

Mission Newsletter



**FAITH
MISSION**
FriedensBote Inc
Number 181

May - June 2026

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.” (Matthew 25:35-36)

The parable in Luke 6:32-42, highlights the importance of love in action, emphasizing that our acts of service for others are to be done as if they were being done for Jesus Himself. We should perform these acts of service without seeking recognition. It's essential that we see every person in need as if they were Christ Himself, and understand that we will be judged on these actions accordingly. How can we embody this principle in our daily lives? Are we truly expected to reach out to a stranger in prison or open our homes to those we do not know? Just as God extends profound kindness and compassion to us, we are called to mirror that grace in our own actions. Here are some suggestions to help us begin this journey of generosity and empathy. We can foster meaningful personal connections with individuals experiencing loneliness. In the United States, approximately 30% of adults report feeling lonely on a weekly basis, highlighting a significant public health concern. In Canada, around 10% of the population frequently experiences loneliness. Young adults, typically those aged 18 to 29, often feel isolated due to factors such as academic pressures and the influence of social media. Meanwhile, seniors frequently face loneliness due to retirement, the loss of loved ones, and a decline in

social interactions. These vulnerable demographics report not only poorer mental health outcomes but also lower overall life satisfaction, underscoring the importance of addressing loneliness in our communities. Will we be people who reach out to them? One effective way to serve others in your community is by volunteering at a local church or community centre. Many food banks are currently overwhelmed due to the rising number of individuals and families facing food insecurity. You can make a significant impact by offering your time to assist with sorting and distributing food, organizing donation drives, or even providing administrative support. Your involvement can help ensure that everyone in your community has access to adequate food and resources. God calls men to be the light of the world and to make a meaningful impact (Matthew 5:14-16). As Mother Teresa said, “Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love.” This is what God expects from men, and is part of what we will be judged by on Judgment Day.

Used by permission <https://www.impactus.org/daily-devotional/the-judgment-of-love-in-action-2/>

Christmas In The Easter Season

Faith Mission's Christmas gift boxes are a fun annual tradition for many. Many individuals across Canada enjoy packing the gift boxes, all the children that I have ever witnessed receiving a gift box in Ukraine/Moldova sincerely appreciate getting that box. Although it is our goal to get all of our gift boxes to the destinations by Christmas time, it



Hodiliv church in Chernivtsi filled to maximum capacity with over 270 children for a service on Easter Sunday where the children received a gift box and were served a snack after the service.

doesn't always work out that way. Nearly every year we receive some gift-boxes too late for us to ship them in time to get them there for Christmas or we send them out and something happens to the container so that it is delayed in arriving. What happens then is they are used at another time, like Easter.

When a store or organization has a promotion using the phrase “Christmas in July” or any other month, they are turning Christmas into a marketing opportunity. When our partner churches in Ukraine celebrated Easter by distributing Christmas gift boxes “Christmas in March/April”, this has a completely different meaning. There is a double opportunity, the pastors have the

chance to tell children the story of Easter, a natural fit during the Easter season. Because of the distribution of gift boxes with a Christmas message in the boxes they also have the chance to share the story of Christmas at the same time. The beauty of these stories complimenting each other and being able to describe the importance of Christ's birth and how that was an integral part in the greater story of salvation, Christ dying on the cross for our sins. Faith Mission's last shipment of gift boxes sent in 2025 was again missed the Christmas season and therefore many of the gift-boxes



Many children were witnessed to through our gift-boxes both at Christmas as well as now at Easter. These small gifts that so many of you have helped us pack or pay for. Each gift is handed out together with the Gospel and they are taken into homes where entire families will make use of the items in them. These families will also be introduced to the Love of God, yes, because there are tracts and scriptures in the boxes. But even more because of the knowledge that someone on the other side of the world cares about THEM. This shows them that GOD LOVES THEM!

were carried over through the winter and into the Easter season. Pastor Peter N of Chernivtsi, Ukraine sent us many pictures and wrote us stories of how the people showed up to receive during the Easter services. The following is his report of how these meetings went.

