

Mission Newsletter



November - December 2017

Number 130

“Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.” (Matt. 5:9)

Now if peacemakers are blessed, then woe to the peacebreakers. There are many people today that break the peace, that destroy the peace because of contention.

Now peacebreakers love to fish in troubled waters. They try to stir up trouble; and if they can manage to do so, they're happy. In contrast to peace breakers, peacemakers live a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness.

Jesus promised a special blessing to the peacemaker. Sometimes to make peace, to have peace, we have to give a little more than we get. We have to be slighted a little bit. But isn't the price worth it? Isn't it better to have peace, even if you don't get your own way in all things? The attitude often is, “These are my rights and I will stick up for them no matter what comes or goes.” There may be a time when you should do that very thing, but always weigh the matter very carefully. See if the course may not be better if you gave a few of those rights away in order to gain peace.

If you have to suffer want, or if someone demands your coat, then the Scripture says to give him your cloak as well.

Peace is a quality of the child of God, but the child of God should never compromise his walk with God in order to have peace. We have to stand our ground on our Christian principles. This can often cause unrest for a time. The Lord expects us to handle ourselves in a peaceful way, yet always standing for what His Word says.

Unrest may result, but it will eventually lead to peace if we remain peaceable and stand firm on His Word. People will often see the error of their ways and repent. When they do, they will love you for the stand you took. Peace will result.

Remember, there is no peace when we compromise the Word of God. We will feel uneasy, and they will continue to walk away from God and will surely not find peace in that way. ❁❁❁

FAITH MISSION TEAM 2 WEEK TOUR OF UKRAINE JUNE 27 - JULY 12, 2017 (PART 3)

(Continuing where we left it in the last Newsletter.....There is a bit of overlapping)

Kharkov - our Mission contact point in eastern Ukraine

Kharkov, the second largest city in the Ukraine, has 1.45 million inhabitants and is located about 30 kilometres from the Russian border. Although the tension with neighboring Russia has eased somewhat, it is still far from peaceful. There are still military check points where all vehicles must pass through. Approximately 600,000 war refugees, have settled in Kharkov from the bombed-out south-east part of the country . The total refugee count is about 2.5 million people.

Leonid Tkachev, leader of the Rostov Kaja Street Church in Kharkov, was our hosts for a couple of very busy days. Leonid took us through the city and the surrounding area where we visited three different churches, a Christian Children's Camp, a rehabilitation center for drug and alcohol addicts, the municipal association of war veterans and an orphanage.

Everywhere we visited, we were welcomed with open arms. After all, much of the Humanitarian Relief supplies from Missionswerk FriedensBote, Germany, from Faith Mission, Canada, and "Le Messenger de la Paix" from France, ends up in Kharkov. From here it will be forwarded on to other churches in eastern Ukraine. Even the police are respectful, when they see a truck or van loaded with mattresses, bedding and clothing: “More help from the West?”



Leonid and his family

God's Great Love Spreads Like an Infection....

The next day we went to the village of Sokolowo not far from Kharkov where we have the privilege to work with Paul and his family. The church takes care of the poorest of the poor in their environment. These are the elderly, sick and lonely people, who have been forgotten by society.

Paul inquired if we had any interest to see some real poverty.... we said yes by all means! The narrow trail meandered through the dense forest and led us into a small village. When we stopped at a half-dilapidated shack, we could hardly believe that someone could live in such an abode. Whoever was looking after this lady, must have a strong faith and find strength from God.

People from the church have been busy cleaning and repairing and painting dwellings like this. Some have been confined to their beds for weeks, or even months, so they are helped to get out into the fresh air. Some get washed and their wounds and bed sores treated properly. Obviously, this lady had not been getting such care yet, but Paul will make sure she gets some help.

The seriously ill, older lady, sat up in her bed and looked at us with a smile of hope. Paul was a ray of light in her dark environment. Our visit did not last long. We left her some food, prayed with her and went to two other similar places. Paul told us that most of these older people who are being cared for by their church, have accepted Christ into their life and are looking forward to their death and the joy of salvation in Jesus Christ.

Paul and Lubov have two daughters. Natasha with her husband Vitali and Tatiana were inspired by the love of their parents to care for the defenseless and forgotten orphans. Natasha and Tatiana have both adopted 10 orphans. We have written about this in earlier newsletters.

The orphans we visited with were divided into three age groups. The fates of the orphans, before they were adopted by the Nikolajenko family, was a picture of horror and deep suffering. It was mostly the result of the random use of drugs and alcohol by the booze cronies and criminals. At that time, the children were often found by the landfills, searching for something to feed themselves. Many suffered from serious diseases.

Now their faces beamed with joy as they sang. The words of their songs stirred us deeply: "We were standing on the edge of the Abyss, for us it was only one short step to hell... Lord, why do you love us so much?..."

Some members in the community of Sokolovo followed the example of the Nikolajenko family. Thus, the total number of

adopted orphans in the Community is close to 50. When we arrived at the Sunday evening worship service in the Church, we were very surprised to see a lot more children than adults. Their energetic and joyful singing "shook the rafters" as the saying goes and really touched our hearts.

If you would like to support this new Orphan program in Ukraine, please designate your gift as Orphan Support on the Mailing Card.

The Boarding School for Disabled Orphans

We will Never Forget them....!

