

Mission Newsletter

January - February 2026



The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." Mark 12:31

Former NFL quarterback Peyton Manning played 18 seasons in the NFL for the Indianapolis Colts and Denver Broncos, winning two Super Bowls and five NFL MVP awards. He is noted for saying: "The most valuable player is the one who makes the most players valuable."

A great player doesn't just score points; he sets up teammates, defends, and makes sacrifices to help the team succeed. Jesus' Great Commandment turns the first four areas of internal growth outward by calling His followers to love not only God but also others. Loving your neighbor is like being a great teammate who's not worried about personal stats but about helping others thrive.

Paul emphasizes a similar message, reminding us that the desire to reflect Christ's image is incomplete without actively seeking our neighbors' good and learning to love them in tangible ways (Romans 15:1-2). Jesus' life was marked by sacrificial love for others, even those who hated Him. Loving God and loving people are interconnected.

Unfortunately, we live in a time when our love for our neighbor can be more shaped by politics and social media than by the truth of God's Word. Acts of kindness, empathy for others, and love for our enemies—all signs of a Christ follower—can be drowned out by the noise of anger, vitriol, and cruelty.

Dallas Willard famously stated, "The main test for Christlike character is whether one spontaneously responds to one's enemies with love."

Loving others isn't always easy. People can be difficult, and relationships can be messy. But spiritual formation doesn't happen alone—it happens in community. God may be tempted to isolate ourselves, but growth occurs through relationships. God chisels away at our selfishness as we learn to love and shapes us as we serve, forgive, and encourage others. Our spiritual formation on the inside is shown through our transformation on the outside.

But God is powerful to give you every grace in abundance, so that in all things you may always be sufficient, and abounding in every good work, as it is written: "He has scattered, he has given to the poor; his righteousness consists in his righteousness." (2 Corinthians 9:8-9)

Dear missionary friends, after a long struggle, two families have followed God's call to full-time ministry in Moldova: Victor and Margita C. and Gregor and Ausra C. Faith Mission (FriedensBote) supports these two families, who have moved from Germany to Moldova to support our evangelist Vasily C. in the ministry there. Now our evangelists report on the wonderful work of God and His rich blessing during the children's camp in Moldova: Children have contact with Christians for the first time "For our summer camp from July 7 to 12 in the city of Calinesti, 80 children and young people aged 6 to 16 were invited to experience a special time of community. The goal was to get them out of their often hard everyday life, to give them a



carefree time and at the same time to familiarize them with the Word of God. For us as a team, it was also of central importance to listen to the children, to understand their worries and fears and to find out where they really need help. The vast majority of the participants came from non-Christian families; only about ten children had a Christian background. For some, it was even their very first contact with a Christian community. After meeting at the community, our convoy, consisting of a bus for the children and several accompanying vehicles, started in the direction of the leisure camp. Once there, the rooms were divided according to gender and age, with the younger children additionally supported by a young caregiver. Each day began with a small sports session before breakfast organized by Ausra C. Even if not every child was able to immediately summon up the necessary energy – there were certainly some morning gourches – the exercise made for a good start. After a short free time, a fixed group of girls who were responsible for organizing the meals called for breakfast. Afterwards, the first service of the day took place. The joy is great: The children proudly hold their own children's Bibles in their hands. Gregor C. organized this time, in which they sang together, learned Bible verses and actively involved the children in the service. The overarching theme of the week was the multiple names of God, which show that God is more than just "God" – He is Elohim, El Shaddai and much more. A special focus was on the name "Abba" (Father). Sadness and longing for a good father one day, the children were asked whether they could compare their earthly father with the loving father image of God and what qualities a good father should have. Many children became visibly emotional at this question. You could see how difficult it is for them to name positive qualities. Some laughed it off with the remark that their father was only working anyway and had no time. But the faces of the children, who are having a particularly hard time, reflected deep sadness and a great longing. The free time until midday was used for play, creativity, games, hand-crafts and sharing/socializing. A trampoline, various balls and other sports materials were available and were actively used. In the hand-craft lesson led by me (Margita), the children were able to design cubes with Bible verses or photo stands made of wooden blocks from prepared materials. After lunch, there was a midday rest, in which everyone retired to their rooms. In the afternoon, there was popcorn or ice cream before the second service with other topics was scheduled. Between all these program items, there were always valuable opportunities for personal discussions. The younger children missed their parents and worried about friends and family. To ensure that free time is not spent in front of screens, the mobile phones were collected on the first day. In this way, the children sought contact with each other and with the employees instead of hiding behind their devices. Breaking through walls of silence in the age-specific group work, girls and boys were separated. This showed that the girls opened up significantly more. The boys were not shy, but you could feel their fear of saying the wrong thing. When we talked about general fears – fear of the future or fear of the reactions of non-Christian neighbours – they remained



