

Stl Team Visits Russia 1961

by George Verwer

The Christian answer to Communism is the propagation of the truth, specifically the truth of God's word, through dedicated men and women who are willing to forsake all for Jesus Christ.

Duration: 59:47

Scripture: Matthew 6:33, Luke 14:13, John 8:32, Romans 8:32, Philippians 4:19, 2 Timothy 2:4, Hebrews 12:1

Topics: "Russia"

Description

The video is a sermon about the spread of Communism in the Soviet Union in the summer of 1961. The speaker emphasizes the need for Christians to understand the truth and spread the gospel in response to this threat. He quotes John 8:32, 'You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free,' as the Christian answer to Communism. The speaker also highlights the importance of surrendering everything to Jesus Christ and relying on God to supply our needs.

Transcript

We regret that there are some very bad speed variations in the original recording of this talk, and we trust that you will determine not to be distracted by the slurring of speech which results from it. On the other side of this cassette, we have presented a brief account of what God did in the Soviet Union in the summer of 1961. We have also heard a little bit of a description of Communism and how Communists think and believe.

And I'm sure that you have come to the conclusion that, truly, Communism is a mighty force that is sweeping across the world. And now we are challenged with the question of the answer to Communism, the Christian answer to Communism. What is Christ's answer to this deadly enemy? And of course, the place we need to turn to is always, is always the word of God.

No matter what our situation is, God has the answer. And the answer to Communism is found in the verse that I already repeated on the other side of this tape. You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

And so in simple terms, the answer to the onslaught of this enemy is the distribution, is the propagation of the truth. And of course, the greatest truth we have is the truth of God's word. And I believe with all my heart that the distribution of the scriptures by dedicated and Christ-centered men is the answer to the onslaught of any enemy, be it Communism or even a worse enemy, Materialism.

I praised God that it was about six years ago when I encountered the truth in Jesus Christ, and he changed me. And now I'm a Christian, and I can say that I know I'm going to heaven. I can say that I know in whom I believe.

I can say that I know that my sins have been forgiven. I can say that I have found reality, for I have found Christ. I trust that most of you who are listening to this tape can also say the same.

You too have found the truth. You too have found Jesus Christ to be real, and you can rejoice in the salvation that you have in him. And yet isn't it strange that those of us who say we have the truth, those of us who believe we have the truth live so wishy-washy, and give so little to the cause of truth, and do so little to see the gospel extended, when at the same time the people who believe a lie are doing so much to advance their cause.

Yes, the answer to Communism is the propagation, is the distribution of the truth by dedicated men and women. But the problem is where are these men and women? The problem is where are our young people of America? The problem is where are the adults who say they believe in the cause of Christ? Oh, we're doing many things in America. We're doing many wonderful things.

We're building more schools, and we're constructing more churches, and we're having bigger and better Sunday schools, and more Christian films, and more books for our own nation, and more Bible schools, and just, oh, we're just doing many things. This isn't the end. This might all help, but oh brethren, let's get down to the basics.

Let's get down to the core of the situation. The core of the situation is simply that we're not obeying Christ Jesus and his commissions and his commands that are found in the word of God. In this little movement, the name we have been given, Segmental Life has been given to us, a name which we don't care much about, but we have had because of the financial matters that any organization has, and so we have to incorporate.

But I'd like to just refer to this organization as a movement, a movement of students, a movement of students who are convinced to have the truth, a movement of students who are willing to pay any price, no matter what it be, to see God's will carried out on this earth. Be it nights of prayer, be it fasting, be it suffering, be it death, oh, that God would give us that privilege. And in this little movement, we have seen miracles in Mexico.

We've seen God open seven bookstores. We've seen God distribute over six million pieces of literature. We've seen souls come to Christ.

We've seen the truth propagated from town after town. Then in Spain, we've seen God work miracles. Impossibilities made reality by prayer.

