

Mission Newsletter



September - October 2015

Number 117

Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? (Isa. 53:1)

Filled with astonishment and wonder, the prophet Isaiah cried out against the unbelief of the Jews. Years later the apostle John also applied this Scripture to the Jews when he said, *“But though [Christ] had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him: That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed?”* (John 12: 37-38).

What would Isaiah say to our generation? Would he cry out again, *“Lord, who has believed our report?”*

Unbelief causes people to be cut off from God (Romans 11:20). Countless millions hear the report of the gospel today, but how many really believe it? How many lives are changed because they adhered to the gospel?

And why don't people believe the gospel? Has not the arm of the Lord been revealed to them? According to John, the arm of the Lord had been revealed to the Jews because Jesus did great miracles before them. They saw His great power, yet they still did not believe.

Just like the Jews, many today see and hear all about the power of God, yet they choose not to believe. If the Holy Spirit is not allowed to work that power in a person's life, that person will forever remain in unbelief. God will never force this issue with man.

Even we who believe the gospel should each ask ourselves, *“Have I experienced the divine power that goes with the Word of the gospel? Have I allowed the Holy Spirit to work in me with the Word so that I live the Word of God? Has the arm of the Lord been revealed in me and through me, and not just to me?”*

As we consider these searching questions, let us, with David, cry out for understanding: *“Hear my prayer, O Lord, and let my cry come unto thee quicken me, O Lord, according unto thy word”*

(Psalm 102:1; 119:107).

If we cry out to Him and let Him, He will reveal to us His arm of power and greatness. ❖❖

Faith Mission Open House, Sale & Building Dedication September 11-12



We were blessed with a gorgeous fall day for our dedication service on Sept. 12. Our “garage” sale again exceeded our expectations in spite of the construction happening on Circle K Drive and on Roblin Blvd. Faith Mission would like to extend a very big **THANK-YOU** to everyone who helped or maybe just came to show their support at the sale, open house or dedication service. For those of you who missed it, the streets are now opened again and we would like to encourage anyone interested to stop by on any Thursday afternoon and check out what actually happens at Faith Mission on a regular work day. We are very grateful for the new streets and encourage people to drop off their clothing donations anytime.... the drop-off door is opened 24/7, cleaned out daily. ❖❖

The Day of Transformation

Despite all the difficulties Ukraine is experiencing right now, we still have many wonderful opportunities to tell people about our Lord Jesus Christ. We talk to many people who have never found their main goal in life.

Again we visited a village of Yabluniv in the Kosiv region. We made arrangements with the local social workers to invite about 200 people from eight nearby villages. The response was overwhelming. We had two singing groups who were in our camp facility that week. One group from Chernivtsi and another from the Volyn region. They sang a lot, read Christian poems and closed the program with a sermon about the Transformation.

The people listened as the preacher explained the meaning of this event. Most of them knew only about sprinkling their fruits and vegetables by an orthodox priest in the local temple. It was a real joy to bring these people the true Gospel, which made them think and reconsider their actual faith. However, very often they do not like how their conscience is convicting them.

As always, we were very well accepted, because we did not only come with our Bibles, but also with the results of the sincere faith and dedication of our brothers from Canada and Germany. A few days before the meeting, we had prepared more than 200 gift packages, bags and boxes. You will see them in the pictures.

The people in this village had never experienced anything like this before where somebody would actually give them clothing for free. Even the local authorities appreciated our ministry, because, to the general public, they made it appear as though they were responsible for the distribution of the Gift packages. So, they brought in bus-loads of needy people.

Dear friends, in the pictures, you will be able to see a presentation of the book, *Jesus is our Destiny*, published by our friends in Germany. This is a wonderful book, written for young people. Maybe Faith Mission would be able to publish an additional amount of these books to distribute among our local youth. If it is God's will, we are planning to meet about 1500 children during Christmas time. We are hoping for a Gift Box for each child.

We keep having services with people who come to receive humanitarian aid. This year we had more than 70 services like that. We also started having these services in the Tuchapy church every Wednesday. Our deacon brother is responsible for that. The forty foot shipping container that you gave us is of great help for storing all the clothing! Social workers made smaller packs of clothing out of the 40 bales you sent. We labeled the packages with stickers from Faith Mission(Canada) or FriedensBote(Germany). In

the pictures you can see boxes with Canadian clothing as well as some from Germany. After the service we went to visit some elderly people in a nursing home.

On August 16 we had a baptism service in the Carpathian Mountains. Four of our friends were baptized. One of them is a young teacher who sincerely loved God.

