

# Mission Newsletter



May - June 2014

Number 109

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**“For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the Lord our God is in all things that we call upon him for? And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day? (Deut. 4:7, 8)**

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**M**oses knew that the children of Israel must know God's law in order to practice it. He was faithful to teach the law to them. And, if you recall, Moses begged Israel again and again to hear the law and to teach it to their children, that they all might live according to it.

In these verses, Moses reminded Israel (as he reminds us today) of the particular favors God's people enjoy. He emphasized the point by asking them a question: *“For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the Lord our God is in all things that we call upon him for?”*

Psalm 46:1 says that *“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”* Trouble seems to meet us at every turn of the road and attacks us from behind every door. It comes to the saved and the unsaved. But Christians have a hiding place: *“God is our refuge.”* Trouble drains us; it wears us down. But God is our *“strength.”* He is always there, *“a very present help in trouble.”*

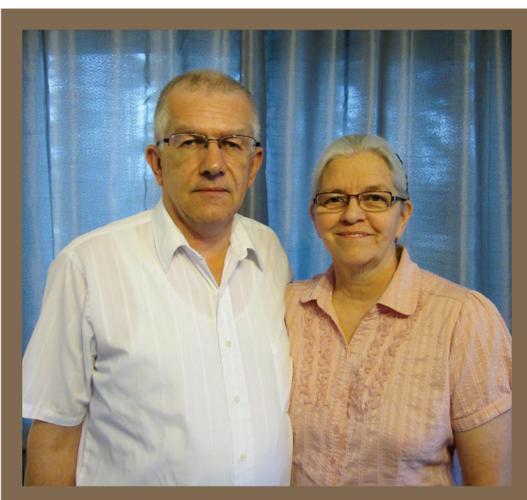
Whenever we call upon the Lord, we find Him accessible and ready to give an answer of peace to our every prayer of faith. And this is a special privilege that makes Christians, who are God's spiritual Israel, truly great and honorable.

God speaks to us through His Word, and we talk to Him in prayer. He speaks nuggets of truth into our hearts: encouragement, faith, hope, health, etc. That sweet fellowship we share with Him in these times of communion together makes us enjoy the highest honor and happiness of which we are capable in the world.

Jesus teaches us that all of the law is fulfilled in one word, and that one word is love (Matt. 22:37-40). The law of love is the sum and substance of all the laws and statutes which Moses taught. Love, being the fulfillment of God's law, makes God's law easy for us to observe. ❁❁

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## From the Faith Mission Office.....



Hello everyone! I have volunteered at Faith Mission for 20 some years; well actually I've been with the mission right from the start. It was in our single car garage where this whole thing started. Then, almost 9 years ago I started working in the office, one day per week, as a paid employee. I have really enjoyed the work I did on Tuesdays. I would do the paperwork; preparing and making the deposits, entering all information into the computer. I am the one that meets you when you drop off clothes on a Tuesday during the day, if you call to Faith Mission on Tuesday, I would be the one answering the phone and talking to you. Well, things have taken a big change for me in the last couple of months. I am not able to work at the office anymore, because of health reasons.

It all started out, way back in February or March of 2013. I started having a lot more back pain again. It has just gradually gotten worse since then. For the longest time I still went to work in the office, as well as volunteering on Thursdays and also twice a month on a Monday; on what we call our sewing and

recycling days, even though I was in pain for the most part, I was still able to do it.

We had our Annual Faith Mission Soup & Pie Supper on April 12th. I helped plan the supper together with Marge Elias and Gertrude Penner, both from the Faith Mission board. When it came closer to the supper I didn't know how I would be able to help, my pain was getting worse. I was at the supper but I would sit somewhere in the corner the greater part of the evening. I found this hard, because I always really enjoy helping with these suppers wherever I can. The Tuesday following the supper, is always a busy day. There is so much to enter in the computer and also a big deposit to get ready. I always enjoy this task, mainly due to the fact that we have once again been so richly blessed.

The overwhelming support from the community makes this work-day a highlight of the year for me! Well, although the support was great this year, it was quite different for me! I was able to get most of the work done; but with great difficulty! I could hardly sit at the desk to do my computer work. I went home early that day and I haven't been back to the office to work or to volunteer at the Mission since then. I really miss it! I did go back to have Faspas (afternoon snack) with the people that were there this last Thursday afternoon, but that's it. I am now taking medication very regularly so that the pain is bearable.