We've seen close to a million pieces of literature already go out in the land of Spain. I believe that this is that, the propagation of God's word by a group of people who care for only one thing, Jesus Christ. And His perfect will.

Nothing more counts in this life. Nothing more has any significance. Only this one great pending factor, Jesus.

His command and His will. And in this little movement, we emphasize verses like Luke 14, 33 that say, except we forsake all that we have, we cannot be His disciples. And we emphasize that verse simply because it's God's command.

It's Christ Jesus' requirement to be His disciples. We've seen in communism a group of soldiers. A group of men and women who are dedicated to a lot.

So it needs to be in Christianity. A group of men and women who have forsaken all. A group of men and women who have no concern about anything at all except Jesus Christ.

Except you forsake all that you have. Whether it be material wealth. Whether it be pride.

Whether it be impatience. Whether it be any other thing that eats away at our soul, it must be forsaken. Whether it be family or friends.

Whether it be a job. Whether it be a position. Whether it be fame or fortune.

Jesus says, forsake it all. Really. Many people have not understood this verse.

They say it's impossible to forsake all. I can't walk around without any clothes. But they seem to forget that the same time Jesus Christ said forsake all, it's also said in Philippians, I'll supply all your needs.

So the balance of this thing is giving everything to Jesus Christ. Renouncing everything. Forsaking everything.

And then let God supply your needs. As he sees it in the light of a dying world. As he sees it in the light of a time when the Russian is dying without Christ.

Oh, that we might have better things to live. Another verse that we emphasize a great deal in our work, in this little book, is a verse found in 2 Timothy 2. Verse 4. We emphasize this verse, not because it's our idea, but because it's God's word. And we could go from Jerusalem to Revelation, and we would find over and over and over again that God demands it all.

In the Old Testament he says love me with all of your heart and all of your mind and all of your strength. Jesus demands it all. I talked to a young fellow in Russia who wanted to become a member of the Communist Party.

And he tried to be a member when he was 21 years old, but they refused his membership. But because he was too entangled with the things of his youth, with girls and a few other things, so he was refused membership in the Communist Party, which consists of about 3%, I believe, of the total population. Communist Party membership is rough and tough, and it's not easy to be a Communist in the Communist Party in the Soviet Union.

And do you think it's any less for Jesus Christ? Do you think Jesus Christ demanded any less for those who follow the truth? Oh, what a pitiful state we are in. Look around you. Your home, your car, your way of life, your manner of thinking, the way you walk, the way you talk.

Tell me, does it all aim towards one primary goal? The obedience to Jesus Christ and the extension of his will? No. Is all your thinking, all your talking, all your living, is it all centered around Jesus Christ? It should be. You say, well, well, well, this is fanaticism! This is extremism! You're right.

A person who does this is extremely in love with the Lord Jesus Christ. But this is the end. You see, a fanatical extremist force can only be met and stopped by another force with equal power, another force just as dedicated, another force just as extreme.

Communists are extremists. Everywhere we went in the Soviet Union we saw posters, we saw signs, we saw literature, and all this literature aimed towards one thing, the advancement of Communism. The conquest of the world by the forces of Communism.

And the only answer to this is a complete, utter abandonment to Jesus Christ, that we, with more dedication, more love, more zeal, more, more in a sense fanaticism, meet this extremist cause and present him with the truth. Oh, it won't be easy. In our little movement we've seen problems.

We've seen hard times. We've seen sin creep in and Satan make monkeys out of us. We've failed the Lord many times.

And yet, the glorious thing about it is that when we rest in Christ, when we commit ourselves utterly to Christ, we go into this battle with a full assurance that we are victors in Him. And the victory is ours before we enter, for Christ Jesus was victorious on the cross. And as we go in to present the truth to lost men and women, whether they be Communists or whatever, other false cults, we go in with the assurance that we're victors in Jesus Christ.

We go in not resting in our own strength. We go in resting in the living God. And this gives us the advantage.

This gives us the advantage over Communism. And this gives us the advantage over every ism. Oh, what promises we have in the Word.