Christ is risen! Dear friends, I greet all the friends of the Mission in Germany, Canada, and France during this most wonderful season of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. And today we would like to tell about the feat of Christ, His victory over evil. Our desire is to tell many adults and children about the victory that opened the way to salvation for everyone, the way to heaven.

In February, March and early April, we held more than 20 meetings with adults and children, in schools, churches, and community centers. These are the villages of Staishche, Verkhovyna, Krasnyk, Berezhnytsia, Bukovets, Godyliv, Perekhresne, Davidyny. Meeting with IDPs in the House of Prayer of Verkhovyna, Godyliv, about 120 packages were distributed. At the meetings, a lot of Canadian and German humanitarian aid

was distributed in the form of clothing, food, and gifts.

Meetings with children are our priority, so that from early childhood they know as much as possible about our

Savior Jesus Christ. Jesus said to His disciples: Let the little children come to me so we know that children held a special place in His heart. Through the Easter season, about 1000 children came to our meetings, to whom we presented gifts from Canada. Basically, we tried to make sure that these were children whom we did not meet during Christmas. All the meetings were special and each one is unique. We are pleased that the children remember a lot from what they have heard, study Bible verses for a short time, sing songs. I am very grateful to the friends of the Churches who agreed to take part in these meetings and were preparing programs. They drive from Chernivtsi to the Carpathians, other friends from the Carpathians are also actively involved in this.

One of the last meetings was on Saturday, April 11 at the House of Prayer in Godylovo. About 270 children and many parents came, it was the feast of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, it was a mini-camp. The atmosphere was festive from the very beginning when the children began to gather. Children come with their school principal and teachers, who also listen attentively. Our youth of the Church had prepared a very edifying and memorable Easter program. The children learned verses from the Bible, learned a song, and at the end there were questions to the children, what they



were questions to the children, what they



Distributing gift boxes in springtime instead of wintertime is also beneficial for the families that live further up the mountains where the pastors can only venture when the road is not icy and the pastures are not snow covered. Some of these homes are a few km into the mountains from the nearest road and it is impractical and many times impossible to get to them during the winter months.





remembered. There were many who raised their hands wanting to answer. And then we can see how children perceived and comprehended it. We want to live for this and continue to plan such services, it inspires. Of course, at the end there were gifts, this is what drew the children to the House of Prayer, many tracts were distributed at these meetings, children's Bibles, *Jesus Our Destiny*, New Testaments and other children's literature. The meeting ended with a table of sweet snacks that was prepared for them, which was very special for the children.

In the village of Daviden, where we visit very rarely, we were welcomed very warmly. We held a meeting right in the village center, this meeting was attended by the very happy mayor of the village. We've been there in the past with briefcases and clothes. Now we brought gifts, although not enough for everyone, but at least all the younger children were able to receive a gift box.

God continues to create new opportunities for us, where earlier perhaps the school principal would send children to meetings in the church and now they allow us to come to the schools where they are happy to receive us. Not only do they allow us to come share with the students but even they themselves are present with the teachers at these meetings.

In Verkhovyna, in the House of Prayer, there were children from a boarding school with many teachers, and they asked our friends from Chernivtsi to prepare a school program for a lesson in Christian ethics, I am asked to bring it to them.

My dear brothers, we do not go to all these meetings empty-handed, your clothing ministry is a part of this, without which it would be impossible to gather so many adults and children. May God bless you all in this and reward you further in your needs in the wide fields of your ministry. Thanks to the drivers, brother Alexander and his team who bring all the cargo, through Europe to us in Ukraine and other countries. We ask God for protection for them on their travels.

We have not finished meetings with adults, we will continue to do so, I will continue to write to you about them. Now they have already begun to prepare the base for summer camps, there is a lot of work on the grounds as well as indoors. We have already agreed with many directors during the winter when/where camps will be. We pray for the teachers so that they can come in this difficult time, and I pray that you brothers will have the opportunity to support these services in the summer with children. Blessings to you, friends, your families, and the Churches of your area. Truly He is risen!