I am scheduled for double disc replacement surgery in Germany on May 27, 2014. Jake & I will be flying out there on the 24th, having the surgery on the 27th and if all goes as planned coming home on June 9th. To us it seems like this has all happened so very quickly. I had not expected to get an appointment this soon. The diagnosis came back from Germany as "severe degenerated discs" which I think explains why they took me in so quickly.

I am so very sorry for any inconvenience that this has caused you, that there is nobody at the Mission when you call there, or when you want to come inside to drop off some clothes, this is definitely not the way I had planned on things turning out. We never know what will happen in life. We are not in control but we do know who is. We serve an awesome God! He is in complete control, even in this difficult situation that I find myself in. I want to trust Him that He will take care of me and everything that is planned.

I would ask you all to Please, pray for me; especially for the flights! It will be many hours of sitting. Please pray..... for the surgery itself, that I might have peace about this whole thing, .....for healing and recovery after the surgery, .....for Jake; who is coming with me, and for the Lord to guide the surgeon as he performs the surgery.

I am planning to be back to working in the office and volunteering as soon as I am well enough from the surgery. I will need time to heal, so I'm not sure how soon this will be, but Lord willing it won't be too long.

Back to the Soup & Pie Supper, we at Faith Mission would like to say a big, big thank you first of all to

everyone that baked or cooked for the supper, thank you also for the donation of the cream, milk, and delicious homemade butter, thank you to all the many volunteers for helping with serving the tables, heating the soup, keeping everything filled up, washing trays, rinsing and doing the dishes, and whatever everybody did, a huge, huge thank you! Then a huge thank you also to everyone that came to eat and give us a donation at the supper! If we would not have had all of you there to help us eat the food and give, the evening and all the work would have been in vain. So once again THANK YOU for however you helped us once again this year, it is very much appreciated!

Sincerely, In Christ's Love, Helena Elias

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## NEWS from the Carpathian region of Ukraine - May 6, 2014

### Easter Action!

This year Christians from all over the world celebrated this wonderful event on the same day. Usually there is a week difference between Canadian and Ukrainian Easter.

Nature in the Carpathian Mountains is very special at this time of year. Everyone praises the Lord for His marvellous creation and His resurrection. Even the songs the birds' sing adds to the atmosphere. Unfortunately, many people do not notice this kind of preaching!

It was a bright and sunny Good Friday morning! A crowd of people had gathered in front of our House of Prayer for the 10 am service. We had cut the Good Friday service short with just one sermon. Children and their parents had started coming before the service was finished.

There were about 80 orphans and children from poor families. The church building was very full! A neat stack of Faith Mission "Christmas Gift Boxes." was piled in the front of the church, right next to where the children were sitting. We had stuck sheets of paper to the top of the boxes with the bold printed words "Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!" We had also attached several small gospel tracts, to the Christmas Boxes. These were also sent from Faith Mission in Canada.



## **(UPDATE) New Faith Mission Building Project still on Hold.....**

Just a few months ago we were anticipating that by this time we would be very busy with construction on our new building. However, things just haven't gone quite as we had planned. Due to the protests and unstable government situation in Ukraine, we are not able to send our containers into this country. Even though it is now probably needed more than ever before.

At the time of printing this Newsletter, we are trying to work out some possible way to get the Humanitarian Aid into Ukraine, Moldova or Romania. Right now it looks like we may be able to ship containers into the Republic of Georgia. At the time of this printing, we are finalizing the arrangement to ship to Poti, Georgia. Please pray that this will work out.

Our hope and prayer is that we will be able to carry on with our construction plans later on in the year. At this time, all we can do is provide some much needed financial assistance to some of the churches, children's camps, orphanages, and other areas where help is needed. Although we have placed the building project on a temporary hold, we know that we need to make a decision very soon as the city of Winkler has given us 6 months from the time of the deposit. We pray that things will soon settle down in Ukraine so that we can resume our shipping clothes, footwear, blankets, and other aid to those needy people. We still have a fairly steady supply of clothes coming in again. Please continue to pray that God Almighty will direct us in all our ways as we plan for the future of Faith Mission.

friends! The children's eyes were glowing with happiness and anticipation! Soon, they would be able to have those gifts in their hands.

First, we prayed the Lord's Prayer together. Then I told them how Christ suffered for our sins. Next, we told them about children, brothers and sisters from Canada who made those boxes and sent them to Ukraine. We then started distributing them, giving one to every child there. Workers from the local welfare organization helped us with the distribution. I do not think there can be a better way to evangelize to the children, than like this. On the way home, children and parents told their acquaintances where they got these gifts and where they came from.