Our road to Druschkowka (240 km south of Kharkov) was close to the front line of the war. The scars that the left behind are terrible - bomb struck businesses, hospitals and many private homes. Some buildings have been temporarily renovated. Nobody knows how secure the situation is today. Even now, extreme danger lurks through the region's land mines. They have taken many innocent victims from the civilian population. For many months, even the birds stopped singing.

The disabled orphans in the boarding school of the city of Druschkowka were delighted about our visit. The director, Oxana Viktorovna, gave us a tour of the entire facility and we were very pleased with the excellent care the orphans received. The operation was very well-organized. The older children took great care of the smaller ones. The disabled teens and youth proudly presented us with some of their handcrafted projects.

We were taken into two rooms where we saw the handicapped boys who were confined to their beds 24 hours every day, 7 days per week. These beds had been donated by FriedensBote in Germany 3 years ago. Up until that time, they were lying on blankets and mattresses on the floor. We noticed that some of these boys were already 15 and 16 years old, some possibly weighing 25 to 30 pounds. Everything looked clean and well maintained. Observing these children really aroused a deep compassion in all of us. Eduard was able to speak their language, so he walked up to a few of the little beds, stroking the children and quietly whispered to them: "Jesus loves you very much...." We very much hoped that they could understand this.

Our friends in Kharkiv have already taken some of the orphans to their special Holiday Services in their church or to some children's events in the city. This has left the orphans with a very pleasant memory and they keep asking: "When will you do it again?" We are very pleased that this boarding school is very open for such Christian initiatives.

At the end of our visit we asked the director what their special needs were at the moment. With tears in her eyes, her reply was: "Our food processing machine has broken down and many of our paralyzed children can not chew." After a brief consultation with the brothers from Germany and



Ukraine, and a quick search on the Internet for a suitable unit, we decided that Faith Mission would be willing to provide the funding for the purchase of a new machine.

We left several boxes with clothing and a few boxes of bananas with the orphans. This triggered such a great joy in these young people. "Joy Unspeakable....." came to my mind! **1 >**

After three hours we headed back to Kharkov. We had mixed feelings.



Tatjana and Vladimir Reschetnik, always smiling, thankful that they can still be involved in the ministry. The family is still struggling with health issues resulting from being exposed to the nuclear radiation more than 30 years ago.

The images of those suffering orphans are permanently etched in our hearts. They waved their good-byes but asked us to visit them again. And we pray that God will grant the prayers of these poor children.

Unfortunately it is not possible to describe in detail all of our experiences. From here our tour took us to Dyer (in the vicinity of the Chernobyl nuclear accident which happened in April 1986). We visited the family of Vladimir and Tatjana Reschetnik and took part in the evening

worship at their church. Then we spent three days, "working" in the south-western part of the Ukraine, in the Carpathians, where our missionary friend, Peter Nastasichuk lives and works. That will be a topic for the next issue.

Please, pray for the above-mentioned needs of our dear Ukrainian brothers and sisters. Don't forget to pray for the sick and elderly who are often forgotten and helpless. ❀❀❀

Special Thank-you to Brookdale School

This article is written by Betty Unrau - MacGregor

The Brookdale School decided that this year their philanthropy project would be Christmas Gift Boxes for Faith Mission. The staff made this into an educational project for the children. First of all, they had the students make lists of needs and wants, and what was to go into the boxes. **(Photo 1)** Then the teachers went shopping for all the supplies. Each group wrote a letter to the recipient of the box they were doing. **(2)** The staff set up a store for the children and provided them with play money, to purchase the items for their group. **(3)** As they went along the list they had to "estimate" the total till they got to \$45.00. **(4)** The "store manager" totalled the entries and if they were over the amount allowed, they had to return an item or several and decide how they could get close to the right amount. **(5)** If they were under \$45.00 they could go to the store and purchase more. Then they had to try to get everything into the box. It was a great lesson in printing and writing, organization skills, math and calculating change in this way.

There are about 27 students in the school and they had a lot of fun doing their shopping and packing the Christmas Gift Boxes for the boys & girls in Ukraine.

Thank-You to all those involved. May God Bless you! ❀❀❀



The 2017 Christmas Gift Box Drive

A big thank you to all who took part in this year's Faith Mission Gift Box Drive. As most of you already know, having read the stories in past newsletters, there are many needs in Ukraine and the surrounding countries. Filling a gift box is such a simple thing for us to do. Really, we could say it's an overseas mission that we can participate in, right in the comfort of our own homes. You can make it a family project; go shopping together with your young children and at the same time explain the reason for the mission and teaching the children the importance and the value of helping those less fortunate than ourselves. As our newsletter is going to print, it looks like this year's Gift Boxes will all be packed into the Container that is scheduled to be loaded on the very same evening that the Newsletters get stuffed into envelopes to be mailed out. We will be shipping about 1,250 Gift boxes to the Republic of Georgia this year. Although we have never visited Georgia, our co-workers from Germany say that there is even more poverty in that country than in Ukraine.



Please pray that the container will arrive in Poti, Georgia without any problems.

Hey, it's not too late.....! If you would still like to help out our Gift Box ministry, you can designate your donation toward this project by checking off the Gift Boxes check Box on the Mailing Card.



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 and is emptied on a regular basis. However, if you have more than a few bags or boxes, please call ahead to arrange your 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.

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