

The Family Report

Loving God...

Loving You...

September 2, 2007

WWW.GODSBIBLE.ORG

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The Voices of the Martyrs

Information taken directly from www.persecution.com

The Voice of the Martyrs (VOM) is a non-profit, interdenominational organization with a vision for aiding Christians around the world who are being persecuted for their faith in Christ, fulfilling the Great Commission, and educating the world about the ongoing persecution of Christians.

VOM is headquartered in Bartlesville, Oklahoma with thirty affiliated international offices, and an enormous team of servant-hearted volunteers.

The organization has five main purposes: to empower persecuted Christians, to give relief, to evangelize the persecutors, to plan and carry out projects of encouragement, and to inform the world.

VOM was founded by Reverend Richard Wurmbrand and his wife, Sabina in 1967

(back then called Jesus to the Communist World).

Rev. Wurmbrand was born in Bucharest, Romania on March 24, 1909 as the youngest of four boys in a Jewish family. He was gifted intellectually and fluent in nine languages.

Richard met and married Sabina on October 26, 1936 and both were converted to Christ in 1938 mostly because of the influence of a German carpenter.

Richard and Sabina began evangelizing German forces during World War II. They preached in bomb shelters and rescued Jewish children out of the ghettos. They were repeatedly arrested and beaten and, at least once, were nearly executed. Sabina lost her Jewish family in Nazi concentration camps.

Rev. Wurmbrand ministered to his oppressed countrymen after the Romanian Communists seized power. He also be-

gan bold evangelistic efforts to the Russian soldiers who came into the country.

In 1945 the Romanian Communist government organized the Congress of the Cults. Many religious leaders praised Communism and swore their loyalty to it. The Wurmbrands were shocked. Sabina said, "Richard, stand up and wash away this shame from the face of Christ." Richard warned, "If I do so, you'll lose your husband." She replied, "I don't wish to have a coward as a husband." Thus Richard declared to the 4,000 delegates, whose speeches were broadcast to the whole nation, that their duty is to glorify God and Christ alone.

For the next two years Richard distributed one million Gospels to Russian troops often disguised as Communist propaganda. He also smuggled Gospels into Russia.

On February 29, 1948, the secret police arrested Richard while on his way to church and took him to their headquarters. He was locked in a solitary cell.

In 1950, his wife Sabina was also imprisoned. She was forced to serve as a laborer

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Area Wide Singing
Sunday, September 9th
2:30-3:30
at the building

Have a safe and happy Labor Day!!!

on the Danube Canal project, leaving their nine-year-old son, Mihai, homeless. She was released in 1953 and told that Richard had died in prison.

A doctor masquerading as a Communist party member discovered Richard alive in prison. He was released in 1956 and warned never to preach again. While in prison, he went through horrific tortures at the hands of the brutal secret police. Despite all of this, Richard resumed his ministry and evangelism after his release.

He was re-arrested in 1959 through the conspiracy of an associate, and sentenced to 25 years. He was accused of preaching ideas contrary to Communist doctrine. Due to increased political pressure from Western countries, Richard was granted amnesty and released in 1964.

In December 1965, the Norwegian mission to the Jews and Hebrew Christian Alliance paid \$10,000 in ransom to the Communist government to allow the Wurmbrand family to leave Romania. Reluctant to go, Richard was convinced by other underground church leaders to leave and become a voice to the world

for the underground church. The family left Romania for Norway and then traveled on to England.

Richard began his ministry of being a voice for persecuted Christians in England with Reverend Stuart Harris, where he also wrote his testimony of persecution, *Tortured for Christ*. Later, Richard moved on to the United States, and in 1965 he appeared before a U.S. Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, where he stripped to the waist and revealed eighteen deep torture wounds on his body. His story spread rapidly, leading to more and more speaking engagements.

In 1967, the Wurmbrands officially began a ministry committed to serving the persecuted church. In the same year, Richard released his book.

In October, the first monthly issue of *The Voice of the Martyrs* newsletter was published in the USA. By the mid 1980s his work was established in 80 restricted nations with offices in 30 countries around the world.

In 1990, after the fall of Nicolae Ceausescu in December 1989, Richard and Sabina re-

turned to Romania after 25 years in exile and were warmly received. A printing facility and bookstore were opened in Bucharest, and the officials of the city offered storage below the palace of Ceausescu, the very site where Richard had been held in solitary confinement.

He maintained a keen interest in VOM until his death in 2001. During his ministry, Richard wrote 18 books in English and others in Romanian, some of which have been translated into 38 different languages. He received numerous honors and citations for his work during his lifetime.

Richard will be remembered affectionately as an outstanding man of God, passionate for the cause of Christ, powerful in evangelism, and persevering in suffering for the sake of Jesus. Sabina, who passed away in 2000, will be remembered as a woman of great integrity, mighty faith, and serene godliness.

