

Mission Newsletter



September-October 2024

Number 171

Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. Mark 10:15

At one point in Jesus' time on earth, parents were bringing their children to Him to be touched and blessed by Him (Mark 10:13-16). The disciples shooed them away, thinking they were helping and that the children were distracting Jesus from more important things. At this, Jesus got upset—well, more than upset. He was angry with His disciples for getting in the way of people coming to Him, even (perhaps especially) children.

The people of God are called to remove barriers so that others can come to Him, not get in the way.

In Acts 15, we read of some tension in the early Church over what it meant to be a part of the people of God and what was required.

It's easy to understand the struggle. The requests of the Jewish Christians to place restrictions and requirements on the Gentiles coming to Christ were probably not malicious. They wanted to do things right. They had a history of being God's people, and so far, nothing really made them change their minds on what that entailed.

So, they pushed for Gentiles to become Jews in order to follow Jesus. This first, then that. Men, we like our categories. Vagueness is not our friend. If we follow the instructions, we really follow the instructions.

But when it comes to bringing people to God, instructions can be a barrier, and those kinds of barriers to God can be dangerous.

Fortunately, James understood that God was doing a new thing. The words of Peter still ringing in his brain, reorganizing all the categories of what it meant to be God's people— James addressed the issue of Gentiles becoming Jewish to follow Jesus. He removed as many barriers as he could. He dismissed the unnecessary and invited the Gentiles to be one with God's people.

Men, are we James or Judaizers? Do we put barriers of tradition and preference up between God and others? Or do we tear them down to make way for others to find the love of God?

<https://www.impactus.org/daily-devotional/get-out-of-the-way/>

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Greetings to all Faith Mission staff and supporters! I'm writing you on behalf of the congregation of Elim in Sangerei, Moldova. We would like to inform you of the work that has been going on here since the beginning of the year. With the money that we have received from Faith Mission/Friedensbote, last winter, more than 200 families received firewood. These were families in very difficult conditions. They had nothing with which to buy firewood. Many people cried with joy and thanked God that he takes care of them through us. Families who had no firewood or money went to live with friends or relatives so as not to freeze. Thanks to your help, a lot of people were able to endure the winter easier. People thank God and all of you who took part in this help. In connection with this help, they are more willing to come to church and also invite others to attend. We notice that more and more people get to know Jesus and accept God's plan of salvation.

This year we baptized six individuals in Elim. One young family who attended the church in Elim desired to be baptized, but they wanted us to baptize them in their village. They believed that since they have no believers in their village, their baptism service could serve as a witness there. The village is called Khechul-Vek, and at their request we performed the baptism in the center of the village. During the baptism, many unbelievers gathered to observe what was happening. Of course people reacted very differently. Some listened attentively to the word of God since they were hearing God's Word for the first time.

The young family who were baptized, willingly decided to give up their house so that they could hold services there. Some renovations are being



Some grateful recipients of firewood on our trip to Moldova in January 2022 where we assisted in delivering firewood to





Ask this man what he just went through? A minute ago, the whole family was sitting on the staircase, taking cover from the incoming missiles. When he returned to the apartment for water, a rocket crashed through the roof right above their heads. In an instant, the lives of his wife and three daughters were taken. Just a pile of rubbish, 3 bodies and a cloud of dust.... forever separating a sweet loving family. What will he tell you about the war? There is no place for joy here...

When we think of wartime, joy is not something that is associated with that term. War is grief, it is tears, it is torment and suffering, it is explosions and destruction of housing and the loss of life. In short, it's terrible! People are in constant stress from lack of sleep, from the howling of sirens, the shooting, the sounds of flying missiles. No, there is no time for joy here. Shells are lying everywhere. A minute ago your car was a prized possession. Now it looks like a pile of scrap metal. Your only mode of transport has fallen into a pile of junk and now you have to walk home from the



A group of baptism candidates that were baptized into God's church. In all the years that we have worked in Ukraine I don't believe that we've ever seen men outnumber the ladies being baptized like this. Another sign of the shift in the mind-set as a result of the ongoing war.



