

Mission Newsletter



March - April 2012

Number 97

“For what is the hope of the hypocrite, though he hath gained, when God taketh away his soul? Will God hear his cry when trouble cometh upon him?” (Job 27:8, 9)

Webster defines a hypocrite as a person who effects, or pretends to have, virtues or qualities he does not possess. Insofar as religion is concerned, such a person feigns an appearance of holiness, pretending to be what he is not. Many today are guilty of such pretense. They have not really sold out to God. Serving Him is part of “business as usual.” They will utilize their religion if it can aid in social or professional advancement. Being a Christian, or pretending to be one, is popular in some circles.

It is especially popular now to be called a “born again” Christian. Being born again - accepting Jesus as one's personal Saviour - is the most important experience in one's life. It is not to be taken lightly. But suddenly multiple millions of Americans were claiming to be born-again Christians, while only a small percentage of that number actually attended church on Sunday morning. Many were simply using the label because it suited their needs at the time. They had never, in fact, had a personal experience with Jesus Christ.

What does that say about them? It says they are hypocrites! They are kindred of those of whom Jeremiah spoke: *“The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart”* Jer. 14:14).

Why would anyone claim to speak for God when he has had no divine revelation? Perhaps to gain a measure of status and respect, or to influence the lives of others. Hypocrisy, for whatever reason, is a sin. Jesus spoke out vehemently against the hypocrites. He said, *“When thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward”* (Matt. 6:2).

True Christians serve God from a pure heart that puts Him first. Their standing with God matters far more than their standing with men. It is with these people that the Lord is well pleased. kk

Remember Valeria....?



We have written about the little girl born without arms, earlier. Valeria, from Krasnodar, Russia has experienced her share of challenges in her 11 years. Here is a short news article taken from the Mar\Apr 2012 German Missions Nachrichten.

Krasnodar - Russia When Valeria's mother got over the shock of seeing her baby girl born without arms, she abandoned her daughter right there in the maternity ward of the hospital. The doctors found a Christian couple who would look after her. They told the couple that the baby couldn't live for more than a few years anyhow.

However, the love and compassion of the foster mother impacted little Valeria's life much more than the doctors had anticipated. She is now a happy, bouncy, active eleven year old little girl. Instead of using her hands and fingers, she writes and eats with her feet and toes.

Valeria developed a hump on her back at a very young age. It has now grown larger toward the inside of her body, causing pressure on her heart and lungs. Frequent massages have given her some relief but have not stopped the growth of the hump.

Doctors are hoping that they can surgically remove the hump from her spine within the next four years. She would be hospitalized for up to six months for the surgery and therapy. Valeria would require the use of a corset after the surgery. Doctors are also discussing the possibility of providing prosthetic arms and hands for Valeria. However, the total cost

of the surgery and possible prosthetic devices is unattainable for her foster- parents, Wladimir & Maja Zarenko.

Valeria loves Jesus and, with her beautiful young voice, spends much time singing. However, many of her songs have sad lyrics. Statistics show that children like Valeria tend to commit suicide by the time they reach the age of puberty. Of course, this would be the case where they don't know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour. Praise God, Such is not the case with Valeria.

Looking at the situation from a human perspective, her situation looks hopeless. However, with God, nothing is impossible. We have no idea how He will use Valeria to spread the Gospel throughout the world. Her foster- parents are asking for continued prayer and support for their sweet little daughter. **kk**

force as ambassadors for Jesus Christ. Wladimir and Tatiana Reschetnik are now living in the city of Dymer, not far from the heavily contaminated region of Chernobyl, Russia.

