

**Revivals And Church History :: Amazing Testimony Of Richard Wurmbbrand (Interview)****Amazing Testimony Of Richard Wurmbbrand (Interview) - posted by Tears\_of\_joy, on: 2007/4/8 22:57**

COMMUNIST EXPLOITATION OF RELIGION

TESTIMONY OF REV. RICHARD WURMBRAND

HEARING Before the Subcommittee to Investigate the Administration of the Internal Security Act and Other Internal Security Laws, of the Committee on the Judiciary, Washington, D.C.

UNITED STATES SENATE

EIGHTY-NINTH CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Friday, May 6, 1966

The subcommittee met, pursuant to call, at 10:20 a.m., in room 18, Old Senate Office Building, Senator Thomas J. Dodd presiding. Also present: Jay G. Sourwine, chief counsel; Benjamin Mandel, director of research; Frank W. Schroeder, chief investigator; and Robert C. McManus, investigations analyst.

**Senator Dodd:** I will call this hearing to order. We have as our witness today Pastor Richard Wurmbbrand, who is a refugee from Rumania. Mr. Sourwine will introduce and read a copy of Dr. Wurmbbrand's credentials.

I must say, before you do so, that we are grateful for your appearing here. I am familiar with the nature of your testimony -- I think I am -- to an extent. I feel that you are rendering a real service to the cause of the free world.

Go ahead, Mr. Sourwine.

**Mr. Sourwine:** Mr. Chairman, this letter of credentials, which I shall read pursuant to your instructions, was given to Dr. Wurmbbrand by Dr. Hedenquist, who is the mission director of the Svenska Israels missionen. The reason is explained in the text. It reads:

Pastor Richard Wurmbbrand is a refugee from Rumania, a country which he had to leave because of the antireligious persecution. Fleeing from there, he has not the usual credentials, which have been taken from him at his arrest by the secret police of the Communists.

From April 1939, to January 1930, he was secretary of the church's mission to the Jews which had to retire from Rumania at the last date because of the war.

During the whole war he has been pastor of our mission in Rumania. Since our mission retired from Rumania in 1945, from that year to 1948 he has been a pastor of the Norwegian mission to the Jews.

In the same time he has worked also in the representation of the World Council of Churches for Rumania.

He was also a professor of the Old Testament in the Seminary of Bucharest.

From 1948 to 1956, he was in prison for religious motives.

Released in 1956, he was no more authorized by the Communist authorities to fulfill his duties. From 1956 to 1959 he preached and exercised his other pastoral functions illegally.

Rearrested for this in 1959, he was again in prison until July 1964, when he was released on the basis of a general amnesty.

Since 1964, he was pastor of the Evangelical Church in Orshova, a Rumanian town.

Continuing to be the object of persecution and being in great danger, our Scandinavian mission to the Jews succeeded to make him escape from there.

We recommend him as a most reliable person, a fine Christian who has published several books against atheism and communism and who has got a burning heart for Christ and for all people in need.

This is signed by Dr. Hedenquist, doctor of theology, mission director in Sweden for Svenska Israels missionen.

**Reverend Wurmbrand:** He is the former secretary of the World Council of Missions.

**Senator Dodd:** Without objection, this letter will be included in the record. Since it has been read, it will not be reprinted.

Mr. Sourwine, you may proceed. I have some questions which I might as well ask to begin with, rather than wait until later.

Pastor, how many languages do you speak?

**Reverend Wurmbrand:** There are legends about me that I speak very many languages. Something like 14.

**Senator Dodd:** Obviously, you speak English.

**Reverend Wurmbrand:** Yes; English, French, German Hungarian, and so on.

**Senator Dodd:** Did you come directly from Rumania?

**Reverend Wurmbrand:** No, no; from Rumania I went to Italy; from Italy to Oslo, and then from Europe I came to the States.

**Senator Dodd:** From where?

**Reverend Wurmbrand:** From Paris.

**Senator Dodd:** When was that?

**Reverend Wurmbrand:** I came to the States 3 weeks ago.

**Senator Dodd:** Were you required by the secret police to make any commitments before you could leave Rumania?

**Reverend Wurmbrand:** Before I left Rumania I was called twice to the secret police. The first time they said that they don't know yet if they will allow me to leave the country with my family. They said: "Dollars have been received for you. You will have to leave the country, but perhaps we will let some time to pass, because your remembrances of prison are too fresh and you have too good a pen."

**Senator Dodd:** What?

**Reverend Wurmbrand:** A pen. "You can too well write. Perhaps we will keep somebody here of your family as hostage." The second time they called me again and they said: "Now you will leave the country, but be very cautious when you come out. You may preach Christ as much as you like. We know that you are a preacher, but don't touch us. Don't speak against Communists. If you will speak against communism, for \$1,000 we can find a gangster who will liquidate you. We play with you with open cards. You come from prison You have met in prison men whom we have brought back from the West."

And that is the truth. I have been in prison with a Rumanian Orthodox priest, Vasile Leul, who has been kidnapped from Austria. I have seen his nail torn out and broken, and so they reminded me of that. "You know how our prisons are and that you can come back in prison."

And the third thing which they said: "We have also another possibility with you. We can destroy you morally outside. We will find story with a girl or a money story or something else and people will be stupid enough to believe it. We will destroy you if you touch us."

And under these conditions I was allowed to come out. And very sorrowfully in the West I found people in the W

est, even religious leaders, who told me the same thing: "Preach Christ as much as you like but don't touch Communists."

**Senator Dodd:** As I understand it, you said you came to this country 3 weeks ago. ...

**Reverend Wurmbrand:** One month today.

**Senator Dodd:** Were you in prison from 1948 to 1956?

**Reverend Wurmbrand:** Yes, and then imprisoned again in January 1959 to 1964.

**Senator Dodd:** Were you in the same prison all of that time?

**Reverend Wurmbrand:** No, no; we were transferred from one prison to the others.

**Senator Dodd:** From 1956 to 1959 as I understand it, you exercised your religious function in spite of the law against such activity, did you not?

**Reverend Wurmbrand:** Yes, yes.

**Senator Dodd:** How did you do this?

**Reverend Wurmbrand:** When I came out from prison in 1956, I was licensed to preach - of course, nobody can preach in our country except he has a license from the Government - and in the beginning I got a license, but which was withdrawn from me after the first week of preaching.

The motives are so comical you would say. In a sermon I said that Christians must keep hope, because of the wheel of history turns, and the wheel of life.

"You meant us, that communism will change, that communism will fall. Never will it fall." It has been reproached to me that in a sermon I have said Christians must practice patience, patience, and again patience. "Ah, you meant that the Americans will come and we must be patient until they come."

**Everything was misinterpreted, and so the license has been withdrawn from me.** And then generally in the Soviet countries there exists the underground church which works as the first Christians worked. Only now we understand texts of the bible which we had not understood before. I did not know why it is written in the Bible that a man named Simon was called Peter. Simeon was called Niger and so on. Everyone is called otherwise than his mother called him. So it is with us now. In every village I was called by another name. I was called Valentin, Georgescu, Ruben. **In every village I had another name, and so I could preach.**

I did not understand in earlier times why Jesus, when He wishes to have the last supper said: "Go in town and you will see a man with a pitcher and go after him and where he enters prepare the supper."

Why does he not give an address, a number, and a street? Now we know it **when we make secret prayer meetings. We never give the address.** We don't know if that man is not the informer of the secret police. We tell to the man to wait in a public garden or somewhere, and when one with a flower here, or with a necktie passes, go after him. **We don't introduce ourselves to each other, and if somebody asks the name of the other one, we know that he is the informer of the secret police. And so we have developed a technique of secret church work and so I could work.**

**Senator Dodd:** How did you keep alive.? How did you sustain yourself?

**Reverend Wurmbrand:** The Christians sustained me everywhere. I had no salary, I had no regular salary but the Christians everywhere sustained me. In Rumania the first question asked of a pastor or a priest of any denomination, is: Has he been in prison? If he has been in prison he is all right. All the Christians sustain him.

**Senator Dodd:** You were rearrested in 1959, as I understand it.

**Reverend Wurmbrand:** Yes

**Senator Dodd:** Were you kept in the same prison until your release in 1964?

**Reverend Wurmbrand:** No. Then, also, I was in several prisons.

**Senator Dodd:** Could you describe for us the cell in which you were kept in solitary confinement?

**Reverend Wurmbrand:** There were different cells. In solitary confinement I was the first 2 , nearly 3 years. It was in the most beautiful building of Bucharest in the building of the Secretariat of State for Internal Affairs. It is a building before which all foreigners stand and admire it. I can tell you that your White House is a very little building in comparison with ours. And there beneath the earth 10 meters beneath the earth are the cells. There are no windows in the cells. Air enters through a tube. And there were a few desks with a mattress, with a straw mattress. You had but three steps for to walk. Never were we taken out from these cells except for interrogations when prisoners were beaten and tortured.

