

Mission Newsletter



January - February 2016

Number 119

How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way. (Psa. 119: 103-104)

What kinds of things do we like best? Do we prefer the light, simple, foolish things of this world which are like the chaff the wind drives away (Psa. 1:4)? Or do we prefer spiritual things that cause us to reap eternal life (Rom. 8:6)? As we compare our own experiences to the experiences of the great men of God who lived before us, we may well find the answers to these questions.

Consider the psalmist's love for God's Word and the blessings it brought him. He loved to read and prayerfully meditate upon God's Word, finding therein true pleasure and abiding peace. It was sweet to his taste, sweeter than honey.

As we experience the satisfaction that comes from a thoughtful, prayerful reading and study of God's Word, we too can say that there is no pleasure on earth that can compare with it.

"Through thy precepts I get understanding." Through careful and diligent study of God's Word, the psalmist was able to discern between truth and falsehood, good and evil.

It is no different with us today. It is only as we study the Word of God that we can rightly divide the Word of truth and discern the spiritual from the ungodly. There is no other way. Satan is the great deceiver. In the last days, he will deceive the very elect, the chosen of God. Only the Word and the witness of God will give us the understanding that we need to withstand the Evil One.

"Therefore I hate every false way." The way of sin is a false way. It will lead to eternal ruin if we continue in it (Rom. 6:23). The better understanding we have of the Bible, the better prepared we are to answer every temptation.

As we seek to make these principles operative in our own lives, let us pray as the psalmist prayed, "O Lord, make thy Word a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." (Psa. 119:105) ❧❧

The War continues..... Ukraine vs. Russia



WAR IN UKRAINE – (Recent letter from Ukraine)

Who would have thought a few years ago that, in our quiet country of Ukraine, blood would be shed, thousands of people would be killed, and innocent children would be hurt and killed. Millions would have to flee from their homes and leave, not knowing where to go. Dozens and dozens of villages and towns would be destroyed. Among the worst things that happened is that many churches were seized and destroyed, and some ministers were killed. This is the reality of today, which is very hard to accept. When events like these happen somewhere else, it is perceived differently. But, when it happens in your home country, it is horrible. However, in spite of all this, we believe that we are in the hands of our Lord.

We are children of God and we cannot blame someone, or justify, who is wrong and who is right. One can say for sure that sin is guilty of what's happening. Any sin always brings its own consequences. Unfortunately, the war began nearly six thousand years ago, when a brother killed another brother. Someone calculated that there were only about three hundred years

of peace in the history of the world, the rest of the time there was war here or there. So, it will probably continue until the second coming of Christ. As God's children, which side should we support? Not any one side! We need to ask God for mercy for our country to stop the killing of soldiers and civilians on both sides. We must preach the Gospel to its extend for people in difficult situations to seek God.

Unfortunately, some churches have taken one side or the other. In some cases, this has resulted in churches splitting.

Of course, we here in western Ukraine, have mostly been under God's protection. He has preserved peace in the west. We cannot feel the effects of war as our brothers and sisters in Eastern Ukraine. During this last year, we have tried very hard not to stay on the sidelines, ignoring their difficulties. We

tried to help where we could. We collected food products, tools, gifts for people and children in Eastern Ukraine, where the war is.

Hundreds of soldiers from all over Ukraine, fought to stop the invasion. Unfortunately, many of soldiers returned to the Carpathian region in a coffin. Many children became orphans, many women ended up as widows. Today, hundreds of men are mobilized into the army, and there is still no end in sight.

God calls "all people to do good things to all people". At our meetings during the Christmas holidays, there were many children whose fathers are in the ATO (this is how we officially call this war – Anti Terrorist Operation). There were also many mothers whose sons had to fight in the war.

It was surprising how poorly equipped the Ukrainian soldiers were. They didn't even have essential things like nutritious meals, warm clothing, bedding, not to mention the terrible conditions in which they live.



Ukrainian people in Eastern Ukraine standing in line for humanitarian aid.



When a mother or a wife comes to us, pleading for underwear, socks, jackets, or sleeping bags to send to the forefront of war fields, it leaves us in a state of awe! Where is the

government? And, what are they doing to protect our country? But, we give what we have. Only because of what our friends from Canada and Germany have sent to us. So, they are so excited when we can help!

Recently a woman, whose husband had died, came to us. She told me how badly she was treated in the office of the local authorities where she had to prove that her husband died in the war.

Another mother came. Her son is recovering from an injury. He has been suffering terrible depression in the hospital for many months. They also asked for help, but, our possibilities are limited. It's so good that we can at least give them warm clothing and bedding, but people often ask for medicines.

At the end 2015, I spent some time with a young mother with a one-week old baby in her arms. Her husband is in the ATO. We were delighted to help these people that we have here.

