

Mission Newsletter



March - April 2025

Number 174

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5

Jonah is an interesting book; it reads like a roller coaster with all the ups, downs, curves, and loops. But what stands out to me is how Jonah approached the topic of submission.

At first, he doesn't submit to God's will at all but rather runs in the other direction. This results in him being swallowed by a whale. And that's when he decides to submit—when he's in a whale of a situation.

Unfortunately, he doesn't stay in that submission, because when he has preached to the Ninevites, he doesn't stay with them but rather chooses to sit on a hill outside the city. This results in him getting beat by a worm—a lowly insignificant creature.

We don't know what happened to Jonah after this story, but there is a question in here for all of us.

Are we willing to submit our significant issues to God (the "whales"), and are we willing to submit our insignificant issues (the "worms") to God?

That's a powerful question, and for each of us, our whales and worms are different.

For some men, the "whale" is your business and whether you will submit it to God, while for others, that's a "worm" for them, and they readily trust Him already in that area.

For some, the whale is your cell phone, while for others, that's their worm.

What about the time you spend with your family? Is that a whale or a worm issue for you?

What about your finances? Your volunteering in your church? Or how you treat the person pumping your gas or the cashier at the grocery store?

You see, God is not interested in us submitting only our whale issues. He wants us to submit in every way, and this means our worm issues, too.

If we only ever submit our whales and not our worms, we might just be missing out on some of the greatest things God wants us to be a part of.

So, what is it that you need to submit to Him? Now, are you willing to do that? There's only one way to find out. Submit.

Prayer: Jesus, thank You for wanting to be involved in every area of my life. Help me see which areas are "whale" issues and which are "worms." Then, help me submit them all to You. Amen.

<https://www.impactus.org/daily-devotional/my-whale-vs-my-worm/> Used by Permission



Greetings, dear friends of the Mission.

Christmas passed several months ago, but we continue to meet with children in different Carpathian villages. Our Christmas services began on November 18 in the village of Zelene. In this village we used to hold camps as well as Christmas meetings but then for a period of 10 years they did not want to let us in with the children. We thank God that we again had the opportunity to meet in this village, first with adults, then at school with children, where we were very warmly welcomed. God changes the hearts of those on whom it depends, we are thinking of holding a camp in this village, if God allows.

Then on December 9, 10, & 12 there were services in the villages of Kucherov, Godylov, Tysoverts and



Snyachev, in schools where they were very happy to accept us for the umpteenth time. It is interesting to note that those same people who used to oppose these meetings, are now very happy to have us there. Although children from these villages came to our church many times, but that was always only a part of the children. This year, all the children who studied at school were at the meetings. On December 21, we went to Grinyava and Yablunita in the Carpathians. On December 25, there were two services in the church in Godyliv, where there were many children.

A day later, unfortunately, I fell ill and missed a number of services in the Carpathians. Thank God, not a single service was cancelled. A group from Chernivtsi went, and together with



packages from house to house. We visited two boarding schools in Snyatyn and a nursing home in Krasnoillya, where we held a service and distributed food from the "From The Heart" campaign.

Brothers, at all the meetings in these villages we had about 4,500 children, but in the future we will have meetings in other villages where we have not been yet. These are villages such as Golovy, Zamagora, Berezhnitsa, Konyatyn, Komariivtsy, Dovgopol and others.

We have received many gifts from friends from Canada, but these will most likely be distributed during Easter.

Friends, we are very grateful to all the friends of your missions from Canada and Germany for such great attention to our people. It is a great blessing to bring them the Word of God. Thousands of calendars and tracts have been distributed. We are grateful to God for all of you, you are participants in these services. God's blessings to all of you in serving God and His people.

Peter N. - Chernivtsi, Carpathians

The following was taken from the FriedensBote Nachrichten

The pictures on page 3 are part of the Uzbekistan article

Uzbekistan - find the key to people's hearts!