For years I have never seen sun, moon, flowers, snow, stars, no man except the interrogator who beat, but I can say I have seen heaven open, I have seen Jesus Christ, I have seen the angels and we were very happy there.

But the treatment was very bad. The purpose was to make us mad. You didn't hear a noise. A whisper you didn't hear in this cell. The guard had felt shoes. For years, not to hear anything. In all these years of prison we never had a book, we never had a but of paper, we never had a newspaper, nothing to distract our mind except that from time to time tape recorders were put on the corridor. I didn't know what a tape recorder is. I had not seen such a thing.

But at once we heard beautiful Rumanian music, and then we enjoyed it. We didn't know what has happened with the Communists that they make us enjoy, and after 10 or 15 minutes at once you heard, "Ha, ha, ha don't beat," the torturing of a woman. This lasted for half an hour the torturing of a woman. And of 100 prisoners who had been in that cell, in that corridor, everybody recognized that it is his wife or that it is his girl. I myself thought also that it is my wife.

Never will a Westerner understand, if I would not have the mark on my body, which are my credentials.

**Senator Dodd:** Excuse me, never will who understand? ...

**Reverend Wurmbrand:** A Westerner can't understand God is here and knows that I will not tell you the while truth because if I will tell you the while truth, you will faint and rush out of this room, not bearing to hear what things have happened. But I will tell you that in a prison they crucified a cat before ourselves.

They beat nails in the feet of the cat and the cat was hanging with the head down, and can you imagine how this cat screamed and the prisoners, mad, beat on the door, "Free the cat, free the cat, free the cat," and the Communists very polite, "Oh, surely we will free the cat, but give the statements which we ask from you and then the cat will be freed," and I have known men who have given statements against their wives, against their children, against their parents to free the cat.

They did it out of madness, and then the parents and the wives have been tortured like the cat. Such things have happened with us.

**Senator Dodd:** Did you have any fellow Christians like you imprisoned?

**Reverend Wurmbrand:** We had hundreds of bishops, priests, monks in prisons; my wife who is near me, she has been with Catholic nuns. My wife tells that they were angels; such have been put in prisons. Nearly all Catholic bishops died in prison. Innumerable Orthodox and Protestants have been in prison, too.

**Senator Dodd:** The point I was getting at - and I guess I did not make it clear - where the Christians treated any differently or mistreated any differently?

**Reverend Wurmbrand:** Everybody in prison was very badly treated. And I cannot be contradicted on this question, because I have been with physicians, I have much more broken bones than anybody, so either I broke my bones or somebody else broke them. And if I would not have been a clergyman but a murderer - it is a crime to torture a murderer, too.

The Christian prisoners were tortured in a form which should mock their religion. I tell you again in the prison

of Pitesti one scene I will describe you about torturing and mocking Christians, and believe me I would renounce to eternal life to paradise after which I long, if I tell you one word of exaggeration. God is here and knows that I do not say everything. It cannot be said. There are ladies here. There are other people hearing it.

One Sunday morning in the prison of Pitesti a young Christian was already the fourth day, day and night, tied to the cross. Twice a day the cross was put on the floor and 100 other cell inmates by beating, by tortures, were obliged to fulfill their necessities upon his face and upon his body. Then the cross was erected again and the Communists swearing and mocking "Look your Christ, look your Christ, how beautiful he is, adore him, kneel before him, how fine he smells, your Christ."

And then the Sunday morning came and a Catholic priest, an acquaintance of mine, has been put to the belt, in the dirt of a cell with 100 prisoners, a plate with excrements, and one with urine was given to him and he was obliged to say the holy mass upon these elements, and he did it. And I asked him afterward, "Father, but how could you make this?"

He was half mad. He answered to me: "Brother, I have suffered more than Christ. Don't reproach to me what I have done." And the other prisoners beaten to take holy communion in this form, and the Communists around, "Look, your sacraments, look, your church, what a holy church you have, what fine is your church, what holy ordinance God has given you."

I am very insignificant and a very little man. I have been in prison among the weak ones and the little ones, but I speak for a suffering country and for a suffering church and for the heroes and the saints of the 20th century; we have had such saints in our prison to which I did not dare to lift my eyes.

I am a Protestant, but we have had near us Catholic bishops and monks and nuns about whom we felt that the touching of their garments heals. We were not worthy to untie their shoelaces. Such men have been mocked and tortured in our country. And even if it would mean to go back to a Rumanian prison, to be kidnaped by the Communists and going back and tortured again, I cannot be quiet. I owe it to those who have suffered there.

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Re: Amazing Testimony Of Richard Wurmbrand (Interview) - posted by Tears\_of\_joy, on: 2007/4/8 23:30

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Senator Dodd: Now, did the Rumanian secret police employ brainwashing techniques?

Reverend Wurmbrand: The worst thing has been the brainwashing. All the tortures of times before were nothing in comparison with brainwashing.

To describe very shortly brainwashing: First of all we were doped. The dope was put in our food. I did not know about this dope. But we saw only the results, a dope which gave two results. First of all, what the physician calls *aleulia* which means lack of power of will. The power of will was completely broken. If we were told, "Lift your hand," I lifted it. If I was not told to let the hand down, I would never have left it down.

We were at the same time very much undernourished. We had times when we received 100 grams, one slice of bread, a week. It was told to us, "We give you as many calories as you need to be able to breathe only," and so our power of will has been broken.

Second, this drug or perhaps it is another drug, produces the delirium of self-accusation. I have seen prisoners knocking during the night on the door and saying, "Take me to the interrogator, I have new things to say against me." Prisoners quarreled with their interrogators to say against themselves more than the interrogators asked from them.

And then we have had in prisons the curious phenomenon that we as priests received confessions from other prisoners. Now everybody is a sinner, but not everybody is a criminal. Men who have never murdered confessed that they have murdered, that they have committed adultery, that they have stolen. They felt they had to accuse themselves. This has also been the result of doping.

And after we were doped like that - that is the secret of all the Soviet show trials, in which the prisoners accuse themselves - then the time of brainwashing came. For 17 hours a day from 5 in the morning to 10 in the evening we had to sit like this. We were not allowed to lean. We were not allowed to rest a little bit our weary heads upon our hands. To close your eyes was a crime. Seventeen hours a day we had to sit like that and hear from the morning to the evening: "Communism is good, communism is good, communism is good, communism is good," until you heard one who was already 20 years in prison under the Communists shouting, "Communism is good, communism is good, co

communism is good, I give my life for communism."

**It was after the technique of Professor Pavlov, a scientific suggestion.**

In prison there were not only priests and pastors. **We have had hundreds of peasants and young boys and girls who were put in prison for their Christian faith. These were separated and for them there was a special brainwashing, not only that "communism is good," but "Christianity is dead, Christianity is dead, Christianity is dead. Nobody more believes in Christ, nobody more believes in Christ, you are the only fools."**

And so on. And I must tell you that you may know how far this brainwashing went. I do not like to pose here like a hero. I believed that Christianity is dead under this influence. I believed -

Senator Dodd: I did not hear that.

**Reverend Wurmbrand: I believed that Christianity is dead under this suggestion. Nobody goes more to church. They gave us post cards. I have not seen my wife for 10 years. They gave me post cards, they gave to all of us post cards: "Write to your children and wife; they may come and on that day see you and bring your parcels," so on that day we were shaved; we expected and expected until the evening and nobody came. They had not sent the post cards, but we did not know.**

**Then came the brainwashings. "Your wives are laying in bed with men," obscene words, "Your children hate you. You have nobody to love in the world. You are the only fools. Give up faith. Nobody is more Christians. Christianity is dead."**

I believed also that nobody is more a Christian. I had read in the Bible that there will be in the last time the great apostasy, that people will leave the faith and I believed that I lived now this time. But I said to myself if Christianity is dead, I will sit at its tomb and will weep until it arises again, just as Mary Magdalene sat at the tomb of Jesus and wept until Jesus showed Himself. Then when I came out of prison I saw Christianity is not dead. The number of practicing Christians in Rumania according to the figures given by the Communists themselves in 20 years of Communist dictatorship has grown 300 percent.

Senator Dodd: How do the Communists use religion for their own purposes if they do?

