

Mission Newsletter



FAITH MISSION

July - August 2011

Number 93

“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” (Matt. 7:13, 14)

Living for God and serving the Lord Jesus Christ with all of your heart, mind, soul, and spirit is what separates the men from the boys, so to speak. Of all the people who have ever lived, are living now, and will live in the future, most will not go to heaven. I would to God that were not true, but it is. Most will not be saved. Only a few will stand before God one day and hear Him say, *“Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord”* (Matt. 25:21).

Jesus Himself said the way to heaven is narrow, *“and few there be that find it.”* Why is it that so few people are able to find the road to everlasting life? First of all, because heavenly eternal life lies beyond a straight gate. There is only one way to enter that gate, and that is by accepting Jesus Christ into your heart and following His direction. This is not always an easy route to travel, for Paul said, *“We must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God”* (Acts 14:22). Jesus did not promise us that the road to heaven would be easy, but He did say that *“he that endureth to the end shall be saved”* (Matt. 10:22).

Unlike the road which leads to life, the one that leads to destruction and death is broad. It can accommodate as many as desire to travel it - and, at the present time, multitudes are traveling it. This downhill path is easy to follow. It makes no demands, it sets no standards - and it does not give any type of warning as to what lies at the journey's end. Proverbs 16:25 says, *“There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”*

The wide path may seem right because so many people are choosing it, but you have the power to pursue the way of life. Though most never find this path, we should continually witness to others and try to get as many souls as we can to accept Jesus. There is no attainment great enough to merit the forfeiture of a soul to Satan, for Jesus said, *“What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”* (Matt. 16:26)

Another Soldier Graduated..... Nikolai Schepel 1938 - 2011



Nikolai Schepel has gone to be with the Lord. He passed away April 16, 2011 at the age of 73 years.

We got to know Nikolai Schepel in April 1996, when he and his son Sasha spent a few weeks with us. I have also had several opportunities to visit with Nikolai in Ukraine and Germany. We have very fond memories of the brief time we spent with Nikolai.

Growing up, Nikolai experienced a lot of hardships including poverty and poor health. He gave his life to the Lord in his teenage years and was ordained as a Pastor in Cherkassy when he was 34 years old. Nikolai was harshly persecuted because of his leadership role in the church. He was put in prison twice for preaching the gospel and sentenced to a total of thirteen years. However, by the grace of God, it was changed to 4 & 5 years consecutively which shortened the separation from his family to nine years instead of thirteen. He was one of very few Christians that received such a long sentence during that time.

Nikolai was a very energetic missionary, a strong leader in the church and has started several different churches. His mission work stretched over a large area of the country, therefore much time was spent away from home. Nikolai has left footsteps which many others will attempt to follow. Now the Lord has chosen to relieve him from his heavy workload here on earth to give him his eternal rest in Heaven.

Hebrews 11:16 “....now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.”

Clothes Overload.... Volunteer Help Needed!



Clothes, clothes, more and more clothes.....! That has been our situation at Faith Mission for months already. There are two large bins inside the warehouse that are full to the ceiling with garbage bags, full of clothes, needing to be sorted and baled. Then we have a semi trailer outside which is also full of bags of clothes. The need for volunteers is great! We understand that especially now in summer everyone is busy with their own things that need to be done. At the same time we are sending out a plea for anyone who would have some time to come help, even if it would be only one Thursday afternoon or evening. It's not that if you come once that you have to come every week. We have people that do that but there are those that come only once in awhile. Every bit of help is greatly appreciated! Almost every week we get a couple of phone calls from people wanting to bring more clothes and we have to say "no" because we have no place to put more clothes. Because of the few volunteers that are taking the time to come out to help sort & pack we've not been able to send as many containers out and the place has been this full for a couple of months already. We are so thankful for all the clothing that is being donated to Faith Mission. Our work could not continue without the clothes. We have been told many a time that the clothes are a tool that is used to minister to many a household, businesses and individuals. But the clothes are of no help to anyone as long as they are lying here in our warehouse, are they? So how about it, do you have a couple of hours you could give us? Do you know of anybody that would be able to but maybe doesn't know that we need the help so badly? Spread the word!

Another Great Camp Season behind us.... Letter from Peter in the Carpathians.....

*Dear Brother Jake and Faith Mission co-workers!
Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!*

Another Christian camp "In the Footsteps of Jesus" is over. It has brought many blessings to all the participants of the camp and for the residents of the Carpathians in general. Hundreds of families heard about Jesus as the children returned back home and brought the Bible stories they heard during the short time in a Christian atmosphere, where they felt love and affection. Many of them probably felt and saw for the first time that there is another life which is quite different from life in their homes.

In order for this ministry become successful, it took a lot of prayer and fasting, which we started several weeks ago. It was a laborious preparation for the teachers and camp leaders. For weeks, they repaired wagons, did painting, fixed floors and did other work. Ten young people from Kharkov, Kremenchug, and Volyn came to help us. They left their jobs and took a vacation for two weeks in order to tell young souls about Christ, and to sow the word of God that changes hearts and souls. Only God knows their future life. But, we are, all together as a team, trying to give them everything that Jesus Christ once gave all of us. I think that even with a strong desire they will not forget what they have heard and seen. We tried to make them notice that much work was done to get everything prepared for their arrival and when leaving for home, we wanted them to know that they were very dear to us. I think that God's desire for our common ministry was not only to work for us but also for Him. After all, all we did was for the glory of our



Lord Jesus Christ because He brought us to this ministry and keeps encouraging us to go on.

