

A Christian America—Can It Be?

My subject seems to suggest that our nation is not a Christian nation at the present time. Let us look at our nation and see through the eyes of reality what kind of a nation we really do have.

First of all, let me begin by telling you of an incident which took place this last summer that I recently heard about. The National Council of Churches and the Episcopal Church sent Miss Elaine Radcliff of Charleston, West Virginia to Episcopal camp in Kobe, Japan. When she returned home after her so-called missionary trip, she was interviewed by her local paper. She told how she served under Bishop Yosiro whom she described as a huge, exuberant, seventy year old theologian who is known throughout Japan. According to Miss Radcliff and I quote from the newspaper, "He's just fantastic! He'd come out there in his shorts and help us dig furrows. The Japanese people all love him. He drinks two big bottles of Sake every day and he kept us kids supplied with all the beer that we could drink. We never saw so much beer before! After one party one of the boys got off the bus and walked two and a half miles in the wrong direction. It was the best summer of my life." The 19 year old girl said, "I had a ball." The *Charleston Gazette Mail*, which was the newspaper that interviewed this young so-called missionary, asked her what she thought of Christianity in

Japan and this was her reply, and again I quote, "The missionary situation in Japan is bad. So many American missionaries that come in PUSH too hard. Especially the Baptists. They all have this goody-goody attitude and try to get everybody to give up smoking, give up drinking, which the Japanese don't really see as wrong. They want them to immediately drop their Buddhism and Shintoism which they have had for thousands of years. The Japanese girls are afraid to become Christians because the Buddhist boys won't marry them."

I think that with a report like this coming through our newspaper, that the question that we have asked ourselves today is good. A Christian America — Can it be? We know that we do not have a Christian America today.

Jesus — A Clown?

Let me bring you another view of our nation-today-right now. The National Council of Churches built and sponsored the New York World's Fair Protestant and Orthodox Center. The main attraction at this center has been a film in which our Lord Jesus Christ is portrayed as a clown — a silly, stupid, uncouth clown. This, of course, is not a portrayal of Jesus Christ, but a betrayal! Christ has not been anymore unjustly betrayed since Judas, who masqueraded as a friend, sold Him for thirty pieces of silver. The author of this film is not even a professing Christian, but a heathen, a Buddhist. So offensive is the film that Robert Moses, the director of the World's Fair, who is himself a Jew and does not believe in Jesus Christ, asked the National Council of Churches not to present this film which is entitled *Parable* because he said, "It's not in good taste." Robert Moses was criticized for meddling and told to mind his own business. The saddest part of this is that there are many consecrated people in the United States who are not in sympathy with this betrayal of the Son of God, and nevertheless, they have helped to foot the bill. Every individual who supports a

denomination that is a member of the National Council of Churches has helped to pay the bill for this horrible blaspheming of our precious Savior at the Protestant and Orthodox Center at the New York World's Fair. When we think of this, we see that the United States of America is not at the present time a Christian nation.

Good-Bye Christ!

If you have not read this, listen to it carefully. It is entitled, "Goodbye Christ."

Listen Christ, you did all right in your day, I reckon. But that day's gone now. They ghosted you up a swell story too. Called it the Bible. But it's dead now. The popes and preachers have made too much money for it. They sold it to too many kings, generals, and robbers. And even to Rockefeller's church and The Saturday Evening Post. You ain't no good no more. They've pawned you till they've done wore you out. Goodbye Christ, Jesus, Lord, God, Jehovah. Beat it on away from here now. Make way for a new guy with no religion at all. A real guy named Marx, Communist, Lenin, peasant, worker, ME! I said, 'Me'. Go on now, you're getting in the way of things, Lord and please take Saint Gandhi with you when you go, and Saint Pope Pius, and Saint Amy McPherson, and big, black Saint Becton of the consecrated dime. Step on the gas, Christ, MOVE! don't be so slow about moving, this world is mine from now on and nobody's going to sell me to a king, a general, or a millionaire.

Who wrote this blasphemous verse? The man's name is Langston Hughes. Langston Hughes is a Black author identified as a communist. On December 23, 1952, he was positively identified, under oath, as a communist. And if you think this poem is bad, and it is, then note these facts: On December 3, 1961, President Kennedy entertained Langston Hughes at a White House luncheon. More of Langston Hughes' writings than any other author were

placed on the recommended reading list for children by the Department of Racial and Cultural relations of the National Council of Churches. When we think of such writing as this and such a man as this being recommended by the National Council of Churches, then we realize that our nation is not a Christian nation tonight.

