

Mission Newsletter



November - December 2010

Number 89

And when he [meaning Herod] had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, art not the least among the princes of Judah: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. (Matt. 2:4-6)

At Christmastime, perhaps more than at any other time, we should consider the true meaning of Christmas. Most of the people living at the time of Jesus' birth were too busy to know the Scriptures were being fulfilled and too careless and indifferent to consider the things that belonged to their eternal peace.

Bethlehem was a small town with great significance. It was generally known that Christ should be born in Bethlehem. From John we learn that some of the people said, "Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was?" John 7:42).

Like many names in Scripture, Bethlehem has a significant meaning: "house of bread." Truly it was the place for the birth of that One who would be the true manna. For the bread of Life is He which cometh down from heaven and giveth light unto the world.

Bethlehem also had a famous well: "and David longed, and said, Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, that is at the gate!" (I Chron. 11:17).

In Christ, we not only have bread enough to spare, but we may come and take also of the water of life freely (Rev. 22:17).

Let us remember the source of our true sustenance as we exchange gifts and share the merriment of this holy season.

Jesus was the greatest gift ever given. Without Him there would be no real and lasting peace, no true joy, no genuine love. So may we burst forth in song on this blessed holiday that glorifies and praises our Saviour, Lord, and King.



Special Christmas Blessings for 460 Children in the country of Ukraine.

Thank you very much to everyone that contributed to our 2010 Christmas Gift Box campaign. Although these boxes came in countless shapes and sizes, the content was checked to ensure similar items and value. The 460 gifts were loaded in Container ZCSU8545286 which left the port of Halifax on November 17th. This was container number 9 for us this year. We shipped container number 10 on November 27th. We Praise the Lord for His blessings! **TAKE NOTE: Please do not drop off Operation Christmas Child boxes at Faith Mission. We do not ship these special boxes with ours.**

Brief moments from the Fall Mission Conferences in Germany

The following article is translated and printed with permission from the Nov\Dec 2010 German Missions Nachrichten

"Bible smugglers"
chance meeting at the fall, 2010 Germany Mission conference some 30 years after their teamwork from the 80's; From left, A. Osselskij, P. Martens, W. Penner, J. and E. Ewert.



From Moldavia.....reunited after 30 years

Andrej Osselskij was one of few children to survive the two-year famine in Moldavia during the post-war period.

After the war, the atheistic Soviet power ruled in Moldavia. At school Andrej was teased because he had religious parents. At the age of 13 years, Andrej invited Jesus Christ into his heart. This made the mockery even worse. As punishment for this, his military assignment took him to the extremely cold northern Siberia.

It was there, in the Siberian city of Krasnojarsk, that Andrej met a group of older, religious people with whom he could visit once in a while. One day, while visiting the town museum, he noticed the heavy iron chains in which prisoners from the southwest parts of the country were exiled to Siberia on foot. On one of the chains Andrej recognized the carved words: "For the word of God".

Andrej heard about the gruesome tortures of these prisoners from the older Christians he met in Krasnojarsk. Their trek to Siberia had lasted three and a half years. Many died on the way! There were no possibilities for showers or personal hygiene, any medical care or treatments, and no overnight accommodations were offered to them.

Andrej was strengthened in his wish to faithfully serve God, even more. After the end of his military service he remained in Krasnojarsk and was active in the local church. Andrej organized an active Christian youth group. For this, Andrej was sentenced to four years of imprisonment.



Today we have opportunity to ship pallets of Bibles into Moldavia. No more smuggling!

However, neither the extreme cold of -60°, nor illnesses could separate him from his Heavenly Father. After 18 years in Siberia, Andrej with his family eventually moved back to Moldavia.

Just at this time the Christians from the western countries were looking for new, better ways in which they could smuggle the word of God into the Soviet Union. There was a great spiritual hunger in the country.

In the nineteen-seventies, we realized God's mercy to smuggle the word of God across the Soviet border by heavy transport. Andrej organized the reloading and exchange for several hundred thousand Bibles during the night. When the other brothers asked him: "When will we return home after the Bible reloading?" He answered: "Maybe tomorrow; or maybe in 3 or 5 years ..."

God has protected this work in miraculous ways. At that time more than 80 tonnes of Bible were distributed by Andrej and his fellow-workers in the country. Some nights were so dark, the smugglers were hardly able to see each other. Now, 30 years later, these same men were reunited at the conference in Germany. God has made it possible. God still performs miracles! To him be all the honor and glory!

Mission in a European poorhouse.....

Today Andrej is active in the local church-planting work. He is on the move a lot, encouraging and instructing the small newly organized Bible-study and house church groups in the villages.

Andrej has other added responsibilities. He is dedicated to support the Moldavian missionaries and their families. Moldavia is the poorhouse of Europe. The average monthly senior's pension consists of a meager 12 euros (\$16.56 Cdn). More than one million people of the nearly 4.5 million inhabitants of Moldavia have moved away because of unemployment.