If only we'd believe Him. If we would only take God and His Word. If we'd only obey Him.

If we'd only cast out every little bit, any little speck of rebellion on our part. And kneel to everything that Jesus Christ tells us to do. Oh, we'd be miracles.

But they aren't talking speech. And I could talk to you all night about what I believe the answer is. But now I want to tell you just a little bit about what God has led us to do.

To combat evil all over the world, but putting better words in more scriptural terms, to advance the Kingdom of God. We have plans right at present for the largest literature crusade ever to take place in the world that I know of. Within a year's time.

We have set plans before God that are completely impossible. These plans consist, first of all, in the distribution of 50 million pieces of Christian literature. Including tens of thousands of books, thousands of Bibles, and tens and tens of thousands of Gospels and then millions and millions and millions of chapters.

50 million pieces of literature we have set before the Lord. He will provide us if we believe. If we pray, believe, and show God with all of our hearts that we need this.

And with this literature, we will move into Europe. The key word is movement, operation, mobilization. So far we only have 20 or 30 students who have joined.

Some adults in different places of the world have joined with these young people. They have promised to stand behind them in prayer and in desperate living. But as these students move into Europe, their plan will be to mobilize Thousands and thousands of churches throughout Europe will be contacted.

Young people will be asked to join us next summer in a mass effort to cover every city in free Europe. In a mass effort to announce the truth of Christ and stand against the onslaught of communism in countries like Italy and France, in countries like Germany and Austria. Thousands and thousands of letters will go out to England, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Germany, Austria, Italy, Turkey, Spain, to invite young people to join together.

Trucks will be purchased, rented. These young people next July will meet in key cities after our teams have worked for one year lining up the key cities, recruiting young people from many cities, from many nations. The Spaniards are, in a sense, leading the way as we have seven or eight Spaniards all ready to go.

These trucks full of young people, loaded with tons of gospel literature, will move into towns, will move into villages, will move into cities to present the claims of Christ. We don't know how many people God is going to raise up. Maybe a hundred young people, maybe two hundred young people, maybe a thousand young people.

This depends on your prayers. We're asking every missionary organization in Europe to join in. We're asking every sound church to join in.

And we will make every effort to reach every soul in free Europe with a gospel message, with the truth. The printing presses will be turning off over one million packs a week, over one million powerful gospel messages with an invitation to study God's Word and receive a free portion of Scripture. Everyone who writes in for these courses' names will go into a file.

Some of them will go into permanent files on addressographic sheet plates, and these people will receive a constant flood of gospel literature. Books are being purchased about a ton. Of the best Christian books we can find.

Bibles are being purchased in every language to reach people of every language group. Yes, plans are being laid. Students are getting desperate.

Perhaps you are hearing this tape because you have been in contact with one of these students. Perhaps the student that you have been in contact with has not had a tremendous bursting personality. Maybe he has not expressed fully all that this thing is.

But I pray that God will grip you. It has not been gripped already with the great warfare that's ahead of that young person that you're praying for. He is not going into a normal missionary situation.

He's going up against an impossible task. He's going into a warfare. He's going into a situation that calls for such desperate action that I could not put it into words.

All I could ask is that you read chapters like Hebrews 11. Yes, plans are being laid. Perhaps you're one of the students that's going and you're hearing this tape just before you're coming over to Europe.

And all I can say to you is, oh, make sure God has your all. Make sure God has your all. Make sure you're not holding back not one thing from him.

For if you're not, Satan will make a monkey out of you in Europe. God works so hard. God wants young people, no matter how young they might be, to be desperately concerned and completely wrapped up in Jesus Christ.

Perhaps you're one of the young people that has just come back from Mexico and you're going back to your college campus, to your Bible school campus. And I say to you all that God might grip you, might God grip you with a simple fact that around you on your campus are hundreds of young people who need to catch the vision, who need to catch the vision of Jesus Christ, telling every man to forsake all and join in this warfare to stop evil and to present Christ and the truth to every soul on the face of the earth. Might God burden you to organize prayer groups.

