

Mission Newsletter



January - February 2021

Number 149

And Jacob said, “O God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, the Lord which saidst unto me, Return unto thy country, and to thy kindred, and I will deal well with thee: I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant...” (Gen. 32:9-10)

To call upon God at any time, and especially in a time of trouble, is the gracious privilege of every true Christian. Since Jacob’s success in prayer is a shining example for us to follow, let’s consider his prayer.

“O God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac.” Jacob, first of all, considered himself too unworthy to call God HIS God, so in praying, he addressed God as the God of his fathers.

“The Lord which saidst unto me, Return unto thy country, and to thy kindred, and I will deal well with thee.” Jacob was actually begging at the throne of grace. We too may be going where God calls us and, like Jacob, find our way hedged with thorns, but if God is our guide, He will be our guard also.

“I am not worthy...” Just as Jacob acknowledged his unworthiness, we must acknowledge that within ourselves we are unworthy. And if any one of us would be worthy, it would only be through Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:13). Much of God’s dealing with Jacob and the great blessings poured out upon him were no doubt because of his humble attitude. Self-denial and humility become us at the throne of grace. Jesus commended the centurion who said, “Lord, I am not worthy” (Matt. 8:8).

“...Of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant.” Notice how Jacob spoke of God’s mercy and truth. With humility he remembered many past mercies, and with faith he looked forward to future and further mercy from God’s inexhaustible fountain of goodness. God’s truth, even though Jacob didn’t have much of the Scripture in comparison to what we have now, was more precious to him than all the hosts that followed Esau. Surely we today are better prepared for God’s mercy and truth if we earnestly pray with Jacob, “I am not worthy,

“Thanks to you, we have hope for tomorrow!”



- Toma B. is a smart and sweet five year old child. Before giving birth to Toma her parents were planning to terminate the pregnancy, so the fact that she is alive is no small miracle. But today the parents are happy that they kept their dear child: “We are grateful to the Christians that they gave us

advice and practical help at the right time. It was a fight and God won!” They were especially grateful for the food package and the visit. The mother said, “During the current pandemic and isolation you are like a ray of light to us. Thanks to you, we have hope of surviving tomorrow! A huge thank you and God protect you!”



Because I was hungry and you fed me ...

"Because the poor are oppressed and the poor groan, I will now arise," says the Lord; "I want to bring salvation to him who longs for it!" (Psalm 12: 6)

God knows your need! - In 2020, the need for staple foods was particularly noticeable. For many families, the situation has deteriorated dramatically. Often people had tears in their eyes when they received the food packages from us. As a result, the ray of Christmas light warmed their hearts. Many asked the same question: "But we don't know anyone in Canada - how is it that someone cares for us?" Then we were allowed to explain to them that God knows them and that His children, the Christians, have a wish in their hearts to help those that are in need. We were allowed to speak about God and thank Him together for the fact that He knows the need and provides through other people for the needy and lonely. With your support we were able to pack 450 food packages. We brought 200 parcels to the eastern Ukrainian regions of Lugansk and Donetsk, where fires in early 2020 left over 3,000 people homeless. We distributed the remaining 250 food parcels in the Kharkov region. Each package weighed 14 kg and was therefore a very important support. In addition, an evangelistic calendar of 2021, and a Christian book from FriedensBote were added to each package. On behalf of the many people in need, we would like to pass on some testimonials:



A ray of light in the darkest moment - The Chwostenko family met many difficult trials. The eldest son suffers from polio. His parents

have cancer and are currently on chemotherapy. Their youngest child is only nine years old. Two months ago they buried their grandmother, who died of Covid. The grandmother was the family's sunshine and a great help. After all this the family cried for joy when we brought them the grocery package: "You came into our lives in the darkest moment! Please say a big thank you to everyone who made this possible!"

Mercy at the right time - The widow Marina R. is raising a 14-year-old daughter who suffers from Down syndrome. She herself suffers from HIV and hepatitis, and for this reason cannot find a job - an insurmountable obstacle. All of her income is the child's meager sickness benefit. The "Heart to Heart" package and the clothes from Faith Mission were very valuable to her. She said, "It's amazing! You brought the groceries when I ran out! Thank you to everyone who is so merciful."



God speaks through food packages - Lena G. raises her autistic boy alone. Her husband died a year ago. Until then, they had their own business, cars and money. The only thing they lacked was God. But life is unpredictable. Today the two only live from handicapped child benefits and sporadic help from other people. When Lena's husband died and she lost

everything, she began attending Christian services. We see God working in her heart and we help her where we can. When she thanked for the groceries, she said, "I see that God is taking care of me. I cannot deny the fact that He loves me anymore. He calls me through the grocery package!"

On the run -

The large Boldinow family was very pleased with the large Christmas package. With indescribable difficulties they had managed to escape from the war zone to



Novoaidar. Christians sheltered them in a small, empty house. Now the family is working hard to gain a foothold in society and is sincerely grateful for any kind of help.