As a bus driver, Wladimir transported many of the thousands that fled the region after the catastrophic nuclear disaster in April



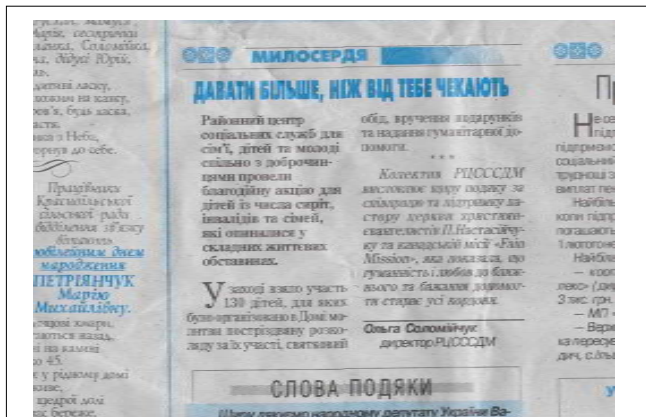
1986; twenty-six years ago. After the disaster, Wladimir and his family moved to Moldova. It was there in Moldova where Wladimir and Tatiana were introduced to Jesus and accepted Him as their Saviour and Lord.

Six years after arriving in Moldova, civil war broke out and the Reschetnik family was caught right in the line of fire. Tanks and bombs destroyed

neighboring flats and humans around them. With death staring right into their eyes, Wladimir, Tatiana and their two small children managed to escape. It was right then and there that they decided God had saved their life and they were committed to serving Him for the rest of their life. They decided to move back to the region where they had been, settling down in the city of Dymer. Three more children were born after their return to Russia.

Tatiana's Story.....

Although the group of Christians in Dymer was very small, Wladimir soon began working in adult ministry and Tatiana started a Sunday School program for the children. The post-communist authorities were by no means friendly to the Christian workers because much of their witnessing took place in the parks and on the street corners. After a while they started meeting in a local apartment for the church services. Although it wasn't easy



Clipping taken from a recent newspaper article printed in the Carpathian region of Ukraine (Translated to English below)

"To give more than expected."

The local District Social Services for Family, Children and Youth together with benefactors, recently held a charity event for orphans, disabled and needy families.

The event, held in a local church, was attended by 130 children. Starting off with a Christmas dinner; gift giving and humanitarian assistance was a highlight of the evening.

The Team of The District Social Services for Family, Children and Youth wish to express a sincere note of gratitude for the co-operation and support of the pastor of the Christian Evangelical Church, P. Nastasiychuk and the Canadian organization, Faith Mission. Both have shown that unconditional love, and care towards your neighbor and humanity as a whole has helped to erase the cultural borders.

Olga Solomijchuk - Director of District Social Services for Family, Children and Youth



This photo shows Wladimir & Tatiana Reschetnik & their oldest son during the better times in the past. They are shown on one of their "mission" trips, proclaiming the "Good News" of Jesus Christ to a group of older people in one of the villages in the Chernobyl region of Russia.

Time for Harvest....

25 years after the Chernobyl Disaster

As victims of the Chernobyl disaster they fled the

to soften the hardened hearts of these communist people, their group was growing in numbers as well as in spirit. One by one, more children started to attend Tatiana's Sunday School classes. They were all from non-believing families so, none of them had ever seen a Bible before! Anna was a very special student! It was a very special day when she accepted Jesus into her heart! Anna's parents tried whatever they could to keep her from attending the Bible classes. Eventually their wishes were fulfilled! She moved to Kiev, got married and moved into the remote community of Krasnojarsk, Siberia.....

(I will finish Anna's story in our next Newsletter)

Several of her former students are now serving the Lord in other parts of the world. One is a missionary in Siberia, one as church leader in Ukraine and another in Israel.

Please Continue to Pray.....

