

The very first camp that Faith Mission sponsored, with the theme "Hearts for Jesus" took place in a formerly communist school in Il'tsi.



Although in many ways it seems 2004 was very long ago, the memories of that summer are still fresh in my mind. To me it felt like Faith Mission was already a well established organization and I was thrilled to be a part of them adding children's camps to the projects they were supporting. For a total of \$1500 USD we outfitted 5 camps with supplies and equipment that they would need to carry out the camps they had lined up for the month of July. At that time they rented a school building and yard to host a total of 500 children and youth. The fact that the school was an option for these type of activities was a miracle in itself as this was a school that was built under the communist regime of the Soviet Union. To think that this was a mere 15 years since people would have been imprisoned, just for presenting the idea of evangelizing to children was astounding to me. Truly God had His hand in this as He has in so many ways. Fast forward to 2024! Do we believe that God is still in control? Throughout history He has brought down the Soviets, Nazis, Romans, etc, anyone that tried to defeat and/or defy the name of God has not prevailed, so why do we question His abilities now?

Faith Mission has again been asked to support camps across Ukraine and Moldova this year and we are forwarding that request to you our supporters.

Over the last few years Faith Mission has seen a huge increase in donations and whenever there has been a funding request or need for anything, the Lord has seen fit to get the funds into our account that we have been able to assist and meet the needs that were presented to us. It is for this reason that we have committed to assist with all of the camp requests that we have received... now we trust that God will see fit to work through you all as God's servants, in helping us meet our commitments. The total amount for these requests total around \$65,000 CAD depending on the exchange rate from Euros. This sounds like a large amount but keep in mind that this is going to send 2500+ children to camps. Through some very simple math it is easy to figure out that this averages out to \$25.87 to send a child to camp. If this is a project that you would like to assist us with please send your donations marked for "Children's Camp". Thank you for your help in changing these lives."



Some of the most memorable sharing and teaching happens around the campfires at the end of each day.

Vladimir and Valentina: In the summer of 2005, 13 year old Valentina attended the children's camp held in the Carpathian mountain village of Il'tsi, near her home. During the week-long camp she responded to the calling of the Holy Spirit in her life that she needed Christ as her Saviour and committed her life to Him. Upon her return home to her parents and siblings she was met with strong resistance. Despite the objections of her parents she was baptized a short time later making a public declaration of her decision to follow Christ. A few years later she had the opportunity to travel to another region of Ukraine to attend a youth camp. It was at this camp where she met Vladimir, one of the leaders. Their relationship progressed and after a few years they were married and moved to her hometown in the Carpathians. Vladimir serves as the deacon of the Steische church and they are both involved in many aspects of the church including the summer camps. Valentina says, "What we do to make the camps happen very often feels unrewarding and we feel it's insignificant."

Jacob Esau from FriedensBote was also present at some of the camps that first year. Many children were eager to hear the stories he had to share with them



But, it's exactly because of such insignificant acts of obedience that she is a believer today and she encourages us to continue with supporting camps every year. We may never know who is all being impacted and how much of an impact our obedience to God has on someone.

Nathan E.



Blankets and mattresses that were purchased in 2004 for the first children's camp in Il'tsi (picture on the right taken in 2004). Some of the same blankets and mattresses will be used for the 20th year in 2024 (picture on the left - taken in March 2024 at the camp base at Steische). The importance and lasting impact that one blanket can have can go so much further than just giving someone a blanket for a night.



"Give us this day our daily bread"

Whether a person believes in the Lord or not, everyone performs this prayer every day. Every day a person thinks about bread, looks for bread, and as soon as he has lived without bread for a day or two, it is already considered a disaster.

During the Easter Holidays, we visited the front-line villages. People survived the current war, children survived the roar of artillery, the elderly live in the hope that maybe someone will help them...

In greeting, "Christ is risen!" People all answered in unison: "Truly He is risen!" Joy filled the hearts of both adults and children. Everyone brought some Easter presents. In villages where there is no infrastructure, where there are no shops, where you can hardly find a car, in such a wilderness, people are still happy to help.

Our minibus, loaded to the limit, navigated the potholes and the bumps of the roads and with great difficulty, reached the place where people were waiting for us. Many are living in fear and hopelessness. People saw little good here, and some were looking at the van door in anticipation. When would it be opened and when would help be given? Thank God, there were also some who were ready to listen to at least a few words about the Resurrected Christ. What did Christ teach? I asked people and there was silence in the crowd... Jesus taught us simple things. Do not swear, do not drink vodka, do not smoke, do not kill, and then the crowd came to life at this place. Yes, yes. Do you know why the war? Silence. Because people do not live according to the Gospel. Do you need bread? Oh yes! Many hands reached for bread. Along with your daily bread, we have brought you the bread of life, "Pure Gold" booklets...small books with verses from the Scriptures.