Despite all the difficulties, it is easy to ask: How is the gospel actually proclaimed? After all, proclaiming the gospel is the most important task and the main activity of every single Christian congregation and also of every Christian. In Uzbekistan, you don't have to explain to people that there is a God. They are very religious and believe and know that there is a God. That is why they also eagerly follow Muslim commandments such as "Namaz" (praying five daily prayers). Regardless of where they are, they fast for a month for Ramadan and only eat after sunset. They do not need to be told about "tithing" because they regularly pay "zakat" (donations). The greatest goal in life is the pilgrimage to Mecca.

However, what is saddening about all this zeal is that, despite their religious ambitions, God is unattainably far away for them. They do not observe God's work nor His presence in their lives. They know neither forgiveness by grace nor love and care from God's side. For them, none of this has anything to do with God, because their God, Allah, is a distant ruler or harsh officer and judges people solely according to their deeds and his mood. God wants man to be happy! At a meeting of several Uzbek Christian sisters of faith, Alexander once said: "God created man to be happy! Suddenly, one of the women began to cry. When asked what was going on, she replied: "I have so many questions. I've actually always been religious. But I've only ever seen the hard side of God. This is the first time I've heard that God is love and wants us to be happy!"

Allah is fundamentally different from the God of the Bible, which is why Muslims are often very surprised when they actually get to know the characteristics of our God.

How far are you willing to travel to bring the gospel to

Continued on page 5>>>>>>>>>>>



friends from Staishche held 8 services on January 2, 3, and 4. These services were in Staishche, two in Verkhovyna, Bukovets, Krasnyk, and Iltsy at the schools. In addition, the brothers held services with children in the respective churches there in Tuchapy, Rivne, and Polyanski.

Yesterday, a group of eight people from Chernivtsi went to the Carpathians to conduct services in the schools of Krasnoillya and the village of Perekhreshne, unfortunately, due to health reasons, I have not been able to go yet. In addition, friends from Staishche, Rivni and Tuchapy distributed food





▲▲▲▲▲▲▲ Christian Children's Camp offers a special opportunity to impart biblical values to inquisitive children. The children learn to memorize Bible verses and learn how to study the Bible. The children really look forward to the children's lessons in private homes, where the Word of God is proclaimed in a child-friendly way.



This elderly woman is overwhelmed with thanksgiving for the food parcel and all the support they receive from the Christian community. ◀◀◀◀◀◀

Especially older people in Uzbekistan are often unable to afford basic medical care. Christian doctors and evangelists visit a retirement home and offer a free medical examination as they care for these people. ▶▶▶▶▶▶

A major prayer request is that men will be converted. Most house communities consist mainly of sisters in faith. Nevertheless, they like to invite neighbors and friends to talk about God in a friendly atmosphere. ▼▼▼▼▼▼



In the presentation tour that we did back in November, Willy and Alex talked about the importance of these little booklets back in the days of the Soviet Union. As pastors were imprisoned for their faith there were other pastors in Germany that came up with this idea of designing a Bible, or at least a few books of the Bible that were water and heat proof. Keep in mind that this was back in the 1950s and 60s when technology was not the same as today. They designed the paper/plastic pages to withstand being soaked in water and not absorb the water, the ink was printed in such a way that it also could withstand the water. This allowed for a powerful book to be able to be hidden in a cup of coffee, bowl of soup or many other places in a jail cell that guards wouldn't think to look when they are searching for prohibited dangerous weapons like the Bible. The trickiest part that was left was getting it into the prison, and in order to do that they also made it withstand heat, 250 degrees Celsius (482 Fahrenheit), when this was accomplished they could bake it into a loaf of bread. Bread was one item they were allowed to bring into the prison because if family and friends brought food in to the inmates, that reduced the amount of food needed from the prison. This also paints a complete picture for us as we now very often compare bread to the word of God, these loaves of bread included the literal Word of God. As Alex explained in his presentation that when the pastors in Ukraine are distributing the bread in the villages near front-lines one of the questions that they understand as a serious one is "how often do we need to eat?" the citizens living in these villages understand much better than we do, from experience, that once per month or even per week is not sufficient to grow or flourish. The same is true in our spiritual lives, we need spiritual nourishment daily.



we need to eat?" the citizens living in these villages understand much better than we do, from experience, that once per month or even per week is not sufficient to grow or flourish. The same is true in our spiritual lives, we need spiritual nourishment daily.