The Last Coin for God's kingdom - Maria also lives alone in Zolochiv. She tries not to miss any church service. From her modest pension, she regularly donates to evangelism and mission. When she saw the amount and variety of the



grocery parcel, she reacted very unusual: "Now I have groceries for several weeks and can donate more to the community!"

They still exist, the widows who use their last coins for

the kingdom of God.

Thank you, dear friends of the mission, for making the "Heart to Heart" campaign possible.

Leonid Tkachev / Ukraine

Warm Home...Warm Hearts

Firewood & Coal for the needy...

God says: "I am even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you. (Isaiah 46:4)

The "Warm Home" project was a very special help for people this winter. This important service to one's neighbor promotes growth of the church and allows the gospel to be spread. God bless you for that! We want to give you a brief insight into the life of particularly needy families to whom the help was passed on. Leonid T. from the Kharkov region / Ukraine reports:

Love service gives new courage to face life - Mirabi is Georgian, for most of his life has lived in sunny and warm Abkhazia. During military conflict in Georgia in 1993, he was one of the thousands of refugees who had to leave their homes to save their lives. He found his new home in a Ukrainian village not far from the city of Kharkov. Mirabi was converted through street evangelism and soon afterwards he became of the deacon of the local church. He cares for the lonely and the elderly with a lot of love and picks them up regularly for church services.

Mirabi's wife passed away suddenly three months ago. He was so depressed that he lost all ambition, and couldn't even take care of his own concerns.

When he was told that the mission would provide him with firewood for the winter it shook him out of his stupor. When I met him again, he was able to smile again and said: "This sympathy of the Christians from the west brought me to life!" He resumed his deacon services in the community, and was able to overcome his desolation. Through this act of love by the missionary friends, God showed Mirabi that He, as Heavenly Father, thinks of him, loves him and cares for him.

You will not freeze! - Volchansk is a small Ukrainian district town on the Russian border. It has no industry and hardly any asphalt roads. The city is home to a large number of unemployed, homeless, and criminals. Most of the population lives in extreme poverty. This already bleak situation has become even worse due to the current Covid-19 pandemic because there is hardly any work left. People ask themselves: "How are we supposed to survive the winter?" The Christian community in the city has about one hundred members. Christians try to give courage to the frustrated people by preaching the gospel, but their own financial situation is no better than that of the other city dwellers. With the last of their resources, everyone tries to support their own family to the best of their ability. The joy and gratitude of the Christians was even greater when they received firewood for heating their church houses with the help of Faith Mission. Thanks to the



support, the visitors at the services this winter will not freeze, and the Christmas message was witnessed in Christian love. Nikolai S., the pastor of the congregation, reports: "Perhaps heating is commonplace for some - but we thank God in every service, that we can enjoy this warmth!"

The joy of the people is the greatest reward - Everyone in the village of Novorossosch knows Pastor Anatolij. If someone is in need, he turns to Anatolij. One can only be amazed how he manages everything: to get medicine and food from the larger neighboring village, to give people first aid, as a veterinarian to give advice for the cattle, to provide the homeless and starving with a warm meal, and much more. When the painfully cold winter came, the socially disadvantaged people in the village stood at Anatolij's door again and asked: "May we come into your house for at least a few hours to warm up?" All the greater was Anatolij's thanks for the support on the part of the mission work. This enabled the particularly needy to be helped. Men from the Christian alcoholic rehabilitation center helped split, distribute, and stack the wood. They were amazed: "By helping others, we have warmed ourselves up, and people's joy is the greatest reward."

The villagers trust in Anatolij and the small church is growing. They see that Christians not only care about their own well-being, but also pray to God for the needs of those around them. In this way, they open their hearts, confess their sins, and turn to God. This is how God builds His church. And we know that it is the Lord Jesus Christ who moves the hearts



of donors and evangelists to do this important ministry. Therefore, we are thankful from the bottom of our hearts, to God, and everyone who made these services possible. May God richly bless you!

Needs of the Mission-

Through the years Faith Mission has sent several thousand bicycles to other countries to help people that had no other means of transportation. In the last number of years the number of good bikes received has been declining. In 2002 we were able to ship 354 but in 2020 we shipped only 95 bikes. This is a very sad reality that we are unable to send enough bikes to fill the need in Ukraine. As we prepare for this spring/summer season please keep this in mind that you have the opportunity to drastically change a life with those old bikes that are cluttering up your garage/shed. Or when you see a bike at a garage sale or auction that looks like it has some miles left in it please consider bringing it to FM. We ask that these be usable, not completely worn out. Please call our office to arrange drop-off of multiple bikes or bring them by when the warehouse is open so they are not left out in the yard.