The people were ready to take both breads - baked bread and spiritual bread. Believers have never come to this. We can only give two loaves of bread so that there is enough for everyone. Thank the Lord for that.

We bought 600 loaves of bread in the



hope that it would be enough for this trip, but unfortunately we did not have enough of these loaves for the last two villages. We had to look for other options for what to give to people in these villages. "The soul, like a bird, seeks bread. This Bread is the Great God" People were carried away by this God. They read the texts of the Scriptures, perhaps looking for answers to the most intimate questions of the soul and heart.

This man has seen a lot in his lifetime, but he reverently holds golden verses from the Gospel. And while some stand in line for bread, others carefully read the Bible verses. "How sweet it is to read these lines, to pray in silence while others weep and draw lessons from them for the mind and soul."

"BREAD - Give us this day our daily bread, "

The words spoken by Christ two thousand years ago are as relevant today as they were then. Lord, give food to these people. It's so hard to fathom... Where the wheat for the bread should grow, there is war - there are thousands of mines in the fields. There is abandoned military equipment...so many traces of godlessness and sin.

A difficult day. A lot of meetings. A difficult road. Usually you return home completely exhausted and tired. On this trip, we got into a dust storm. The wind scattered our empty boxes. Eyes, ears,

everything in the van is in covered with sand. In the evening, entering the city, we were hit by hail, it seemed that someone was just taking revenge on us. Oh, my soul rejoiced that this evening, six villages would thank the Lord for their daily bread. God be glorified!

Thanks to all those who value service to the needy and who help us make these trips. God works in people's hearts.

Leonid T. Kharkiv

Grassy Lake update: as our building project is progressing and we are anxiously awaiting being able to sort and bale there again we have a few special requests for all of our supporters but especially the ones in Southern AB. (1.) We will be in need of a lot of volunteers to catch up on the excess amount of clothing that has piled up during our renovations. (2.) We have stepped out in faith with this project as we have made a mortgage and have committed to paying for this project, we would love to see commitments from businesses and individuals to cover the

cost of the mortgage payments of \$3176/month, if you can commit to helping us out monthly with this or if you would like to make a one-time donation for this project please mark your donation "Alberta Building Project".

This newsletter seems to have an extraordinary number of opportunities to help us financially and may God bless you as you help us as He has provided for you

Renovations have been completed on the original building at our Grassy Lake facility. Thanks to these renovations the clothing drop-off will now be in the building NO LONGER AT THE CONTAINER.

Groundwork has begun on the addition that will increase the storage capacity there and we are looking forward to loading containers in Grassy Lake and shipping them directly to Ukraine from there later this summer yet.



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
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

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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.

-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 >>



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 (1st) or (16th) day of each month.
(please circle your choice)

Total monthly donation amount \$ _____, commencing on _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Code _____



Signature : _____ Date: _____

Email: donations@faithmission.ca - (Provide mailing address for Receipts)



without any warning or sickness, her husband died. Instead of bitterness against God, her thoughts were concentrated on the concept of timeliness of all this. "How can I postpone the most important event in life if I would end up like my husband," she told me. It is always interesting to observe how a person born of the Lord begins to hear and discern His voice. During Irina's baptism, her friends congratulated her, saying that now that she has taken this step, they will not go anywhere. Praise God for His mercy to people! Thank you, dear Canadian friends! It's because these people began coming to our church simply because the church provided them with material assistance, clothing and food. We hope that the Lord, through our common ministry, will continue to spread the gospel, and to save people.

