

Mission Newsletter



November - December 2016

Number 124

And suddenly there was with the angel, a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.' (Luke 2:13 - 14)

Merry Christmas!
From all of us at Faith Mission

This is the season of the year when goodwill and love for others spreads warmth and cheer around the world. In sending His Son into the world, God manifested His goodwill to us. Therefore, it is only natural that we give glory to Him who designed and planned our redemption. It was for our joy and comfort that the angels sang, "...on earth peace, good will toward men."

In Christ, peace was brought into this world of turmoil and strife. He alleviated the ill will that sin had raised between God and man. If we are at peace with God, we have complete peace --- peace of conscience and peace with our fellowman.

Peace is the fruit of all the good that flows to us from the union of the divine nature and the human nature in Jesus Christ.

Since all the good that we can ever hope to have is due to God's goodwill, He must receive all the glory. Our peace and goodwill cannot be inconsistent with the glory of God. There can be no peace in sin or self-indulgences, but only in Jesus Christ.

Many years ago, tidings of joy to all people were proclaimed by the heavenly host. Those tidings of great joy still ring out today - for all people, races, and tongues. Jesus still invites mankind to come to Him.

It is a glorious blessing to really know Jesus and the true significance of His birth. Time was divided forever as God became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14). He brought to an end the division between God and man because of sin. He brought peace to all who will accept Him as their Saviour and Lord. (It is a peace that goes beyond all understanding and penetrates the very soul and spirit of man.) Mere words could never express Jesus to us. We must be forever seeking to know more of Him through His Word, prayer, and the Holy Spirit. ♦♦♦

It's Christmas.... A time for gift giving!

What does giving gifts at Christmas mean? People give gifts at Christmas for many reasons. People who love and follow Jesus give gifts to remember the true "Gift" - Jesus. Giving presents also reminds us of the gifts the wise men brought to Jesus: gold, frankincense and myrrh. Gifts are also given to show love for families and friends. Our Faith Mission Gifts are



Loading bales, blankets and Christmas Gift Boxes into the Container. Nov. 17, 2016

given for all the reasons listed here plus more. Many of the Ukrainian children who receive the gift boxes really “need” the items that are packed inside. We try to make sure that each gift box contains necessities like socks, toque, scarf, hygiene items like soap and toothbrush and toothpaste as well as school supplies for the school aged packages. Most of the time some Christian literature will be distributed with the Gift Boxes. We have heard where entire families have come to know the Lord Jesus through these small gifts.



Volunteers packing Gift Boxes at the Faith Mission Warehouse

This article taken with permission from Missionswerk FriedensBote Nachrichten Nov/Dez 2016

Mission work FriedensBote and Faith Mission have supported the church in Uzin, Ukraine for several decades. Jakob Janzen (Germany) recently visited the church community in this area of Ukraine. Here is a report that Jakob has shared with us.



Pastor Viktor Martschuk

I was picked up at the Kiev airport by Viktor Martschuk. Although it was only an 85 kilometer drive, it was well past midnight when we arrived at Viktor's home in Belya Tserkov. At 9 o'clock, next morning Viktor's wife Lilli gave us a hearty breakfast. Although we had a short night... we could not sleep late because Viktor's schedule for the day was full, like always.

Uzin - the secret city

Viktor is the elder of the Church in the city of Uzin, which is a 30 minute drive from Belya Tserkov. Uzin could not be found on any Soviet map up to the turning point in the 1990's. The city was a very important secret military airport. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Ukraine renounced their nuclear weapons program and therefore the city of Uzin lost its strategic importance.

Up till then, there wasn't a single Church in Uzin. There were also no believers in the region. For several years, the Christians in the neighbouring town of Belya Tserkov prayed for a revival in Uzin. Well, God began to work. We do not know how it happened but somehow a Bible ended up in the hands of a captain stationed there. In 1991 this captain approached his commander with the request to organize an Easter service.

God is building his Church...

News of the unusual Easter worship soon reached the Christians in Belya Tserkov and their church decided to send a group of young people to Uzin to investigate the situation. Among these young people, was a 23 year old brother Viktor Martschuk. Viktor soon became acquainted with the captain. More Evangelistic events followed at the Airport and in the city of Uzin. The first soldiers accepted Jesus on the airport tarmac, exactly where fighter jets had taken off and landed. The first converts were baptized in 1993. The foundation for the new church had been laid.

... and the gates of hell can not prevail!

Church construction began in 1996, however, not without trials. One night all the building materials went up in flames. Later, they found an empty gasoline can nearby. Several days



Ukraine --- All for love in Jesus Name....
a 'new' bike and a Christmas Gift

Faith Mission would like to thank all of you for supporting the 2016 Gift Box project. We have been encouraged and blessed with all the gift boxes that were prepared by the different Sunday Schools, Youth Groups, Private Schools, and individual families. We have also packed hundreds of boxes at Faith Mission and would like to thank all the people who volunteered their time to do this. A special thank you to all those who sent in donations designated for the Gift Box Project. We are always looking for special deals on items that would be suitable for the gift boxes during the year so our Gift Box program is really a year-round project. If you would like to help us get a head start for next year's project, you can still designate your donation for this program.

later, Viktor's car was demolished with building blocks while he and some other young men were guarding the construction site. In addition, Viktor received phone calls, demanding that they cease construction immediately; otherwise bad things would happen to him and his family.