Might God burden you to spend nights in prayer. Might God burden you to fast. Might God burden you to just become an extremist for his cause.

For this is the only answer. Just because the school you're going to calls itself Christian doesn't mean a thing. For let us say that the Christian church in the United States today is bending at the niche.

And what God is looking for is young people who will stand up against all the rottenness and the worldliness that is creeping into the church of Jesus Christ. Young people who will stand against all criticism. Young people who will condemn backbiting.

Young people who will speak evil of no one and walk in logs fellowshiping with the Lord Jesus Christ. Young people who will take the steward of the spirit and instead of using it to carve up other Christians will put it to use against the enemy. Young people who will forget about all the materialistic demands around them.

Young people who will forget about all the things that so easily move in and deceive. And will stand for Christ whether it be in the university or the Bible school. Whether it be in the high school or whether it be the graduate school.

Young people who will stand for Christ. Perhaps you're an older person. You say, well I can't go to the mission field.

I've got a family, I've got children. What can I do? I say the demands of Jesus Christ are the same for you as they are for the young person. Some of the most effective people in our movement are people over 60.

Women who know what it means to pray. Women who bow their knees before him every day and cry for people like me who are so prone to error. Women and men who are willing to take the name of a young person or the photo of a young person and lay it before the throne of grace and weep over that person, that that young person might not be sidetracked.

You see, because we are young. And some people say we are foolish and we're prone to error. And we can make mistakes.

And we know all of that's very true. And that's why we need your prayer. This little movement isn't going places because we're a bunch of apocryphal.

This little movement isn't seeing miracles come to place because we're all Peter's and John's. This movement is going places because a few people are on their knees upholding us and we in turn can uphold them. And we labor together and united we stand, divided we fall.

And remember the word of God said that long before Abraham Lincoln. And how true it is. Just as in the end of the communist manifesto Karl Marx makes the cry.

Workers of all countries unite. So Jesus Christ is calling down to his church this evening and saying Christians unite. Turn from your sin.

Turn from your prophetess. Turn from your materialism. Turn from your ease.

Turn from your laziness. Turn from your carnalism. Unite.

Unite as men and women who are concerned about one thing. Seeing Jesus Christ exalted. Seeing God's word advance.

Truth penetrates into the very darkest regions. Yet operation mobilization could shape Europe. Every major newspaper in Europe will be contacted.

Churches will be alarmed. We'll do everything we can to shape Europe. But we in ourselves can do nothing for it's only God in answer to prayer who's going to do anything in Europe.

50 million pieces of literature will never get off the printing press much less be distributed unless people get concerned. Unless the handful of you who hear this tape connect your life to this cause and then start to tell others and bring others into this same vision. This vision of giving all to Jesus Christ.

This vision of spending hours in prayer before God that the word of God might penetrate. But not only for Europe. For our next party and right along with this party is communist Europe.

Literature is going to win all these languages. A great book, Science Speaks, a gospel book is going into Russia at this very minute. And we'll start to mail literature into these lands.

By sending literature registered out of Paris we can get it in almost any communist country. But this is going to take prayer. We want to send thousands and thousands of registered gospel ministers messages into the Soviet Union into Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia.

We have the addresses. I have a phone book from Yugoslavia. I have phone pages from Czechoslovakia.

I have a guide to the chief thing in Poland. I have a book that gets over 2,000 addresses in Russia. So we want to start mailing in the gospel in registered letters.

But we need people who will stand with us and believe God for everything that's needed to get this job done. And then we have young people. Young people who right now are studying Russian and are willing to go into these nations.

And it will not be long before many and I say many young people will be penetrating the Iron Curtain. You say impossible, you say ridiculous, you say foolish. I don't care what you say.

Anyone who's met anyone in our group already knows that what people tell us doesn't mean too much. But we're convinced that when God said, all the world shall hear He meant it. And if He asks us to do a

job, He'll give us the great specificity.