On the 9th of June, 2010, Tatiana was admitted in the hospital, completely unconscious. It took a team of five medical specialist from Kiev 5 hours to get her out of her coma. The initial prognosis was that she had suffered a major stroke. Recently a medical professor has diagnosed her illness as "Ménière's disease" which, (*according to Wikipedia*), is a disorder of the inner ear that can affect hearing and balance to a varying degree. There is a possibility that this could have caused her stroke. To escalate Tatiana's situation, her body, presumably affected by the high level of radiation she was exposed to, does not tolerate most medication. Tatiana's digestive system doesn't function so she is not able to eat. She has lost 20 kilograms. She is currently suffering with headaches and frequent dizzy spells. We are providing some financial support for her medical treatment and ask that you continue to pray for Tatiana and the Reschetnik family. Her recovery is very import for the ongoing missionary service in the Chernobyl area. kk

What's Happening at Faith Mission in Winkler?

What a Winter it has been! We have been blessed in so many ways. The weather has been so good. Hardly any snow to move and Southern Manitoba temperatures have broken more daily record highs this year than ever before! Heating bills were a fraction of what we normally

experience during a Manitoba winter. God has truly been awesome!

Faith Mission has also been blessed in countless ways during these last few months. Finally! We were able to see the floors of our clothing bins. In fact, one recent Thursday afternoon, the volunteers left early because they wanted to leave at least some clothes for the group coming in for



the evening shift. Praise the Lord!

On March 29th, we loaded Container number 4 for this year. This is container number 194 since Faith Mission started in 1994. kk

Off to Germany for Surgery....

Jake and Helena Elias are planning to leave for Hattingen \ Dhsseldorf, Germany on April 17, 2012. Jake and Helena have been with Faith Mission from the start in 1994. Helena works in the office on Tuesdays and also spends most Thursday afternoons there. Jake has been on the board and also handles all the overseas container scheduling and paperwork.



Jake has been struggling with back pain off and on since he suffered a construction accident in 1979. In 2010 the pain got really bad and he had a minor surgery in Brandon, MB in December 2010. Since then, the back pain has gotten worse and he is now scheduled for double disk replacement in Germany on April 23. The German medical team is also planning to do a complete re-assessment of Jake's Chronic Pancreatitis and Gastroparesis condition which has resulted in Tube-Feeding the past 6 years.

There is a large cost attached to this operation. Total cost will be between \$45,000 & \$50,000. Several fundraising projects have already happened. Jake & Helena would like to thank everyone for the love and support that has been expressed. However, there is still quite a sum left to pay off. If you would like to support Jake & Helena with this, you can just send it to Faith Mission. Please make cheques payable to Jake or Helena Elias - NOT TO FAITH MISSION. Don't hesitate to call if you would like more information.

Please PRAY that the surgery will be successful!

Hey! It's almost Camping Time Again

That's right! It's hard to believe but it's only a few months to go till the camps will be in full swing! The organizers are already



planning their activities for the June & July programs. Faith Mission has again committed to provide the financial support needed to operate the camps in several of the Carpathian Mountain villages.

This will be the eighth year that we have supported the camp

program directed by our friend Peter N. In a recent letter from Peter, he indicated that they were very excited about this year's camp program which would be the biggest ever. Many, many children have been introduced to the gospel through these camps.

If you feel inspired to support the camp project, please designate your donation for [Camps] on the mail-in address card.

"WORK FOR THE NIGHT IS COMING!"

"There are 125,000 cities and villages in Russia with no churches at all," reports Good Samaritan Mission. Groups of missionaries are organized to go from village to village, from the north to the south, from the east to the west. New churches are established in places where people are open to the word of God. According to their program, four New Testaments have to be left in each village. In other words, they need 500,000 New Testaments. One New Testament costs between \$1 and \$2.

Faith Mission is working with Missionswerk FriedensBote in Germany with printing and distributing Bibles and other Christian literature in the former soviet countries. If God inspires you to participate in our Bible project, we would be able to provide God's Word to many of the village people who have never heard about Jesus before. " Pray for the funds needed to provide them with Bibles and New Testaments.

Please check the [Literature box] on the mail-in address card to designate your donation for this project.



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.

Banking Information - Access Credit Union
Box 1060, Winkler, MB R6W 4B1
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