Let Children Drink Whiskey!

Several years ago the minister of the Central Christian Church in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma was telling me that he had received a telephone call from some church member in the church and they said, "Will you join with us in our campaign to stop the Bible from being read in our public schools and prayers being offered in our public schools? It seems as though in Oklahoma City, since the Supreme Court prayer ban, that the schools have gone right ahead reading the Bible and offering prayers each day. So now it seems as though many of the churches in Oklahoma City have gotten together and said, 'We want it to stop!'" The minister of the church said, "Well, I think you have called the wrong person. I am working to keep prayer and Bible reading in the public schools. Do you mean to tell me there are churches in Oklahoma City that are working to eliminate the prayers and Bible reading?" This man said, "Why yes, all the churches that belong to the National Council of Churches are working to eliminate prayer and Bible reading from the public schools." The minister asked this man, "Well, why don't you want the Bible to be read in schools?" and he said, "Because I don't want anybody in school teaching my child that it's wrong to drink whiskey."

In the newspaper appeared this story of the teenagers in Connecticut who had been served liquor at the home of one of the parents and this one boy had gone out and killed someone else with his drunken driving. Now the judge had arrested many of the parents for serving liquor in the home. Right there in Oklahoma City, just after this story appeared, was the aftermath. Parents saying,

“We don’t want schools to teach our children that it’s wrong to drink whiskey.” When we have parents like that in the United States of America and when churches have banned together, organized for one purpose, and that to stop the reading of the Bible, to stop prayer in public schools, then we don’t have a Christian nation as of right now.

Corruption in High Places

When I arrived in Oklahoma City, I noticed the daily newspaper reported a Supreme Court Justice in the state of Oklahoma had just been judged “guilty” of income tax evasion during the years that he served as a Supreme Court Justice in the state of Oklahoma. We are beginning from every source to hear stories of corruption and immorality in high places that seem to make the Profumo scandals of Britain appear tame. Now, we have been informed that a second top man and our President’s closest friend, has been guilty of immorality. Unspeakable immorality. The kind of immorality that God condemned in the Bible in the most severe terms, and the kind of immorality for which God sent fire and brimstone from Heaven to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, and yet, it seems as though most people just seem to wink at it and say nothing about it, and do not become very greatly alarmed.

America — A Christian Nation?

In America, we are building super highways, but very few are traveling on the highway of holiness. We are building great cities, but have little concern for the city four-square, whose builder and maker is God. We’re endeavoring to conquer space, but fail to conquer sin and Satan. We have manned guided missiles, and misguided men. We fear the power of the H-bomb, but we have no fear of God before our eyes. We enjoy more conveniences than any other

nation, but these do not draw us any closer to God. We're building bigger and better institutions of learning, while the knowledge of God and His book is shelved. America has had her days of celebration, when it would have been better if she had her days of fasting, praying, and repenting. America views the lusts on the screen when she needs to be reading the handwriting on the wall. America listens to the rock and roll when she needs to be heeding the divine warning, and tuning in the sweet music of Heaven. America is feeding her mind on obscene literature, when she needs to be daily searching the scriptures. America is building more and more church buildings, but at the same time it's building more and larger penal institutions. More people belong to churches today than ever before, and at the same time on the Lord's Day, more people can be found at the lakes, beaches, ball games, racetracks, golf courses, and at home watching TV, than ever before. In America we are experiencing a home building craze, while at the same time, one out of every two marriages end in divorce, and many others are held together by a mere thread.

The Bible Answer

I believe that the word of God has an answer to the question that we have asked ourselves this day . . . A Christian America, can it be? The answer, I feel, is found in II Corinthians chapter 8. Perhaps you will remember that in this particular scripture the Apostle Paul was talking about the giving of the Macedonian Christians. He complimented them for their giving, he praised them for their generosity towards the saints at Jerusalem, because the Macedonian Christians gave to this cause liberally in a time when they themselves were afflicted with poverty. In spite of their own poverty, in spite of their own afflictions, in spite of their own supreme need, yet they gave to help out other people who were also in a time of need. Now, what motivated such liberality on the part of the Macedonian Christians? II Corinthians 8:5 tells us the answer, "And this

they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God." I believe that this is the scriptural answer. A Christian America, can it be? I believe that the answer is, "yes," if the church people of America will do like the Macedonian Christians did. First, give ourselves to the Lord. That to me is the answer.

