

Mission Newsletter



March-April 2024

Number 168

“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God” Colossians 3:1

C. S. Lewis warns us about a problem we have with our desires, but the problem is not what we might expect. He argues: “Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak.” It is true that Christ calls us to deny ourselves and take up our crosses in order to follow him (Luke 9:23). But we must not interpret this as a call to suppress our desires. Rather, this is a call to redirect our desires. In Colossians 3:1–2, the apostle Paul calls us to reorient our desires based on our status of being raised with Christ. Even though the resurrection is a future event for believers, it is also a present reality. The truth is, the future has been pulled back into our present experience! So what difference should our present experience of Christ’s resurrection make in our lives? The apostle Paul explains this in parallel commands. First, he tells us to “set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God” (Col. 3:1). The expression “set your hearts on” is actually the word seek. It refers to what we pursue. To make the point even clearer, Paul adds a contrast at the end of the sentence: “not on earthly things.” These are things that belong to the old order or old way of life: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, greed, anger, rage, malice, slander, filthy language, and lying (Col. 3:5–9). C. S. Lewis observes: We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered to us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased. But the resurrection of Jesus Christ changes everything! The reality of our future resurrection as followers of Christ has been pulled back into the present and has reoriented our desires. The result, according to Colossians 3:1–2, is that we will attempt to line up our desires with the life Christ’s resurrection has made possible. Peter O’Brien summarizes this well: “Since you have shared in Christ’s resurrection your aims, ambitions, in fact your whole outlook, are to be centered in him, in that place of highest honor where God has exalted him.”
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Dear Friends,

A big thank-you to everyone who spent time in prayer for us while we were in Ukraine, we felt them very richly. I am also very grateful that you prayed for our families. It was a trip that I will never forget. God has shown me time and time again that I need to spend more time in prayer and to be more thankful for the blessings that He gives us. I heard many stories of how people accepted the Lord as their personal Saviour! I have also seen it first-hand what Godly education does to children; these children also go home and influence their ungodly parents in awesome ways. Some children teach their parents to give thanks for the food before starting to eat. Other children also sincerely pray for their parents, and God, in His Grace, answers their prayers. We too can share about how God has answered our prayers and protected us. Ukrainians commented many times that somebody must be praying for us because they could see that God was leading and protecting us throughout our trip. We also received other huge blessings during our trip. Handing out food packages and shoe-boxes was one of God’s rich blessings. We frequently received a big smile and thank-you, and also tight hugs from children and even adults. The people were beyond thankful for the visit and for the love that they felt. Please join us in praying for the churches and pastors out there. Pray that they will continue to grow and be able to stand strong even though they go through very tough times.

- Albert Kornelsen, Board member of Faith Mission



Albert had the opportunity to hand out food, gift-boxes and the word of God in Ukraine

Children especially, suffer due to fear and terror instilled in them by the experience of war. This girl was 7 months when the war began and has only ever known the state of constant fear.



The city was turning into ruins. We never thought that the cinder walls would “stand” and scare not only passers-by, but their own private residents and apartment owners. The walls suddenly exposed all the contents of the apartments inside. Who has what kind of furniture? What arrangement, what color and cut? And fiery foreign languages painted the remains of the walls with black paints, etched forever into the minds of anyone who saw them that way. Leaving a bitter memory for everyone. There was shelling night and day. The war machine did not spare the elderly,

grandparents, children, newlyweds, bedridden patients, disabled people in wheelchairs, nobody. On iron and concrete alike, it tested the power of her weapon. Not only the walls, but floors, balconies, and roofs of centuries-old buildings were destroyed. Such fragile human dreams, plans, goals, childhood, and life itself. For this child at the age of only seven months everything comfortable was gone.

In the Bible we read where Joseph supported the lives of many people who had suffered misfortune. For two years he used a variety of methods to save people's lives and to help them survive. People have been suffering this disaster for two years and are in a panic, what will happen next? But, a good husband does everything in his power. No, he didn't get tired in two years. He was not tired of his service. He didn't say “I've had enough...”. He was God's servant. He kept moving on. The grief and plight of his people inspired him not to fold his arms. For Joseph in Gen 45:6 “There were still five years ahead”

Two years!