A 53' container purchased by FM to store bikes ready to be shipped



Please continue to pray for Jake Elias, upon printing this newsletter he has been in the hospital for the past 10 days(hence the delayed newsletter) due to Covid-19.

Please take notice: as of February 5, 2021 Faith Mission is open to receiving donations once again.



Office Hours



Tuesday (Office only) 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.

Banking Information - Access Credit Union
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Christmas Quarantine in Eastern Ukraine

"I know your works. See, I have given you an open door, and no one can close it; for you have little strength and have kept my word and did not deny my name" (Rev 3: 8)

Christmas is not canceled, despite restrictions - Despite all the restrictions, the strictest prohibitions, dangers and privations, the Lord's work must go on. Because nothing and nobody has the power to forbid doing good when God commands it. Many people need help, love, and support, especially in our complicated time. It is well known that people who want to serve God and people are looking for ways to implement this. When people

do not feel like serving, they seek reasons and justifications not to do it. Thank God that He put in the hearts of Brother Sergei S. and his family, the desire to bring the Gospel and practical help to remote areas of Eastern Ukraine. As a missionary organization, we were happy to support Sergei's projects because the people in eastern Ukraine need to experience God's love and be comforted. Sergei reports on the fruits of the difficult effort.

Our mission trip lasted two weeks: from December 13-28, 2020. Because of the quarantine, the borders that lead directly into eastern Ukraine are closed. Therefore, we had to take the route to Ilovaik via Russia. We drove a total of 4,200 kilometers. Because we have registered Ilovaik as a second residence, we are allowed to cross Russia as transit travelers. There were many problems, obstacles, and worries, but God's will is worth doing. We had already obtained the Gospels in eastern Ukraine, as there is no way of bringing the necessary quantities across the border. You can usually take 10-15 pieces with you. This time the border patrol found the Christian calendar suspicious. They refused to let me pass, and interrogated me several times. They spent a long time looking for the inspector who had let us through at the previous checkpoint. They called to various points, inquiring, but it remained as if he had disappeared. Behind me the line, kept getting longer. Finally they said angrily: "We don't feel like looking anymore, see that you get away!" Upon arriving in Ilovaik, we bought supplies for 150 food packages, 350 children's Christmas packages, and 60 packages with fruit. We also bought some coal and firewood for four families. During our stay there, we were able to visit around 50 families in various villages, and we were able to have a Christian day camp, a thanksgiving service and a Christmas service.



Christian winter leisure -

We had planned a few days for the Christian winter camp for children, this took place in our meeting house and was attended by 22 of the children that knew us from summer camps. However, many parents did not allow their children to participate for fear of the



pandemic, which we could understand. During free time, the children heard the message of the Savior's birth and received New Testaments as gifts.

Christians also suffer hardship - I have already reported about the widow Tatiana earlier. A long time ago she was converted and also baptized. She is in immense pain due to an infection in her leg which leaves her with constant pain and a fever. She has already spent all of her meager pension on medication, but it hasn't helped. The doctors were about to amputate her leg, but she begged them not to, for fear of losing her ability to walk. The nearly-deaf widow is still raising her orphaned granddaughter Nastja. A few years ago Nastja's father, Tatiana's son, was accused of theft by a neighbor, while the mother and daughter were present. He was later killed. Tatiana also has a daughter, but with three children of her own she can barely make ends meet and is unable to support her mother. Every time we are there, we support the widow with food, firewood and whatever else we can to make her situation a little more bearable.

Do not be afraid, just believe! - The trip described was very difficult, extremely tiresome, and nerve-wracking. We were traveling as a whole family. It was like a miracle from God for us that we could finally cross the border for the final time. When God guides us, He takes care of everything. We were certainly afraid more than once, but God is omnipotent and omnipresent, and it is not our own merit that the mission was successful in the end.

By God's grace, done more than was planned - We are grateful that everything went well and everything was done in a timely fashion. In general, we can testify that God gave us the opportunity to do even more than we had planned. In the end God's Grace is sufficient, as always.

Praise the Lord Jesus for this - and a heartfelt thank you to the mission organization "FriedensBote/Faith Mission" and all friends of the mission for their support and help in Eastern Ukraine!

Elena Gula / Ukraine



- \$2000 \$1000
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- \$50 \$25

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(2021-#01)



Faith Mission - Automatic Donation Plan

Worry free monthly payments - Your monthly payments to Faith Mission (FriedensBote), Inc. can now be made efficiently and economically by using this preauthorized chequing system we call the ADP. - Save Time - no monthly cheques to write. Save money - no postage or cheque expenses - You will receive an official tax-receipt for your total annual contribution at the beginning of the following year. By using the ADP we will be able to apply your gifts more quickly and more efficiently. For your convenience, this service will continue until you notify us otherwise. Simply complete this form and return it to Faith Mission (FriedensBote), Inc. Your first automatic transfer will occur about four weeks after we receive your information.

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