**Reverend Wurmbrand: That is a very tragic side. The worse thing in Rumania has not been the persecution of Christians. The persecution has made the Christians to be of steel. The worst thing has been the corruption of religion. They have put as religious leaders their man.** A bishop, a pastor, a preacher, just a man like other man and can commit sins. **Now if they found a preacher or somebody else in adultery or in some money irregularity or I do not know what sin, they called him and blackmailed him and said, "Now you must become our man. Otherwise we publish what we have found." Or they found others who were weak ones, whom they promised I do not know what. They never keep their promises. And these men, they put at the leadership of religion everywhere.**

They have their bishops, their bishop vicar, their professors of theology, their presidents of the Baptists and Pentecostals and so on. I could give names. I know this from firsthand. Because many of these, when we came out of prison, **out of remorse confessed to us what they have done. And now they use these men. With us in Rumania religion is a very great thing. You do not find much religious difference in Rumania. By these weak Christians, the Communists used religion for their propaganda.**

**When the Communists came to power in Rumania, they convoked in the building of our parliament a congress of all the cults. There were 4,000 priests; pastors, rabbis of all religions were there. Our Prime Minister Gorza, said the same things which you hear now in the West. This was in 1945 when they came to power with us. "You know Rumanian communism will not be like Russian communism. We are a democratic communism. We will not persecute the church. We are on the side of monarchy. We will never collectivize agriculture. We are something entirely else and you should be on our side and then we will protect religion and we will give salaries to the priests."**

And the priests, good men, simply believed him and cheered him. **Priests and bishops one after the other stood up and said, "Well, if your communism is otherwise than the Russian communism, if it will be a good communism, we do not object against communism in principle."** And one after the other stood up and praised this form of communism. **There was only one in that congress who protested and said that communism can never change, that terror is an essential part of communism, because communism is contrary to human nature.**

What would you say if I would take the purse out of your pocket? Everyone wishes to have something. A dog wishes to

have a bone, and communism is against human nature because it does not allow you to have anything of yours and so communism must use terror. At that congress there was only one who said these things. This one is now before you.

But what has happened? I went to prison, this was one of the charges against me. I met in prison all those who had praised communism, all those who have collaborated with communism, and they were treated just like me. They had been the fools. There was only one difference that I was in prison with a good conscience and they were with a bad conscience. In prison they had remorse. Religion was used for Communist propaganda in our country.

Just to give you one example: **To the Orthodox Church of Rumania foreigners come and see the liturgy and see everything so beautiful. The church is open. They do not understand the language, they do not know what is preached.** I will give you the text of the sermon. It was a sermon about an epistle of St. Paul where it was written that Christ is our peace, and so the priest explained, **"Christ is our peace. Who is against peace? American imperialists. And who is on the side of the peace? We, the Socialist countries."**

So you see that Christ identifies Himself with socialism and so on. Such sermons they have. They have used the religion for their own purposes in the country. Then they have used the religion for getting political positions in the West. They are not fools to send in the West representatives of the Communist Party. They send bishops with great beards and beards are always very impressive here in the West, and through these beards they influence the West.

**Senator Dodd:** I have many more questions, but would you show your wounds and scars, if you have some?

**Reverend Wurmbrand:** I apologize here before the ladies.

**Senator Dodd:** Take your time. If ever a man was entitled to time, I think you are.

**Reverend Wurmbrand:** Look here, look here, look here. Look here, look here. And so the whole body.

**Senator Dodd:** What is the scar behind your ear?

**Reverend Wurmbrand:** **Here they put the knife and said, "Give accusatory statement against your bishops and against the other pastors. Do you give or not? And they cut. It is true that they did not cut very deeply.**

**Senator Dodd:** These are all knife wounds?

**Reverend Wurmbrand:** **They tortured by all means. They beat until they broke the bones. They used red-hot irons, they used knives, they used everything. And what was the first thing is not they beat, not what they did, but how they did it. They interrogated you very politely, and if you did not wish to say what they asked they said, "Well, we have the first. On the 15th you will be beaten and tortured at 10 o'clock in the evening."**

Imagine what 14 days were after this. We have had prisoners who during this time, which has been given to them, knocked at the door, "I can't bear it. I will say everything," before they have been tortured.

**Senator Dodd:** I wish you would turn around before you put your shirt on.

**Reverend Wurmbrand:** **And that it may be very clear, it is not that I boast with these marks. I show to you the tortured body of my country, of my fatherland, and of my church, and they appeal to the American Christians and to all freemen of America to think about our tortured body, and we do not ask you to help us. We ask you only one thing. Do not help our oppressors and do not praise them. You cannot be a Christian and praise the inquisitors of Christians.** That is what I have to say.

**Senator Dodd:** All right. You may put on your clothes. **That scar on your right breast,** do you remember how that was inflicted?

**Reverend Wurmbrand:** **Yes; by knife.**

**Senator Dodd:** By knife?

**Reverend Wurmbrand:** By knife. I have been in **Oslo. I went to a hospital. There were several physicians.** I can give

e their names. I spoke with them about religion. In the beginning they said, "We are atheists," and then they saw my body and I asked them what treatment do I need. **They said: "About treatment, do not ask us. Ask only the one in whom we don't believe, but who has kept you alive, because according to our medical books, you are dead. A man who has what you have, with four vertebrae broken, cannot live. According to our medical books, you are dead. If you are alive, then the one in whom we don't believe has kept you alive."**

**Senator Dodd:** I think it is important for our purposes to understand this completely. As I take it, they cut you, but they must have been asking you questions.

**Reverend Wurmbrand:** Surely, surely. I had worked in the representation of the World Council of Churches in Rumania, and after the war this World Council of Churches made a great relief work and I myself had relationship with the Rumanian patriarchs and with the bishops and with the Baptists and with the Pentecostals and Lutherans and so on, and we worked with all these.

And now they wish to make with us in Rumania a great show process, a great show trial as they have made in Hungary with Cardinal Mindszenty and so on, and they wished from me accusatory statements against all these with whom I have had connections, and because I did not wish to give these accusatory statements, I and others have been tortured. This has been the usual thing. Nobody enters in the Rumanian secret police without being beaten, without being tortured. **I have been not the worst tortured. The proof is that I am alive. So many died.** Nearly all our Catholic bishops have been so handled that they have died, and in that time the Russians were in our country, they decided that the Catholic bishops should be killed. One of the members of the Government has been Gromyko, one of the murderers of Christians. Perhaps you will understand why I call his name.

**Senator Dodd:** Yes; I do.

**Reverend Wurmbrand:** I have seen Catholic priests, heroes, dying not only for Christ and confessing Christ to the end, but dying for the Pope.

I have heard the word of a Catholic priest, I will not tell his name. He was asked, "Do you still believe in the Pope?" and he said, "Since St. Peter there has always been a Pope, and until Christ will come again there will always be a Pope. And the actual Pope, Pius the 12th has not made peace with you and never will a Pope shake hands with you." He was trampled under the feet and tortured to death. Under our eyes he was killed. At that time a member of the government who killed this Catholic priest has been Gromyko, and the priest died with the hope that never will a Pope shake hands with his murderers.

**Senator Dodd:** You saw and heard this yourself.

**Reverend Wurmbrand:** Yes, surely; and it is not only one case. I could never finish if I would tell you what I have seen. I must just pour out before you my heart. I speak for a country and I speak for a church. We are very, very sad there about all these compromises. I must tell you I have been in England before I came to the States, and I have spoken with high Christian officials from England. The Archbishop of Canterbury and many canons and so on have been in our country recently, last year. So I asked Christian leaders - I will not tell names - "Why have you sat at banquets with our inquisitors? I am a little pastor, I cannot interrogate you, but I speak for the others who cannot speak for themselves. "Why have you sat at banquets with our inquisitors?"

I was answered, "We are Christians and must have friendship and fellowship with everybody, with the Communists, too. Don't you agree?"

I said, "I can't polemicize with you. I have not read the Bible for 14 years. You must know Christianity better than I. Faintly I remember in the Bible it is written that friendship with the world is hatred toward God. But supposing you must have friendship and fellowship with everybody. How is it that you have had friendship and fellowship only with our inquisitors, and with us never?"

Never have these great men of the West been in the houses of Christian martyrs. I have an only son and I love him. I cannot look to him. He looks like a skeleton. He has hungered. He will never be healthy. And so many of our children died. All these great relates from the West are great men. I am very little in comparison with them. But I always asked myself, "Well, all right, make friendship with the Communists. But only with the Communists?" They never inquired about us.

I asked them, "Why did you go to see the Pope, who is all right, who does not need your visit?" "When you have been in Rumania why have you not visited the tombs of the Catholic bishops killed in tortures? Why have you not shed there a tear? Why have you not put there a flower? That is what we expected. Why have you not left 10 pounds? Ten pounds would have been the salvation of a Catholic family there. You go to see the Pope. The Pope is all right. He has to eat and to drink." But I must say we are very sad there about these compromises with communism. We do not understand. I am a man who does not understand politics. I have not read newspapers for 14 years.