Life in Kherson, as we see and hear about every day, is very difficult because of the constant shelling. We see how Russians have hit various cities of Ukraine and the world sympathizes and prays for them. However, for some reason, Kherson is different because it has survived being shelled every day. This is not an exaggeration - this is a harsh reality, and it is in our city that you can see a very striking contrast in the people's reactions to dangers and destruction. We know of cases where people survived a shelling and after getting back into their house cursed everyone and everything, starting with the occupiers and ending with God. A completely different reaction is in the people who regularly attend churches – instead of constant cursing, they thank God for the preservation of life, and rely on Him for things connected with the future. One such case occurred two weeks ago when a family who started attending our church after the liberation of Kherson. Their house is located about three hundred meters from the church. After enemy shells partially destroyed several neighboring houses, our parishioners house only had all the



windows blown out and one of the walls and part of the roof had been damaged. After the shelling, the authorities came to assess the extent of the destruction and provide assistance. They even posted short video interviews with the victims. They shared, "We were sitting by the big kitchen windows where my wife was cutting my hair. Suddenly, the phone rang, and we both jumped up and went into the other room to answer. At precisely that time, there was an explosion - the windows blew out, right next to where we had been cutting my hair. We realized that if we had stayed where we were, we would surely have been cut by glass, and likely died." "Was this lucky or what?" the interviewer asked. "No!" Our brother replied, "God protected us! We did not understand why the two of us went to the phone." There are countless cases and testimonies like this in our area. Thank you for your prayerful support of the residents of Kherson. With your participation, dear friends, we can help, not only the residents in Kherson, but also the people who live in the villages near our city. One of these villages, Shirokaya Balka, is located fifty kilometers from Kherson. There is a small church and

\$2000 \$1000

Date: _____

Cheque # _____

\$500 \$300

Please use my donation for:

Wherever Most Needed

\$200 \$100

Shipping Costs

Children's Camps

\$50 \$25

Ukraine - People in Need

Heating / Firewood

Other Amt \$ _____

Literature / Bibles

Alberta Building Project

(2024-#03) *God loves a cheerful giver....."*

Food

Bicycles

Other _____

When donating via e-Transfer, please make sure to provide us with your mailing address as well as 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



Email: donations@faithmission.ca

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(.....continued from Page 5)

next to it a rehabilitation center for addicts. I often visit this rehab center, helping the leader in his spiritual work with the clients. For about a year now, we have been helping the rehab center, as well as the local church, with Humanitarian Aid. If possible, we provide food packages, clothing, medicines, and children's gifts for Christian holidays. Just imagine, my dear friends, we bought a small portable bluetooth speaker and gave it to the Sunday school. This was cause for real joy and gratitude to God. Sister Lilya, the head of the Sunday school and the wife of the head of the rehab center, thanked us for the gift. She said: "Our children have dreamed that we could have a microphone through which it would be possible to recite poems and sing, glorifying the Lord, and now we are given a speaker with a microphone! Thank God!" The Sunday school in this village, which is located a few kilometers from the Dnipro River, has about 25 children. The rehabilitation center has six men. We thank God that together with you we can serve these people, pray for them. Dear friends, we would like to ask for your prayerful support regarding the future of Ukraine. Being in a war zone, we see the problems awaiting Ukraine in the future. The war affects everyone, civilian and military, young and old. Teenagers in our area are cornered by circumstances, shelling, lack of normal social life, education and work. They often talk with enthusiasm about the fact that immediately after reaching the age of majority they will go to serve in assault brigades. This is because of recruiting advertisements which they constantly see on the billboards of our city. We understand that the state needs defenders, but it is very difficult to look at these innocent children, who do not know and do not understand the value of life, and also do not realize the realities of hostilities. They are still young children, but the Russian Nazis are depriving them of a normal childhood and they are

forced to take up arms to defend their homeland. On the other hand, we often communicate with the military, many of whom have been at the front for several years. They will speak negatively, and sometimes even with hatred, about the so-called "draft dodgers", that is, people who do not want to serve in the army with weapons in their hands. Russia is killing Ukrainians not only with weapons but the occupiers are killing Ukrainians with their actions. They are trying to quarrel Ukrainians among themselves, they are trying to destroy our mentality and it is the Church that must come to the aid of people. Dear brothers and sisters, please pray that the Ukrainian people remain a peace-loving people and that God won't allow the hatred into their hearts, the hatred which the world has been living in for many years. With your help, friends, we continue to serve the people of Kherson, helping them with food, drinking water, medicines, hygiene products, construction materials. We thank God that we can preach the Gospel together with you in our area and help people in their problems. The Lord is great! With respect and brotherly love for you, brothers and sisters of Kherson Antonovskaya Churches and pastor Oleg Derkachenko.

Due to space constraints in this newsletter we had to cut some of the preceding letter out. In reading his letter he makes the comparison several times about the dangers of resorting to the behavior of the Russians. Friends, if we strive to not be like someone or something we are in grave danger of achieving our goal but still falling short of what we should be striving towards. Our goal needs to be Christlikeness.