The Greatest Danger

Upon that scriptural basis, I make the claim that the greatest danger to America today is not communism, it is not socialism, it is not the threat of war, it is not the danger of inflation, or unemployment, it is not liquor. All these are real dangers and grave problems that we face in America, but I say that none of these is the greatest danger to America. Rather, the greatest danger to America, and the entire world, is the inactive, unconcerned, uncommitted, unattending, non-participating, non-supporting, and unfaithful church member, who has his name on the church membership roll, and kids himself into believing that he is saved and that he's a Christian. This person is responsible for most of the world's ills. Just think how easily the communist menace to America could be done away with if every church member in America would first of all give himself to the Lord.

We have more than 116,000,000 church members in the United States today. What would happen to the communist threat if 116,000,000 church members would first of all give themselves to the Lord? We wouldn't have anymore problems with communism. Think of the threat that liquor is to the United States of America. We now have more than 6,000,000 hopeless, helpless alcoholics. But if the 116,000,000 church members would first of all give themselves to the Lord, liquor wouldn't stand a chance. Why, the liquor industry would be voted out of business by the Christians. The only reason that liquor is for sale is because Christian people permit it. They don't vote it out. They just wink their eyes and let it

go on. Unemployment would not be a problem if all church members would first of all give themselves to the Lord. If anyone was in need, Christians would supply their needs. Delinquency would no longer be a problem. When President Eisenhower was inaugurated the second time, he cited juvenile delinquency as one of the major crisis, or threats, that he was going to try to overcome during his second term in office. Juvenile delinquency is still a terrible threat to America, but it would not be if church members would first of all give themselves to the Lord, because then parents would set the right example instead of the wrong example. We wouldn't have these parents wanting to teach their children that it's all right to drink whiskey and serving whiskey in their own homes. We wouldn't have juvenile delinquency, because parents would exercise discipline.

Serious Questions

I suggest then this evening, that it's time for us to ask ourselves some serious questions. First of all, ask ourselves this, "Do others see Christ in me?" Second, "Am I growing in the Christian faith?" Third, "Do I recognize my faults, am I trying to correct them?" Fourth, "Do I realize that I am purchased by the blood of Christ, that I'm not my own, that I must glorify God in my body and in my spirit?" I feel that the thing that is wrong with America today, is that we have failed. We, who call ourselves Christians, have failed to follow the example of the Macedonian Christians who first of all gave themselves to the Lord. In other words, I think that we have too many church members in America and too few Christians. I want each one of us to ask ourselves the question, "Am I a church member or am I a Christian?" In other words, "Am I a part of the problem or am I a part of the answer to the problem?" First of all, the Macedonian Christians gave themselves to the Lord. I want to suggest that the answer to communism, atheism, juvenile delinquency, and every other problem that we face

can be met head on if we'll do this: Give ourselves to the Lord.

I. If we do this it means that we give ourselves to the cause of righteousness. Back in the Old Testament, Hosea 10:12, the word of God says, "Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till He come and rain righteousness upon you." It seems to me that the average church member in America today has forgotten that being a Christian means living a holy, Godly, sanctified, righteous, life. In the New Testament book of Hebrews 12:14, the Bible says, "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." And in II Peter 3:11, the Bible says, "Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner or persons ought ye to be in all holy conversations and Godliness. Looking for and hastening of the coming of the day of God."

Moral Decay

Too often today instead of the church raising the standards of the world, the world has lowered the standards of the church. We read of jazz music being played in religious services. Recently in the *Saturday Evening Post* we were told that a sensual play with licentious lines was presented in a church service to depict a moral truth. This is just another of the signs of moral decay in America.

Jenkin Lloyd Jones, who is the editor of the *Tulsa, Oklahoma Tribune*, wrote an article some time ago. The title of this article is "Who is tampering with the soul of modern America?" In this article, he describes the present precarious position that we face as American citizens. Now, I was particularly interested in this article because you would think that a preacher wrote it, but it was not a preacher; it is the editor of the *Tulsa, Oklahoma Tribune*. Listen to a few quotations from Mr. Jenkin Lloyd Jones' editorial. He says:

"Progressive education in America has produced tens of thou-

sands and thousands of graduates who move their lips when they read and are unable to write a coherent paragraph. In the field of art today, all one needs is a figment and a press agent. A man today can drive his car back and forth over pools of paint on a canvas and receive a write-up in *Life Magazine*. And in the field of morals we have decided that sin is imaginary and that man is just a chip, tossed helplessly in a force beyond his control, and therefore, he is not responsible. Relief has become a career of honor, the states will give a other a bonus for illegitimate children and if she neglects them sufficiently, she can save enough out of her A.D.C. payments to keep herself and her boyfriend in wine and gin."