In total, we had 240 children and 40 staff members involved in camps in Staische and other villages this year. Ninety percent of the children were unbelievers, Catholics or Orthodox Christians. We are pleased that more and more children want to come to our camps. We just cannot accommodate all of them and this year, more than ever, had to be turned away.

The first camp was in Staische. There were about 100 people, and in the church in the village of Rivne. Next week we

had camps in three villages - Dovgopole, Zelene, Golovy. These are the villages where we have already spent more than a year spreading the Gospel. Our brothers visit homes and talk to the people. We continue to pray that God will allow us to start a small church with the Christian group that is there.

The theme of the camp was the life of Joseph, to show children that the Christian life is not always a walk on the green grass. We wanted to show the children how God can bless us if we are faithful to the Lord in everything, as Joseph was.

With children from the Rivne camp we visited a nursing home. We had a service together with those who live there. One week we had heavy rains, but we were delighted to see that children came to our day-time camps on foot for several miles and then went back home under the rainy skies. The next day they would come back again.

As usual, at the end of the camp we saw a lot of tears in children's eyes pleading to come back again next year. After spending time in prayer, we parted ways with the children. Hoping we'll meet again and also that the Holy Spirit will remind them of what they heard. We were really pleased when the children who attended last year's camp told us that they taught other students at school the songs they had learned in camp.

Of course, as always there were some difficulties with some children. Some teen-agers had already 'tasted' many sins. There were very difficult children that needed a lot of 'talk'. Although they deserved to be sent home, we tried to demonstrate love and forgiveness to them. Had we sent them home, they would have once again felt that they were unwanted and unneeded.

So, every year when a camp is over, we analyze the past year's events and start thinking how to improve next year's summer or the winter camps.

Dear brothers and sisters, on behalf of all the children, leaders, cooks, and the Churches of the Carpathians, I want to express our sincere gratitude for what you have done. We bring glory to God for you and thank Him that He has put a desire in your heart to sacrifice for the cause of Christ. All the churches that participated in the financing of this ministry, this is what God is doing. His plans cannot change or stop, and without your financial support of this ministry it would be difficult. One of the reasons why so many children want to come to our camps is that it's all free for them. Although the actual cost is not small, we tell children about our dear Canadian friends who donate funds and support this ministry through prayer.

You can see the pictures we send for you to rejoice in the fact that you had the opportunity to be direct participants in the ministry and help the children in Ukraine and the Carpathians. (Note: If you would like to have a short presentation including these camp pictures in your Church or Sunday School, please give us a call 325-5446)

For me personally, to witness to the children about Christ, salvation, forgiveness and hope is the most encouraging thing that makes my life useful for the glory of God. Even though there are a lot of difficulties, we want to look ahead and believe that God has prepared a place for us, just like He did for Joseph, a beautiful eternity where we'll all meet together one day.

God's blessings in your ministry.

We pray for you always.

Brother Peter from the Carpathian mountains.



Our own "Faith Mission Christmas Boxes!" That's right, we have just placed an order for the first batch of our own Christmas Boxes. In the past we have not been able to get enough shoe boxes for our Annual Christmas Gift Project so we have decided to have our own boxes made. They will be white boxes printed with red Christmas greetings in many different languages. We are very excited about this and hope that we can really make many more children excited! Not only about their beautiful gifts at Christmas but also about the meaning behind the gifts. They will get to hear that the gift represents Jesus Christ's birth and His plan of salvation for us.

Hey! Christmas in July!

Yes, it's a great time to take advantage, pick up some great deals on Back-to-School sales and start packing your Gift Boxes!!

1. Come and pick up a supply of the new "Gift Boxes" at Faith Mission or contact us if you would like us to ship some out to you. We expect them by about Aug. 15th.
2. "Fill" the box with mittens, socks, underwear, school supplies, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, and small gifts or small toys (**Please, no war toys or items that might easily break, leak, melt or spoil.**) Add a Christmas card, note or picture of yourself, if you would like.

(You may think they won't respond anyhow but we have had letters that came from those children that received their gift box).

Indicate on the space on the top of the box top whether the gift is for a boy or a girl and the appropriate age category: 5-8, 9-12, 13-16.

3. Deliver the box(es) to Faith Mission, 500 Cargill Road in Winkler.
4. Above all, pray that God will touch the life of every child who receives a gift box.

5. Please try to have the Gift Boxes at Faith Mission in Winkler by **October 1st**.

More details are available if you call to the Faith Mission Office on Tuesday or Thursday

\$\$ July & August always the 'Lean Months' \$\$

Although it seems like this year has just started, we are well over half way through 2011! Hard to believe, isn't it. Well, there is nothing we can do about it. We have been able to ship 6 containers loaded with clothing, footwear, bikes and other items. PTL!

July and August are always the lean months for any charitable organization and this year, to make matters worse, we had a postal strike. This really cut down our donations.

Some of you have opted for the Automatic Donation Plan which is not affected by a postal strike. If you would like to add your name to our ADP list, please fill out the enclosed yellow ADP Card and we can set up your donation on a monthly basis. Receipts will be issued after the end of the year.

Another donation option is through PayPal which is one of the most secure online payment services available. Just go to the Faith Mission Website and click on the PayPal



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), Inc.

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

Board of Directors

Jake Elias (204) 325-5446 Peter Penner (204) 325-8606
Henry Penner (204) 829-3318 Henry Elias (204) 822-3871
Abram Unrau (204) 385-3661

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