Last year we accommodated two soldiers from the ATO and gave them some rest. One of them was a chaplain and the other one was a private. The chaplain told me that he had to deliver 14 coffins to different parts of Ukraine. He shared his concern about how very difficult it would be for many of these men to return to civilian life. Their mentality is destroyed because of the many gruesome scenes they witnessed at war. If it is God's will, we believe that these horrible events will soon end.

The son of one of our sisters in Christ was in captivity. Thank God, he was soon released, and now he is back at home. Also a few brothers came to us from the Donbas, right from the region where the worst fighting happened. One of them was also taken captive. He shared about the deplorable conditions under which they were kept. That was not easy.

Friends, if it would be possible to help people, the families of those killed or injured, who come to us, we would be very happy to arrange meetings with these people, perhaps during the Easter Holidays, if God prolongs our time.

Thank God that our brothers in Christ are not forced to go to the army. The Ukrainian government understands that Christian church members can't serve in the army and kill other people. To show that, we give our church members a special letter from our church to the local army authorities about our beliefs and so far it helps. Also, fathers who have three or more children are also exempt from mobilization.

This is how it is now... (Jan.19, 2016)Anatoliy

Christmas in the Carpathians....

"The days pass quickly on the wings" - so begins a Christian song we know. We fly and no one can stop time that is given to us by God in order to live for His glory. Christ was born in Bethlehem for salvation and service to others. For this reason, He has called us to be among His children. One cannot serve God and do not serve the people, especially when we have such opportunities.

Traditionally the year begins with many meetings with children and adults. These meetings would not be so crowded if it hadn't been for our caring friends from Canada. That is what we told to all the people that we talked to at each meeting. We prepared almost 400 sacks of clothing, that we have received from you. We put the Faith Mission address on the sacks and social workers delivered them to those places where we were supposed to meet, ahead of time. We also bought Christmas gift boxes to be distributed. We had about 430 gifts left from last year. This was wonderful surprise for both the children and their parents.

Our meetings started on January 3 in the House of Prayer (our central church) in Verhovyna. On January 1st and 2nd as usual there was a camp with 180 children. On the third, the church was full with nearly 240 children and 100 adults. We also got two brothers from Germany who participated in all services, and a family group from Volyn who perfectly played string instruments. And at 2:00 pm we were in the community



hall in Dovgopole. To our surprise the place was filled to capacity, many people were standing as all seats were taken. We had 170 children and 150 adults. A choir from Storozhinets was invited to participate. The meeting was attended by the head of the village council who organized this meeting.

And on Monday, January 4th, at 7 am we were on our way to Kosmach, Kosiv district. It was cold – 20°C, which is very cold with our humidity but nevertheless, nearly 170 children and 200 adults came out. This village is almost 100 km from Verkhovyna. The meeting was held in the school building where we came for the third time. The school principal and the chairman of the village council greeted us with joy.

Then we headed to the second village 20 kilometers away, Stopchativ. When we arrived the community hall was full of children with their parents - 165 children and 220 adults. All the gifts and sacks of clothing we distributed were exclusively from Faith Mission in Canada.

After this we drove to a Senior's home in the village Yabluniv which was next to the previous one. The poor people were very happy. And then we went back to our "headquarters" at Staische.

The next morning, January 5 at 8 am, we drove 50 kilometers to the town of Kosiv. The Kosiv Central Community Hall accommodated over 150 children and 150 adults. It was an excellent service with accompanying choir and little family orchestra who praised God. After the service was over we went back to Verkhovyna, and again at 2pm 100 children and 100 adults were waiting for us. They were invited by the local governmental youth service.

On the same day, another group of our brothers and sisters from church visited a school in Zelene village. They gathered 95 children.

On January 6, in the morning, we went to the school which we used for our first Christian camps. They gathered 110 children and more than 10 teachers and the school principal. They were happy we not did forget their school children. At 12:00 noon we drove to the next village of Krasnik where 75 children were having lunch. Next we visited the Crisis Center in Verkhovyna, a home for abused mothers with children who run away from their alcoholic husbands.



On January 7th, the day we celebrate Christmas, we had 85 children with their parents in our church in Rivnya .

Later that day, we served about 30 people in a nursing home in the village of Krasnoillya. As always, they greeted us warmly.

On January 8th, the small church in the village Tuchapy was filled with 70 children and some of their parents.

Then we went to the town of Snyatin the home for 110 mentally disabled people. They range in age from 12 to 50 years. They director asked if we could come more often. The supervisors have said, that after our meetings these mentally challenged residents behave better and help each other. We should be more grateful to God for our physical and mental health, and our sound mind and body.

So, in 6 days, we had 15 meetings with almost 1,500 children and 1,000 adults. We are grateful to God that our country has such a wonderful opportunity to preach the Gospel freely to these people. God gave us friends in Canada who provide us with gifts we can distribute to children and adults. But, what is most important is that they get to hear the word of God on such occasions.

