

Mission Newsletter



May - June 2009

Number 80

“The Lord is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him”. (Exodus 15:2)

These are precious words to the child of God. They were part of Israel's triumphant song after her deliverance out of Egypt. And we know that God is the same - yesterday, today, and forever. Because of Adam's sin, man has to work by the sweat of his brow to earn his livelihood. Also because of Adam and Eve, temptations are all around us every day, and we must resist them. It's comforting to know that God will give us strength for our journey, for the work wherein He has called us. God also will give us strength to withstand all the fiery darts of the enemy. We can depend on Him to strengthen us with all might by His Spirit in the inner man. His grace is our strength, and that grace will be sufficient for us.

“... and song.” Not only is God our strength but He is also our song. It takes a certain grace to sing in the midst of back-breaking labor. It takes even more grace to sing in the face of temptations - especially those temptations that the carnal man within us really has trouble with anyway. Oftentimes we can grit our teeth and say no. But the grace of God gives us the strength to say no with a song! And God even gives us songs in the night. Everything is more difficult in the night. The hours are longer, more tense; the situation more desperate. But God is our strength and our song.

“He is become my salvation.” God is our strength and our song, and certainly these are great helps in life. But life is fleeting; we need eternal help. And God is faithful! He is become our salvation. In Him we find rest and peace and security forever.

“He is my God.” If He is our God, we are His children. As His children, we can depend daily upon His mercy and grace to help us and guide us.

“But with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer” (Isa. 54:8).

“And I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.” The habitation He desires is our hearts, and He inhabits the praises of His children. So let us exalt our God, who is our strength, our song, and our salvation. Praise His name!

Recent News from Ukraine

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

I would like to share some news about our ministry in the Carpathian mountains and plans for this summer.

April 24. We had a conference with brothers and sisters of the western part of Ukraine in the church of Verkhovyna. Leonid Tkachev from Kharkov participated in the service.

Topics covered were:

1. What real witnessing should be
2. Methods of witnessing
3. Church Counseling

To witness to the people around us is one of the major commands Christ gave us on the day of His ascending to Heaven. This command should define church life today.

April 25 - Youth rally of western Ukraine. It was held



April 25, 2009 - More than 300 young people at a Youth Rally at the Verkhovyna Hall.

in Verkhovyna but the church was too small so we had to rent a community hall. We had more than 300 people.

The subject of the rally was Heaven. We should not only talk about Heaven but be the citizens of Heaven.

only talk about Heaven but be the citizens of Heaven. Some people want to simplify the way to Heaven, but according to the Bible, God's standards didn't change in 2000 years. Heaven is prepared as the final destination, for those who are ready.

We had a crusade in the Carpathian Mountains from May 28 to 31. An excellent, 55 member orchestra from Rivne City participated in the crusades in Zelene, Dovgopole, Golovy, and Kryvopillya. We had services in our churches, community halls and also at the main bus station in the very downtown of Verkhovyna. Right in the square where people buy and sell stuff. Hundreds of people heard about Jesus Christ.

This year marked the 13th anniversary of our ministry in the mountains. Looking back, we want to thank God, although many people still have not come to Christ yet. But, according to the Lord's Word, even saving just one soul is priceless in the eyes of God. So, we have to wait and continue our work.

We will be starting our camps with non-Christian children in 20 days. This summer we are planning to have around 250 campers. We will have two camps in the school buildings of Golovy village and Zelene. Also we will have two day camps in the buildings of our churches in Rivnya and Staische. We will have about 100 campers in these camps. More information will be given after the camps.

Also I want to let you know that the money you have given for the three churches in the village of Zelene, Dovgopole, and Golovy is still here because we weren't able to purchase any property yet. The prices are just too high. We are now renting a room in Dovgopole and a hall in a hospital in Zelene for services.

I am grateful for the funds you sent us for the camps.

May God Bless you and your ministry. Send greetings to all brothers and sisters, all your children and grand children.

Peter, The Carpathians \Ukraine



Children's Camps 2009

Will there be a children's camp this summer? Or will the economic crisis stop us from supporting the camp programs? We cannot answer these questions on our own. We need your support before we can provide our friends in the east with a positive answer.

Here are a few camp reports from last year that were provided by our friend in Kharkiv, Ukraine - Leonid Tkatshev:

God has never disappointed them

The economic crisis has hit our economically weak and politically unstable country of Ukraine in the most painful way. Most building projects have been faltering; many have come to a stand-still. In the steel industry, 21 of 43 big blast furnaces are not in operation. Mass employee lay-offs have affected the whole country. The prices of a lot of food and of gas have more than tripled.

This year, the organizing of the Christian camps is in danger. The leaders continue to encourage each other and consider how they want to go forward this year. If our western friends do not support us, the hope and dream of camp for many children will be shattered.

However, the children do not know the word Economic crisis. They pray to God that there will again be camp this year. God has never disappointed them.

Here a few examples from last year; some reasons, why the children's camp is so important.

If the leader ends up on the "penalty bench"

Tolja was 11 years old and came from a non-believing family. His behaviour was catastrophic. Only on occasion did he respect Alexander, the leader of the children's camp. However, in Alexander's absence Tolja was not to be restrained. He did not respect any of the rules of the camp. Admonitions and lectures were all in vain.

The group leaders had an idea. They would set up a "Penalty Bench" right in the centre of camp grounds. As was to be expected, Tolja was first one to be taken to the "Bench."

