

Mission Newsletter



March - April 2011

Number 91

“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” (II Cor. 4:6)

Who can doubt the great benefits of sunshine? Its warm rays bring healing to our bodies, encouragement to our spirits. Open the drapes in your darkened house and depression gives way to song.

Glorious light! What a blessing that God commanded light to shine out of darkness!

Paul says that *“God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts”!* Whereas we once *“loved darkness rather than light”* because our deeds were evil, we now love the light that our deeds maybe made manifest (John 3:19-21). For God did not just shine the light of His love in our hearts to make us feel good, He did it so we could absorb the light of the knowledge of the glory of God! He prepared our hearts to accommodate Spiritual knowledge that we one day might see the face of our Lord Jesus Christ!

The Lord Jesus Christ is knowledge personified. He is the King of Glory. God gave us the capacity for knowledge, as Paul said, *“That [we] may know him”* (Phil. 3:10). As we seek to know more about Jesus, we find we know more about our Father, God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness.

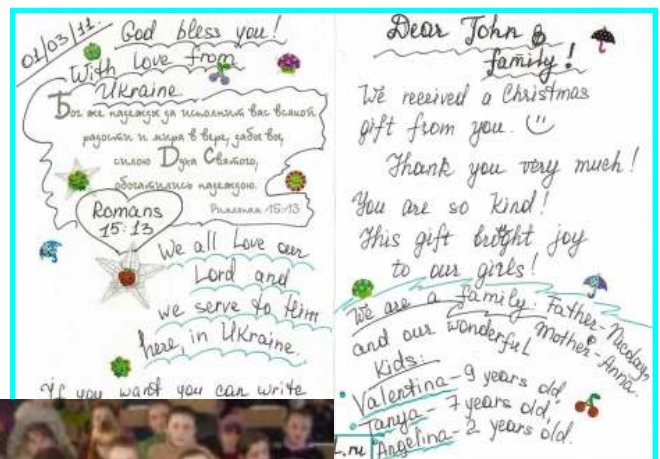
Darkness has no energy, no power; no strength. But light has tremendous energy and great and marvelous power. John said, *“If we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin”* (1 John 1:7).

In addition to all the personal blessings we receive from the light that God shined in our hearts, we have the additional blessing of fellowship with our brothers and sisters in the Lord. God knew that once we received the light of the gospel and accepted Jesus as our Saviour, we would need new friends. “Old” things are passed away, all things must become new. Former friendships can rarely be retained because the fellowship is broken. Light and darkness cannot walk together.

How perfectly our Lord has arranged every detail of our lives if we will but put our trust in Him!

Christmas Comes to Ukraine..... (continued from January \February Newsletter)

The Faith Mission Christmas Gift Boxes we shipped before Christmas arrived in time to bring joy and happiness to many children in Ukraine. Here are just a few more pictures and a letter that we received from the Carpathians of Ukraine. The letters arrived too late for printing in the Jan\Feb Newsletter. (more on page 2.....)



Greetings to all the co-workers and supporters of Faith Mission! God's blessings in the service of expanding God's kingdom on earth!

We always want the New Year to be better than the previous one. We do not know what God has prepared for us and what kind of trials and tribulations await us in the coming year. I believe that everything that God sends in our lives is intended for a good purpose. It's just a way to the top of the Heavenly Mountain through some dark earthly valleys. Living a Christian life is no holiday – it is hard work and we often have to go through difficulties. We should keep in mind that God has called us to expand and build His kingdom on earth. It's a constant battle with the forces of darkness and light. Our task is to fight against our enemy, Satan. We can be injured and experience some loss but the Chief of the Heavenly Host expects us to follow His commandments.

Last year we had a 5-day seminar, led by Leonid Tkachev, on the book of Daniel. It was a great blessing to the Churches in the Carpathians as God gave us new sources of encouragement. It strengthened the local church greatly.

We are also planning what we are going to do this year as we want all the plans to be in accordance with the will of God. Not everything we had planned was done in 2010 but we always try to do our best.

As always, during our Christmas holidays we had many ministries: From Heart To Heart Action preached the gospel in people's homes and sang Ukrainian Christmas songs. We also had several meetings with non-Christian children in their homes, in our churches and in the public schools.

