to many clothes or that we don't want more, this is a good time of year to have this problem. It is the beginning of winter, and we are very much looking forward to all the church groups that come to help us on additional evenings throughout the winter. The more clothes we get and are able to process through just means that we can pass on this blessing to even more people that need them. We ask that if you have a group that would like to come for an evening to please call our office to schedule something. We are always open to more volunteers on Thursday morning, afternoon, and/or evenings. We are also contemplating doing a multiple day work blitz with

some youth groups over the course of 2-3 days where I would like to get groups signed up for 4 or 6 hour shifts and then, starting on a Thursday morning and continuing through Saturday evening. With the goal making a container-load of bales in that time. As a youth I was involved in a meat canning project that worked in a similar way and I feel like this could be a fun way of processing through a lot of clothes in short order. If you or your church would be interested in teaming up with us on a project like this please get in touch with Nathan @ 204.647.7466(MISSION)

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.

**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 and Physical Address: 520 Circle K Drive**

**Winkler, Manitoba R6W 0K4**

**Phone (204) 325-4086**

**Email: [info@faithmission.ca](mailto:info@faithmission.ca)**

**[www.faithmission.ca](http://www.faithmission.ca)**

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 Nathan Elias 204-647-7466

+Grassy Lake,AB Dave Teichroeb 403-308-6523

\*Weyburn,SK Henry Goertzen 306-450-8871

**PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE CLOTHING DONATIONS OUTSIDE!**

## Board of Directors

Jake Elias (204) 325-5446

Abe Unrau (204) 685-2320

Andy Elias (204) 325-6446

John Peters (204) 325-1383

Philip Elias (204) 750-8187

David Teichroeb (403) 308-6523

Albert Kornelson (204) 332-2109

Willy Thiessen (204) 332-2035

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.

**-Faith Mission can also be found on social media platforms for more regular updates**

**-Instagram @faithmission\_winkler**

**-Facebook @faithmissioninc**

**-WhatsApp @ Friends of FM/FB**

scan the QR code >>



**F**riends, brothers and volunteers of Faith Mission (Friedensbote) of Canada and Germany! We sincerely thank God that in His Son, Jesus Christ, He created the Church, consisting of different people and languages, material conditions and social statuses, through which He accomplishes His will and builds His Kingdom.

It's amazing to realize that we in Ukraine, and you in your respective countries, each in our own place, are working in God's field, ripe for harvest, and we will rejoice together upon His return for His people.

We would like to thank all of you for your encouragement, prayers, and material support for our family and the ministry of the rehabilitation center. We want to help you understand that without your mission and without your participation, it would be much more difficult for our family in the ministry that we do, as well as the various ministries in which you are involved.

A few words about service. The war in our country brought certain changes. There are fewer people for rehabilitation, both at our center and among others with whom we communicate. One of the reasons is the military mobilization, this means that the opportunity to convey the Gospel to those in need has fallen, but on the other hand, churches are now developing chaplaincy ministry for the soldiers. This is one of the wondrous ways that God works, when He closes one door/window then He opens another elsewhere. He knows how to reach people's hearts at different times. Now we have 5 people at the center, three of whom were participants in active combat operations before the full-scale invasion. Even in this we can see God's wise hand in control as we know that in the post-war period there will be many more people in need of God's grace, especially soldiers. We hope that some of these three ex-soldiers who are now at the center will grow stronger in their faith and will be available to assist the subsequent people, which is what we are working toward and what we are praying for.

God puts it on my heart to write to you about one of them. This is Sergei Shpak. He served in the army for 18 years, of which he spent about 5 years fighting in eastern Ukraine as a military medic. While saving his wounded comrades, he could not prevent himself from drug addiction. The turning point in his life was the death of his mother, which he learned about while on duty 800 kilometers from home. Having asked his drunken commander for leave to say goodbye to his mother, he was refused. Sergei reacted to this by selfishly going home without permission, for this he was later tried for desertion. With his military career ended, his wife and child left him due to his drug addiction getting worse. Having sold his mother's house, Sergei burned through his last property and saw a decline in his health. Having wasted the last of his money and only being able to walk with the help of crutches, he turned to us for help last September. We conducted a series of medical examinations with him and the doctors made a very rare diagnosis - a femoral infraction. Doctors cannot explain what caused this diagnosis and say that he needs surgery, a surgery which costs a lot. We see how God is working on his heart, but the circumstances in which he finds himself do not inspire him with hope for a fulfilling life. For our part, we pray for a miracle in his life and go through a commissioning process with him, preparing documents for a disability benefit so that he

