

Mission Newsletter



July - August 2009

Number 81

“Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.” (2 Thess. 3:16, 18)

Paul closed his letter to the church at Thessalonica with a prayer for the church. In this prayer, Paul asked three special blessings for them. And the church today would do well to ask God for these same things.

“The Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means.” Peace is a state of tranquillity, harmony, calm. There can be true peace only in the Lord. Here Paul prays that the Lord will give us peace ALWAYS by ALL MEANS. In other words, He wants us to have total peace no matter the circumstances or situations. This is true in every life, but especially is it true in groups of people, such as churches, where so many personalities are present. In Christ it is possible to attain true peace - with God, with our fellow Christians, and with all men. It is possible to attain peace of mind and peace of heart - but not within ourselves. God, who is the author of peace, must give it to us. And He will if we believe Him for it.

“The Lord be with you all.” The single most important thing in life is to have the Lord with us abiding in us and shining through us. Guiding us, directing us, and moulding us in His image. One day we shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is. But until that day, living in His presence daily can make our walk one of peace and love.

“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.” Our salvation experience started us on our "grace" walk - *By grace are ye saved through faith* - and grace will keep us saved. Where sin abounds, the Bible tells us, grace does much more abound. It is through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that we can have peace with God and enjoy the presence of God. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ is an everflowing and overflowing fountain that will supply all our needs.

At the close of his last letter to the church at Corinth, Paul said, *“Finally brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.”*

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I'm Alive!!



Jewgeni Sewerin before the bear's attack and after the

“Man Without A Face.....” Appeared in the headlines of many newspapers 12 years ago. However, as usually the case, the interest soon died down. Since 1996 we have often visited Jewgeni Sewerin; first in the clinic in Switzerland where he had surgery, and afterwards in his home. We have also visited with him and his wife Natasha here in Germany. Today, the couple resides in the Far East of Russia. We keep in touch with them, writing letters and by telephone.

Here is a brief recollection of the events:

Forester in a dangerous district

Jewgeni was a forester and lived in a small village in the Far Eastern Russian taigas with his family; about 150 km from the city of Vladivostok. Huge Siberian tigers and vicious bears roam freely in this part of the country. These large cats or bears can clean up a big cow without leaving a trace behind. Sometimes they also attack people. Natasha, Jewgeni's wife, had been attending a home Bible Study and accepted Jesus as her personal Saviour. This had upset Jewgeni. He jeered and mocked at Natasha. On this winter's day, Jewgeni was on the way to check out his territory. Natasha's heart had no rest, and she had said to Jewgeni: "Maybe you should not go to the forest today... I have a feeling something bad is about to happen". Jewgeni only laughed at his wife's fears, took the gun and left the house.

Here is Jewgeni's story:

In the pangs of death

After approximately five kilometres of walking, I noticed some dark spots on the white snow under a tree just ahead of me. I grabbed the gun from my shoulder to load it with ammunition. However, I panicked and did not get it loaded before the huge bear sprang on me and flailed me to ground. Ordinarily, the bears hibernate at this time; however, hunters had scared this huge animal away from his cave and slightly injured him. Now the animal was extremely aggressive and lurked in his hiding place. I lay on my back, under the 300 kilogram bear, trying to defend myself with my gun. With a single swipe with his paw, the bear hit the gun from my hand, and at the next moment he bit my face. Till this day, my mind vividly hears the crunching of the bones. I felt something hot flowing down my face. Once again, I attempted to load the gun. Finally, I managed it. With one hand I continued to fend off the vicious beast. Suddenly, the bear pushed away my hand with his huge paw and took a second bite from my face. There was now a gaping hole where my upper jaw, nose and the right eye had been. The thought raced through my mind: "The third bite will be my death". I couldn't see a thing; the blood was flowing from my face. After reaching out to find my gun, I managed to close the open rifle with my one free hand. I gathered all my strength and fired!

Saved, however, in desperate need

The shot simply went into the air. However, a miracle happened. The bear walked away. I jumped up, reloaded my gun and blindly fired shots in all directions, until I had one last cartridge left. Then I lost consciousness! In the next moment the awful pain in my head brought me back to my senses. In spite of it all, I felt a joy in my heart; I'm alive!!! I tried to remember my way home and started off, not able to see anything. The tree branches kept scraping across my bloody face. Suddenly I fell headlong into a forest gulch. Although it was not very deep, the way up seemed very long and hard. I shouted for help! No response. Nobody heard me.

God says, "...I will help you..." (Isaiah 41:14)

At the time I did not yet know that God himself came to rescue me. Although I had mocked Natasha, deep inside my heart, I felt that what she had said about God was true. So in my utter desperation, I shouted to God for the first time in my

life.