The next day the group leader increased the penal duration for Tolja. Two hours passed, however, Tolja showed no signs of any improvement. He did not indicate any feeling of remorse, making faces at everyone passing by. The group leaders felt helpless.

Alexander handed his work to his co-worker and sat down on the other end of the penalty bench.

Tolja's first thought was that Alexander wanted to talk to him. He did not feel like talking. Half an hour passed. No one spoke a word! Finally, when Tolja

realized that Alexander would not speak, he wanted to know: "Are you also sitting here on the bench as punishment?" "Yes", answered Alexander briefly.

"How come? You are the boss; who can punish you?" Tolja did not understand.

"The group leader's advice!" For Tolja it became more and more interesting.

"What have you done?"

"I can not train the bad children to be good."

After a moment of silence, Tolja asked; "Hmm, so you must sit here because of me?"

"Not only because of you. Yesterday Peter said some bad words, and two girls were arguing because of toys. Today, you have ignored some camp rules. I simply do not fulfill my duties properly. I do not know what I can make different." Thus, Alexander sadly finished the discussion.

Tolja's eyes filled with tears. He sat quietly for a few minutes. (The group leaders prayed during this time.)

Suddenly Tolja exclaimed: "Alexander, call together all the children, and I will tell them all that we must now change. Also, I will apologize to the group leaders. Our camp should become the very best one."

After that, Tolja became Alexander's best assistant.

Kharkiv / Ukraine

Between Childhood and Adult

The teenagers are a special age group. They do not want to live like children anymore, but have not yet learned to act like adults. Many of them came to camp from non-believing families. We prayed for special wisdom in dealing with them.

For Galina it was difficult to respect the camp rules. She was accustomed to a "free" life. At night she wanted to be on the move and sleep during the day. When she was admonished for being caught smoking, she furiously began to pack her belongings.

The camp leader offered Galina one final opportunity. He questioned her about starting a brand new life or if she would like to remain in the life she was in now. The other camp leaders were praying for the situation during this time.

Galina's internal battle lasted for half an hour. Till now g



The children take great pleasure in playing, tinkering, singing and praying at camp.

According to the surveys the children's receptiveness in a small group is much better than in other relations.

she had felt like a mature adult. However, suddenly she saw herself like a lost child. During the evening service on the same day, Galina accepted the Lord Jesus into her heart.

Ljuba had never heard about God till she came to camp. The theme did not spark any interest for her. However, on the third day, Ljuba was informed that her father was missing. A search party had been looking for him for three days but found no trace of him anywhere. Ljuba cried. Group leaders offered to pray for Ljuba's father and for her needs.

One hour later the phone rang in the camp, with the news: Ljuba's father was found and in good health. Ljuba's eyes beamed with joy and excitement! She wanted to thank God. He was no longer a distant fiction character. He was almighty and real. After witnessing such an example, two of Ljuba's friends repented of their sins and made a decision to live for Jesus Christ from now on.

At the close of camp many find it very difficult to leave. Even though they have only been together for a few days, many close relationships and connections have developed between the teens and the group leaders. Even many of the "cool" guys had to fight against tears.

Local village residents from the neighbouring houses often join in the evenings at the campfire. They are interested to hear what the children and teens share about their camp time. Everybody enjoys listening to the singing and people gratefully accept Christian tracts.

Eduard U. / Russia

Another very successful Faith Mission Soup & Pie Supper \\ Silent Auction

Faith Mission would like to express a sincere thank-you to everyone who supported us at this year's Soup & Pie Supper and Silent Auction. It is often difficult to say thank-you to everyone for what they do, when they do it. So once again, a very special thank-you to all the volunteers who did all the work at the supper, all the volunteers who prepared the soups and baked the pies and buns, all the people who donated items for the auction and everyone that came for supper and made a donation. Total funds raised was \$13,929.30

Passing on the Blessings

Many people in the former communist countries of Ukraine, Georgia, Estonia and Moldova have benefited from the many generous donations that have been made to Faith Mission in the past 15 years. During 2008 - needy families across the Ukraine were delighted to receive free clothing through the ministry of Faith Mission and Missionswerk Friedensbote and our co-workers in Ukraine. We shipped approximately 395,000 pounds of clothing to Ukraine in 2008.



Loading bales from the Arborg truck into Container #5 for 2009. (May 14, 2009)

With the various special projects that we have funded in the last year, our funds designated for shipping have decreased. We trust that as you continue to support the special projects, you will also donate to the Humanitarian Shipping Fund so that we can provide these people with much needed clothing and footwear. ☺

Faith Mission (FriedensBote)

Box 34
Winkler, Manitoba R6W 4A4
Phone (204) 325-4086
Toll-free Fax (866) 478-0345
Email: info@faithmission.ca
www.faithmission.ca
Office and Warehouse located at
500 Cargill Road



I would like to receive the Faith Mission Newsletter regularly.

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

Name.....
Address.....
TownProv.
Postal Code.....
Telephone



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.
Clothing may also be dropped off in the small white trailer at the south end of the warehouse building. This trailer is open 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

Peter Penner (204) 325-8606 Jake Elias (204) 822-6063
Henry Penner (204) 829-3318 Henry Elias (204) 822-3871
Abram Unrau (204) 685-2209

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 - Heartland Credit Union
Box 1060, Winkler, MB R6W 4B1
Account Number 19940-9