We want to sow as many seeds as possible and use every opportunity we have to minister. It is our task to sow and to water; but nourishing is up to God. During the Christmas holidays people are more open, they have more free time to listen to the Word of God. They aren't in a hurry to go places and often invite us into their homes. This is what we are looking for, because we can spend more time with them and have more meaningful conversations.

In winter time many people from all over Ukraine come to the Carpathian Mountains for a vacation. We go and witness to them in the recreation centers, private homes and on the streets. We see the faces of many people from different cities of Ukraine that are interested in hearing about the birth of Jesus. Some of them never understood the meaning and the importance of Christ's coming to the earth. So, we do our best to explain it to them. They are surprised that they had to come such a long way, from Kiev, Odessa, Dnepropetrovsk and other places to listen to the truth they didn't know about. We also give them literature and Bibles printed by Friedensbote in Germany. We prayed with them and many wanted to come see us again sometime. I told them that I hope so see them in Heaven if we don't meet again here on earth.

At one place we had about 20 guests from Kiev and told them: "Look at our faces in order for us to recognize each other in the sky". They were also given the Bibles and some other Christian literature.

Vasily, one of our recently saved brothers is a former drug addict. He offered to go visit and witness to a local judge who had sent him to jail several times some years ago. We went as a group of 15 people. They were very glad to see us and told us we were very welcome. The judge and his wife invited us to come into their home. The table was spread in abundance with rich food, especially for us. We sang and witnessed to the judge and his guests for about 40 minutes. They were very grateful. What a surprise it was for us when a former criminal and prisoner, whom the judge personally knew very well, prayed at the end of our meeting! God works incredible miracles even these days!

We also do a lot of evangelizing by walking around in the Carpathian Mountains. This year we had three groups of people who visited local people and told them about Jesus. Our friends from these evangelizing groups told us that they were well accepted in different villages and homes. They also gave many New Testaments to people.

Brother Peter from Rivne held one meeting with children in a school.

We also visited a special center in Verhovina for homeless people. The living conditions are good there. I witnessed to them on Christmas Day and gave the children the Faith Mission Christmas gift boxes.

We are trying to help as many people as we can, for instance, we bought food products for Sergei, an orphan who lives in the House of Prayer in Tuchapy. We bought some medicines for a non-Christian, crippled woman.

Also we gave one person some money for a trip to a rehabilitation center in Rivne City. He wanted to change his life and live for the Lord. His friends beat him because of his new lifestyle. They had forced him to drink vodka which caused him to become addicted. So going to the rehab center was an escape for him from his old friends and it helped him to personally break his drinking habit.

On January 27, we had a good meeting with 100 children, 60 from an orphanage, 20 from a local school and 20 from other villages. We distributed the Faith Mission Christmas gift boxes. All the children were brought to our church by four teachers who were also present and listened to the preaching and Christmas songs. The children were very happy and grateful. I told them that these gifts were brought from Manitoba, Canada and there were slips of paper with addresses of the people

who sent them so that the children could write and say thank you! I don't know if they will be able to write in English, but I think a few will do that.

Thank you for all your help and donations that made all these gifts possible!

God's blessings to all the friends, and we are so thankful that God has placed this ministry in their hearts. We believe that God will reward you.

Your Brother in Christ, Peter



The following true story is the third in a series of short stories taken from the book, "Voices in the Wilderness" published by Advancing Native Missions in Charlottesville, Virginia. Advancing Native Missions has granted us full permission to re-print the stories in our Mission Newsletter.

Traffic Cop - KENYA

He thought he had his life together, when in reality he was headed straight for hell. But this police officer was too busy directing others to think about where he himself was going.

John Kirema seemed to have the picture-perfect life. Born into a Christian family in Kenya, he grew up in a godly home where missionaries were familiar faces and where the Word of God was regularly taught. Well-versed in the Bible as a teenager, he was asked to teach Sunday School at age 15. After high school he headed straight for the police academy, and within a short time he was posted in Nairobi, Kenya as a traffic policeman.

But one critical piece was missing from John's life: he had never personally admitted that he was a sinner who needed Jesus to save him. Without consciously realizing it, he had become so confident in his own goodness as a "Christian" young man that he failed to see himself as a helpless sinner who needed to be saved by grace. Rather, deep down he felt that he was good enough to get into heaven on his own merit.

