

# Mission Newsletter



November - December 2024

Number 172

**"Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." - Philippians 2:6-8**

*"Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne"* by Emily Elliot

Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown,  
When Thou camest to earth for me;  
But in Bethlehem's home  
there was found no room  
For Thy holy nativity.

There was a lot to say this year about the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris. Lots of outstanding stories and even some controversial ones. It wasn't the first time the Olympics were held there. Back in 1924, the world went to Paris for the big show. One athlete was a Scottish man named Eric Liddell. He was an outstanding rugby player, a fast runner, and a devout Christian. He didn't run in his strongest event at the Olympics that year, the 100-meter dash, because it was scheduled for a Sunday, and he wanted to honor the Sabbath, but he placed third in the 200-meter race. It was the 400-metre race, however, that made his name famous. He sprinted out of the blocks at such a great speed that a couple of other runners stumbled, just trying to keep up. He ended up winning in a then-record time of 47.6 seconds. So, what did this

exceptional runner do following the Olympics? How did he further his athletic career? He left it all behind to become a missionary to China. He ended up dying in a Japanese internment camp in World War II. Why would he give up all that fame and future for an obscure missions posting on the other side of the world? He had seen his own Master do the same thing! Jesus, of course, is far greater than any Olympic athlete. He is the Lord of Heaven. The God of Angel Armies. The King of kings. And He left all of that behind to come to earth. He did it because of His astounding love for us. He was willing to humble Himself to become a servant and suffer death so we might live. He is our true hero and we celebrate His arrival at Christmas. Prayer: Lord Jesus, You said that if anyone wants to save his life, he must lose it (Matthew 16:25). Help me be willing to die to everything in my life so that I may live for You. May there be nothing in my life that I cling to more than You. You are worthy of it all! Amen.

*Used by permission <https://www.impactus.org/daily-devotional/he-left-it-all/>*

## Children's Lives Burdened By War

The acute acts of war in Ukraine and the constant threat of missile attacks are increasingly weighing on the mood of all people on the ground. Children in particular suffer greatly from this. It is with sadness that we observe that their little world, their games, their togetherness in their free time, their conversations and discussions very often revolve around military topics. Every time a siren sounds to warn of the dangers of a missile attack, the schoolchildren must hide in the basement. These sirens sound multiple times a day most days and often for hours at a time. Where can you cry in prayer? It is even more difficult for children who have lost their parents or have been abandoned by them. They have no one to turn to in times of danger no one to cuddle and find security with. The War has now forcibly separated not only

thousands, but hundreds of thousands of families. Daily, children lose their fathers who die at the front. That is why the message of salvation and the small joys are extremely important for these children! The knowledge that the eternal Father in Heaven desires to be part of their life and in fact, completely





Several very happy recipients of gift boxes in Moldova. Our first gift boxes were sent out in August already in anticipation of many more gift boxes to send this year we wanted to spread them out over more containers and thanks to so many contributions from you our supporters we were able to send a total of 6786 gifts for Ukrainian and Moldovan children. We are very grateful that we were able to spread these over 8 containers to maximize the effect they had over a larger area. God bless you for your contributions to this project.



fill them, helps them a lot in these difficult times. This knowledge gives them hope – that there is One to whom they can turn and on whom they can rely. There is Someone to whom they can cry in prayer. Thank God that we as Christians have this opportunity to bring the Good News to children, to give them joy, and even to tell them about salvation and proclaim to them hope in Christ. We are convinced these children will benefit from the love of God in a special way! Long-awaited wishes come true.

Our correspondent Olena G. reports on last year's Christmas gift-box project: "On this Christmas, the Children are more eager than ever for the long-awaited Christmas packages. With much anticipation they waited anxiously before God fulfilled the wishes of their hearts in the last days before Christmas! We at Missionswerk FriedensBote are grateful that, despite all the challenges and customs problems, we were able to receive 400 Christmas parcels for children in central Ukraine. This time, children from four schools and boarding schools received these special Christmas packages. A special Christmas gift

from Jesus Christ. Among other things, a distribution campaign was carried out for the children whose fathers died in the war. Orphans and children from low-income families also received packages. In a school in which the children have never received such Christmas parcels before in their lives, many Students were very surprised. They came up to us and asked: 'Are you sure that these packets are for us?' 'Why do we get these Christmas packages?' 'Who has prepared these packets for us?' That is why the message of salvation is so important for these children and we can joyously present this to them!

"Will there be Christmas parcels again?"