It may be right for a state to have peaceful existence with communism. I do not know. That is a question for Johnson and Goldwater to decide. But the church can never have peaceful coexistence with atheism. Everybody would laugh if I would say that health can peacefully exist with the microbe of tuberculosis, that the FBI can coexist peacefully with gangsters, that the church can peacefully exist with drunkenness, **but communism and atheism is much worse than drug addiction and drunkenness. You drink a little wine and the next day it passes, but communism poisons youth and our children since 50 years. How can there be peaceful existence with this on the side of church men and the church leadership I cannot understand.**

I must say I have been very sad. I have read in your periodicals that, I do not know why, church bodies here ask the admission of Red China in the organization of allied nations. It may be right. I do not know politics. I do not know what this organization of allied nations is, but I ask myself, "You, a church periodical, why don't you write about the tortures inflicted to Chinese Christians by the communists? That is your business and leave the business of politics to the Senate and like this."

I express here the grief and the great pain of a suffering country and of a suffering church, and I apologize if I am a little unpolite.

...

**Re: Amazing Testimony Of Richard Wurmbrand (Interview), on: 2007/4/9 3:21**

This is the second time I've read this interview. I should probably read it every day.

I fear the same things will happen in North America soon enough.

**Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/4/9 7:07**

this is truly humbling, one thing i think of, why is it that their cross should way less then my cross? I'm blessed to live in a free country, but still, something in me says i would be ashamed if i went to join some of these saints in heaven today. Truly an aw some interview. To me this is what i believe will come upon the whole earth when we begin to be the church as the church should be. The world has hated me Jesus said, therefore it will hate you.... Does the world hate me?

another question i ask myself....

I'm i ready for this? may God have mercy upon me

**Amazing Testimony Of Richard Wurmbrand (Interview) - posted by crsschk (), on: 2007/4/9 10:14**

Hard is it to even speak ... Have made this "sticky" and know precisely where it should also be linked. If this will not forever put an end to strife and petty quarreling when it inevitably comes ... God help us. Thank you brother for bringing this once again before us.

Quote:

-----This is the second time I've read this interview. I should probably read it every day.  
-----

As a devotional, in times when we think we are really being tested, 'persecuted' or even if we truly are. Could think of a hundred examples where this would bring a sobering and humbling reality to just how little we do in fact understand...

**Re: Amazing Testimony Of Richard Wurmbrand (Interview) - posted by Tears\_of\_joy, on: 2007/4/9 13:55**

Excerpts from the last part of the Interview:

"Where is the Bible Society? We have no Bible Society. Show me one Bible printed in 20 years. We have no such thing. Tell me the name of one Christian who for 20 years could publish a book. Give me the name of one Christian professor of humanistic sciences in our country. Tell me on Sunday school in Bucharest where it can be attended.

"Tell me where is the YMCA in Rumania. Where are the pastors Ghelbegeanu, Vacareanu, and so on?" They are in prison.

"Please answer to me these questions. If you have received answers, I have received answers." There is no possible answers. It is not right for Christians to mock our sufferings. The communists have mocked us enough. **Don't praise our inquisitors. That is the only thing which we ask.** I apologize before these great Christians bodies. I am really a very little man but **I speak for the great saints who suffer in prison. It is not right to praise our inquisitors or to think that now they have become better.**

**Mr. Sourwine:** Are the restrictive measures imposed upon the exercise of religion in Rumania today as stringent as the y were 10 or 15 years ago?

**Reverend Wurmbrand: No; they are no more stringent and I will explain to you why.** I have been in a very poor family, a family with five children. Generally our men are very poor with us, unbelievably poor.

My salary when I left Rumania was \$28. You say it is little, \$28 a week. It was \$28 a month. My son was not allowed to finish his studies because of my condemnation. He worked as a building worker and had \$30 a month. Our bishop has \$70 a month. And now our population is very, very poor.

**Senator Dodd:** When you say dollars, you mean the equivalent?

**Reverend Wurmbrand:** Yes; the equivalent of \$70. Now I was in a very poor family with five little children, and I caressed a child and the mother said to me, **"This child is so good, it doesn't weep even when it is hungry." It had given up weeping because the child knew it is useless to weep. You can't get food. And so this child was not beaten, because it didn't weep any more. The Rumanian people does not weep any more. And, therefore, it must not be beaten any more.**

The Rumanian people, as well as the other peoples behind the Iron Curtain, are desperate. They have abandoned hope that they will ever be released. For years we have heard a broadcast station: "Rebel against communism, rebel against communism," and when we rebelled we were abandoned.

And we see how our oppressors are helped. I will tell you a scene. Believe me, God is here. I tell you the scene just as it happened. It was in the years of brainwashing, the 14th year of prison. We are gathered to a meeting, and Major Alexandrescu, the commandant of the prison of Gherla, delivered us a speech and said: You fools, you set for 15 or 20 years in prison and expected the Americans to come. You expected the Americans will come and release you. Now I will give you the news. The Americans come but not to release you. They come to help us, to help us, to make business with us, to make trade with us. You fools have not known. The Americans if you beg them, they give you nothing.. If you insult them, if you mock them, they give you money. We have been more clever than you. These are words which I have heard myself. Such things have happened in our country.

**Mr. Sourwine:** Are there any open churches in Rumania today, which anyone may attend?

**Reverend Wurmbrand:** Just I didn't finish this question. Â...

Our Government doesn't mind old women coming to church, but our childhood, our youth is poisoned with atheism. We are not allowed to counteract, and what bitter fruits will come out of this seed nobody can know.

**Now you have asked another question, do we have open churches in Rumania?** If somebody comes to Rumania - it is another situation in Russia - if somebody comes to Rumania, he is really impressed.

The Orthodox liturgy is something very beautiful. It is grand. And if you come in Rumania you see thousands of churches

s open, liturgies, sermons, many people in the church. And I have spoken with Americans who have been there and have told me, "I was very impressed." **And now there is really a certain religious liberty. In Rumania you are allowed to say as much as you like that God is good. You are not allowed to say that the Devil is bad. St. John the Baptist could have saved his life if he had said: "Repent because the kingdom of heaven is near." Nobody would have touched him. He was touched when he said, "You, Herod, are bad."**

**If Christ would have delivered a thousand "Sermons on the Mount" they would not have crucified Him. They crucified Him when He said, "You vipers," then He was crucified.**

**In Rumania you can say God is good but you can't say "communism is cruel, they commit atrocities, it is a crime to poison children with atheism."** If you do this you go to prison. There are many priests, rabbis, and pastors who compromise and don't put the dot on the "i." There exists the real church and the real religion and that which compromise s.

À...

**Reverend Wurmbrand:** It is jammed. You can't hear it in Rumania.

In this moment, no reprisals would be taken. No reprisals are taken today if somebody hears foreign broadcasts. But everything is noted. What happens with us? We have waves of terror. We have had a great wave of terror from 1948 and 1949 which lasted until 1955. We had the relax until 1958 when nobody was arrested but everything was noted.

Then in 1959 came again a wave of terror, and all those who were noted for years before were taken in. And now the whole spy work continues with us. You are not arrested. But everybody knows that he is spied out and that everything is noted. How far this inner spy net goes is unimagined.

In a little townlet of ours there is a little Baptist church with only 22 members. The pastor of that church told me that he is the informer of the secret police and that he knows three members of his church who give information against him. So it was in the church in which I was. The servant of the church had the order to inform who comes to me. I had no salary. So, usually men who came to me brought a little parcel with food and clothes and so on. The servant had to spy out who comes with parcels. In the smallest churches you have five or six who have to spy out what the others do. One neighbor spies the other. Children spy on their father and so on. It is without end so nobody dares to do a thing.

**Senator Dodd:** We don't have any more questions. Do you have anything more you want to say, Pastor?

**Reverend Wurmbrand:** I want to say something. I owe it to those with whom I have been in prison. I have told you so many sad things. I don't wish to end with this note. **I must tell you that in these great tortures and this great suffering, Christians have shown themselves as saints and as heroes, and if I am allowed to conclude with just one scene which I have seen myself.**

It was at the canal. With us, 150,000 men and women have been arrested to build a canal. Beaten, tortured, hungry, without anything, they had to build a canal.

**Senator Dodd:** Build a canal?

**Reverend Wurmbrand:** Yes; a canal, the Danube Canal. My wife has worked and shoveled the earth. At this canal, there was a religious brigade of 400 men, bishops, priests, peasants who loved Christ, sectarians and so on, all who were for religious motives in prison.

**Over this brigade criminals have been put, and to the criminals it has been promised that they will be released if they torture these Christians. This promise has never been kept. But imagine a criminal who is sentenced for life, if he knows that he has such a hope. If they saw you in this brigade making a cross as it is a habit with us in Rumania, or folding your hands or saying a word about God you were beaten to death.**

And now a Sunday morning the political officer of the prison comes, the whole brigade is gathered, and just at random he sees a young man. He calls him, "What is your name?" He says the name. "What are you by profession?" He said, "A priest." And then mocking the Communist said, "Do you still believe in God?"