And so these countries will be penetrated by the gospel of Jesus Christ. Perhaps this is your first contact with this little movement. Perhaps you don't fully understand all these ideas, maybe even some of the terminology, this despotism and fasting, belittling and forsaking all in the warfare.

And you'd like to have answers to your questions. Well, I'll be very frank and very sincere. I would be glad to personally answer any questions about this case.

You can write me, Carlos Marat 7, Madrid, Spain. I want to answer questions. I want to tell people why I'm so convinced about this thing.

And you can write anyone else in our group and they will also try to give you the answer. It was in the university about four years ago when I became more convinced than ever that Christianity was the truth. It was in a time of doubt.

It was in a time when I wasn't even sure the Bible was the Word of God. But through study, through prayer, through fellowship with the Lord Jesus, I became convinced that it was the truth. And if the Word of God was the truth, there would be nothing too high, no price too high to pay to see that truth set out.

And I would be glad to answer your questions. We want that people understand the way we believe. We want people to understand why we're willing to do what some people consider foolish things, to see the gospel of God.

We don't believe we're rushing up a blind alley. We don't believe we're acting on just pure emotion. We believe we're acting in the light of the truth.

And we'd like people to write us. We'd like people to write us and tell us they're standing with us or write us and ask us questions. For you see, united we stand, divided we fall.

Will you stand with us? Maybe you're just a student going back to school. Maybe you're one of our leaders. Maybe you're not very much in this movement, maybe you are.

But we'd ask you to unite with us. And when we say us, we don't just mean our little small group. We mean the whole body of Christ.

We're not the only ones evangelizing the world. God has his children all over. The missionaries of your own church need your prayers.

They need your prayers more than anybody else. For around the world, missionaries have the same struggles, the same hardships, the same problems. Around the world, missionaries are being squashed by materialism just as much as the people in the United States.

Around the world, missionaries can just as easily become lazy and slap off just as anybody in the United States. And so we need to join together in prayer. United, we stand.

Divided, we fall. And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. Oh, I pray that all of us who hear this tape mic right now take a step of faith and say, God, I'll obey you no matter what.

And then the first thing he tells us to do, do it. Whether it be through Luke 14, 33, or Hebrews 12, 1, or 2nd Timothy 2, 4, whatever you tell me to do, oh God, I'll do it. If it be pray all night, I'll do it.

If it be go to the fire and mission field, I'll do it. If it be raise up a prayer group on my campus, I'll do it. So help me God, whatever you tell me to do, I'll do it.

Brethren in Christ, with that spirit, nothing would stop us. If we as Christians would open the word of God with that spirit, nothing would stop us. We'll go through the iron curtain, we'll go through the bamboo curtain, and someday we'll all be together in heaven and rejoice that the word of God was exalted in every nation.

Oh, that we might realize that as we disobey God, we suffer, the world suffers, all of us. May God drive this home to our hearts, for Jesus' sake. For ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Let us pray. Lord Jesus, I must confess as I've spoken these words that I am condemned. Oh God, forgive me for my lack of zeal, for my lack of love, for my lack of concern.

And oh God, we pray together that you'd work out all the hearts, that we might yield completely to thee, and do whatever you want us to do, as revealed in your words, for Jesus' sake we pray. Amen. This is a report on what happened in Russia and behind the iron curtain in the summer of 1961.

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. John 8, 32. Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank thee that we who are in Christ Jesus know the truth, and the truth has made us free. We would ask, oh God, that as we listen to this tape, and to a telling of this experience, that we might realize more than ever that we are the children of light, and the sons of truth. That we have been called unto this great task of giving forth truth, and of spreading the gospel around the world.

Oh God, might we turn from ourselves during these moments, and look to you. Might we look on the harvest, and realize that indeed we must pray to the Lord of the harvest. And we ask this in Jesus' name, with thanksgiving.