-Peter N - Chernivtsi/Carpathians

At any of these meetings everyone is eager to take home copies of "Jesus Our Destiny" and other Christian books and tracts. Especially at the meetings with mostly children and teens present, this is a powerful way to get the message of the Gospel into the homes.

In many places it seems the adults are more hesitant to come to meetings, especially when the pastors go to a new village. In spite of this, the children are likely to still come and take this literature home where the whole family will read through it. For many, that will make it easier for the adults to attend the meetings in the future.



Spring weather is very welcome in Ukraine as it makes it much more pleasant to distribute clothing outside. As we change out some of the clothes in our closets, getting out our summer clothes and putting away winter clothes, please keep in mind these people who are much less fortunate than we are. For many of the people in these pictures, without the support of the church and the missions of FriedensBote and Faith Mission, that changeover would be much more difficult, or impossible, they don't have "seasonal" clothes. Many don't have clean clothes or a way of cleaning them, and also, many don't have extra clothes to wear for laundry day(or a proper way to clean the clothes) so they continue wearing what they have until they get a fresh clothes. These are the conditions that Faith Mission's clothes are going to. With that in mind, we are also very aware that the cost of fuel/shipping has increased significantly

the last few months due to the war in Iran. Because of this cost increase, we want to make sure that we are still mindful of only sending good, usable clothing that they will get maximum use out of and we ask that our donors are also mindful of this as they bring us clothing donations. I also feel the need to add here that this is not a call for you to bring more clothing. We have so much in our warehouse in Winkler we are turning clothes away several times a week. We need more volunteers. In Grassy Lake the story is different and we can accept more clothing but even there the clothing is only part of the need as the constant need for volunteers continues.

-Nathan Elias/Winkler



It is with great sadness that we share with you that mom (Helena Elias), wife of Jake Elias, passed away peacefully on April 9, 2026 at the age of 70 years 7 months and 6 days. She leaves to mourn her husband Jake and children Tina (Paul), Mark(Margaret), Amanda(John), Nathan (Marie), and Jeremy (Kathy), 21 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren. Dad and mom were married for 51 years and 7 months and they ministered in many different ways. Together with a few of their friends, they founded Faith Mission nearly 32 years ago. Mom faithfully spent a lot of time at Faith Mission. For much of the last 30 years, this meant 2-3 or even 4 days/week supervising sewing days, fixing zippers, organizing the warehouse, and arranging material that ladies would take home to make into clothes or blankets. Mom was also Faith Mission's bookkeeper since 2005. According to some very rough calculations, she has spent approximately 29,952 hours at Faith Mission.

In November of 2022, Mom was diagnosed with breast cancer and she opted to take radiation treatments and surgery, which gave her another 2½ years of quality life. Early in 2025, she began experiencing back pain that progressively got worse through the year. In January 2026, the pain became so intense that she had a hard time walking, and they visited the BTHC Emergency Room on January 30. When the x-rays didn't reveal anything alarming, she was sent back home. The following week, the pain continued to increase to where she could no longer walk without assistance. The doctors ordered a CT scan of Mom's spine and an hour later they informed them that the cancer had returned with multiple lesions showing up on the scan. She was admitted to BTHC that evening and stayed there for one day less than 3 weeks. She returned home to spend another month of time with Dad, in which her pain was well managed, though she spent the majority of her time in the hospital bed provided by Home Care. During this month, we were blessed with a lot of good conversations with Mom and enjoyed many hours of making some very special memories. We are so grateful for this time we could have with her.



As a result of her cancer diagnosis, Mom was on strong pain medication that made her susceptible to an infection. This Infection got so bad that on the morning of Thursday, April 2, even with Dad's help, she could not get out of bed. It was at this point that she requested to go back to the hospital. For the first few days at the hospital the doctors tried to treat her infection, but by Monday it became clear that cancer was taking over her body and her time on earth would soon be coming to an end. She passed away peacefully on April 9th, exactly one week after being admitted to the hospital, just 2 months after being diagnosed with cancer. At 12:49 pm Mom took her last breath with her husband and most of her children by her side, at the age of 70 years, 7 months and 6 days.

