

# Mission Newsletter



# FAITH MISSION

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Number 173

As long as my breath is in me, And the breath of God in my nostrils, My lips will not speak wickedness, Nor my tongue utter deceit. Job 27:3-4

“Who can I ask for an answer?”

In the following pages that question is asked by Pastor Leonid in a letter that he sent us at Faith Mission back in November. Parts of that letter remind me of the story of Job, when he confronts God and asks Him chapter after chapter of questions (Job 26-31). If we compare these two scenarios, the war in Ukraine and the story of Job, they play out very differently. But isn't God looking for the same response out of His children today? We can see in Job's story that the devil sent temptations his way to try to turn him away from God and the final result was rather that he was more reliant on God after all these things. Job 42:1-2 “Then Job answered the LORD, and said, I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee.” If we read through Leonid's entire letter we understand that it was not him asking the Job-like questions but the people he was ministering to, do we ever have these same type of questions? Do we ever come to God asking Him questions that we know the answer to? Continuing on in Job 42, Job acknowledges that he did not understand God's marvelous ways, that perhaps what

happened to him in the beginning of the book was just something that he had to endure. But it didn't at all change the fact that God was there with him in the midst of those trials. God was still worthy of Job's dedication and loyalty. So when we encounter road bumps like Job did or like the Ukrainians have experienced through the war in the last 3 years, what do we ask God? Are we quick to accuse God? Are we quick to ask God why? Or do we turn to God and ask Him to reveal to us what He wants us to see, in ourselves, through these difficulties? Looking again at Job, the story ends with God restoring and increasing Job's blessings, even more than he had at the beginning of the story. Was that referring to the possessions that he again received from God or was it referring to the blessing of God giving Job a better understanding of who God is and how he could always trust in Him regardless of the trials he faced. I believe that God wants us all, in good times and bad times, to completely trust in Him. I believe that God is giving us an opportunity as the Christians in North America to step up and be the Christians that He calls us to be.

-Nathan Elias/Winkler MB

## 1000 Days

Every day of the past thousand has been a day of fear, worry, despondency, repeated prayers, a search for answers to many questions and a barely warm faith, shaken each time by the blast wave.

It was not easy to live through these thousand days. For some, even this turned out to be impracticable. They may have survived physically but the emotional damage has brought them into a state of speechless state of incoherence where they don't understand anything you say to them and they are unable to respond to anything you ask of them.

Heavy, sad, endlessly stretching like a black snake mournful thousand-day period. God, people are indignant that You are not a God of love, that You are a cruel God, that You have no mercy, that You see nothing and do not heed the cries of those who cry out to You. What can I say to the mother waiting for her son to be pulled out from under the rubble?

What can I say to this man who lost his wife and three daughters in an instant?

>>>What can I say to this old woman sitting on a chair, who in her declining years has found herself without relatives, without a home, without a means of subsistence. They all accuse You, God, that You do not heed their suffering. The war has been going on for a thousand days and all the prayers for its end seem to reach no further than the ceiling above our heads. Lord, will this ever end? How much longer?

Who can I ask for an answer? Will our families ever get together? Will the choir and orchestra be able to sing and play at Christmas in full force? Will all the friends who have gone their separate ways ever return? Will everyone come together again? God,



where are you? The enemy is not only conquering the state borders, but also the hearts of people. The enemy is killing all living things, not only those that walk and grow on the earth, but also every movement of thought, faith and spirit.

It is hard... This thousand-day melancholy and sorrow is overcoming thousands of people. For how long?

A thousand days for a child. This is a large part of her life. This little one was seven months old when the war began. She lived most of her life in the war. She herself has already called herself a soldier. A thousand days for these little ones is too much. Most of their lives are spent in a time of war. A thousand days – this is not what a child's childhood should be .

As the long-suffering Job in moments of darkness and despair clung to the smoldering wick of hope and said: "But I know that my Redeemer liveth" Job 19:25

So, with faith and hope, we hold on to Your promise, "I am with him in sorrow." Yes, we have lived through these thousand days because You were with us! We are alive! And this hope is the most precious thing that can be given to a person living under explosions, shelling, tragedies, destruction... You gave hope to those who repeated the words, "I am with him in sorrow," over and over again. You had the grace to see us through, through the smoke of burning warehouses, stores, pharmacies, hospitals, Your wondrous, protecting and merciful hand, Lord.

You enabled us not just to sit in basements or lock ourselves away from dangers, but to perform ministry. *You gave us the opportunity to serve people in need.* Lord, during these long-suffering days we felt the prayers of friends, we received money transfers from them, missions sent humanitarian aid, friends came, whoever could personally, and walked this path together with us. We sang in the streets, told people about You, our Lord, we gave people the Gospel, bread and food that we bought with the money that was sent. We brought them medicine; we could evacuate from the most dangerous zones. We filled up the cars, made repairs, came under fire, but remained alive. Again and again, we went out at the risk of our lives to help others who had no hope.

And when You took some of Yourself in eternity, others came to replace them. And this stinking smell of war was again overcome with the evangelical fragrance from the sacrifice of the Church from the multifaceted service of the children of God. Let's multiply a thousand days by the destroyed houses. In October alone, 380 houses were partially or



completely destroyed in Kharkiv. How much does that come to? 13 houses a day!