If you are interested in purchasing a waterproof booklet like this as a reminder of this, FM now has a limited supply of Matthew, John, and Psalms that can be purchased through our office for \$50/ea.

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.

Board of Directors

Mailing and Physical Address: 520 Circle K Drive

Winkler, Manitoba R6W 0K4

Office phone (204) 325-4086

Nathan (204)647-7466

Email: info@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.

we also have drop-off containers

NEW LOCATION

NEW LOCATION

165067 Hwy 3 Taber, AB (Beside Rocky Mountain Equip)

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 Isaak Unger 306-891-6202

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE CLOTHING DONATIONS OUTSIDE!

Jake Elias	(204) 325-5446	David Teichroeb	(403) 308-6523
Albert Kornelsen	(204) 332-2109	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 bi-monthly and mailed at no cost to those people who have supported us in the past or to those who request information about Faith Mission.

-For regular updates including videos we can't share in the newsletter please follow Faith Mission on WhatsApp @ Friends of FM/FB >>>>
 <<<< Or check out our newly revised <<<<<< website faithmission.ca



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)



(continued from page 2>>>>)... someone? - In Uzbekistan, Christianity spreads in a completely different way than we are used to. It doesn't work by Christians meeting in a church somewhere – because there are hardly any churches.

Usually, a Christian family lives somewhere, and then 20 or 40 kilometers away is the next house where a few people live who are willing to listen to the Christians. They are willing to listen because they know that Christian family. This means that someone from that Christian family has to drive the 20 to 40 kilometers again and again to tell the other family something about Jesus. It's not uncommon for an Uzbek Christian to have to travel long distances to bring the good news to individual people. This requires vehicles and means to pay for fuel, which is becoming increasingly more expensive due to environmental regulations. However, it's worth the effort, because trust slowly grows. Little by little, the barricaded hearts open, seeds of the gospel fall into them, and God gives growth to the plant of faith. Eventually, small house meetings and prayer meetings grow from this, which then, in turn, spread the gospel through conversation with individuals. What we need most in this is perseverance and patience.

Exhausted and neglected - despite religious zeal!

Everywhere you look, you can see people's spiritual hunger. They desperately need their heavenly Father, whom they don't know and who, for them, is somewhere very far away. Unfortunately, in their sincere search for God, people often get lost in some religion or ritual. Instead, they need the living God! They want to experience His work in their lives – but despite all their religious zeal, they live as if God doesn't exist. This situation is similar to the description of the people of Israel in the New Testament: "When Jesus saw the crowds, he was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and neglected, like sheep without a shepherd." (Matthew 9:36)

Closed hearts that thirst for life - Uzbeks are very simple

and open to conversations about God. Yet, they are equally attentive, cautious, and observe their fellow human beings. They do not judge their counterparts by their words; after all, much has been fabricated and lied about. Many religious leaders have made false promises. Instead, Uzbeks judge people by their actions. They can listen attentively without interrupting and even agree so as not to offend the one they are conversing with—but then still maintain their old opinion. Outwardly, they listen to you calmly, but many are filled with despair and frustration out of hopelessness. They assume that no one needs them and that they seem to be left alone. When they understand that no one cares about their lives except Jesus Christ, they listen, despite their apparent closed mindedness, and eventually, through God's work, accept the gospel. These are hearts that thirst for water like parched fields – as they thirst for life, so they hunger for the living God! Without God, a person cannot be happy! That is why local Christians try to find a key to people's closed hearts and share the gospel with them.