One day as he stood on a street corner directing traffic, he saw a gospel tract lying on the road and picked it up. He took it home to read, not knowing that it would change his life.

As he read the tract, his eyes were suddenly opened as if a thick veil had just been lifted. He realized that on the outside he appeared to be a Christian, but on the inside he had no personal relationship with Jesus Christ. All of his church involvement and religious activities did not make him a Christian. Only by confessing that he was a sinner and calling out to Jesus would he have true salvation as well as a personal relationship with the Lord.

That night John surrendered his heart to the Lord. The next morning he awoke with a new joy and a new love for people. He began excitedly telling others what the Lord had done for him. He started a Bible study among his fellow police officers and many of them accepted the Lord. The burning desire to witness to others grew steadily, and within a year he resigned from the police department and enrolled himself in Bible school.

John Kirema eventually founded Cornerstone Evangelistic Ministries, which brings the gospel to the unreached masses in East Africa. Through this ministry 55 churches have been established and thousands have been won to the Lord.

Praise be to God, who stirred an overconfident traffic cop to examine his own heart to see whether or not he was headed in the right direction!

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." Ephesians 2:8-9 (King James Version)

Seed Wheat for Russia

Although the container has not been loaded yet, we are very excited about a very special project we are working on right now. Faith Mission is planning to load a 20 foot Sea Container with seed-wheat which will be shipped to northern Russia. Exporting grain is not like shipping a load of used



clothing; there is a lot of documentation, certification and requires an Export Permit from the Canadian Wheat Board. We are hoping and praying that all these applications will be processed quickly so that the wheat will arrive in Russia in time for this spring planting season.

Here is a News Article from a Russian Article - dated August 16, 2010:

MOSCOW, Russia — The deadly forest fires ravaging the Russian countryside have wiped out a quarter of Russia's grain crop, prompting the country to ban all wheat exports as of Sunday and inflaming worries of a global food crisis.

A similar food crisis in 2007-08 provoked riots around the developing world, from Bangladesh to Yemen and from Haiti to the Ivory Coast. Is the world in store for a similar fate this year? Not necessarily, analysts say. This time around, global reserve stocks are stuffed, and healthy grain crops in countries like the U.S. and Argentina are expected to mitigate Russian shortfalls. This year, a crisis will likely be avoided, analysts say.

Yet with Russia already making predictions that its fall and winter planting will likely be disrupted, bigger problems could lie ahead. And analysts warn that a heavy reliance on this year's record US crop means that if the weather stateside changes, all predictions would go out the window.

Russia is the world's third largest grain producer, taking roughly a 13 percent share of the global wheat trade. Much of Russia's wheat is exported to the Middle East. Egypt is its largest market, followed by Turkey, Syria, Iran and Libya, according to reports.

Since the heat wave, and its attendant drought and fires, began nearly two months ago, Russian officials have repeatedly revised downward the amount of wheat expected to be harvested this year. The latest estimates put the figure at between 60 and 65 million tons, some 20 million tons fewer than expected before the crisis hit.

Russia's domestic demand alone stands at around 77 millions tons. Luckily, agriculture officials say, it has managed to store nearly 22 million in reserves.

Yet, announcements of a Russian shortfall have already helped wheat prices soar. By early August, they had risen

nearly 70 percent in 30 days to reach a two year high. Analysts blame that mainly on speculators and market uncertainties. As the situation in Russia began to become clearer, and speculators began to fade away, prices started to dip back down.....

As a result of last year's drought and fires, there is a real shortage of seed wheat for this spring. Missionswerk FriedensBote, our sister-mission in Germany, is co-ordinating the shipment of the wheat into St. Petersburg.



Several farmers and Seed Processors in southern Manitoba have been very helpful and supportive with all the work involved with getting this project underway.

If you would like to support this Seed Wheat Project, please mark your donation with "Seed Wheat". We are hoping to find donors to cover this whole project. There will be approximately 770 bushels in the container, at \$9.00 per bushel, will be a total of \$6,930.00. Shipping will be approximately \$4,200.00. So far about half of the wheat has been covered, so we are hoping to collect the remaining amount; about \$7,665.00. Thanks for your support!



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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