In a country school where both teenagers and younger children received Christmas packages, the headmistress said: "To be honest, we didn't even dare to hope that we will receive Christmas parcels this year. There are so many needs everywhere in this dark time! It is clear to us that help cannot be provided everywhere. Fear kept me from asking because I didn't want to ask and face rejection. I didn't want to give the children false hopes either. But when the children came back to me again and again asking the same question: 'Will there be Christmas gifts again?' finally, I replied honestly: 'We'll see, I don't know! Real Christmas joy hangs not in the Christmas gifts!' However, when in the last week of school before the holidays, Christmas parcels suddenly arrived, we were overjoyed! We hurried to distribute them. The joy of the children was boundless! A boy exclaimed: 'It was worth it to go to the School!' The school principal said that this boy was actually quite obnoxious and caused a lot of problems. But now let him be happy as a little child! In the summer, the opportunity arose to meet these children again. Some children who received a New Testament for Christmas in 2023, reported that they have read it through completely. It was there at the Christmas service in school where she learned to pray for the first time. Now she asks God that the war will end soon, the long-awaited peace will come and that she will not have fear of the constant missile attacks. The children desperately wish that their fathers would be alive and return home healthy and the families finally be reunited! 'Will there be Christmas this year?' All children, teachers and parents express a heartfelt thank you to Faith Mission and Missionswerk FriedensBote for the joy that comes from the Christmas parcels. Every year, it is with great anticipation of these packages that children keep asking: 'Will we receive gifts this Christmas?' Pray that God will fill the hearts of the children with peace, comforting them in their losses and helping them to find security and redemption in Jesus Christ." (Olena G./Ukraine)

Dear mission friends, the preparations for this year's Christmas campaign "Christmas for EVERY Child" are in full swing. The Christmas packages have already been packed and collected in Canada and Europe and are being transported to the destination countries. Please pray with us that all Christmas packages arrive unhindered and, above all, in good time for the respective Christmas services. Let us pray together that through this ministry thousands of children hear the good news of Jesus Christ and be saved. We thank you for your commitment so that more children's hearts can experience Christmas joy, light and hope! God bless you for that.

*Used by Permission from Missionswerk FriedensBote Nachrichten and translated to English*





A young family who had come to faith in God through the ministry at the Elim Mission center in Moldova was baptized in the summer of 2024.

However, because there are no Christians in their village and they wanted to publicly profess their faith in the Lord Jesus through this



baptism, they wished to perform the baptism in their home town of Chechul-Vekhi. So our evangelist Vasili C. performed the baptism in the center of the village. There has never been anything like this in this village - in fact, many people who were not professing Christians came to attend this baptism. You could see that some of them were listening very attentively - for the first time in their lives, they were hearing the Word of God.

After being baptized, this young family decided to offer their home for worship and to continue evangelizing in their village.

Many people who came to faith in the Lord Jesus through these ministries support themselves afterwards and invite other people to believe in Jesus Christ.

Christmas 2024 is right around the corner. What better way to celebrate the coming of the King of Kings than by sending Christmas gift boxes to children who won't otherwise receive a gift? This by itself sounds like a good enough reason to put in the effort that it takes to send all the gift boxes that we have sent over the years. But it goes much deeper than that when you hear stories of how many of these children are hearing the Gospel



shared for the first time through the gift-box project. It is nearly impossible for me to fathom what it would be like to grow up without any knowledge of God's love, or to have no understanding of what God has done for us on the cross, or what the meaning of Christmas actually is and that it is so closely tied with Easter in the Salvation story. Dear friends, I want to ask you to pray for the many gift boxes on the way to these



dear children. Pray that God can soften their hearts in the next weeks before they hear the message presented to them over Christmas. Pray that they will be as ready to receive the salvation being extended to them as they are to receive the physical gifts. Please also pray for safety as the containers are on route to the different churches, that the gifts can arrive there in time for Christmas. Pray for the groups who will be working with distributing the gifts, clothing, and food.



As we wrap up 2024 we want to let you know that Faith Mission has been very blessed throughout this year again. Through the generosity of the many donations of clothes (6000 bales), food (98 pallets), gift boxes (7000), bicycles (155), blankets (roughly 12,000), and countless hours (over 15,000 man-hours) of volunteers working to get everything done that needs to get done, we have been able to ship 19 containers to Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, and Kyrgyzstan. Having said all that one would think that we must be getting close to running out of clothes, but since the beginning of the year we have only fallen further behind our pile of clothes to sort/bale. In order to get rid of some of the stockpile of clothes we currently have in our warehouse in Winkler we are hoping to have another Baling Blitz this winter where we bring in a number of groups over the span of a few days and do our best to get as many bales made as possible. In January 2023 we hosted an event like this for the first time and had a very positive response from the groups that came, and we are hoping to build on that. The plan is that this will take place January 29-February 1, 2025. If this is something that you would like to help us out with or if you would like to schedule your group to come in at a different time please contact Nathan at [nathan@faithmission.ca](mailto:nathan@faithmission.ca) or 204-647-7466. Group sizes that we had in 2024 varied from 5-35/shift with an ideal amount being right around 20. If you would like to come to Winkler with a group from further away and would like to make it more worthwhile please feel free to reach out and we can arrange a longer shift or multiple shifts. You may notice that I did not mention funds in the above list and I do want to mention that as well, Faith Mission's support over the years has been so blessed financially by generous supporters that have so willingly shared what God has blessed them with and 2024 has been no different. Even though there have been times this year that seemed slower with donations than the last few years, looking back at the whole year we can only say that God has once again provided in His wonderful way and we have been able to support the projects we had committed to and have been able to pay for all our shipments. Please continue to prayerfully support us as the Lord guides you.