Amen. As most of you know, the Lord gave us this summer a very interesting experience. For close to two years, I've been praying and looking to the Lord for a ministry among the people of the Soviet Union and countries behind the iron curtain.

Little did I know that this summer, God would open the way to start this type of a ministry. Most of you know that I was in Europe along with Roger Molstad and two other fellows to line up and make preparations for the coming crusade in Europe. We were in Vienna, making preparations for the crusade, which will start in Vienna, Austria.

When we went into the tourist office and questioned about possibilities of getting into Russia. We knew that there were possibilities, but as far as we knew, it would cost \$11 or \$12 a day. We did not feel that God would lead us to make such an expenditure to do work in the Soviet Union.

However, at that time, we were given the wonderful news that a new program within the last year had come into effect. And the program was a program of camping. And that instead of \$11 a day, we could go into the Soviet Union for \$2 a day on this program of camping.

Traveling in our own car. Also, within the past year, they had released the necessity of having a guided tour or a tour leader within the car. And that meant that we could travel freely, of course on roads that they prescribed, in the Soviet Union.

It was not long after that we knew God wanted us to take advantage of this opportunity. This camping program was only good for the summer. We knew that if we didn't move in at this moment, we would have to wait another whole year.

And so, before the Lord, we prayed and laid ourselves that he might give us opportunity to preach the gospel behind the Iron Curtain. The next day we headed for Yugoslavia. We heard that it was easier to get into Yugoslavia than any other Iron Curtain country.

And so while we were waiting for our Russian and Czechoslovakian visa, we went into Yugoslavia on a special visa. It was in Yugoslavia that we got our first taste, or received our first taste, of getting the gospel out behind the Iron Curtain. In communist Yugoslavia, we traveled through the night, distributing hundreds and hundreds of New Testaments and Gospels of John out of the window of the car.

Throwing them over the fences of the houses, throwing them along the sidewalk. We went from city to city, giving out the word of God. It was on our second night in Yugoslavia, when we were in the city of Belgrade, that the Lord gave us an opportunity to teach over a thousand portions of his precious word.

However, on the next morning, the police caught up with us, and we were arrested and taken to the local police station. There we spent a day being questioned by the police, at which time our literature, the little bit that was left, praise God, was confiscated. We thanked him and praised him for this opportunity to work in Yugoslavia, for it gave us a chance not only to give out close to 2,000 portions of his word, but also to come face to face with each communist, to see what they really believed.

It was at the end of the day, or toward the end of the day, that we were told that we had to leave Yugoslavia immediately, and we were given 24 hours to get out of the country. We headed back to Austria, rejoicing in Christ Jesus, and looking forward to the entrance of Czechoslovakia in Russia. We spent five days in the city of Vienna, making preparations for our trip into Russia, first through Czechoslovakia, and then Russia.

At this time, we had a large rubber stamp made, the size of an 8.5 by 11 piece of paper. On this rubber stamp was a special letter track, presenting the gospel to the Russians, and also an invitation to write us, to receive free material. We gave three addresses, one in France, one in Switzerland, and one in Austria.

The rubber stamps had been finished the day before we were to leave, and everything was set. We had 1,600 gospels of God within the walls of the car, we had 400, that's in Russian, we had 400 in Slovakian, underneath the seats of the car, plus other literature. How we praised God, that afternoon, that we crossed the Iron Curtain into Czechoslovakia.

And yet, as we looked around us, it seemed that we had entered into a new world. As we drove across the border, we looked as far as our eyes could see, along a four line divided fence, electric barbed wire fence, that's made up of the Iron Curtain. On one side of this fence was a passage gram ten feet wide, that stretched the entire length of the fence, as far as our eyes could see.

This gram was freshly raked, so that they could see whether there were any footprints of any people in that area. To make sure that no one escaped, also along this area were large towers. On top of most of

these towers, at least the one that we saw, was a sixteen or seventeen year old fellow, machine gun is on, watching to make sure that no one left the land of Czechoslovakia.