My trek continued! Countless times I tripped and lost consciousness. I struggled to get up again and walked on. Suddenly I felt a hand on my shoulder. I stopped, turned around and asked: "Hey, who are you? Who is there?" There was no answer. Several times this mysterious "Somebody", touched my shoulder and walked beside me. Today, I know that God sent his angel, to touch my shoulder and lead me on. Suddenly, I felt the firm forest path under my feet; however, I did not know whether I should go to the right or to the left. Again I pleaded with God, and before I had finished my request, I heard dogs barking in the village. My heart pounded with joy when my hands felt the latch of my front door: "I'm alive!!!!" No answer. Nobody was home. So, I made my way to my neighbour's house. My neighbour and a few other villagers were sitting around the fire, drinking Vodka. Although already heavily intoxicated, when they saw me they were shocked and shouted with fright: "Get out of here! Who are you? Leave! Go away!" Nevertheless, my neighbours soon recognized me by my clothes. Then I collapsed again.

The loyalty of a marriage or: There is an Awakening!

My wife was picked up at her workplace. Really, I should have been rushed to a military hospital in another village. However, there was only one horse team in our village, and it was snowing heavily. Suddenly an engine hummed nearby. It was an all terrain vehicle which suddenly appeared



Jewgeni with his wife Natasha and daughter Victoria

through the blizzard. Normally, it did not travel this route. I was taken to the nearest military hospital. There they radioed the clinic in Vladivostok. However, there were many other emergencies, and everybody saw my case as hopeless. Natasha prayed to God and begged the staff to look after me. Finally they responded to her plea and a helicopter was sent. In the clinic of the city of Vladivostok the doctors were also sceptical: "This man will die in few hours! We can't do anything for him." Natasha continued to pray and begged the doctors to look after my terrible pain and suffering. It was because of Natasha's persistence that I was finally placed on the operating table, and my face was sewn up like a corpse. During the surgery, Natasha knelt in the corner of the operating room and prayed. The staff mocked; asking her to get up, telling her this made no sense... Natasha answered:



During one of our visits: Jewgeni and Eduard Ewert (FriedensBote worker from Germany). Jewgeni is wearing his face mask, consisting of an eye, nose and his moustache.

“It is much easier for me when I pray to God.” The head surgeon added: “Even your God cannot help in this case.” Nobody thought that a person, after losing so much blood and, with such an awful wound in the face, could be alive! He had walked five kilometres through the forest, totally sightless, and without any help. He was alive! Jewgeni lives!

After this incident I have often shared these words: “I now understand that God wanted to stop me from my sinful way of life. I also understand that God truly loves me!” For several extremely critical months, Natasha spent day and night beside the bedside of her husband. When the situation stabilized, she invited a missionary to the hospital. The missionary explained God's plan of salvation to me. Then, for the first time with a clear mind, I openly prayed to God. “It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.” (Ps.119:71)

Treatments and the special needs

God has led in miraculous ways that Jewgeni was able to undergo nine other operations in Switzerland. These were highly complicated surgeries with the most modern medical technologies. The Swiss doctors gave him their best.

In spite of repeated surgical and sculptural operations, Jewgeni felt that he could not face the public with his "new" face. Therefore, several years later a facemask was made for him. Since then several more years have passed and it has become old and useless. Jewgeni doesn't dare to appear in public any more. A new mask is urgently needed. This orthopedic apparatus will cost about 6,000 Euro (\$9,200.00 Cdn.)

Jewgeni's testimony has been a groundbreaking report which has led many people to look at their own relationship with Jesus Christ. Presently he needs our help, and we would be glad if our mission friends took his need into their hearts.

News from Tuchapy.....(Aug.03, 2009)

Dear all the Faith Mission co-workers:

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

We continue working on the Tuchapy church project. We are doing outside work now. Stairs and stucco on the inside are finished. We are about to install the heating system after which we'll be ready for finishing.

We are still lacking funds. I don't know if we'll be able to completely finish the outside with the funds we have. If we don't have enough resources we will have to put a temporary stop to the project. However, we believe God will not stop it as He is never late to answer the prayers of His children.

In one week, I will write about the baptism and camps that just started today. We expect about 80 more campers. I will also send pictures from the baptism service and camps.

On these pictures you can see two young moms who were recently

baptized in Tuchapy. One sister has two young children and the other has three. The dear sister with three children was faced with a situation which has become much too common;



her husband left her because she started attending our church. Please pray for these two young families.

May God bless you and your ministry.

Greetings to all our friends and supporters,

From the Christians of the Carpathians,

Peter Nastasiychuk



“We are So Blessed.....”

“Praise the Lord”, 2008 was really a banner year for Faith Mission! Faith Mission keeps growing! Faith Mission keeps going! As you will notice on the 2008 Financial Report, Faith mission opened some new mission doors in 2008. The Overseas College Program that we supported last year has resulted in a new program this summer. Three English teachers went back to Kharkiv this summer to teach English to the young children in the orphanages; sharing stories about Jesus in their lessons.