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](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:

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	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  
social media platforms for more  
regular updates

-Instagram @faithmission\_winkler

-Facebook @faithmissioninc

-WhatsApp @ Friends of FM/FB >>

<Brand new website [faithmission.ca](http://faithmission.ca)



[faithmission.ca](http://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 (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: \_\_\_\_\_

**Email: [donations@faithmission.ca](mailto:donations@faithmission.ca) - (Provide mailing address for Receipts)**



We ask for prayer support for Rakhat and Usman. Very soon, there will be a check-up with doctors, they should say the baby is ready for surgery. Rakhat is a mother, she is very worried, we are trying to support her.

We are happy with her changes, in 5 months, she began to smile and rejoice more often. Her heart is very drawn to God, asks a lot of questions, seeks God. We believe and pray that God will touch. She is very grateful for the warmth, comfort and care for her and the child.

For those of you that were not able to attend the presentations that we did throughout Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Ontario, there is a back-story to this picture. In the presentations Alex Janzen talked about situations like this one in heavily Islamic influenced cultures like Kyrgyzstan, where ladies are viewed as objects by their Muslim husbands and not as valuable human beings. If these women give birth to a child like the one pictured here with a cleft palate or hair lip or anything else viewed as a form of a handicap or imperfection it is seen as a curse from Allah and they will then instantly divorce that woman and put them(wife and child) onto the street. There are then Christians that are supported by our missions(FM/FB) that take these women and children into their homes and provide the care that is needed for them. Along with the physical help that they give them this also provides an ideal opportunity to explain to them the love that God has for them and that he will never leave them or forsake them. Many of these women are so broken and so desperately searching for love that this outreaching in love by the Christians is met with an open and ready heart that is quick to accept. Please pray for the Christians that are working to get these mothers and their children off of the streets and into the safe comfort of a home. Another note on this subject is that in these Islamic countries, like Kyrgyzstan, it is against the law to talk to anyone on the street about Christ or any type of evangelizing but as these women get thrown out of their homes they will be taken into others homes and that allows for the Christians to share the Gospel with them elsewhere.



☐ \$2000 ☐ \$1000

☐ \$500 ☐ \$300

☐ \$200 ☐ \$100

☐ \$50 ☐ \$25

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

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Cheque # \_\_\_\_\_

Please use my donation for: ☐ Wherever Most Needed

☐ Shipping Costs ☐ Gift Boxes

☐ Ukraine - People in Need ☐ Firewood

☐ Literature / Bibles ☐ Alberta Building Project

☐ Food ☐ Bicycles ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

When donating via  
eTransfer, 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.

(2024-#06)

Please return this  
mailing card with  
your donation  
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**For eTransfers please use:  
donations@faithmission.ca**



## Even basic things are missing...

In the countries of the East, there are many children for whom a school bag remains an unfulfillable wish. Many families are unable to provide their children with an education because they have to fight for survival every day. The situation has deteriorated further due to the pandemic and conflicts. Our goal is to help these children by providing them with school bags as well as basic school supplies. In addition, we would like to talk to the parents about the message of salvation through Jesus Christ and give the children a Christian children's book. Some short reports from our evangelist Vladimir T. about the school bag campaign in Tajikistan: "I greet



you cordially, dear missionary friends! Thank you for your commitment to the children of Tajikistan in this challenging time! In a world that often values self-centeredness over compassion, your ministry is a precious sign of hope and humanity. This is a priceless gift for our children as you help them prepare for school and get basic or required things.

In Tajikistan the Ministry of Education

has now passed a new law that all children must wear school uniforms. The larger the size, the more expensive the uniform, and those who do not purchase it are not allowed to go to school at all.

That's why your contributions make a big difference in the lives of these children and their families!

Oysha and her sister also live a hard life, their mother went to Russia as a guest worker but unfortunately, she does not support the family and does not even inquire about her children. There is no father in her life either. So their grandmother raises her two granddaughters alone and works part-time on a state-run farm. There they are at least provided with a room to live in. We visit this family regularly and share the gospel. Again and again they visit the church on Christian holidays and Oysha has been attending the children's service for three years. Despite the family difficulties and her mother's behavior, she is not bitter, but very compassionate. This is thanks to the Christian community, as the care and help we give to their family is of great importance to them.

At the age of nine, Oysha comes home after school, cleans, takes care of her little sister and helps her grandmother. She would like to go to the third grade soon. Oysha loves to paint and draw and enjoys what she does. She likes to attend the children's service, but is still a bit shy. She often memorizes Bible verses and prays for her mother. In view of the high prices for school uniforms, school books and stationery, which Oysha's grandmother cannot afford, the municipality has thankfully supplied Oysha with school uniforms.

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Although Faith Mission has not supported the people in Tajikistan directly up until now. We have supported the school bags project and this is one of the stories that show the importance of that project.