He goes on to say, and God bless him for saying it, "Can anyone deny that movies are dirtier than ever? But they don't call it dirt, they call it realism! Why do we let them fool us?" Bill Diehl, the angry entertainment editor, I say rightfully angry entertainment editor, of the *St. Paul Dispatch*, not long ago, ran down the list of present and coming attractions at the local movie theaters in St. Paul, Minnesota. *Walk on the Wild Side*, this picture was set in a brothel. *A View From the Bridge*, the theme of this picture was incest. *The Mark*, the theme of this picture, a strange young man trifled with little girls. *The Children's Hour*, and the theme of this picture, two school teachers suspected of being lesbians. *All Fall Down*, the theme of this picture, a psychopathic attacker of females. *Cape Fear*, the theme of this picture, a crazy rapist. *Lolita*, the theme of this picture, a middle-aged man's affair with a 12 year old. *The Chapman Report*, the theme of this picture, the adventures of a nymphomaniac.

No wonder the number of unwed mothers is shockingly increasing. Many of our young people are spending all their leisure time in dimly lit drive-in theaters watching this subjective realism. Is it any wonder that Jenkins, and others like him, are beginning to call from high places? There must be corruption in high places when it has so infiltrated the movie industry. I believe that it is time for Christian people to stand up and be rightfully angry, to boycott the theaters that show such filth, to refuse to attend the theaters, to

be sure that our young people do not attend theaters that show movies like this.

We have taken our stand in East Point, Georgia and it just so happens that the owner of the local theater in East Point is a member of the congregation where I preach. I have brought out these same facts from the pulpit and I have noticed, and I'm glad, that our theater owner in East Point (we have just one theater) has come out with more of the films with the Walt Disney variety, family entertainment, instead of the dirt, and the filth that has been shown in downtown theaters in Atlanta, Georgia. I think that too long Christian people have compromised their convictions with Hollywood. We have allowed these things to go on, but we must take a stand before it's everlastingly too late. We must give ourselves to righteousness.

II. Secondly, I want to suggest that we must give ourselves to the study of the scriptures. Sometimes, the problem is not that we have chosen the wrong things, but have failed to choose the best thing. Too many times we choose like Martha. You remember, Mary and Martha, when Jesus came to their home, Mary fell down at the feet of Jesus to learn the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God. Martha was out in the kitchen busy cooking a meat loaf and baking a pie. Nothing wrong with meat loaf and pie, but there had been a better choice to sit at the feet of Jesus and learn the things of the Kingdom of God. This was far more important than food. The Psalmist said, "I have loved thy word more than thy necessary food." How many of us can say that? That we have actually loved the word of God more than necessary food.

Too many times we would have to sadly confess that we have had plenty of time for politics, that we have had plenty of time for the Boy Scouts, we've had plenty of time for the P.T.A., we've had plenty of time for lodges, plenty of time for bowling, fishing, boating, skiing, and I don't see anything wrong with any of these things, I enjoy most of them myself, but here is the thing that's wrong in America. The church people of America have time for all

of these things and then they come up and say they have no time to study their Bible.

Modern Idols

Whenever bowling comes first and there's no time for Bible study, it's a sin. Whenever water skiing or boating comes first and there's no time for Bible study, I believe it's a sin. We're just as guilty as the children of Israel, who worshipped idols. These are modern day idols that church people have begun to worship. Many churches no longer even have a prayer meeting during the week. Why? Because church members don't have time to pray. They're too busy bowling, fishing, going to the lodges and everything else. And a few churches who still do have prayer meetings find that it is most poorly attended service of the whole church calendar. I wonder if this is not the reason that we have so many back-sliders on the church roll. I wonder if this is not one of the reasons why we face the present dilemma, moral decline in our nation. Immorality in high places. The Bible says in Hosea 4:6, "My people perish for lack of knowledge." When the devil tempted Jesus, Jesus resisted the devil's temptations by quoting the word of God. Jesus had hidden the word of God in his heart that He might not sin against God. We need to give ourselves to a study of the scriptures, and once again, like the Psalmist said, "Hide the word of God in our hearts." Study and memorize it, and dwell upon it to the extent that we will resist the devil with scripture and not sin against God.