Todd and Alicia have postcards to mail in to receive a free book and for VOM's free newsletters. You can also visit www.persecution.com for more information.



Happy Birthday!!!

Jeff (5th)

Pam (6th)

Wayne (9th)

Nita M. (15th)

Prayer and Praise Report

We have a wonderful privilege and honor to go to God in prayer. As you pray, please remember the following people:

Carolyn and Edward, Vicky's parents, who are dealing with several health issues.

Keith, Coeta's brother, who is sick. Also, for **Coeta**.

Ollie A., Coeta's friend, who is battling cancer.

Nita M. who is having eye problems.

Vince, Stacy's brother, who has scar tissue on his brain. Also, for his wife who is recovering from surgery.

Cathy M. who is suffering from emphysema due to smoking cigarettes.

Jennifer M, Paulette's niece, who is emotionally struggling after being left by her husband. Please also remember the two children involved. They are currently staying with Paulette.

Mark, from Arkansas, who has been arrested.

Shirley, Luther's daughter, who is suffering from lupus.

Ladonna and Lauren, both Henry's friends, who are suffering from cancer. Lauren is a freshman in high school and is only 15 years old.

Wes, Stacy's uncle, who is also battling cancer.

Kevin, Randy's brother, who is battling an addiction to drugs.

Olivia M. who has cancer. She is only 5 years old.

Gary D.'s father who is recovering from a stroke.

Fay B. who is currently undergoing treatment for cancer.

Randy M. is dealing with heart trouble.

Frieda D. who also is suffering from heart problems.

Dan, Randy's co-worker, who recently had a stroke.

Brenda, Stacy's cousin, who is going through a divorce. She has two children.

Johnny, Rick's brother, who is serving in Iraq.

Ray, Wes's friend, who suffered a stroke.

Karen, Wes's co-worker, who has cancer.

Gary K. who is going through a divorce. Please pray for him as he copes with the stress involved.

Grant T., Randy's nephew, who was recently diagnosed with Crohn's disease.

Tonya, Teresa's sister-in-law, who is recovering from surgery.

Boris, in Tambov,

Russia, who is recovering from cornea transplants.

Also, **Valera** in Tambov has pneumonia. We want to always remember the **Tambov congregation** in our prayers.

Teresa's family, as they deal with the passing of her uncle.

Nellie, Pat's mom, who is suffering from a blockage in her neck.

Frank, Jean's stepdad, who has a spot on his lung.

Dan and Denise, neighbors of Todd and Alicia, who are currently separated.

Leland D., who is recovering from a stroke.

Rick who is going through a situation at work.

Luke who was taken to the hospital earlier in the week.

Additionally, remember **Mike and Jim C., Beth and Michael** (friends of Kat and Don), **W.D.** (Randy's neighbor), **Pam** (Stacy's sister), **Ann** (Wayne's mom), and **Gary's mother**.

We also don't want to forget to praise God and give thanks for all He has blessed us with.

We are thankful that Boris was able to have eye surgery.

We are also rejoicing because Lauren was recently baptized.

Praise God!!!

Our Vision

Community

It is our vision to become an active member of our immediate community; to provide hope, help, love, acceptance, and spiritual encouragement.

Growth

It is our vision to welcome new people into the fold, and help them discover the gifts and talents that God gave them to be used in proclaiming Christ to a lost and dying world.

Faithful to God's Word

It is our vision to remain faithful to God's word, to place Christ first in everything we do, and to allow ourselves to be led only by His Word and Holy Spirit.

Concern for Others

It is our vision to become intimately aware of the needs of our congregation and community and to actively try to meet those needs.

Evangelism (Reaching the Lost)

It is our vision to focus intently on ways to reach the lost in our local community and in foreign lands, and to send missionaries from the body on short and long term mission projects.

Leadership

It is our vision to have scriptural leadership; to have elders, deacons, and teachers within the next two years.

Family Atmosphere/Relationships

It is our vision to maintain and promote a true family environment where all may feel they belong and everyone knows each other's name.

**THE BEST MATHEMATICAL EQUATION I'VE EVER SEEN:
ONE CROSS + THREE NAILS =
FORGIVEN**

September Schedule

Sunday, 09/02: Johnie speaking
Lunch following services
Leadership study

Wednesday, 09/05: Randy speaking
Colossians 1

Sunday, 09/09: Gary speaking
Area-wide singing

Wednesday, 09/12: Wes speaking
Colossians 2

Sunday, 09/16: Jeff speaking
Lunch following services
Leadership study

*Please join us in
worshipping God!!!*

Sunday morning: 10 am
Wednesday evening: 7 pm

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www.gods bible.org