The "Creation Church" in Kharkov shares the joy with the new members who have entered into a covenant with the Lord, in order to continue to "bear the burden" of service to our Lord together.

under the roar of war, under the howl of sirens, they make a covenant with the Lord. Radiant, happy, joyful, calling their unbelieving relatives for the happiest day of their lives. Together with them, it is a joyous occasion, all of the ministers rejoice with them, the church rejoices and everyone seems to say: "Rejoice with me: I have found my lost sheep"...Invite others to your joy. Share the burden that you carry on your shoulders that you and those around you can find joy. "I rejoiced exceedingly when the brethren came and testified" 3 John 1:3. When the faithful children of God come and share your work in many ways. The burden that has to be borne when they find a way to help and support. The "Creation Church" in Kharkov shares the joy with the new members who have entered into a covenant with the Lord, they have joined in order to continue to bear the burden of service to our Lord together, thank you, dear and sweet friends! This is your work! this is your blessing! This is our common joy! May the Lord be glorified!



whereabouts as we came in three cars. No sooner did the first three dozen people have time to receive the food parcels when the explosions erupted on the outskirts of the village. Very loud! Very powerful! We all shudder, but the locals are already used to it...

I pray in my heart, Lord protect us that no one will suffer. All one hundred and three people that have gathered receive an aid package and bread. As soon as we have finished with the distribution we leave quickly. As we depart the shelling continues causing our vehicles to shudder. Dodging potholes on the roads, we hurry to leave this area. The central part of the village has already been hit. Only a few moments separated us from explosions. There is a burning century-old tree. Here is a destroyed multi-story building the corner apartment is broken and exposed, hanging on the wall you can see a microwave. In an instant, the life of the owners was turned into ruins. Broken furniture visible through the gaping hole across the entire width of the room. Firefighters are still extinguishing the burning objects, the smoking part of the rocket sticking out of the ground, this small instrument that brought so much grief and suffering. A little further down the street we see the store in ruins. There are almost none of them here, and this only one was open only a couple of minutes ago, and now there are ruins. One man died, seven wounded. We break through all this. Shelling continues... It is impossible to take a photo... We are already on the highway, farther and farther from the epicenter of events. Before we depart from the village, those who invited us here asked: "Give us the bread that you did not have time to distribute." The shop is broken, which means that it has become even more difficult for people now... We'll take them more when everything settles down but for now we load them up with as much as they can possibly carry. People there are left alone

with their misfortune and need. They say sincere words of gratitude. Tears in the eyes and everyone has the same question: When will the war end? I leave them a request to pray thus: "Give us this day our daily bread" and God will not leave you. **Dear friends, this is all of your work, this is your donations, this is your love. "I was hungry, and you fed me," this Word is being fulfilled here in this country. Thank you for your service and support. We are happy to be useful to these people together with all of you.**
12.09.24 Leonid Tkachev/Kharkiv



And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. John 6:35. We are so thankful that we have been able to send so much flour to Ukraine that has made so much life-giving bread, but even more important is the message that goes along with the bread that can give eternal life.

"Give us this day our daily bread" Matt. 6:11, these are words from the Lord's prayer. In times of abundance, these words are almost unspoken but in times of famine, they are the only words you can utter. In the front-line territories the fields remain mined. In many villages, there is still no electricity. People are trying to survive somehow.

We are delivering bread that was just taken out of the oven the same morning. In the car I can smell the toasted crusts of the loaves. After driving for a couple of hours, you are tempted to eat this fresh bread and enjoy it but we still have to pass a difficult off-road section before we reach the front-line zone. This area is filled with damaged houses, roofs hastily covered with plastic, a lot of military equipment, both destroyed as well as active, boarded-up windows in houses, community buildings demolished, abandoned areas overgrown with grass above fences. On the street, there are no children running and playing, no adults socializing or going to work. We see bombed out shops, village offices and various other institutions... Where can a person get food here?, especially freshly baked bread? On the outskirts of the town we see a small gathering of villagers who have stuck around. Tired, exhausted, without smiles and laughter they peer at our vehicles and into our faces. I take a couple of loaves from the back of the van and hand it to the first person, he immediately feels how soft and fresh it is. He lets out a scream when he notices it is still warm. I suggest that we thank the Lord for the bread and everyone unanimously agrees. We give bread, we give food packages. A lot of people have gathered. I'm worried that the drones will be able to determine our

Farms are broken. Expensive equipment has turned into targets. It is almost impossible to deliver farm products and businessmen do not see the point in opening shops and the like.