The camps in our facility at Staische are almost finished for this season. This summer, we had 10 camps. More than 700 campers from many different churches of the Western Ukraine were able to come and spend peaceful time with God in the beautiful Carpathian Mountains.

Lots of blessings from the Lord to you, your family and Faith Mission!

Peter..... Carpathians, Ukraine.

.....we prepared more than 200 gift packages.....



Higher US Dollar & “Recession” really affecting Faith Mission

The higher US dollar has really affected our ministry in a very negative way. Most of the costs for shipping a container overseas is payable in US Currency. On top of the high US dollar, our shipping costs have increased even more because of the turmoil in Ukraine. Due to the instability of the Eastern European countries, we have not found a shipping company that is willing to transport shipments into the countries of Ukraine, Moldova, Romania or Russia, unless we purchase a container that is “sea-worthy” and get it re-certified. This is an additional cost of approximately \$3,200.00 Canadian dollars. Then, to make matters worse, the shipping companies charge about \$800.00 more to ship an SOC (Shipper’s Own Container). A question we often get asked is: “What does it cost to ship a container to Ukraine?” Well it depends where in Ukraine it gets sent but the last container that we sent cost us \$17,774.48. This is probably the highest that it has ever been.

For many years, God has been blessing us with generous donations so that we have always been able to ship whenever we had a container loaded. However, during the last few months it seems like the so-called recession in Western Canada has affected our ministry also. Donations are usually down in June, July and August so maybe this year is not that much different. Please continue to share your blessings and God will bless you in return. To ensure a 2015 receipt, make sure to get your donations in the mail early so that it will be in our office before December 31st.



Gift Box Reminder.....!

We all enjoy seeing the “JOY” on our children’s faces when they open their Christmas gifts! Right? You can help bring this “JOY” to someone special by packing a Christmas Gift Box for a child somewhere in Ukraine this Christmas!

* You can pick up empty Christmas Gift Boxes at Faith Mission at 425 Roblin Blvd East in Winkler. There are Gift Boxes in the Drop-Off room, that you can pick up anytime. The Drop-Off door is always unlocked.

* Here is a list of items that we recommend to put into a box: Mittens, Socks, Toque, Scarf, Underwear, Socks, Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Soap, Facecloth, a Small Gift or Toy, School Supplies, Pencil, Eraser, Pen, Paper or Note-book, Colouring Book, Ruler, Pencil Sharpener, Crayons, and Scissor.

* If you put candies in, please put them into a small plastic bag.

* Don’t put any liquids into the gift boxes!

Send - Bar soap..... instead of liquid soap

- Glue stickinstead of glue bottles

No Shampoo, Body Wash, or Perfume

* If you aren’t interested in packing the gift boxes yourself, you are very welcome to buy the supplies for them and bring them to us. Or maybe you don’t like to or aren’t able to go shopping then you may also designate a donation for this cause and someone from Faith Mission will buy and pack the boxes for you. The cost to pack a Gift Box is approximately \$30 - \$35. Use the above list to buy supplies. Here is also a list of items that we always seem to run short on:

Scissors

Rulers

Mittens

Wash Cloths

Tooth Paste

* Another idea - we encourage you to add a Christmas card, a note or picture of yourself. *(Some people have gotten a response from a child that had received a gift box.)*

* Fill in the white space on top of the box whether the gift is for a boy or a girl and the appropriate age category:

5 - 8 years

9 - 12 years

13 - 16 years

* Deliver the filled boxes to Faith Mission, 425 Roblin Blvd East in Winkler.

Monday Sewing Days.....



Every other Monday is “Ladies Work Day” at Faith Mission. The ladies get together to cut and sew blankets, underwear, do the laundry, clean up boxes under the tables and just do whatever needs to be done. New volunteers are always welcome! Call for more information.

We would really like to share more about Faith Mission's activities here at home as well as what we do in the countries where we ship our containers with Humanitarian Aid. We have so many stories to share with your church group, youth group, Sunday school or any small group.

I would be very happy to come to your church, Community Centre or even your business meeting and do a brief report or possibly a short slide presentation and on our overseas mission projects. Once again, 2015 has been an unbelievable year for the Faith Mission / FriedensBote Team in Ukraine. The war and the refugee situation has opened up countless opportunities to share the gospel with soldiers, homeless families and those who fled the war-zone in Eastern Ukraine.

Whatever you do, please continue to pray for the many new Christians in Ukraine!



Office Hours



Tuesday 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Clothing sorting & baling:

Thursday 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. & 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Bags or boxes of clothing may be dropped off at the "DROP-OFF" door on the west side of the Faith Mission warehouse building. This drop-off room is opened 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.

Board of Directors

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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
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 Please change my address as indicated below.

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