However, the missionaries living in the villages are not among those leaving the country. They feel they cannot leave the young, evangelical church groups. There is not enough work in the villages for the inhabitants. Therefore, the Christian families often experience the bitterest need. Andrej always looks for possibilities to provide basic food and support for these families.

Andrej's generosity and heartfelt pity is not only extended to his neighbors and friends. It begins right in his home! His wife has suffered with Parkinson's disease for 14 years.

Pray for Andrej Osselskij, for his wife and for the missionary service in Moldavia.

Out of Ukraine.....

Alexander and Vera Dribnochod from Kharkiv were honoured guests at our fall conferences. They have been our dear friends and co-workers for several decades.

Alexander is a multi-talented man and since his youth has been active in different services in the church. For the last six years, he led the mission work among the criminals in the local penitentiaries and institutions. Through this ministry, more than a hundred criminals have come to the faith. Some of them were even baptized right there in the

prison camp!

Since 1998, Alexander has been responsible for the mission work in a many of the villages surrounding the city of Kharkiv. He and his co-workers are faithful in this service every day of the year. Hundreds of people have come to the faith in Jesus Christ. Many Bible study groups and house churches have been started.

During the visits to hundreds of villages, Alexander Dribnochod and his co-workers proclaim the Gospel and distribute Christian reading material. Often his wife Vera will accompany him on these mission trips, blessing their audience with her beautiful singing.



Vera supports her husband in his services with prayer and singing. God has blessed her with a beautiful voice. Alexander and Vera have been blessed with nine children and eight grandchildren.

A few examples from people who have started a new life as a result of the service of the Dribnochods. Alexander reports:

The Bible as a primer...

Igor, the Gipsy, was excited when he came to our Evangelistic Meetings. We distributed song sheets to all people present, encouraging all to join in the singing. However, Igor did not join in the singing. I asked him: "Igor, why do you not join in the singing?" Igor answered: "I cannot read."

There are many ingenious crooks and con-artists among the gypsies in Ukraine. They are very clever in monetary dealings and in magical illusions. However, most remain illiterate.

One evening, Igor was converted and asked us for a Bible. He had such a strong desire to read God's word on his own, he used his precious Bible as his primer to learn to read.



Forgiveness is so wonderful! Whom else could I forgive.....

A well educated woman came to faith in Jesus Christ through our ministry. However, in her earlier life, she was often troubled with fears, terrible nightmares and sleepless nights. In our conversation, she confessed that she had been embittered against many people. I explained to her that she must forgive all those people; otherwise God would not forgive her.

Thus began a spiritual battle within the woman's heart. However, after she forgave her abusive husband she finally felt relieved. The woman prayed for strength, so that she would also be able to forgive another person who had caused her much distress. This resulted in even more inner relief and joy! She continued praying and after nearly two hours, she was freed from all her embittered feelings.

She felt so relieved and happy that her closing prayer was: "Lord Jesus, forgiving is so wonderful! Whom else could I forgive?"

The wheelbarrow was not touched.....

Anna lives in the village we'll call 'B'. Till recently, she was not afraid to occasionally take something from a stranger. She also came to our weekly evangelistic services; simply out of curiosity.

When Anna came

The bicycles from Faith Mission have an evangelistic purpose. This Youth Team from Alexander's Kharkiv church were given the challenge to witness to at least one unbeliever while enjoying a scenic bicycle tour.



by, she saw a wheelbarrow standing right by the gate. Somebody had mistakenly left it there. She thought: "I really need this wheelbarrow; so on my way back it will be dark so I'll stop by and pick it up."

During our conversation we started reading the Bible passage from 1Cor. 6:10, "nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God." When Anna left, she no longer had any desire to steal the wheelbarrow.

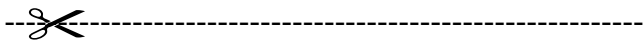
A week later, Anna again came to listen to us at our service. The same wheelbarrow was standing by the fence, as if nobody had needed it all week. This time Anna made up her mind: "Today I'm not leaving the wheelbarrow here!" Nevertheless, God, through the Holy Spirit, would not allow her to touch the wheelbarrow! She left it right where it was.

Later Anna tearfully informed the house church that she had been tempted to steal the wheelbarrow for five months. However, over and over again, a higher power kept her from taking it. Finally she understood that it was God's power, and she accepted Christ into her heart. ☺

\$\$\$\$ Faith Mission would like to thank you for all the financial support that you have sent our way during 2010. We want to encourage you to include Faith Mission in your year-end giving. **Please make sure that your mailed in donations are postmarked no later than December 31, 2010 in order to be receipted for 2010.** Receipts for 2010 will be mailed out in January of 2011. \$\$\$\$

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

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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.

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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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 Box 1060, Winkler, MB R6W 4B1
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