In this Newsletter we want to look at the history of containers getting shipped to Ukraine. As a person that is intrigued with numbers it is interesting to me that we have shipped 303 containers in 30 years and a few months. What makes this even more interesting is that although our numbers seem to fluctuate a lot from year to year our average has been 100 the first ten years, 100 the next ten years and 100 in the last ten. Our peak year was 2005 that saw 15 containers shipped and the least was 6 in 2016 (even the 15/05 and 6/16 numbers make me smile). There was a stretch from 2011 to 2021 that we stayed in single digits, from 6 to 9 per year. But then in 2022 we got back into double-digits with 10 and then in 2023 Faith Mission spent \$190,113 to ship 13 containers of clothing/aid from Canada to Ukraine, this accounted for about 1/3 of all our expenses that year. On Sep 19 we shipped the 13th container for 2024 (for a total of \$210,822 in costs to date) and it looks like we will be sending at least another 6 (approximately \$100,000 will be needed yet) before the end of the year. In addition to the increased costs for shipping we also have other projects that we are planning to fund this year yet and as of this writing our funds are the lowest that they have been for the past 6+ years. On the supply of clothing side one would think that with the increase in containers sent this year we should be running short on clothes to bale, but we have more clothes in our warehouse now than we did a year ago that needs to be sorted and baled. Last year this time we had an overflow of 12 totes upstairs, and now we have 35 totes worth upstairs. So our current need is twofold; 1. we are in need of funds, 2. we are in need of volunteers, but the more volunteers we get the more funds we need to ship the bales to Ukraine. Looking throughout our history both of these are not new needs. We have had many, many different times over the years where we were in great need of either money or workers and the Lord has always supplied for our needs and we fully trust that He will again see us through. But...it is not "we" that "need" the funds or the volunteers or the clothes, we are doing the Lord's work and we are His workers, and we rely on Him to provide the means to accomplish what needs to be done.



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 family 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.faimission.ca

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

Clothing sorting & baling:

Winkler - Thursday 1:00 to 4:30 pm & 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Grassy Lake - by appointment

Drop-Off locations

Clothing and bicycles may be dropped off in the "DROP-OFF" rooms of the Faith Mission buildings in:

Winkler @ 520 Circle K Dr.

Grassy Lake @ 605 - 1st St North.

Faith Mission also has a drop-off container at

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
David Teichroeb	(403) 308-6523	Albert Kornelsen	(204) 332-2109
Willy Thiessen	(204) 332-2035	Edward Penner	(204) 392-4229
John Nickel	(431)356-0879		

Faith Mission (FriedensBote) Inc. is a nonprofit, registered charitable organization based in Winkler, Manitoba.

Faith Mission was incorporated on May 16, 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 >>

<<New website faithmission.ca



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)



As a part of our continued celebration of our 30th anniversary, Faith Mission is anticipating a visit from our friends in Germany. Two brothers from our sister organization, Missionswerk FriedensBote, are planning a visit to Canada. Willie Schneider and Alex Janzen are scheduled for a 3

week visit from October 30-November 18, after which they are planning to be in Southern Ontario for an additional week. Both of these men are experienced speakers and are well versed in the ongoing events in the East. We have scheduled presentations throughout Western Canada during their trip and we have attached a preliminary agenda of where/when the presentations are planned to be. The focus of these presentations is going to be what the work is that our missions are doing in Ukraine, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, and Moldova. Speaking to the effectiveness of what we are doing from Canada/Germany and how we can do more. Through the course of the war the importance of prayer has been made more clear than ever, this is one of the points that Alex and Willie will be focusing on sharing about. All dates labeled in green on this schedule have been confirmed and the yellow we are not sure of the location for a presentation but we will update our social media and website when those have been confirmed. If you would be interested in hosting a presentation on those dates please contact our office.