closed. They were taught from an early age not to talk about family problems or personal feelings. In Moldovan culture, showing emotions is often considered a sign of weakness. Tears of Relief In the girls' group, we dealt with the topic 'How close am I to God?' Everyone was asked to rate where they were on a scale of 1 to 10. Many said they felt far away from God. They believed that God no longer loved them if they sinned, rarely read the Bible, or did not pray daily. This idea created fear of returning to God and asking for forgiveness. Ausra

and I were able to teach them the simple and liberating truth of the gospel: this is exactly what Jesus died for. Our daily sins are paid for, and we are allowed to come to Him again and again. At these words, some tears of relief flowed. As a farewell, each child received a Bible colouring book and a New Testament. A memorable and sad event was the quarrel between two brothers. The older brother always tried to protect his younger brother from trouble, but he always did something. So they got into an argument. During this free time, he broke a window. Immediately, the big brother took the blame on himself. Only in a clarifying conversation did the whole truth come to light. Their father is an alcoholic and beats the children. The younger one in particular suffers from this, becoming increasingly bitter and repeatedly gets into trouble. Even though the situation was resolved, the older brother's admirable courage in standing protectively in front of his little brother remains in memory. An evening that changed everything; on the last day of the summer camp, the closing service included an altar call. A girl named Maria had previously confided in us about how much she suffers under the influence of evil thoughts and behaviours, yet, she was the first to respond to the call that evening and entrusted her life to Jesus. Her courageous step caused visible astonishment, and many others followed her example. On this evening, an estimated 30 children have decided to live with Jesus. There was a wonderful, almost tangible atmosphere. You could feel how Jesus Christ was in our midst and touched the hearts of the children. The exact number could hardly be determined, as all the caregivers were busy praying with the children who came to us in small groups." Dear missionary friends, thank you very much for your prayers and your financial support of the children's camps. Please continue to pray for the ministry of evangelists and their families in Moldova, as well as for the needy children who are reached through this ministry with the Gospel. God bless you abundantly for that!





And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life. Matthew 19:29
 Dear friends of Faith Mission (FriedensBote), in this issue we would like to present to you the moving story of the Viktor C. family.

It is a testament to courage, trust in God, and the willingness to leave behind a safe and comfortable life in Germany to follow a clear calling to Moldova.

The story of Victor and Margita reminds us, that even today, God still calls people into His service and leads them on paths we often wouldn't imagine ourselves:

Our story - A perfectly ordinary life

"Dear friends, we, the C. family, would like to introduce ourselves and tell you about our journey to the mission in Moldova. My name is Victor, born in 1987 in Singerei, Moldova. I grew up as one of eight children of my parents, Vasili and Dina C. After school, I completed an apprenticeship as an insurance salesman. For many years, I attended the Christian church of Elim. In the summer of 2004, during a Christian summer camp, I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal saviour, and a few years later I was baptized in 2007. At 21, I moved to Germany to work, primarily in the construction and the elevator industry. To have fellowship with other Christians, I joined a Christian church in Leipzig, where I took on the role of sound engineer. I led a completely normal life – until I met Margita in the summer of 2015. Margita was born in 1988 in Ekaterinowka, Russia. As a young girl she moved to Germany with her family in 1991. After graduating from high school, she completed an apprenticeship as a wholesale and foreign trade merchant. In 2008, she began attending a church in Herford, dedicated her life to the Lord Jesus and was baptized there a year later. She enjoyed volunteering in the kitchen and at the annual children's Bible camps.

After our wedding in 2016, we decided to stay in the Herford district and start a family. We both had stable jobs and a secure income. God blessed us with three wonderful children. Instead of taking vacations at the beach, we traveled to Moldova several times a year to visit my family. In our home church in Bünde, I (Victor) enjoyed volunteering at the book table and at evangelistic events at highway rest stops after we were married.

The Call to Moldova

How did we leave our beautiful, newly built home and our secure surroundings? We trusted in God's guidance. After intensive prayer, we flew to Moldova in December 2023 and March 2024 to gain clarity. We wanted to know: Are we truly needed there? The answer was an overwhelming yes. The need on the ground was greater than we had imagined. There was a lack of helping hands for numerous tasks: An additional preacher was needed, someone to take the children on outings, ensure quiet during the service, drive the children to church, and tell them Bible stories. Since there were only a few staff members, many of these important services could not be provided. Now we had a clear mission in mind.