She was only seven months old. She lay in a warm crib, she was well cared for by her first-time parents. There were “fresh” renovations that had been done. In the evenings friends and family gathered here. They sang, played, prayed, showered blessings, and made plans for the future... We planned trips and various services, guest meetings and, of course, everyone paid attention to the baby and considered it a necessity to say a few kind words to her- parents as well as the children. Late in the evening, with the night half-spent, as friends were leaving, and the owners were putting things in order and making plans, who would come to visit next and when? Then peacefully fell asleep clinging to each other in their “paradise” corner so that they would meet the new day with renewed vigor. They will forever remain a memory of a sleepless night, alarming sounds and quick gatherings to leave your cozy home...Their house was the last one in the city. Behind the road passing near the home, a pleasant landscape with fields and plants opened up. In the distance one could see the perimeter road of Kharkiv, where the intense life of cars spoke of orderliness and stability. A few kilometers beyond that and the border is already in a different state.... 5:40 am.... The bombers were flying so low that the roar of the engines rattled the windows in the houses. Explosions started. People barely had time to jump into their car.

We tried to get as far away from these places as possible. The shelves instantly emptied in stores. Gas stations closed due to lack of fuel. Stalled cars were everywhere. They were abandoned on the side of the road. Military equipment crushed the small cars with their massive tracks... The horizon turned into blazing fires. Smoke rose in different places high above the city. Their nine-story house was among the first to bear the full weight of the missiles released from various military weapons. It became clear that the neighboring state had gone to war on peaceful, still sleeping, city residents. Yes, the first fatalities were only a few hundred meters down the road. Holding the baby and looking around, they left their home, that still retained warmth and comfort, leaving everything as it was. Clothes, baby's crib, groceries, and everything necessary for the household. The key turned in the lock... That's it...



Vitaliy, pictured below, and his wife and daughter lived in this apartment until it was destroyed Feb. 24, 2022.

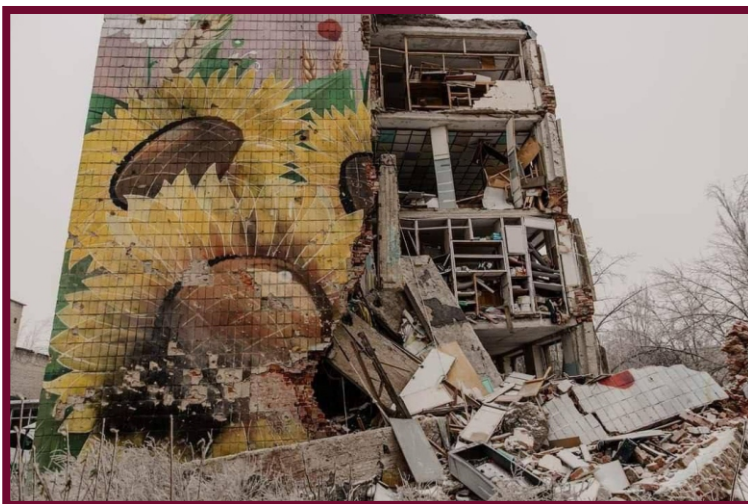
Vitaliy, the young man who went with us on the trips around Kharkiv. He is the son-in-law to Leonid and helps him with the food and clothing distribution



we don't know how long it will go yet and if it's ten years, we will just continue for that long. Two years of diligence have passed, two years of care, two years of loyalty to the cause, two years of preserving life. What could be more beautiful than that? Are you perhaps tired of these two years? Perhaps you are ready to give up? Perhaps you have left your post and are relying on someone else? There is still a great need for those who, in order to preserve life, do everything possible. Despite the thousands of kilometers traveled, thousands of tons of transported products, thousands of tons of clothing and bedding, thousands of kilograms of medicine, thousands of Christmas gifts and hygiene products, despite all that, there is still a need. [For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: Mark 14:7](#)

People are in trouble. Two years of families being torn apart, and often you can hear "we can only hope". "Children cannot help." "The government has no time for us and they expect good things" How precious it is that many brothers continue the work of Joseph to "preserve life" in our time. Travel to de-occupied territories has become more expensive and dangerous. And having arrived at the place, having seen the situation of the people, I no longer can remain indifferent. "For now it is two years" - our seven-month-old heroine has survived two years. Her first words were not mom and dad but she first learned the words "BOOM" and "Siren". She doesn't know where her home is. But as soon as she hears a siren warning about danger she immediately runs to her father to climb onto his knees and cuddle up to his chest and almost whisper your inevitable "BOOM" and while the adults read the messages, and stories of strikes, the walls of the house tremble, the floor echoes them in response. She does not let you go anywhere. She is not interested in what you are doing? Whether you are doing something on the stove, she only counts on you for the safety of her life. She knows that I went to look where the "BOOM" actually hit. No one here is laughing, everyone who comes speaks quietly. There is grief here. And she already understands this. The pain, the melancholy, the ugliness of what was once majestic and beautiful. Is she the only one who gets this? This is reality.