It did not take us too long to get to Czechoslovakia. They checked the car somewhat carefully, but carefully enough to discover our literature. And that night was one of the most glorious nights of our lives, as we traveled through one Czechoslovakian town after another, distributing the word of God.

By the time we reached the Russian border, four hundred gospels of John had been distributed in Czechoslovakia. In cities where most people had never seen a portion of God's word. In towns where most of the men and women were confirmed atheists.

As we crossed into Russia, again we felt the powers of darkness around us. At the Russian border, they checked the car very thoroughly. We had some Gospels of John hidden in our food box.

One of the Russian guards who was checking the car took out the food box and started to investigate it. The pain was about one inch from the Gospels of John when I caught his attention and he decided to seek no further. And so as we passed through the Russian frontier, we again praised God for his grace and his faithfulness to allow us to enter that country with one thousand six hundred portions of his word.

That night we went right to work. Roger in the hotel room started to print the gospel tract to be sent out along with papers from the Gospels of John. It was taken out from underneath the dashboard of the car.

The stamp pad was slipped out from underneath the seat of the car. The ink was taken out of the back of the glove compartment. And in a small hotel in Utskhorod, Russia, the printing device started to work.

At the same time I went outside and started to look around for a phone book. I might mention that the reason we were in a hotel is in that particular city they did not have any camping sites. So they let us stay in the hotel for the price of camping.

Unfortunately in the town of Utskhorod we could not find a phone book so after a few hours we decided to move on. In the next town where also they did not have any camping sites we were again given hotels. In the hotel Roger started to print and I went out again to look for a phone book.

Again without any success. It seems that in the Soviet Union one of the books that is extremely hard to get a hold of is a phone book. However the Lord enabled me to find another book that had a list of every town in the Soviet Union.

And so we decided to start sending letters and gospel tracts to the postmaster of every town in the Soviet Union. And that night I started addressing the envelopes with a Russian typewriter that we had brought along. The next day we arose and started out toward the city of Kiev.

Little did we know what God had planned for us. It was after we passed the city of Rovno that I decided to throw a gospel of John out the back of a car window. I mainly decided because the margarine that we had in the food box had melted on this gospel of John.

And I knew that we wouldn't be very wise to send it through the mail so I decided to just throw it along the highway when no one was looking. I threw the gospel of John out. A half hour later motorcycle police pulled us off to the side of the road.

We knew that God had different plans than we did. Someone had found the gospel of John. Immediately radioed ahead.

And the police had stopped us only a few miles, about 25 miles down the road or less, 25 kilometers. We then were asked to wait. For two hours we waited alongside of our car.

Later on we found that we were waiting for two chief officials to come from the nearest big city. When these officials arrived we were escorted into a small room. There sat the officials around the small table and the gospel of John laid on the middle of the table.

They looked at me. I looked at them and said, oh, you found our gospel of John. Yes, we have.

And then the conversation started. From that moment until the time we left the Soviet Union we can honestly say with all of our hearts that practically all of our time was given to testifying to the name of Christ, praying and praising. Immediately they started questioning us.

Why did you come to the Soviet Union? And so we answered. We came to the Soviet Union because Jesus Christ is our Lord and our Savior. And he told us to go into all the world and preach the gospel.

And this means that we must tell everyone of the love of Jesus Christ. Even those of you who are here in Russia. Our interpreter, who was provided for us by the police, interpreted our short message.

And then another question. What were you going to do with our literature? We have brought this literature here because this literature contains the way of life. Because this literature tells of Jesus Christ who died on the cross 2,000 years ago to redeem men from their sin and to show them the way to heaven.

And so the questions went, one after another. And each question we turned in, or each answer that we gave, we turned in to a short gospel message. It was not long that they were in the car.

The literature was discovered, at least part of it. The printing device was discovered. And then we went back into the room for more questions.