Dear Faith Mission friends, we thank God for all the volunteers and churches who remember us and help our people.

God's blessings to the ministry of Faith Mission, your Churches and your families.

Your friends, Peter and Elena with children and grandchildren.

**Come see us at MissionFest Manitoba
1397 Buffalo Place - Winnipeg, MB
Friday - Sunday - February 5 - 7**



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.

Faith Mission (FriedensBote) Inc.

**New Mailing Address: 425 Roblin Blvd East
Winkler, Manitoba R6W 0H2**

Phone (204) 325-4086

Toll-free Fax (866) 478-0345

Email: info@faithmission.ca

www.faithmission.ca

Office and Warehouse located at

NEW LOCATION - 425 Roblin Blvd East



*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.

Name.....

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Telephone.....

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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

Another Great Gift Box Project is Done

So, another gift box season has come and gone very quickly again. As many of you are probably aware the gift boxes have been moved from my basement to the new FM building in Winkler. In previous years my family and I would go through each box individually, which I'm sure you can imagine was a daunting task as we were doing anywhere from 800 to 1200 boxes per year. So what would happen is that we would go load our van with the gift boxes, take them home, go through each box, and then deliver them back to Faith Mission once they were done. Needless to say, we perfected the art of carrying 6 or 7 filled boxes up and down the stairs quite well. This year has been much easier because the boxes came in at Faith Mission and we were able to go through them right there and most of the time there were willing hands and feet to help carry the boxes to the second floor so we could check through them and tape and number each box. Once the boxes are completed they are stacked on pallets and then lifted down with a forklift to be loaded into the container for shipping.

We have completed 1,213 boxes this year. It is very humbling to think that 1,213 lives have been impacted by what we do here. For me, it is a joy to do this work, and so exciting to imagine the joy it will bring to so many children. Really, it is only a very small sacrifice of my time. It really blows my mind to think that something we often take for granted here can be a life changing experience to someone in another country! That being said, I do not in any way, want to diminish all the help from other volunteers, that have spent many hours making this project work and it has worked so well! Many supplies have been donated to help round out the boxes, and many hours have gone into knitting hats and scarves. Countless school bags have been sewn for the children to use for their books and school supplies. Money has been donated making it possible for us to buy more supplies when our donated items run out. So many hands have participated in packing the boxes and delivering them to FM. Without all the volunteers, this project would not be what it is and we say, "THANK YOU!"

I've been asked more than once this year as to why we feel it necessary to open each box and check its contents, so I will try to explain briefly. We have a list of items we like to see in each box, and we try to make sure that each item is included. School supplies and hygiene items, may not cause much excitement for children out here but are of great value to those who might not be able to attend school without them. So, we feel those must be included. Mitts toques and scarves are of great value when you live in a cold climate and don't have access to them. While we do like to add fun things like toys and candy they are not what we like to put our emphases on. We also have to remove some items such as anything liquid as it could freeze and make a mess. Jewelry, they do not use. War related toys, spider man, transformers etc. are not acceptable because children in war torn countries find these things scary and offensive.

We try to keep the contents of the boxes as close to the original as we can. Our friends in Ukraine have asked that we make the boxes as uniform as possible, in content and value. I should also mention that if you include letters and/or Christmas cards we will always include them in your box. So, we encourage you to add a picture and letter to your box. I have even seen some boxes that include a self addressed envelope. This is a great idea. I hope you can now understand why it is necessary that we check the boxes.

While the 2015/2016 gift box season has come to a close we already look forward to another wonderful season, Lord willing, starting in September or October. We will gladly accept any gift box supplies as well as designated donations of 'Gift Box' funds any time of the year. Take advantage of 'end of season' sales and save where you can.

Hopefully now that we are settled into our new location in Winkler, we can get more groups in to help with the gift boxes and therefore pack many more boxes! So if you have a group that would like to take part in this amazing mission feel free to give us a call and we will try to set something up.

Traci.....



Gift boxes in top photo are ready to be loaded into the container in Winkler, Manitoba. Bottom photos were taken in Ukraine at various distribution locations this last Christmas.

- \$2000 \$1000
- \$500 \$300
- \$200 \$100
- \$50 \$25

Other Amt \$ _____

"God loves a cheerful giver....."

Please fold along dotted line and return
This mailing card with your donation

Date: _____ Cheque # _____

Please use my donation for:

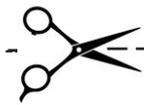
- Shipping Costs Children's Camps
- Literature Printing Pastor Support
- Christmas Gift Boxes Building Fund
- Wherever Most Needed

(2016-#01)

Please fold along dotted line and return
This mailing card with your donation

Please make all Cheques payable to
Faith Mission

Tax deductible receipts will be issued at
the beginning of the following year



Please Note:

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Effective immediately:

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425 Roblin Blvd East

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