The administration office of Verkhovyna published an article about this event on their official website.

Dear friends, we would not be able to have meetings like this without your gifts. Also, we had two more smaller services like this in the village of Berezhnytsya. This was the first time for me in this village. We had 13 children and ten adults. The meeting was held in a small private house. After the meeting was over we handed out clothing and more gift boxes. We also visited the Local Crisis Center which is a temporary shelter for those who lost their homes or some trauma has happened in their life. There were about 10 children there.

After Easter Sunday we had meetings and services in other places where we distributed Faith Mission gift boxes.

Dear brother Jake and all our Faith Mission friends, we are so thankful to the Heavenly Father for your ministry to our children in Ukraine. We have meetings like that on a regular basis every Sunday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. People gather at 10 am. We begin the services with prayer and then we have a one-hour sermon. After the service, we distribute the clothing which has been sent by your

mission. Between January 2014 and April 2014, we had close to 1400 people at meetings like these. We conducted more than 30 services and meetings. People pass the information about us on to other local people and to their neighbors. There are many questions; many people call me on the phone. Even while I was writing this letter to you, the phone rang and a lady told me that she had attended one of these meeting and she liked it very much. The reason why she called was she wanted to know if she could make a confession to me like she would to an Orthodox or Catholic priest. I explained to her that we need to make confessions directly to God. I invited her to the next meeting.

Once again we are preparing for summer camps. It is less than two months till we start with those again. We are constructing a second floor on top of the containers we showed you when you were here. We have renovated them and can now use them as the bedrooms at camp. We plan to finish this job before the camping season begins, Lord willing.

Please, pray for the situation in Ukraine. Everything will turn out according to the Lord's will.

God's blessings to all of Faith Mission friends and supporters!

- Peter from the Carpathians

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## **Latest News regarding our 2 Containers in Ukraine.....May 12, 2014**

(Odessa, Ukraine) Praise the Lord!

Here is the wonderful news that I received by email from Odessa this morning.....

"Hello Jake, Today we have shipped the container ZCSU8680938 to Nikolay and good news that we received a great discount for it....."

As I had written in our precious Newsletter, we had 2 containers that were 'stuck' in the port of Odessa. With the unstable situation in Ukraine, we were very concerned about these containers. We are very happy that they have both been delivered! The first one contained the Gift Boxes mentioned in Peter's report (above).

## What's happening to the Breadbasket of Europe? Ukraine? .....Corruption! Killing! War!



Where did the colors of the Ukrainian flag come from?

Ukraine! The name has a special place in the hearts of many people in C a n a d a , especially those of Mennonite Faith. Most of

the Mennonites living in North and South America have roots that can be traced back to Ukraine 100 - 150 years ago. Many of our forefathers were very wealthy farmers and business men when they left Ukraine to come to Canada. In the last century, many people have gone through the difficult periods of persecution under the communist dictators. Many have lost their lives!

Since communism fell, in 1989, Ukrainian people have enjoyed religious freedom; in some respects, more freedom than we have here in Canada.

However, since November 2013, it seems like the country is just falling apart. Russia is gradually taking control of the eastern region of Ukraine and has threatened to possibly take over the entire country. There is so much corruption that even the most powerful leaders from the rest of the world are not sure how to save the country from collapse. We know that God can spare this dear country! Please Pray for all our Ukrainian Christian Brothers and Sisters that they can bring revival into the country and that the people will repent and depend on Jesus to save them!



### Office Hours



**Tuesday (Temporarily closed)**

**Clothing sorting & baling:  
Thursday 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.  
& 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

**Clothing may also be dropped off in the small white trailer at the south end of the warehouse building. This trailer is open 24 hours a day, emptied on a regular basis, however, if you have more than a few bags or boxes, please call ahead to arrange delivery. PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE CLOTHING DONATIONS OUTSIDE!**

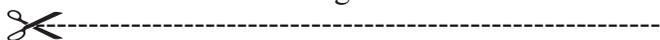
### Volunteers Welcome!

**If your Youth Group, Bible Study group, or Ladies' Sewing Circle would like to volunteer for an afternoon or evening (Monday-Saturday), please contact the office to make arrangements.**

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.

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Faith Mission (FriedensBote) Inc. is a nonprofit, registered charitable organization based in Winkler, Manitoba. Faith Mission was incorporated on May the 16th, 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.

**Banking Information** - Access Credit Union  
Box 1060, Winkler, MB R6W 4B1  
Account Number 19940-9