Memorial Donations in memory of Helena can still be made to Faith Mission.

The funeral service for mom took place on April 16 and we thank you so much for all that attended. On behalf of dad(Jake) and the rest of the family we would like to thank everyone for your thoughts and prayers since mom's passing.

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!

Manitoba Board of Directors

Jake Elias	(204) 325-5446
Albert Kornelsen	(204) 332-2109
John Nickel	(431) 356-0879
Henry Friesen	(204) 362-4681
John Martens	(204) 384-1068
Carlos Funk	(431) 775-2225

Alberta Board of Directors

Dave Teichroeb	(403) 308-6523
Henry Rempel	(403) 634-4252
Peter Peters	(403) 715-3316

Executive Director

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

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

\$500 \$300

\$200 \$100

\$50 \$25

Other Amt \$ _____

Date: _____ Cheque # _____

Please use my donation for: Wherever Most Needed

Shipping Costs Children's Camps

Pastor Support Heating / Firewood

Literature / Bibles Alberta Building Project

(2026-03) "God loves a cheerful giver....." Food Gift Boxes Other _____

When donating via eTransfer, please make sure to provide us with your MAILING ADDRESS as well as the specific designation you want the donation used for in the MEMO portion of the eTransfer 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

Name: _____
Address: _____

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.

eTransfer: donations@faithmission.ca

For Office use only:
Entered Deposit Mailing List xfer to FB



In the outskirts of the city where the first bombs, rockets, and bullets fell. Here, half-dressed people left their homes in February 2022. Some died, some left for an unknown destination, some held on to the end, and the destroyed housing forced them to seek shelter somewhere in another city. We come to such desolate places with help to not only support people, but to

Thank you very much!

During our services during these years of war, we have heard these words thousands upon thousands of times. Some say it normally, some as a well-mannered person, but there were also those who generally accept help and leave in silence, believing that we should do it for them. But there were often those who said it from the bottom of their hearts. These are the people for whom the help touched, not just their hands or mouths, but their hearts. These are people who may eventually turn to the Lord, and there are many such cases.



pray, and to share words of comfort and encouragement. And to just be there in a difficult moment. Again, words of gratitude are heard, whether verbally or from the heart, only God knows. Because in general, this is not gratitude to us, but to those who donate funds, who collect clothes, and those who bake bread. This gratitude is for them. We only did our part, what we can to do. We only do our share of service for the Lord and for people.

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)



The testimony of a lady near the front-line

"Thank you guys so much! You taught me something special. I'm not even seeing you for the first time. Everyone has stopped coming to us, you are the only ones left who come and bring us bread and help. Before the war, I had several of my own shops in the market... everything burned down. Goods, stalls, money, that's all I had left. The total amount of damage reached almost two-hundred-thousand dollars(USD). It's horrible! I thought I would lose my sanity. I had my own war in my head. What to do, how to live, where to look for a way out and justice. When I worked, I always thought: I'm a wealthy lady, anyone who walks around the market and asks for help is a worthless person, let them go to work and not bother others. And here I am in this same situation myself. When



you first arrived, I thought that this was all for PR: taking pictures, giving speeches, but I see that you leave with joyful faces every time. I have never heard from you even a hint of collecting any funds for fuel or anything else. I understand that through you, God has taken care of me. Now there is no way to resume work, because the shelling continues, but I want to eat every day. You taught me to share something of my own, I had never done this before. Thank you very much, you have turned my heart around. I have not been to your meeting yet, but I have already gone to see your house of prayer, walked around it. So continue to be patient with me, I will come to meet with you soon."

What service to God can we do, or to other people. Great thanks to Him that He is doing His work through you, His people.

Leonid T - Kharkiv UA