If a thousand days are multiplied by at least 26 people who are left homeless and cry about the tragedy in just one day, then how many tears will fall!? How many families!? The numbers are staggering. And this is true. If we take into account everything else, then this thousand days is continuous grief and darkness.

Since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, 12,162 civilians have died according to UN monitoring. Another 26,919 experienced injuries of various kinds. In October, at least 183 civilians were killed and 903 were injured

in Ukraine.

By the way, since 2022, Russia has fired over 10,000 different missiles at Ukraine not counting land mines and drones!

But during this period God gave thousands of His mercies and blessings daily, no, God did not abandon us! The numbers would

be even greater. God surely was with us. God visited us through you, our dear brothers and sisters. "I am with him in sorrow." What does God do when we are in sorrow? Does He mourn with us? Cry? Pat us on the shoulder? Or does He say: someday it will all pass? What do you think? - "I will deliver him." Psalm 90:15 God goes through sorrow with us to deliver His children, to support them, to strengthen them, to provide for them.

He has been faithful for these 1000 days!

When the church buildings collapsed, when entire villages were wiped off the face of the earth and prayer houses ceased to exist, we trusted in You, O God. We trusted the future in Your hands. From public service in the house of prayer, You led us to the people. You led us to the weeping.

You led us to the trenches. You led us to the hospitals.



Sukholesje is a village just outside of Uzyn, UA. In the midst of a dense forest of beautiful spruce and cedar trees is the Sukholesje Children's Camp. This camp has been an ongoing project for FM for many years already. In March of 2024 when we visited this camp and Viktor requested that we help them out by purchasing some tables and chairs, we were excited to be able to assist them with that. 2 months later, in May, they again requested help in order to purchase a lawnmower and we had a church step up and make a donation to cover that. I thank God that for the many situations like this that we have been able to work together with so many amazing supporters over the past 30+ years. As I am writing this I am working on preparing the next shipment to Ukraine and they have requested diapers and wet wipes get added to the shipment, this is also only possible because of the many donations that we receive.



We have received so many pictures of gift boxes being handed out to grateful recipients in the past month and at the time of this being written we are still waiting for the final 2 containers to arrive in Ukraine with a large portion (3381) of our gift boxes in them. In total we have been able to send 6786 gift boxes throughout the Christmas season and we pray that God can work in the lives of all of those 6786 children's hearts and that they can be drawn to him and they can come to a relationship with our Heavenly Father through this important ministry. We want to thank everyone that was involved in making all these boxes and we also ask that you continue pray for all of those children that have received them.





## 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
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## 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'**

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*(please circle your choice)*

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

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



Container #15 of 2024 was sent to Moldova, but even there, many of the clothing and gift boxes were received by refugees from Ukraine. We also received a video of 2 children opening a gift box and were screaming in excitement as they were pulling out the simple things that so many of us take so for granted and it was such a reminder for me to be more thankful for these things.



\$2000     \$1000

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

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

\$500     \$300

Please use my donation for:     Wherever Most Needed

\$200     \$100

Shipping Costs     Children's Camps

\$50     \$25

Pastor Support     Heating / Firewood

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

Literature / Bibles     Alberta Building Project

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

Food     Bicycles     Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this mailing card with your donation

Cheque made payable to

Faith Mission

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.

(2025-#01)

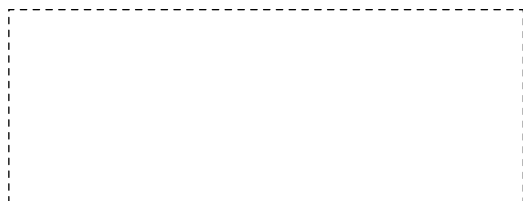
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You led us to the streets to conduct service there. You were with us. The prayers of Your people covered our paths and roads, saving us from tragedy. You led us from theory to practice. We are learning to rely on the Word of the Lord. We prayed together with the soldiers. They took off their hats and asked for mercy and protection, and You were with them in danger. You, Lord, protect them.

A thousand days of mother's tears for sons, tears of wives for husbands, tears of children for fathers, tears of sisters for brothers, tears of the Ukrainian people for the disaster that has befallen them.

For a thousand days, merciless missiles bring more and more destruction. Reinforced concrete buildings "cry" - turning into rubble and dust.

Metal is "crying". Bending, shrinking, turning into a sieve, losing its "freshness" and increasingly acquiring the appearance of old age, rust and uselessness.

"The earth is crying" in the city cemeteries, receiving more and more new and young inhabitants of the graves in large numbers. The earth is watered with



blood. Every 24 hours there are howls of sirens, the screech of rockets, explosions, fires, death, debris and tears.

From February 24, 2022 to October 19, 2024, air raid sirens have sounded 50,523 times in Ukraine. "Flying" ambulances, rushing firefighters, air raid alarms on the phone in the middle of the night reporting a tragedy - this is how we have lived for a thousand days!! God, really?!

We are not very brave and cheerful, we are tired, but alive. We still believe and echo your promise "With him I am in tribulation."

And in humility we incline our hearts in the belief that You will not abandon us further, that You will support us through Your children, through Your people. That You will give us the grace to build up the Church, to baptize new repentants and, passing through the valley of weeping, to discover new springs.

-Leonid Tkachev / Kharkiv, UA