**This priest knew that if he says yes, this is the last day of his life. We all looked to him. For a few seconds he was silent. Then his face began to shine and then he opened his mouth and with a very humble but with a very dec**

ided voice he said: "Mr. Lieutenant, when I became a priest I knew that during church history thousands of Christians and priests have been killed for their faith, and notwithstanding I became a Christian and I became a priest. I knew what I became. And as often as I entered the altar clad in this beautiful ornate which priests wear I promised to God, "If I will wear the uniform of a prisoner, then also I will serve Him. Mr. Lieutenant, prison is not an argument against religion. I love Christ from all my heart."

I am sad that I can't give the intonation with which he said these words. I think that Juliet when she spoke about Romeo, she spoke like that. We were ashamed because we - we believed in Christ. **This man loved Christ as a bride loves the bridegroom. This man has been beaten and tortured to death. But this is Rumania. Rumania is a country which is mocked, which is oppressed, but deep in the hearts of the people is a great esteem and a great praise for those who have suffered. The love to God, the love to Christ, the love to fatherland has never ceased. My country will live. With this I finish.**

**Senator Dodd:** Your testimony has certainly been very impressive. (At this point, a member of the audience later identified as L.D. O'Flaherty, addressed the Chair).

**Mr. O'Flaherty:** Mr. Chairman, we have pretty substantial reason to believe that our brother is in danger of his life, and I don't know what steps we could take to have him claim asylum here. He has asylum in France, but we fear for his life because as he has told you, they have told him they will bump him off, get a gangster to bump him off. What arrangements if any - I am not a politician or a political science scholar - **what arrangements could be made for his asylum in this country? Can he make a declaration to secure asylum here for his protection?**

We know individuals have followed him from city to city unknown to him, and I ask this openly here.

**Senator Dodd:** Would you identify yourself? I didn't get your name.

**Mr. O'Flaherty:** O'Flaherty. L.D. O'Flaherty.

**Senator Dodd:** O'Flaherty?

Mr. O'Flaherty: I am a businessman, a Christian businessman. I am a director in a certain organization here that is giving him support, Friends of Israel. On that basis I make this request. I don't think he understands the danger.

**Reverend Wurmbrand: We have a God who protects us. We have the angels around us.**

**Senator Dodd:** I think we had better discuss this matter privately with the pastor after the public hearing. I don't think it is a matter which should be discussed publicly.

**Mr. O'Flaherty:** Thank you.

**Senator Dodd:** We will adjourn this hearing now subject to further call.

**Re: Amazing Testimony Of Richard Wurmbrand (Interview) - posted by ChrisJD (), on: 2007/4/9 19:41**

Thank you for this brother Kire.

If anyone may be interested, there is a documentary style video available here at SI which shows some of the places that are mentioned in the interview:

(<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/singlefile.php?lid8485&commentViewItemComments>) The Return

Re: what use? - posted by ChrisJD (), on: 2007/4/10 9:52

Hi everyone.

I shared in another thread how I just started reading a collection of sermons that pastor Wurmbrand had composed while in solitary confinement. This is the second such book I've been privileged to read and from the first one I know that the value of these sermons is not so much in their adherence to orthodoxy. Instead they give you an insight into what our persecuted brothers and sisters may be feeling and thinking, the questions that they may wrestle with. And too there is encouragement in them for those who are themselves suffering.

In light of this testimony, I want to share a brief excerpt from one of these *sermons* which pastor Wurmbrand composed, which is titled "Desire to Escape from the I". It is from the book called *Alone with God*:

"At this moment I am completely useless. My life consists of eating watery soups and getting endless beatings. The sticks are all alike. They make the same noise when they fall upon my back. The pain does not impress me much any more. Nothing ever happens in my life. Why should I wish to prolong my existence in this world? That I may be released? Of what use can a broken man be in freedom?"

Re: - posted by crsschk (), on: 2007/4/10 10:06

Brother ...

That is powerful. To linger on that last line ...

Amazing Testimony Of Richard Wurmbrand (Interview) - posted by crsschk (), on: 2007/4/11 9:51

Quote:  
-----I was answered, "We are Christians and must have friendship and fellowship with everybody, with the Communists, too. Don't you agree?"

I said, "I can't polemicize with you. I have not read the Bible for 14 years. You must know Christianity better than I. Faintly I remember in the Bible it is written that friendship with the world is hatred toward God. But supposing you must have friendship and fellowship with everybody. How is it that you have had friendship and fellowship only with our inquisitors, and with us never?"  
-----

"I have not read the Bible for 14 years."

Re: Amazing Testimony Of Richard Wurmbrand (Interview) - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/4/11 10:04

Reverend Wurmbrand: The Christians sustained me everywhere. I had no salary, I had no regular salary but the Christians everywhere sustained me. In Rumania the first question asked of a pastor or a priest of any denomination, is: Has he been in prison? **If he has been in prison he is all right.** All the Christians sustain him.

am very insignificant and a very little man. I have been in prison among the weak ones and the little ones, but I speak for

r a suffering country and for a suffering church and for the heroes and the saints of the 20th century; we have had such saints in our prison to which I did not dare to lift my eyes. I am a Protestant, but we have had near us Catholic bishops and monks and nuns about whom we felt that the touching of their garments heals. We were not worthy to untie their shoelaces. Such men have been mocked and tortured in our country. And even if it would mean to go back to a Rumanian prison, to be kidnaped by the Communists and going back and tortured again, I cannot be quiet. **I owe it to those who have suffered there.**

**Re: Amazing Testimony Of Richard Wurmbrand (Interview) - posted by ChrisJD (), on: 2007/4/11 10:59**

"Where is the Bible Society? We have no Bible Society. **Show me one Bible printed in 20 years.** We have no such thing. Tell me the name of one Christian who for 20 years could publish a book. Give me the name of one Christian professor of humanistic sciences in our country. Tell me on Sunday school in Bucharest where it can be attended."

"I have not read the Bible for 14 years."

"...when I came out of prison I saw Christianity is not dead. The number of practicing Christians in Rumania according to the figures given by the Communists themselves in 20 years of Communist dictatorship **has grown 300 percent.**"

Something similar attested to here:

([https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?mode=viewtopic&topic\\_id2399&forum35&start20&viewmode=flat&order1](https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?mode=viewtopic&topic_id2399&forum35&start20&viewmode=flat&order1)) DVD set--- The Cross: Jesus in China

**Re: Amazing Testimony Of Richard Wurmbrand (Interview) - posted by crsschk (), on: 2007/4/11 15:48**

For years I have never seen sun, moon, flowers, snow, stars, no man except the interrogator who beat, but I can say I have seen heaven open, I have seen Jesus Christ, I have seen the angels and we were very happy there.

But the treatment was very bad. The purpose was to make us mad. You didn't hear a noise. A whisper you didn't hear in this cell. The guard had felt shoes. For years, not to hear anything. In all these years of prison we never had a book, we never had a but of paper, we never had a newspaper, nothing to distract our mind except that from time to time tape recorder orders were put on the corridor. I didn't know what a tape recorder is. I had not seen such a thing.

But at once we heard beautiful Rumanian music, and then we enjoyed it. We didn't know what has happened with the Communists that they make us enjoy, and after 10 or 15 minutes at once you heard, "Ha, ha, ha don't beat," the torturing of a woman. This lasted for half an hour the torturing of a woman. And of 100 prisoners who had been in that cell, in that corridor, everybody recognized that it is his wife or that it is his girl. I myself thought also that it is my wife.

Never will a Westerner understand, if I would not have the mark on my body, which are my credentials.

Senator Dodd: Excuse me, never will who understand? ...

Reverend Wurmbrand: A Westerner can't understand God is here and knows that I will not tell you the while truth because if I will tell you the while truth, you will faint and rush out of this room, not bearing to hear what things have happened. But I will tell you that in a prison they crucified a cat before ourselves.

They beat nails in the feet of the cat and the cat was hanging with the head down, and can you imagine how this cat screamed and the prisoners, mad, beat on the door, "Free the cat, free the cat, free the cat," and the Communists very polite, "Oh, surely we will free the cat, but give the statements which we ask from you and then the cat will be freed," and I have known men who have given statements against their wives, against their children, against their parents to free the cat.

They did it out of madness, and then the parents and the wives have been tortured like the cat. Such things have happened with us.

Re: - posted by ChrisJD (), on: 2007/4/11 18:48

Brother Mike... glad to see this thread continue.

This really stands out to me for some reason, when he says

Quote:  
-----God is here  
-----

"Never will a Westerner understand..."