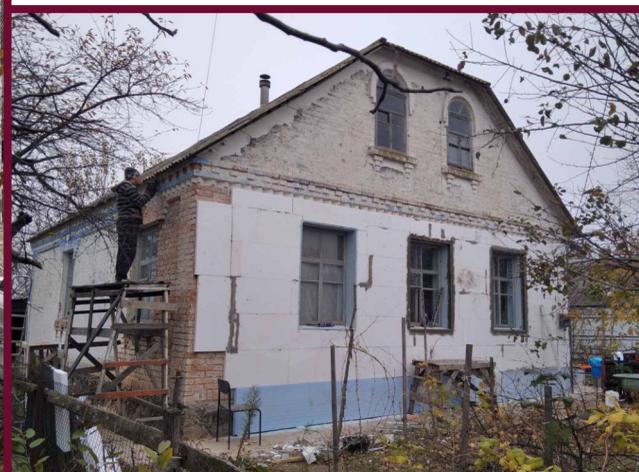
can receive some kind of help from the state.

Each person in rehabilitation has separate destinies and stories that we experience with them, and there are a lot of different stories.

I already wrote to you earlier of the people that have gone through the rehabilitation center, 9 people are on different front lines. Four of them have already suffered from severe shrapnel wounds and concussions. One of them went missing four months ago and we cannot establish contact with him. We try to keep in touch with them so they understand we still care about them. Your prayerful support will not go to waste either for us or for those people with whom we work.

Special thanks to you for the funds you allocated to us for the insulation of the rehab center. Resources are used for their intended purpose. We changed the entrance doors, already insulated the veranda, kitchen and bathroom and moved on to insulating the house. We work as the weather permits. We recently completed a kitchen renovation. We are slowly restoring the house in order to create homey conditions for people. We have plans to make renovations in the dining room, in the corridors and in the bedrooms, if we survive the war and God provides opportunities.

We don't know whether there will be another opportunity to write to you this year, so looking ahead to this upcoming Christmas, we wish you God's joy in your hearts, peace in your families and much fruit in your churches and in your ministries. With sincere gratitude from our family and team of brothers! – Jaroslav/Bila Tserkva (Drug and Alcohol Rehab Center)



\$2000    \$1000

\$500    \$300

\$200    \$100

\$50    \$25

Other Amt \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*God loves a cheerful giver....."*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque # \_\_\_\_\_

Please use my donation for:

Shipping Costs

Ukraine - People in Need

Literature / Bibles

Food

Bicycles

(2023-#06)

Wherever Most Needed

Gift Boxes

Heating / Firewood

Rebuilding

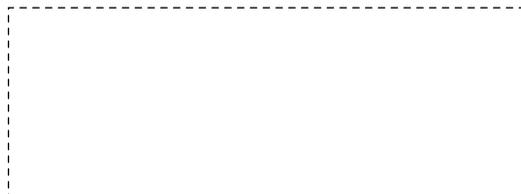
Other \_\_\_\_\_

When donating via e-Transfer, please make sure to provide us with your mailing address as well the specific need you want the donation used for in the memo portion of the e-transfer so that we are able to issue a Tax-Deductible receipt at the end of the year.

Please return this mailing card with your donation Cheque made payable to **Faith Mission**

Tax deductible receipts will be issued at the beginning of the following year.

Email: [donations@faithmission.ca](mailto:donations@faithmission.ca)



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### Newsletter Sign-up

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.

Please send my Newsletter in PDF to my email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the correct box indicating you are

signing up for the newsletter

signing up for ADP

### Faith Mission - Automatic Donation Plan

Worry free monthly payments - Your monthly payments to Faith Mission (FriedensBote), Inc. can now be made efficiently and economically by using this preauthorized chequing system we call the ADP. - Save Time - no monthly cheques to write. Save money - no postage or cheque expenses - You will receive an official tax-receipt for your total annual contribution at the beginning of the following year. By using the ADP we will be able to apply your gifts more quickly and more efficiently.

For your convenience, this service will continue until you notify us otherwise. Simply complete this form and return it to Faith Mission (FriedensBote), Inc. Your first automatic transfer will occur about four weeks after we receive your information.

**\*\*For ADP - Please enclose a blank cheque marked 'VOID'**

I hereby authorize automatic withdrawals from my account on the (1<sup>st</sup>) or (16<sup>th</sup>) day of each month.  
*(please circle your choice)*

Total monthly donation amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_, commencing on \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_ Code \_\_\_\_\_



Signature : \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_