The preceding story was written by Leonid, about his granddaughter that has grown up in this war. We received this letter a few days before leaving for Ukraine and we had the privilege of meeting and working with both Leonid and Vitaliy on our trip and have seen the home that they were chased out of. This story paints a real picture of how these children are growing up in this ugly reality that we can't fully comprehend.



Reflecting on our History

In the last few months as I am working on revising our website and preparing to celebrate our 30th anniversary this fall. I have had the opportunity to look through some really old pictures and slides of the early years of Faith Mission. Something that has clearly stood out to me is, although the world has changed around us, whether advancing technologically or wars setting parts of the world back in time, there is a constant change going on. But the message of salvation has not changed at all during that time. The purpose of Faith Mission has not changed. Our aim is still the same as it was on day 1, that we want to bring more people to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. That it is only through our acceptance of Him into our personal life that eternal life is possible. Yes, we started out as a mission that shipped clothing and footwear exclusively. Over the many years we have expanded that to include many other necessary items. Just for interest sake, here is a list that includes many of the things that have been shipped by FM over the years. Please keep in mind that at the heart of sending all of these things has been the Love of God. That is the purpose for starting with clothing as well as many of these other things: footwear, bicycles, blankets, pillows, hospital beds and other medical related furniture, medical supplies, diapers, folding tables and chairs, beans, a printer, flour, sugar, soup mix, prosthetics, toys, gift boxes, tracts, wet-wipes, candles, towels, etc.



Load #000, the first load for Faith Mission being loaded South of Winkler MB on a cold blowy day back in the early 90s. What was thought to be the last load because "surely southern MB wouldn't have that much used clothing".

Load #292 we were able to meet in Tuchapy, UA. And looking at our clothing bins and storage areas we are far from out of clothes. At our current pace we will be shipping load number 300 later this year. PTL



One of the resounding themes of our trip that we just returned from was that we don't appreciate the power of prayer as fully as we should. There were many experiences throughout the course of our travels that was such a real sign of the many prayers that were spoken on our behalf. A few examples include a street that we drove along in relatively peaceful circumstances that was blown up with missiles less than 24 hrs later. Another example is a village that we were planning to visit near the front-line in the afternoon was under heavy fire that morning, but the entire time we were there it was completely quiet and we were able to carry out our mission of handing out our food packages in peace. So many situations like this that pointed to God's sovereign power and I asked myself "do we understand the strength in our prayers?" On behalf of Faith Mission and all our missionaries in Ukraine I would like to encourage you to continue praying for the pastors especially, who are still serving in these places. Also, please pray for all the people who are



left there who need salvation. This truly is the biggest need that we encountered on our trip. However, this is not only true in Ukraine, but also in Canada, in our very own towns and neighborhoods.

1 Thess. 5:17 "Pray without ceasing"

Renovations have begun on our Grassy Lake facility. We are very excited for the changes coming that will allow clothing to be dropped off right at the shop instead of at the drop-off container down the street. These changes to the building will also allow for larger groups to work there.



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.

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.

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Albert Kornelson	(204) 332-2109	Willy Thiessen	(204) 332-2035
Edward Penner	(204) 392-4229		

Tuesday (Office only) 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Clothing sorting & baling:

Thursday 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. & 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Drop-Off locations

Bags or boxes of clothing and bicycles may be dropped off at the "DROP-OFF" door on the east side of the Faith Mission building in Winkler.

Faith Mission also has drop-off containers at

821 - 1st St North in GRASSY LAKE, AB.

325 Queen Street in WEYBURN, SK.

These drop-off locations are opened 24 hours a day and emptied on a regular basis. However, if you have more than a few bags or boxes, please call ahead to arrange your delivery.

-Winkler,MB	Nathan Elias	204-647-7466
+Grassy Lake,AB	Dave Teichroeb	403-308-6523
*Weyburn,SK	Henry Goertzen	306-450-8871

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE CLOTHING DONATIONS OUTSIDE!

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.

-Faith Mission can also be found on social media platforms for more regular updates

-Instagram @faithmission_winkler

-Facebook @faithmissioninc

-WhatsApp @ Friends of FM/FB

scan the QR code >>



As a result of our trip to Ukraine we are once again doing a series of presentations in MB, SK, and AB. If you are interested in hosting a report in your church or community please reach out to Nathan to schedule that. Please see our website or social media sites for upcoming presentations and feel free to share and invite your friends if we're coming to your area.