Just now happned to turn the TV on to check the religous station and listened long enough to hear, almost immediately, the speaker claim that God wanted the women(in the audience presumably) to have vaction homes.

Re: Richard Wurmbrand - posted by crsschk (), on: 2007/4/11 23:33

Quote:  
-----glad to see this thread continue.  
-----

Pulled "Tortured for Christ" back down from the shelf. To be honest, I do not think I ever read this all the way through whi ch seems somewhat surprising.

Quote:  
-----"Never will a Westerner understand..."

Just now happned to turn the TV on to check the religous station and listened long enough to hear, almost immediately, the speaker claim that God wa nted the women(in the audience presumably) to have vaction homes.  
-----

... glad you said 'speaker'. sigh

I am glad this is still going brothers... Randomly opened to this;

*Whoever has known the spiritual beauty of the Underground Church cannot be satisfied anymore with the emptiness of some Western churches.*

*I suffer in the West more than I suffered in a Communist jail because now I see with my own eyes Western civilization dying.*

Re: Richard Wurmbrand - posted by crsschk (), on: 2007/4/12 10:10

"Tortured for Christ"

From the forward;

"Many today believe that a martyr is simply someone who dies for his faith. Unfortunately, by this definition we have lost the true significance and depth of martyrdom. St. Augustine once stated, "The *cause*, not the *suffering*, makes a genuine martyr." In his play *Murder in he Cathedral*, T.S. Eliot describes a martyr as one "who has become an *instrument* of God, who has *lost* his will in the will of God, not lost it but found it, for he has found freedom in *submission* to God. The martyr no longer desires anything for himself, not even the glory of martyrdom."

According to the original Greek, "martyr" means "witness." The writer of Hebrews states that "we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses" (12:1), and Jesus instructs us in Acts 1:8, "You shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

**Re: - posted by InTheLight (), on: 2007/4/12 10:43**

You may also be blessed and challenged as I was by the testimony of another man who has suffered tremendously for Christ, his name is Josef Tson and you can find some of his messages here on SI at the following link...

(<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/viewcat.php?cid516>) Josef Tson Sermons

In Christ,

Ron

**Re: to be thankful... - posted by ChrisJD (), on: 2007/4/13 20:57**

"For years I have never seen sun, moon, flowers, snow, stars, no man except the interrogator who beat, but I can say I have seen heaven open, I have seen Jesus Christ, I have seen the angels and we were very happy there."

**Re: Amazing Testimony Of Richard Wurmbrand (Interview) - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2007/4/13 21:05**

Quote:  
-----Reverend Wurmbrand: A Westerner can't understand God is here and knows that I will not tell you the whole truth because if I will tell you the whole truth, you will faint and rush out of this room, not bearing to hear what things have happened. But I will tell you that in a prison they crucified a cat before ourselves.  
They beat nails in the feet of the cat and the cat was hanging with the head down, and can you imagine how this cat screamed and the prisoners, mad, beat on the door, "Free the cat, free the cat, free the cat," and the Communists very polite, "Oh, surely we will free the cat, but give the statements which we ask from you and then the cat will be freed," and I have known men who have given statements against their wives, against their children, against their parents to free the cat.  
They did it out of madness, and then the parents and the wives have been tortured like the cat. Such things have happened with us.  
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: -o

**Re: Amazing Testimony Of Richard Wurmbrand (Interview) - posted by crsschk (), on: 2007/4/14 22:29**

**Mr. Sourwine:**

You mentioned demonstrations by the Communists. Does Rumania have anything like the demonstrations that are so prevalent in this country, demonstrations against the Government's activities or against its policies?

**Reverend Wurmbrand.:**

Nobody can say a word of criticism. Such a thing doesn't even enter in the mind of somebody. I will tell you something of which may be laughable for you. It is very tragical with us. But the story is just as I tell you. I know the man. A man was in a barbershop in a little town, Sibiu. While the barber shaved him, he said to the barber: "What should I do? My hair falls." The barber said, "Very well, I will make you a friction but you must not be anxious about this. The most intelligent people of the world have been bald." On the other seat there was an officer of the secret police and he said to the barber, "What have you said now?"

"I have said that the most intelligent people of the world are bald."

"So, you assert that Stalin has not been intelligent." It is a question of laughter for you but it is tragical with us. Nobody dares to say a word.

I stopped in Newark, and in Philadelphia, a demonstration against the war in Vietnam. I had not this clerical suit on. I stopped the demonstrators and I undressed myself to the belt. Afterwards I heard that it is illegal here in the States, and that I could have gone to prison for this. I undressed myself.

**Senator Dodd:**

It would have been all right on the bathing beach.

**Reverend Wurmbrand:**

Yes; it was not on the beach. And I told them, "This have Communists done to me. Do you think that American Christians should fight against communism?" So they surrounded me and asked me, "Why have Communists done to you this?" I said to them, "Suppose that I am a murdered. Do you agree that a murderer should be tortured? Has Oswald been tortured? Has Ruby been tortured with you?" They all said, "No; murderers have not been tortured." I continued: "Then know that I have not be charged with murder. I am a clergyman." They stopped the demonstration. In Philadelphia there was a gain such a demonstration. I am not a man of politics. I can't speak for the war of Vietnam or against the war in Vietnam. I speak this general principle that Christians must be on the side of righteousness.. They must never be on the side of the inquisitors of Christians. They must be on the side of the victims of the inquisitors, they must be on the side of the Christians.

In Philadelphia there was a great meeting. A pastor with clerical suit, a Presbyterian pastor, delivered a speech in which he praised Communists and said that Communists are all right and it is stupid to fight against them. I have learned some thing from the Communists. In a minute - after - the pastor was no more in the pulpit, I was in the pulpit. I said: "Now I will speak about communism. What do you know about communism? And I will show you my credentials, how I have studied communism." I undressed myself to the belt. I did not know that all these bad reporters are there and took pictures. And I showed them my body. "That is what Communists do to Christians, and you, Pastor, why don't you make demonstrations, if you are a Christian and if you have youth in you and vigor, why don't you demonstrate before the Soviet and Rumanian Embassies and the other embassies against torturing Christians?" And then the public, which has been there booed him and shouted to him "Judas."

These are Judases. They may be all right innerly, I don't know their hearts, but I think that Christians, if they wish to demonstrate, they should demonstrate against those who have recently deported 150 Baptist pastors.

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The interview in it's entirety; (<http://www.christianmonitor.org/Wurmbrand.html>) TESTIMONY OF REV. RICHARD WURMBRAND

**Re: - posted by heartablaze (), on: 2007/4/14 22:42**

It has been a while since I have read about Pastor Wurmbrand's suffering for the sake of his faith. It is very important for us who are not subject to such persecution to not grow out of touch with this. And for us to *pray* for those who are still being persecuted in this manner.

I find it amazing that even as he had no scripture to sustain him, he still stayed faithful to our Lord. God is amazing. It's easy for us to say "Yes, I am a Christian" here where persecution is mild at most. For those under communist rule, it meant (and perhaps still means) unfairness, torture, and/or death.

I sincerely thank you for posting this interview.

**Re: - posted by HopePurifies (), on: 2007/4/15 21:39**

I was so broken and humbled by his testimony. I think that I was beginning to believe that I knew something about persecution of Christians when in reality I absolutely didn't. I thought I knew something about sticking up for Christ against opposition, but yikes... no, I really don't.

It was also strengthening. He didn't go to prison for just believing in Christ, he went to prison for not compromising. So metimes I get shaky knees just telling someone sin is bad- knowing that the worst I'm going to get is an exasperated sigh!

The testimonies of Christians are the most beautiful things recorded. Thanks for posting this.

**Re: Tortured for Christ - posted by crsschk (), on: 2007/4/15 23:10**

I believe they still send this out freely, but here is a link to

([https://www.vombooks.com/qry/qe\\_store.taf?\\_functiondetail&\\_peid479&\\_idA345142999&\\_codeP&\\_nc3fbeba122de2b333832d490413568d54](https://www.vombooks.com/qry/qe_store.taf?_functiondetail&_peid479&_idA345142999&_codeP&_nc3fbeba122de2b333832d490413568d54)) Tortured for Christ that can be purchased from their site.

**Re: Tortured for Christ - posted by crsschk (), on: 2007/4/20 0:28**

The Jews have a legend that, when their forefathers were saved from Egypt and the Egyptians drowned in the Red Sea, the angels joined the songs of triumph sung by the Israelites. And God said to the angels, "The Jews are men and can rejoice about their escape. But from you I expect more understanding. Are the Egyptians not also my creatures? Do I not love them, too? How do you fail to feel my sorrow about their tragic fate?"

Joshua 5:13 says, "And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, 'Are you for us or for our adversaries?'"