Challenges along the way

Initially, we planned to stay for only one year. This manageable timeframe gave us the security of being able to return at any time. But the more intensively we prepared for our departure, the greater the challenges became: a car breakdown in the Czech Republic during the move, bureaucratic hurdles in Moldova and Germany, family conflicts, and last but not least, worries about our future livelihood.

Arriving and Getting to Work: Our Work Today

The year is now almost over, and we have firmly decided to stay in Moldova. I (Victor) assist my father regularly, in the church and beyond. Almost every Sunday, I stand behind the pulpit and tell the children Bible stories. My tasks are varied: I shop for the church, do odd jobs, and provide transportation. There is always something to do. In addition, I would like to support the neighboring congregations in Coscodeni and Cubolta. I also enjoy helping with the planning of the large annual summer camp. An important part of my ministry is also supporting elderly members of the congregation, whom I visit and provide with supplies that the Faith Mission and FriedensBote make available to us.

Plans with hope and trust

We trust in God's plans and are ready to accept the tasks He sets before us. The last year and a half we have learned a lot and would like to continue serving the children and the Christian community here. We faithfully serve God in our community. We would be very grateful for your prayers. Thank you for your support!

Dear friends of the mission, please include our evangelist and his family, whom we now support monthly, in your prayers. If you would like to support him, and other pastors like him, financially, please use the reference "Pastor Support". Thank you very much!

2025 was a record year for us as a mission once again. We set records for sending the most containers, most gift boxes, more flour and more soup mix than ever. But even beyond the humanitarian aid shipments that we were able to send to Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, and Kyrgyzstan. God was also doing a work here in Canada and North America. For the first time ever we were able to host a fund-raising auction, something we had prayed and talked about in the past. For the first time ever we went to Mexico to establish some new relationships and build on existing ones. It is hard to get through a year without saying thank you to the Lord for providing and looking after us. On our trip to Ukraine the discussion turned to age several times and the comment was made "when you look ahead in life a year looks like a long time, but when you look back at your past then a year seems like the blink of an eye". As we look ahead to '26 what do we see? If we think of Ukraine and the people dealing with the war there it looks like they are in for another very long year. When we look at the year that we "just" closed, nearly a month ago and yet it seems so recent. What did we accomplish? Was our goal for last year to just survive? Is that our goal for this year? I dare say that God wants more for us than simply survive, He wants us to thrive. How can we do that? Again going back to our trip to Ukraine, when we were sharing with the children who were to receive gift boxes, we encouraged them to go home and read their Bibles. I recently heard a statistic that Christians who read their Bibles at least 4 times per week find themselves much less susceptible to Satan's attacks than those who only occasionally read and study Scripture. One thing we heard many times as we were traveling through Mexico doing reports there was that it was so good for us as Christians to hear about the work of missions going on in other countries. Part of our threefold purpose as written below is to call others to pray for the suffering people in the world and to provide information about the people of the former Communist communities to fellow Christians in North America. This is part of the reason that we go on trips to Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia like we have in the last 6 months, to gain information to pass along to others. If you would like to hear and see more about our trips and mission please feel free to reach out to us at the contact information given below and we would be happy to arrange that with you. In a years time I would again love to be able to say God has provided us with another record year.

-Nathan Elias/Winkler MB

Over the last number of years we have been made aware of a fund-raising opportunity, as we see many churches hosting Vacation Bible School (VBS) weeks in one form or another. Many of these programs give an opportunity for the children to learn about the importance of giving to those less fortunate. Faith Mission is excited to announce that beginning in summer of 2026 we will have multiple options available as "VBS sponsorship bundles". We are currently still developing these but we are aiming to have at least 6 different projects that are able to be sponsored through your local VBS program. A few of the options will include: Children's Camps in Ukraine, School Bags in Kyrgyzstan, Feed-a-Family in Georgia, Heat-a-Home in Moldova, Diapers-for-Refugees in Ukraine. These packages will include posters to display during your event, a chart with stickers to track fund-raising progress, and digital pictures/videos to show everyone involved where the funds are going. If you would like more information on these bundles or to order yours for your VBS program now please email us at info@faithmission.ca.

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

Office phone (204) 325-4086

Nathan (204)647-7466 nathan@faithmission.ca

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 rooms at the following locations
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!

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Faith Mission (FriedensBote) Inc. is a nonprofit, registered charitable organization based in Winkler, 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 >>>
<<<website faithmission.ca



\$2000 \$1000

Date: _____ Cheque # _____

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Please use my donation for:

Wherever Most Needed

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(2026-#01) God loves a cheerful giver....."