All of this happened during a time when the country was in a terrible mess. Again and again, people were being killed for no reason and no one could be certain that he would live to see tomorrow. That's why, Viktor and his fellow workers, were taking these threats very seriously. Within a short period of time, Viktor and Lilli received more than 50 letters, threatening to take away their fourth floor apartment. It was because of all this, that they decided to hide their children with relatives. One time Viktor was beaten by some unknown thugs. Thankfully, they ran off when they saw some officers walk by. After that Viktor and Lilli did not go out alone. Viktor's car ended up with slashed tires and brake hoses cut.

Using his cane...serving the Lord

Viktor's health worsened. On November 17th, 1997, only 28 years old, he suffered a stroke. A year later, the second stroke followed. The prayers of many Christians in Ukraine, as well as in Germany, Austria and Switzerland were of great help for him. They knew that God's grace could recover Viktor.

The construction of the church building continued despite all the threats and difficulties. Eventually it was completed.

A few years ago, Viktor suffered a third stroke which the doctors have diagnosed as a permanent disability. Since then, he is unable to work and receives a modest disability pension.

The church now consists of about 150 members. Closing the airport has left many people unemployed and many have left the region. If it had not closed, there would likely be far more than 200 members.

After breakfast, Viktor grabbed his cane and we walked to the secure parking lot, where Viktor parks his van. Viktor's day was about to begin.

Raising four children in a shed...

We drove 10 kilometers past Uzin to the village of Malaya Antonovka. After many years of mission work a small church has been started. The church has a small meeting hall and an even smaller outbuilding, not much more than a small shed



Tatiana Sorokina and her 4 children

which has been rebuilt for living space. Tatiana Sorokina and her four children live in this shed. She was born in this village, but moved to the town of Uzin after getting married. There, she attended the evangelic church services and accepted Jesus into her life in 2006. Her husband, Vadim, also attended the services together with his wife, but when they both lost their jobs, things went downhill. They were living with her non-Christian mother. The church decided to help them out and offered them the small 'shed' by the church in the village of Malaya Antonovka. The shed was repaired, and a stove installed, and the Sorokina family moved in.

After about a year, Vadim began drinking again and again lost his job. Soon after this, their third child was born. Then in 2011 things really fell apart. Vadim, in a drunken state, stabbed his wife with multiple stab wounds and seriously injured her lung. She lost a lot of blood. Tatiana survived the attack but made no attempt to keep her husband from going to prison. At the time of the stabbing, she was pregnant with her fourth child. Vadim didn't go to prison but left the family and disappeared for about three years. Then Tatiana was informed that her husband was in the hospital. After living on the street for three years, he had been picked up as a homeless man, very seriously ill with tuberculosis. His spleen removed but he did not recover from the illness. Praise the Lord, Vadim repented and asked forgiveness from Tatiana and from God before his death in October of 2015.

Tatiana had always considered herself to be married after Vadim's disappearance, so she did not qualify for the single parent's pension. Now she is recognised as a widow and receives a small pension. Her youngest child is diagnosed as 'Autistic'. The boy responds little to his surroundings. At the age of two, he began to talk a bit, but has stopped talking. He also has a great fear to drive in a vehicle with other people. It is only when Viktor comes to pick them up, he is willing to get into his vehicle. So, Victor brings Tatiana and her son Mark to Kiev for doctor's appointments again and again. Tatiana is very grateful that they do not need to live on the street. They have a roof over their head and walls around them. There is now a possibility that the church will build a small breezeway on their house to keep the cold winds out.

Tatiana's dream...

Tatiana shared her dream with us when we visited her. She would so much like an electric stove for cooking. Cooking with wood in the tiny kitchen on hot summer days is almost unbearable. We had stopped to buy some groceries for Tatiana. The government aid is not enough for the ever-increasing prices and the crisis in the Ukraine. Her medication bill alone consumes more than half of her monthly income. We were able to get her a basic electric stove before I went home. (Jakob Janzen)

(Editor's comments: We have been very close friends with Viktor, Lilli and their family. We stayed at their house in 2013 when we visited Ukraine. It was in their home where I ate my first 'big meal' on my 60th birthday. I will never forget that, eating roast duck, potatoes, veggies and the works after almost 7 years of tube feeding. This is a very special article for me and I hope it touches you too.... Jake Elias)

Deadline for 2016 charitable donations is almost here.....\$\$\$

Important Note to all Faith Mission supporters:

It's very hard to believe but the end of the year is fast approaching so if you would like to use your Faith Mission Charitable Receipt for your 2016 Income Tax return, please make sure that your donation is dated for 2016 and is postmarked no later than December 31, 2016.

Canada Revenue Agency will not allow us to receipt donations for 2016 if they are not dated for 2016.

Thank you for your support!

Glory to God in the highest....peace to all men!

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
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- Please add my name to your mailing list.
 Please change my address as indicated below.

Name.....

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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.

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