Someone asked me what stood out about this trip, differently than the previous ones...the destruction... and the death. I have never seen so much destruction, damage, and death in one place before. We have observed this war from a distance for the last 2 years and when it gets to be too much we turn off the news or un-follow so-and-so on social media, or fill our minds with more pleasant things. But many whom we visited with in Ukraine don't have that luxury. Everywhere they turn they can see the evidence of war. The air raid alerts flood their phones night and day. The sound of drones or airplanes in the air brings feelings of fear and terror and sends them to the basements and cellars. There is no end to this war in sight as far as anyone can see. In the cities and villages we witnessed so many homes, apartments, and businesses destroyed and damaged. In the cities and cemeteries we saw so many memorials and graves signifying the death of so many lives that had been cut short without a belief in The Savior. A number of the people we visited made comments about how "nobody comes to see us during the war" or "many have stopped sending aid because they are tired of helping us". Dear friends I ask you "can we in good conscience abandon these brothers and sisters to do this difficult work on their own"? Is it not our duty as believers to continue helping them reach these lost souls and try to impact as many lives for Christ as possible? No, it is not feasible for us to go to Ukraine and live out their life with them. But I know we can help them from where we are; by sending them the aid that they request, by spending more time on our knees praying for them to remain faithful. Praying that God will protect them. Praying that the seeds they are planting for God will fall on fruitful ground. Is our faith rooted deeply enough to face the same struggles that they are facing? If God allows a war to come to Ukraine what makes us think we won't experience that where-ever we are today? Are we ready for that? Are we prepared to put our trust in God to that degree? Are we certain that we wouldn't fall to the temptations that would arise from a war? When I look at the response of the churches that we visited in Ukraine and how they are not only operating in spite of the war but also flourishing because of the opportunities that the war is offering them. I can't help but look at some of the "difficulties" facing North American churches and the faltering and fading that happens here I don't believe we would be able to

withstand the trying fire that God says we need to be prepared for *That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: 1 Peter 1:7.* Are we not fighting a battle just as important as the one in Ukraine? No, our battle doesn't involve tanks, missiles, drones, or guns. But we are, or at least we ought to be, waging a war in the spiritual kingdom. Yes we saw a lot of destruction in Ukraine especially near the front-line, and we can show you pictures of many buildings that have been utterly destroyed by a single missile. But a building destroyed can be easily repaired, a physical life lost is a sad reality of war but if that individual was covered under the blood of Christ is it really a tragedy? How many lives have been ruined by greed? How many of our reputations tarnished by gossip? Families that have been torn apart because of immorality, friendships have been destroyed due to assumptions and lack of trust among friends. So many families have been crippled because of a lack of headship which then also affects the churches and sets them up for disaster. This is far from an exhaustive list of shortcomings in our families and churches and I fall so short myself in many if not all of these areas myself. But am I the only one? Am I the only one that sees that something is wrong? Am I the only one that is tired of this running rampant in our churches under the umbrella of Christianity? This is doing much more damage to our testimony than any great sermon can counter. We've all heard the term "actions speak louder than words", what are our actions saying? I would like to encourage you to take action, get on the offence and fight against these problems don't just say that we don't participate in them but actively fight against them. In the war in Ukraine there are many people afraid of going to the front-line because of a lack of weapons and equipment but in this spiritual battle we are facing God has given us all the equipment needed for a successful battle. *11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh [1] and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; _____ Ephesians 6:11-18*



\$2000 \$1000

\$500 \$300

\$200 \$100

\$50 \$25

Other Amt \$ _____

(2024-#02) God loves a cheerful giver....."

Date: _____

Cheque # _____

Please use my donation for:

Shipping Costs

Ukraine - People in Need

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Food

Bicycles

Wherever Most Needed

Armenia

Heating / Firewood

Rebuilding

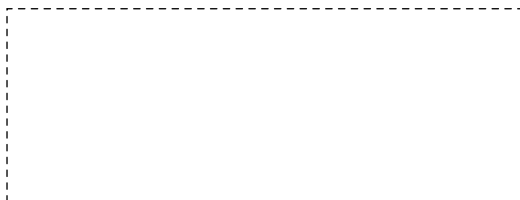
Other _____

When donating via e-Transfer, please make sure to provide us with your mailing address as well the specific need you want the donation used for in the memo portion of the e-transfer so that we are able to issue a Tax-Deductible receipt at the end of the year.

Please return this mailing card with your donation Cheque made payable to Faith Mission

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

Email: donations@faithmission.ca



For Office Use: Entered Deposit Mailing List XFer



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Please add my name to your mailing list.

Please change my address as indicated below.

Please send my Newsletter in PDF to my email: _____

Please check the correct box indicating you are

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Faith Mission - Automatic Donation Plan

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