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When donating via
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your mailing address as
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Moldova/Ukraine 2026

The first three weeks in January for Alex J, Willy S, Jacob K, Ben F, and Nathan E were spent traveling through Southwestern Ukraine and Moldova. During our tour we visited with 2 pastors who talked about how their mission projects got started. For Pastor Peter in Ukraine this was 29 years ago and for Vasily in Moldova it was just over 30 years ago. Although Vasily's current ministry is talked about extensively in the other pages of this newsletter I want to talk a little bit more about the beginning of it here.

When I think of the start of a ministry or mission, I think back to the start of Faith Mission. Being just a young boy watching my parents and their friends start out and navigate the difficulties surrounding them in that time I get a little bit of the picture of what it takes to start something like that. But listening to the story of how the ELIM children's ministry began showed me how different the circumstances were for all of these. Faith Mission was started by a committee of 3 men, but there were churches and families standing behind those men to enable them to see it through the difficulties of those first few years. In contrast, Vasily was a man who had/has a huge heart for children and because of this he would bring van-loads of children to the church they were currently attending. These children came from non-Christian homes where the parents had never taken the children to church so these children didn't know how one should behave in church and struggled with sitting quietly and reverently. This was too much for his fellow congregants and they asked him to stop bringing these children into their church

*The Firewood ministry
brings heat and warmth
to many homes in Ukraine
and Moldova. This was a
home in Moldova where
we were able to bring
firewood to on our trip.
The three children on the
right (ages 15-8-12) are
home alone while their
parents are at work, the
mother in a nearby city
and the father is a guest
worker in another country.*



because they were too disruptive to the service. Rather than listen to those voices around him, he and his wife began having Sunday services in their home for these children, up to 60 of them in a Sunday. When they ran out of space in their home they began searching for another location and that is when the idea of ELIM began. ELIM today, 30 years later is a church that can uncomfortably seat over 500 children. It is not uncommon for there to be 450-500 in attendance on any given Sunday. How do they get to church? Vasily and his sons have 3 buses that they use to go and pick up anyone who wants to attend church from 19 different villages surrounding the area of Singerei. For all of the 30 years that they have been doing this they have had mostly children coming and in 2023 when we were there they had about 20-25 adults and 428 children. Now 3 years later it was so encouraging to see that ratio had changed from only 5% adults to 20+% adults. Yes, the Sunday we were there we witnessed a good 80-100 adults attending church. They have also added church buildings where they gather weekly in 2 other villages

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.

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Pastor Petro preaching in the village church in Coscedeni, MO. Petro is one of 3 younger brothers taking over some of the responsibilities from Vasily in this region of Moldova. Petro and his family are one of the recipients of Faith Mission's Pastor Support

Saturday that would have been more enjoyable than standing on the street loaning out Christian books and talking to people. When Vasily was met with criticism for bringing children to church he could have said "I tried", and moved on. When the founders of Faith Mission didn't have the funds in the bank account to send containers it would have been so easy to say "Ok Lord, we gave it our best shot". But none of them did

that. Why? I believe there are two main reasons; 1) they were acting in obedience to God and it was only with God's help that they were able to persevere 2) I know that as soon as these ministries got started there were prayer warriors who began interceding on behalf of the men running them. As I am writing

this I am reeling from the news that my grandmother, Susan Elias, passed away this morning at the age of 99 years and 2 weeks. For the first 20 years that Faith Mission was working she was one of the most dedicated volunteers we had. I also know that she was one of the most faithful prayer warriors that I believe we had until her mind started to fade in the last few years. I want to wrap this all up with two bits of encouragement. First, if you see something that needs doing, don't just talk about that need or who you think should take care of that. God gave you those thoughts for a reason, so YOU could take care of it. Second, don't underestimate the power of prayer and encouragement. This is how I will always think of my grandparents, as a praying grandpa and grandma. That is the most important legacy that I desire to pass down to future generations as well. -Nathan Elias/Winkler

where there are also more of the parents and grandparents attending these services. This was such a blessing to see. I won't share the start of Peter's ministry in this letter as I already did that in the January-February 2023 edition (you are welcome to go and read about that, it is available on our website under "Newsletters"). It amazes me to think of these 3 different ministries and how very different the stories of their beginnings are and yet they all started with someone seeing a need that they had the vision and ambition to fill. They all started by someone having the courage to stand up and filling the void that they saw, even when things didn't go exactly as planned. When Peter went to the leaders in his church with a need that he saw he was hoping that the leadership in the church would say that they would take care of that need for him, but instead they encouraged him to go and do it. I am sure there were times that Peter had other things he could do on a