If the one met by Joshua had been only a man, the answer could have been "I am for you" or "I am for your adversaries," or even "I am neutral." These are the only possible human responses to such a question. But the Being whom Joshua met was sent from the Lord and, therefore, when asked whether He was for or against Israel, gave an answer that is the most unexpected and difficult to understand: "No" What does this "no" mean?

*(Edit: Forgot to include that this is an out take from 'Tortured for Christ')*

**Re: Tortured for Christ - posted by crsschk (), on: 2007/4/21 10:39**

*Continued ...*

He came from a place where beings are not for or against, but where everyone and everything are understood, looked upon with pity and compassion, and loved with fire.

There is a human level on which Communism must be fought against. On this level we have to fight against Communism, too, they being the supporters of this cruel, savage ideal.

But Christians are more than mere men; they are children of God, partakers of the divine nature. Therefore, tortures endured in Communist prisons have not made me hate Communists. They are God's creatures; how can I hate them? But neither can I be their friend. Friendship means one soul in two breasts. I am not one soul with the Communists. They hate the notion of God. I love God.

If I were asked, "Are you for the Communists or against them?" my answer would be a complex one. Communism is one of the greatest menaces to mankind. I am utterly opposed to it and wish to fight it until it is overthrown. But, in the spirit, I am seated in heavenly places with Jesus. I am seated in the sphere of the "no," in which, notwithstanding all of their crimes, the Communists are understood and loved, a sphere in which there are angelic beings trying to help everyone attain the highest good of human life, which is to become Christlike, to give them the good news about Christ, who is my Lord and loves the Communists. He has said Himself that he loves every man and that He would rather leave ninety-nine righteous sheep than allow the one that went astray to remain lost. His apostles and all the great teachers of Christianity have taught this universal love in His name. St. Macary said, "If a man loves all men passionately, but says only about one man that him he cannot love, the man who says this is no more a Christian, because his love is not all-embracing." St. Augustine teaches, "If all mankind had been righteous and only one man a sinner, Christ would have come to endure the same cross for this one man, He so loves every individual." The Christian teaching is clear. Communists are men and Christ loves them. So does every man who has the mind of Christ. We love the sinner even though we hate the sin.

We know about the love of Christ toward the Communists by our own love toward them.

I have seen Christians in Communist prisons with fifty pounds of chains on their feet, tortured with red-hot iron pokers, in whose throats spoonfuls of salt had been forced, being kept afterward without water, starving, whipped, suffering from cold - and praying with fervor for the Communists. This is humanly inexplicable! It is the love of Christ, which was poured out in our hearts.

*Tortured for Christ*

**Re: Tortured for Christ ~ Out takes - posted by crsschk (), on: 2007/4/22 10:26**

I suffer in the West more than I suffered in a Communist jail because now I see with my own eyes Western civilization dying.

Oswald Spengler wrote in *Decline of the West*:

Quote:  
-----You are dying. I see in you all the characteristic stigma of decay. I can prove that your great wealth and your great poverty, your capitalism and your socialism, your wars and your revolutions, your atheism and your pessimism and your cynicis, your imorality, your broken-down marriages, your birth-control, that is bleeding you from the bottom and killing you off at the top in your brains - can prove to you that there are characteristic marks of the dying ages of ancient states - Alexandria and greece and neurotic Rome.  
-----

This was written in 1926. Since then, democracy and civilization have died already in half of Europe and even as far as Cuba. Much of he West sleeps.

But there is a force that does not sleep. Whereas in he East, Communists are disappointed and have lost their illusions, in the West a "humanistic communism" has remained virulent. The Western humanists/Communists simply do not believe all the bad reports about the cruelties, the misery, and the persecution in Communist countries. They spread their faith with tireless zeal everywhere, in the lounges of he upper classes, in the clubs of intellectuals, in colleges, in the slums, and in the churches. We Christians are often half-heartedly on the side of the whole truth. They are wholeheartedly on the side of the lie.

Theologians of the West discuss trifles in the meantime. It reminds me that, while the troops of Mahomet II surrounded Constantinople in 1493 and it had to be decided whether the Balkans would be under Christian or Mohammendan dominion for centuries, a local church council in the besieged city discussed the following problems: What color were the eyes of the virgin Mary? What gender do the angels have? If a fly falls into sanctified water, is the fly sanctified or the water d efiled? This may be only a legend concerning those times, but peruse Church periodicals of today and you will find that questions just like these are discussed. The menance of the persecutors and the suffering of the Underground Church are scarcely ever mentioned.

*Tortured for Christ*

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Note that this was written in 1967

**Re: - posted by ChrisJD (), on: 2007/4/23 23:24**

Brother Mike,

Quote:  
-----But there is a force that does not sleep.  
-----

Picking up on this and something you expressed elsewhere in another thread, there is a picture in this month's Voice of the Martyrs newsletter which shows *communists* and *radical muslims* holding flags and pictures of two of the leaders from their movements, in a sort of joint demonstration in Damascus.

That seems strange but a caption under the photo reminds how Pilate and Herod *joined forces against the Lord Jesus; could we not even say, Rome and Jerusalem? And doesn't that speak of a force behind it all?*

Think of where the Lord Jesus said

**...When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.**

Against that backdrop, I wonder if we can really grasp the significance of the lives and testimonies of the those who we read about in *Tortured for Christ*. In the passage you shared above it says...

Quote:

.....in he East, Communists are disappointed and have lost their illusions  
.....

Can't help but think that all those faithful brothers and sisters had some part in that, in the best possible sense of it; the Body of Christ on Earth, the bread of life, broken and distributed among the masses - giving life, the salt of the earth preserving from and holding back death.

Chris

**Re: - posted by vasilef (), on: 2007/5/5 1:51**

The story happened in 1966 in Philadelphia, USA. There was the biggest demonstration against the war in Vietnam.

There was a platform, where many important individuals had spoken, one after the other. The last one who had spoken was a Presbyterian pastor that sustained with energy the communism cause. Suddenly, a slim man, with grey hair and angry look grabbed the microphone and spoke with a compelling voice:

“You know nothing about communism! I am a doctor in communism. You should feel with the victims and not with the persecutors!”

“What does it mean a doctor in communism?” asked the pastor.

“Here are my proofs!” said the man, taking off his shirt. On his bosom and back he had many scars and cut signs. The police interfered and the man was arrested; he, who many times was arrested by the well known Romanian secret police: The Security.

The name of that man was Richard Wurmbrand; he entered the USA a few days before. Because of that moment when he was put under arrest he was taken before the Security Committee of the American Senate to testify. He had spoken about the reality of the communist tortures, terror and persecution which they applied against the religion and about the religion usage to reach their goals.

I've read this morning a small passage by Tozer which quite surprised me:

Quote:

----- HIS CROSS IS MY CROSS

To take Jesus Christ into your life without reservation is to accept His friends as your friends and to know that His enemies will be your enemies! It means that we accept His rejection as our rejection. We knowingly accept His cross as our cross. If you then find yourself in an area where Christ has no friends, you will be friendless-except for the one Friend who will stick closer than a brother. I made up my mind a long time ago. Those who declare themselves enemies of Jesus Christ must look upon me as their enemy, and I ask no quarter from them! And if they are friends of Christ they are my friends-and I do not care what color they are or what denomination they belong to. If the preachers would faithfully tell the people what it actually means to receive Christ and obey Him and live for Him, we would have fewer converts backsliding and foundering. Preachers who are not faithful one day will stand before the judgment seat of Christ and answer to a faithful Savior why they betrayed His people in this way!

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**Re: HIS CROSS IS MY CROSS - posted by heartablaze (), on: 2007/6/2 13:34**

Quote:  
-----  
vasilef wrote:  
  
Quote:  
----- HIS CROSS IS MY CROSS  
If the preachers would faithfully tell the people what it actually means to receive Christ and obey Him and live for Him, we would have fewer converts backsliding and foundering. Preachers who are not faithful one day will stand before the judgment seat of Christ and answer to a faithful Savior why they betrayed His people in this way!  
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It is true! I pray that in our parts of the Church, we would not neglect the preaching of the gospel. How can we preach on silly things all the time, but not mention the life Christ has called us to?? As followers of Christ, we must not neglect the preaching of the truth, John 14:6. We must answer the cry of Romans 10:14-17!!! Church, do not neglect the great commission! Do not let Satan bring you into bickering about unimportant topics!

**Re: - posted by Tears\_of\_joy, on: 2007/6/26 22:07**

I was deeply moved watching this video, the question "What is your name?" that the Lord asked him, cannot leave my mind...

(<http://kbonev.christian.net/wurmbrand.htm>) What is your name?

**Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2007/6/27 2:15**

yes this video is really something....