We shipped a total of 10 containers in 2008. Due to the global shortage of containers, cost was up significantly. This year, we have shipped 7 containers to date. Praise the Lord, the global recession has worked in our favour as far as container cost goes. Prices have come down up to 30% in some areas. Also, as a result of our meeting in Odessa last November, a stronger relationship with our agents in Ukraine was established. This has contributed to the expedited processing of Customs documents and delivering the containers in a timely manner. No more storage and demurrage fees!

The drop in donations in the last few months has been a definite reflection of the global recession. However, we trust that you will continue to support our mission and provide the funds we need to ship our containers overseas and to support the special projects as they come up. With the decreased cost per container and you sending us donations as God leads you to, our mission can and will keep going.



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.

Faith Mission (FriedensBote)

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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.....

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Jake Elias (204) 822-6063

Henry Penner (204) 829-3318

Henry Elias (204) 822-3871

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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 - Heartland Credit Union

Box 1060, Winkler, MB R6W 4B1

Account Number 19940-9



Review Engagement Report

To the Members of Faith Mission (Friedensbote) Inc.

We have reviewed the balance sheet of **Faith Mission (Friedensbote) Inc.** as at December 31, 2008 and the statements of operations, members' equity and cash flows for the year then ended.

Our review was made in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements and accordingly consisted primarily of enquiry, analytical procedures and discussion related to information supplied to us by the organization.

A review does not constitute an audit and consequently we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements. Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that these financial statements are not, in all material respects, in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

BDO Dunwoody LLP
Chartered Accountants
Morden, Manitoba
May 19, 2009

Statement of Financial Position (Unaudited)

December 31	2008	2007
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and bank	\$64,888	\$ 71,809
Accounts receivable	1,004	2,384
Inventories	9,003	9,313
Prepaid Expenses	2,000	-
	76,895	82,506
Capital assets (Note 1)	24,165	24,165
Incorporation costs	515	515
	\$ 101,575	\$ 108,186
Liabilities and Surplus		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 27,214	\$10,698
Surplus		
Surplus invested in capital assets	24,165	24,165
Unrestricted surplus	50,196	73,323
	74,361	97,488
	\$ 101,575	\$108,186

Statement of Surplus (Unaudited)

For the year ended December 31	2008	2007
Invested in		
Capital assets		
Unrestricted		
Balance, Jan.1	24,165	73,323
97,488	63,120	
Excess (deficiency) of revenue		
over expenditures for year	-	(23,127)
	(23,127)	34,368
Balance, Dec.31	24,165	50,196
74,361	97,488	

Statement of Operations (Unaudited)

For the year ended December 31	2008	2007
Revenue		
Collections	\$ 2,909	\$ 9,625
Received donations	285,991	203,192
Interest and miscellaneous	1	782
Books sales	265	1,170
Auctions & Yard Sales	1,677	2,104
	290,843	216,873
Operation Costs		
Food/supplies	160	105
Newsletters/mailings	5,761	6,543
Freight	113,300	73,756
Overseas missions	15,690	4,478
Overseas children's camps	8,153	11,749
Wages	4,210	5,175
Material costs	310	725
Storage	14,295	31,473
Packaging supplies	6,688	7,106
Fundraising	828	270
Overseas Literature	675	1,895
Overseas College Programs	55,510	1,000
Overseas Orphanage Projects	4,500	300
Overseas Building Projects	6,190	1,000
Overseas Pastor Support	15,825	2,384
Overseas Administration	2,530	-
Overseas Flood Relief	9,618	-
Exchange loss	8,879	-
	273,122	147,959
Administrative expenses		
Advertising and promotion	2,706	1,635
Goods and services tax	1,004	1,309
Interest and bank charges	889	628
Miscellaneous	326	9
Office supplies	386	205
Postage and shipping	3,538	5,037
Professional fees	598	576
Rentals	15,470	15,140
Repairs and maintenance	-	99
Supplies	1,606	1,148
Travel	5,891	1,254
Utilities	3,572	3,554
Vehicle	1,479	556
	37,465	31,150
Income (loss) before other items	(19,744)	37,764
Gifts in kind	(3,383)	(3,396)
Excess of revenue over expenditures for the year		
	\$(23,127)	\$ 34,368

Notes to Financial Statements # 1. (Unaudited)

December 31, 2008	2008	2007
Capital Assets		
Building	\$ 3,234	\$ 3,234
Vehicle	3,745	3,745
Baler	910	910
Equipment	3,806	2,900
Computer and office equipment	10,330	10,330
Utility storage trailer	2,140	2,140
	\$ 24,165	\$ 24,165