\$5000 \$2000

Date: _____

Cheque # _____

\$1000 \$500

Please use my donation for: Wherever Most Needed

\$300 \$250

Shipping Costs Children's Camps

\$200 \$100

Ukraine - People in Need Heating / Firewood

\$50 \$25

Literature / Bibles Alberta Building Project

Other Amt \$ _____

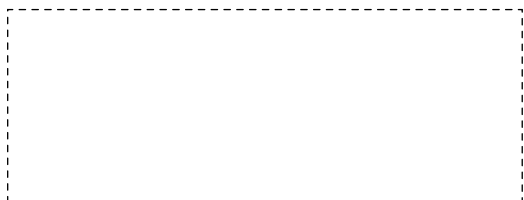
Food Bicycles Other _____

God loves a cheerful giver....."

(2025-#02)

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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Since the early 2000s Faith Mission (together with Missionswerk FriedensBote) has been involved with sponsoring hundreds of Children's camps. These camps are held in various locations across Ukraine, Moldova, Kyrgyzstan, and Georgia just to name a few of the areas. The full impact of these camps will never be fully understood. We know that there have been many children at a lot of these camps that have decided to follow Christ and have changed their lives thanks to the influence that the camps have had on them. We understand that ultimately this is the work of the Lord, but we also understand that God wants to use people as the tools in His hands. The people that God wants to use take on many different roles and responsibilities. Even if we think of Faith Mission as a whole, there are so many people involved that make the work of the mission possible. Some, come to sort/bale clothes at one of our warehouses or help load containers. When there is a need for physical work to get done, these are the first to line up. Others, spend countless hours praying for the many needs that are out there that are made known through the newsletters/social media. Many of you have supported us financially in the past and I want to focus on that for the next few paragraphs.

As we reflect, on the last year especially, but even all the 30 years that FM has been in operation, one thing is clear, God is in control. In spring of 2024 Faith Mission received requests from numerous pastors in Ukraine and Moldova for support as they prepared for children's camps. As the board met and discussed these requests, we felt that it was God's will that we respond positively to nearly all those requests. Little did we know that for the next 6 months after that, our financial donations would nearly dry up. There were times through the summer that we even had to wait an extra week or two to pay some of the bills that came in. By the end of the year, we did get everything paid and our bank accounts looked much better. The problem we are coming up against now is this, we are anticipating the requests for camp support in the next month or 2 and we do hope that we will once again not need to say no to the camps and other requests that are going to be made. For many of these camps, the financial strain is the one burden we can take off the shoulders of the pastors that are arranging them. They already have the stress of finding staff, coordinating locations, arranging who can attend, etc. We ask that you help us in the two ways that we are able to from across the ocean, we can pray, and we can financially assist. Although we have not received any formal requests for the upcoming summer, we have been told that the plan is to build on the camps that were hosted last year. Total camp support Faith Mission contributed in 2024 was \$65,000 and we are anticipating that will go up to \$80,000+ for 2025. I am not writing this to beg you for money, no, I am simply laying our cards on the table and letting you know what the needs are. We also want to keep in mind that the Children's Camps are only one project of Faith Mission, and we still want to continue with the other projects that are also needed to continue: Pastor support (\$50,400/2024), Christmas Gift-boxes (>\$60,000/2024) and humanitarian aid shipments (>\$300,000/2024). Although these are separate projects, they are all vitally tied together. As the pastors are the ones that run the camps and distribute the humanitarian aid and gift-boxes, so if the pastors can no longer be supported then the other projects cease. If the children's camps or humanitarian aid stop then getting the people into the churches becomes much more difficult. They all work together the same way we ask that you as supporters also continue to work together with us, in financial support and prayer. Pray for the missionaries as well as for our board as they make these decisions of where to direct the support we get and how much goes where.

Pray as they continue to lead Faith Mission that they continue seeking the leading of the Holy Spirit.