III. If we first of all give ourselves to the Lord, then we will also give ourselves to evangelism. God, if He'd wanted to, could have written His gospel in blazing letters across the heavens and everybody could have known the good news. But God did not choose to do it that way. God chose to give us the job of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Most church members have the opportunity to evangelize in at least two ways:

A. Through the organized visitation program of the local congregation. Most all churches today do have an organized calling program. This is an effective way of witnessing and evangelizing for Jesus Christ. Go out the next night your church has set as calling night and see how few workers are present! Volunteer your efforts to go visiting in your community to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. You are needed! It is still true, what Jesus said so long ago, that the harvest is plenty and the workers are few. There are people in your neighborhood who are perishing and dying for lack of knowledge of Jesus Christ. You could win their souls, if you would just help your local congregation go visiting.

B. And another way that every church member has of evangelizing is by daily witnessing on the job. Think what it would mean if all surgeons who are members of the church would begin each operation with a prayer to God asking His blessings upon the doctor who performed the surgery and upon the patient who undergoes the surgery. Think what a spiritual uplift this would be for the person who had gone into the operating room if a Christian doctor would witness his faith.

Dr. Dennis Pruett of Southern Rhodesia tells us that they've already baptized more than 100 patients at the Mashoko Hospital in Southern Rhodesia this year and this is one of the reasons why. He is a Christian doctor. Every person who enters this hospital has the Gospel of Jesus Christ proclaimed to him before he leaves the hospital. Think what it would mean if all nurses would be Christian nurses and first of all give themselves to the Lord. A nurse in a hospital has such a wonderful opportunity to evangelize. Think what it would mean if every office worker would first of all give himself to the Lord, then go to work in the office and witness his faith. Think what it would mean if school teachers would all be Christian and first of all give themselves to the Lord and in the classrooms witness to pupils faith in God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Give us the watchword for this hour, a thrilling word a word of

power. A word to rouse the church from rest, and heed the Master's high behest. The word is given, Evangelize, Evangelize!

IV. We must give ourselves to righteousness, we must give ourselves to a study of the scriptures, we must give ourselves to evangelism, and we must give ourselves to prayer.

Jesus' Example

Perfect though he was, Jesus felt the need of constant prayer and communion with His Father. Every important event and decision of the life of Christ was safeguarded and sanctified in prayer. At the beginning of His public ministry as He dedicated Himself to God in baptism He prayed. When He was to choose 12 men who were to be His apostles, and finally the instruments by which He was to establish His kingdom, He spent one entire night in prayer. After the feeding of the 5,000 and before rescuing His disciples at sea, He went into the mountains and prayed, alone. At the conclusion of his departing message to the apostles, just before His crucifixion, He lifted up His eyes to Heaven and earnestly prayed on behalf of all His followers. At the institution of the Lord's Supper which should memorialize his death and remind each generation of the precious gift of His atoning blood, He did not forget to pray. Just before the final ordeal of His arrest and crucifixion, He took three of His disciples and went into the garden of Gethsemane to agonize in prayer, and as he hung suspended on the cross, His dying lips were eloquent in prayer. Jesus prayed much. Many times continuing all night in prayer. Paul was a great man of prayer and some of his beautiful prayers are preserved for us in his epistles. He said, "Pray without ceasing." These were the words of His Master, who taught that men ought always to pray and not faint.

God's Answer to America

I have not painted a pretty picture of our United States of

America. We have asked the question over and over again, A Christian America — can it be? We know that it is not a Christian America now. But, if we would give ourselves to the Lord and if we would give ourselves to prayer, things would happen, and things would change. Solomon, long ago, had the Lord appear unto him and the Lord said to Solomon, "I have heard thy prayer and have chosen this place to myself for a house of sacrifice. If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins, and will heal their land."

I believe that this promise that God made to Solomon so many years ago is still effective today. God still hears the prayers of the people. God is still a prayer-answering God. God is capable and powerful and able to do anything. Nothing is impossible with God. If we will only heed II Corinthians 7:14 and remember that we are God's people. We need not sit back and say, "Oh, we're outnumbered, we're so few, what can we do? The Bible says "My people". It's the Christian people. Outnumbered though we are, and in the minority though we are, it is "my people which are called by my name."