Alex Janzen & Willie Schneider Tour			
	area	location of presentation	time
30-Oct	Arrive		
31-Oct	Faith Mission Packing	Winkler Faith Mission	7:00 PM
1-Nov	Steinbach	Sommerfeld Mennonite	7:30 PM
3-Nov	Chortitz	Old Colony Church	9:30 PM
3-Nov	Winkler	Zion Mennonite	7:00 PM
4-Nov	FM meeting		
5-Nov	Neepawa	Living Hope Fellowship	7:30 PM
7-Nov	Osler SK	Osler Community Hall	7:00 PM
8-Nov	Chaplin SK	Chaplin Community Complex	7:00 PM
9-Nov	Brooks AB	Reinland Menn	7:30 PM
10-Nov	Taber AB	Reinland Menn	7:00 PM
11-Nov	Grassy Lake AB	Community Hall	7:00 PM
12-Nov	Grassy Lake AB	Westview Fellowship	7:30 PM
13-Nov	Central Alberta		
14-Nov	La Crete Alberta AB	Heritage Centre	7:00 PM
15-Nov	La Crete Alberta AB		
16-Nov	La Crete Alberta AB	LCCF	7:00 PM
17-Nov	Grimshaw AB	Reinland Menn	7:00 PM

\$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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made at this time, so that we can start meeting there. There are people who are very interested in the word of God. We plan to hold church services there soon.

This summer, more than 200 children attended our summer camp. The children were very happy in the camp. They learned many new songs and poems, and got to know each other better. There was also repentance among the children, overall the children were very satisfied.

There is a lot of work to be done weekly in two villages, in Kubolta and in Koshkodan. We are grateful to God that two families from Germany have returned to us in Elim, Victor and Margita Kosovan and Grigory and Aušra Kosovan. Both families are actively involved in the ministry and help us to conduct evangelism.

On Sunday, September 22nd, we will celebrate the Harvest Festival (thanksgiving for the harvest) at Elim. After lunch on the same day we will celebrate the Harvest Festival in the village of Kubolta. We have distributed invitations to the entire Village so that more people can come listen to the word of God. Next Sunday, September 29, in the afternoon, we will celebrate this festival in the village of Koshkoden. Please pray for our work, so that more people will come to Jesus. Also, pray for these two young families who have returned from Germany and are taking part in working with children.

This year there was a great drought in Moldova Our harvest was very poor. Wheat yields were about 40% less, sunflowers yielded 70% less and corn 80% less. Because of this, food prices are constantly going up. Those who were already poor, are getting even poorer. We ask you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, as you are able, please help these poor families with food and firewood.

We are very grateful to you for our constant support, for all the attention that you give us, We will pray for you, that God will bless all those who work in the Faith Mission/Friedensbote mission, that God will grant you His abundant blessing, health, wisdom, happiness and

strength in your work, and we wish that our work continues to serve God in this field.

BLESSINGS TO ALL!

With Respect from the Employees of Elim-Moldova.
Vasiley Kosovan - Sangerei, Moldova

Dear friends, when we visited Moldova in January 2022 and got to know Vasiley Kosovan, we couldn't help notice his passion for reaching out to the children in his home city as well as the neighboring villages. The entire ministry of Elim hinges on this and has been changing children's lives for over 30 years. As is typically the case when someone has been doing something for that length of time, it means that they are not young anymore. It is so good if there is someone to begin taking over the reigns from them. It is a blessing to hear that 2 of Vasiley's sons have moved back to Moldova from Germany and are passionate about the same things that their father is. I would like to encourage you to pray for these young men and their families as they transition back into life in Moldova and the ministry work there. I would also like to call you to pray for the many other churches across Ukraine that Faith Mission works with, as we have mentioned before in many of these places there are only older men that are not as able to do the physical work of the church but they don't have anyone to hand over these responsibilities to. Please pray that God gives strength to the ones currently doing the work and also that he will supply replacements to continue that work as they are needed. Faith Mission has supported this church for the past number of years and has also purchased a lot of the firewood Vasiley writes about earlier in this letter. Currently we do not have the funds in place to be able to assist with the firewood project. If you would like to designate funds toward this project, please mark the "Firewood" check box on the donation card.