**Re: - posted by HopePurifies (), on: 2007/9/22 13:03**

Read this today. Let's keep praying for our tortured brothers and sisters.

**Re: Amazing Testimony Of Richard Wurmbrand (Interview) - posted by Talkn2u, on: 2008/1/29 21:55**

Very difficult to imagine...  
This testimony has not left my mind since I read it yesterday.  
Oh my, we have absolutely NOTHING to complain about.  
I thought I had suffered for the cause of Christ.  
I have not even scraped an elbow in comparison to what many have stood thru.  
Oh Lord, give me a heart to lift these men and women up to you that you have positioned in these places, for your Glory.

**Re: Amazing Testimony Of Richard Wurmbrand (Interview) - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2011/9/10 15:24**

wanted to bump this thread from the archive

**Re: - posted by PaulFaculin, on: 2011/9/10 16:39**

So powerful! I actually do lose my strength and faint whenever I imagine tortures, hospitals and bloods (that's why I rarely go to hospitals) but the reality is that I need to remind and prepare myself for the coming worldwide persecution. I think the damage that the pre-trib doctrine, that came from the west which has no present persecution at that time, is that it will help the believers to become careless and unprepared for the literal physical crosses that we all need to endure. Lord, have mercy!

**Re: hmmhmm, on: 2011/9/10 19:01**

Brother thank, you, thank you thank you, thank, you, thank you so much for bringing this treasure to us. This thread must not be archived. We need to remember Richard Wormbrandt and the persecuted. Thank you for releasing this to us again.

Blaine

**Re: To all Sermon Index Saints, on: 2011/9/10 19:33**

Has anyone heard of Richard Wormbrandt? Is anyone familiar with Voice of the Martyrs. Richard Wormbrandt founded Voice of the Martyrs in the mid 60's. Then it was called Jesus to the Communist World. But then renamed Voice of the Martyrs as we know it today.

Richard Wormbrandt is probably best known for his book Tortured for Christ. I would recommend this book for every believer to read. I have read this book and plan to read it again.

One of the moderators has blessed us by saving this thread from the archives and bringing it to light again. The thread is Richard Wormbrandt appearing before the U S Senate and testifying about his experiences as he suffered for Christ in Rumania. The info is dated as the context is the cold war of the 1960s. Then communism was the biggest persecutors of Christians. Today it is Islam.

Saints whether it is in the past or present there is something eternal and timeless about the testimony of the martyrs. I encourage you to work through this thread. Read it and meditate on it. I have and I weep ever more so for the persecuted. To get the full impact you have to go to the front of the thread. But it is worth it.

After you have worked through it. I invite you to tell me we must be silent for the persecuted. But please, do not tell me to be silent until you have worked and prayed through this thread. I have. And I can assure you I cannot be silent about my brothers and sisters who suffer for Christ.

Submitted in Christ,

Blaine Scogin

**Re: Quote by Richard Wormbrandt, on: 2011/9/10 20:04**

The message I bring from the underground church is:

Don't abandon us.  
Don't forget us.  
Don't write us off.

Give us the tools we need. We will pay the price for using them. This is the message I have been charged to deliver to the free church.

Quote by Richard Wormbrandt.

Will we take this brothers quote to heart for the persecuted?

Blaine

**Re: - posted by MyVeryHeart (), on: 2011/9/10 20:42**

And now a Sunday morning the political officer of the prison comes, the whole brigade is gathered, and just at random he sees a young man. He calls him, "What is your name?" He says the name. "What are you by profession?" He said, "A priest." And then mocking the Communist said, "Do you still believe in God?"

**This priest knew that if he says yes, this is the last day of his life. We all looked to him. For a few seconds he was silent. Then his face began to shine and then he opened his mouth and with a very humble but with a very decided voice he said: "Mr. Lieutenant, when I became a priest I knew that during church history thousands of Christians and priests have been killed for their faith, and notwithstanding I became a Christian and I became a priest. I knew what I became. And as often as I entered the altar clad in this beautiful ornate which priests wear I promised to God, "If I will wear the uniform of a prisoner, then also I will serve Him. Mr. Lieutenant, prison is not an argument against religion. I love Christ from all my heart."**

**Glory to Jesus!**

- Travis

**Re: Amazing Testimony Of Richard Wurmbrand (Interview), on: 2012/6/19 14:10**

Saints I am attempting to put this Wormbrandt testimony on the board. This is a really powerful thread to read. You need work from the front of this thread to get the full impact. But it is well worth the effort.

Keep in mind this testimony was given 40 years ago. The context was the cold war and communism. But the issues regarding persecution of believers are still the same. Some of Wormbrandt's accounts may be disturbing. Overall though the thread is a blessing.

My thanks to the moderators for making this available. My thanks to Ann for providing the link to find this.

Bearmaster.

**Re: , on: 2012/6/19 16:59**

I had said on another thread that Wormbrandt commented no westerners could understand. Was he talking about persecution outside of the west? Can we really understand what believers in other countries endure?

Bear.

**Re: Understanding persecution and Suffering!, on: 2012/6/19 17:24**

Quote:  
-----I had said on another thread that Wormbrandt commented no westerners could understand. Was he talking about persecution outside of the west? Can we really understand what believers in other countries endure? (bearmaster)  
-----

If suffering generally in life is understood through fear then it is not possible to understand suffering at all. Can anyone understand what Richard Wormbrandt suffered and those he bore witness of in prison who suffered with him? Without suffering the same things oneself I sincerely doubt that those of us who have not experienced these things can really understand them. I think he spoke the truth. I can only believe that God Himself can understand such suffering. If anyone has received from God a mind to see God's own heart, then it will be possible to comprehend such suffering in the spirit. It must be true that to know how the Father sees these things, makes for a mind to suffer. It is a profoundly difficult thing to grasp and run with otherwise. I believe that people generally flee from such thoughts because the moment it becomes even a little real to their own hearts and minds it becomes a fearful thing. To believe Richard and to suddenly see God's heart would cause one to weep with tears of grief and sadness. Perhaps this would be better than being unwilling to suffer at all. Such tears would make for an intercessor if they were embraced. But unless God Himself gives such an understanding we can only imagine. And even our minds alone will not comprehend it.

**Re: - posted by rbanks, on: 2012/6/19 17:39**

Very well said Andrew!

No bearmaster, I believe it is entirely impossible for us to truly understand over here in the west where we have so much freedom. The testimony is heart wrenching and the cruelty of persecution they went through is unbearable without God enabling them with amazing grace. I believe that I could very much be one of those who compromised under all that torture unless God helped me tremendously. I must believe though that God will supply all the grace that I need to withstand whatever evil day or days I have to face. I believe that I need to draw near to God on a daily basis and continue to be filled with the Holy Spirit. We need to pray for and support our persecuted brethren as well as all our brethren wherever they may be.

The only consolation that I saw was when he said God was there with him and comforted him and strengthened him and I must believe that God will never leave me nor forsake me as well.

**Re: Rbanjs and Armkelly, on: 2012/6/19 18:36**

Brothers the testimony is heart retching. But we see how God sustained this previous saint. If we would meditate through this testimony we can see how this same God could sustain us in persecution.

Bear.

**Re: God's Sustenance, on: 2012/6/19 19:14**

Quote:

-----If we would meditate through this testimony we can see how this same God could sustain us in persecution (bearmaster)  
-----

Yes brother there is hope in what Richard shared and witnessed too. His witness is a faithful one. He makes the case for trusting in God and therefore it is possible to say by faith that God will sustain us through persecution. Perhaps now is the time to be dressed in readiness.

**Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2012/6/20 0:46**

thank you so much for bumping this topic

**Re: Insights from Br. Richard Wurmbrand's Testimony., on: 2012/6/20 11:23**

I had to go back and read this brother's testimony again. Very thought provoking. One thing that stood out was this brother had not read the Bible for 15 years. Though he probably knew the scriptures. No Bible verse per se sustained him. What did sustain was his relationship to Jesus. Jesus was very real to him. Br. Wurmbrand testified he saw heaven open. He said he saw angels. He said he had seen Jesus.

I realize this may go against our theology. I have heard a Sermon Index preacher say Jesus does not appear this way in this age. Yet he appeared to this dear brother. Jesus appeared to Stephen. He appeared to John. In the accounts of the persecuted Jesus appears to them in a special way. I believe Jesus appeared to John Bunyan in a special way while in prison. For sure his books such as Pilgrims Progress were born out of dreams. Why not the dreams of Jesus.

If we are going to endure persecution Jesus needs to be more than a book of words to us. He must be the Word in us. This is not to say we do not need scriptures. But to encourage us into a more intimate walk with Jesus. Greg has posted an article by Wurmbrand on this in the thread Preparing for The Underground Church. Good reading.

May Jesus be more a book of words to us. May he be the Word in us.

Bearmaster.