If just the Christian people you see, in America, would do that: "If we humble ourselves and pray." Oh, we are proud people. We need to humble ourselves and admit that we are nothing. We are nothing. Humble ourselves and pray. Wouldn't it be a shame and disgrace, after we've argued so much about prayer and Bible reading in school, that it turned out that we weren't even praying at home. "If my people, which are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face." And what would happen if we would seek the face of the Lord? Why, the same thing that happened to Isaiah, when Isaiah saw the Lord, he cried out, "Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts."

If we would seek the face of God, this in itself would humble us, we would repent of our sins, we would repent of our worldli-

ness, we would repent of the immorality that is sweeping our nation. So we're to humble ourselves. Pray, seek God's face. Turn from their wicked ways! And God says that if His people will do these things then He is going to hear our prayers. He will hear from Heaven. he will forgive our sins and He will heal our land.

Isn't that a wonderful promise? I think of the words of the apostles at the time when the deacons were first chosen. In Acts 6:4, the apostles said, "We will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

I want to suggest that if we are concerned about the United States of America, that we give ourselves continually to prayer. I want to suggest that we pray each day that the people of America will consider carefully how they're going to vote, who they're going to vote for. Consider carefully each candidate and his qualifications. Ask ourselves, will this candidate that I'm going to vote for work for the best interest of America to help make it a Christian America. Oh, we had better pray.

A True Story From Russia

Paul Bayko, from Poland, tells this true story that happened in Russia. There was a knock at the door of a faithful preacher in the middle of the night. The preacher answered the knock and it was a group of Russian soldiers. They said, "Get dressed and come with us." This preacher and his family got dressed and went with the Russian soldiers and they were shipped to Siberia as slaves of the government. This was their penalty for preaching the word of God faithfully.

We're all curious about the communist propaganda that the church is free Russia and the preachers are free to preach the Gospel, which is all a lie. They aren't free. The church is not free, preachers aren't free to preach the Gospel over there. The official religion of Russia is Atheism, so this preacher, because he was preaching the word of God, was shipped to Siberia. But they were

still faithful to the word of God. They still taught the Gospel as best they could, even as slaves and soon other slaves in this horrible place in Siberia were believing in God, believing in Christ, were accepting the Gospel of Christ, and soon the church was planted, even among slaves in Siberia.

But, then, once again, the Russian officials heard about it, the secret leaked out, and again, there was a knock in the middle of the night. This time the soldier said to the preacher, "You come with us, the family stays here." They took him out in the forest and shot him. This preacher's family and wife have never seen him, of course, and never did see him since that time.

We found out what happened. When they took him out in the forest, the soldiers called upon him to denounce Jesus Christ and say he didn't believe in Him. They offered him freedom and his life, if he would just say, "I don't believe in Jesus," but this precious preacher said, "He is my Savior, I cannot deny Him." and one soldier said, "Well, if you don't deny him you're going to be shot. What will happen to your wife and children? You will never see them again." This faithful preacher said, "Yes, I will, I'll see them in Heaven." The Russian soldier said, "Then prepare to die."

They asked him if he wanted to be blindfolded, and he said, "NO, he just simply requested a few moments to pray, and he knelt in the snow and offered a prayer for the Russian soldiers that were about to shoot him, he offered a prayer for his family, he prayed for the Christian people of Russia, and the Christians around the world, and then he was shot.

Several years passed. Paul Bayko said that the church in Siberia has been flourishing during the years, and not long ago, in one of their secret churches, a stranger came into their midst. The Christians admitted this stranger to their services and all at once, right in the middle of the services, this man jumped up and he was going hysterical, and he said, "He sees me, his eyes are looking at me, I can't get away from him!" He cried and wept and shook. The Christians comforted him and finally got him to tell his story. This man who was so hysterical was the Russian soldier who had shot

the Christian preacher a few years before, and he said that ever since that night out in the forest since he had seen this preacher kneel in the snow and pray God's blessing upon the very soldiers who'd come to put him to death, that it seemed like that executed man's eyes had followed him all over Russia and he tried to escape, he had gone everywhere, he had traveled, he had run, but he couldn't run away from his conscience and so the Christians in this Siberian congregation taught this Russian soldier faith in Christ and got him to become a Christian, showed him how his sin could be forgiven by obeying Jesus Christ's Gospel. And Paul Bayko says that man today, that same Russian soldier, stands in Russia and proclaims the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

May God help us as Christians to be true to Jesus Christ. To hold Him up in this ungodly world and be righteous people, Godly people, prayerful people, a Bible believing and Bible preaching people. If we will be true to God, and faithful to Him, God will be faithful to us, and will see us through, somehow, these difficult times.