That night we were taken back to the largest city, the city of Vrovna. We were given a room and told to wait there until morning when there would be more questions. They had not discovered the 1,600 gospels in the walls of the car.

And that night, Roger and I, before the Lord, decided that no matter what happened, no matter what questions were put before us, we would tell them the truth. The next morning, one of the first questions that was asked us, do you have any more of this literature? Roger said, we do. They were amazed actually.

For after they saw 1,600 gospels in the walls of the car, they were amazed. These people who lie day and night were amazed to find two people, two young fellows, who despite what they knew it would cost them, told the truth. And so that day again, we had opportunity to testify to the power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The entire afternoon was spent answering questions. They tried to see if we would tell lies. So they put Roger in one room, put me in another room and asked us questions.

They asked us the names of people, they asked us dates, they asked us everything they could to try to trip us up and get us to lie. We just gave them the truth. When we were done telling them the truth, then they

said, now we want you to write this out.

And so I wrote seven pages out. And on each page, I gave the picture of the Lord Jesus Christ and the salvation story. When I told them why it's come, when I told them what the literature was for, when I told them who sent us, when I told them where we got the money.

Each time, both Roger and I were able to insert the gospel message. So actually the whole day was spent in giving forth the blessed gospel. This paper that we wrote up, this gospel paper, was translated into Russian and mailed on to the city of Kiev.

How we praise God for the way that his gospel went abroad. Although we only had the opportunity to speak directly with a few, with perhaps a dozen or so of these communists, we know that many hundreds in these cities heard that someone had come with a Bible and heard parts of the gospel. Because these men went back to their families, and of course their families did not keep this matter secret.

For something like this was a great happening in Russia. Back the day we left, over a hundred people gathered around our car. And thanks to our very friendly interpreter, who seemingly was becoming convinced about the existence of God and the fact that we were right, we were able to interpret a few words of the gospel to this crowd of over a hundred people.

We also can praise him that although the literature was supposedly complicated, we are sure much of it will be distributed. We think of one of the days when we found a few more pamphlets in our Bible, and we decided to be honest and turn them over to the authorities. We gave it over to one of the authorities and said, well, thank you very much, I'll keep these for my personal copy.

And so it was, the literature went into the hearts and into the pockets of these hardened, or so-called hardened communists. The day before we were to leave, that is the third day, the entire day was given over to the study of God's words. It sounds almost unbelievable.

It sounds fantastic that a group of hardened communists would come into our room, bring their own Bible, and sit down and discuss the word of God with us. Their purpose was to prove to us there was no God. Their purpose was to try to convince us that we were wrong.

And yet as they left that room that night, they knew that they had not won the battle. They knew that the word of God had triumphed. For as they presented one argument after another against the Bible and against God, thanks be to God we were able to answer their questions and present clearly to them the way of salvation.

And the simple fact that Christianity does not consist of churches. Christianity does not consist of rituals and things that they do not understand. But Christianity stands for love, stands for peace, stands for joy, stands for brotherhood, stands for helping the poor man.

Things that they believe are the most important things in life, or they say they do. These are the realities of the word of God. And when we presented to them Christianity in the light of this, they were quite amazed.

The next day order came from Keith. We were to be escorted out of the Soviet Union. Our literature was all to be confiscated.

Our typewriter was to be confiscated. Our printing press was to be confiscated. But we praised them.

Although they had this material and it was confiscated, we knew the gospel had gone forth. We knew that dozens and dozens of people in the cities that we had been in were chattering and talking about the word of God and about the two young fellows who had come to town distributing Christian literature. How we praised them as we drove out of the Soviet Union.

The motorcycle policemen led us carefully over the highway 300 miles to the Russian border. There at the border again we testified to the love of Christ, to the border guards and customs officials. Then we crossed over into Czechoslovakia.

In Czechoslovakia we were met by two more motorcycle policemen. They escorted us, one in front and one in the back of our car, 300 miles through Czechoslovakia. What a blessed trip as we sang and praised God for what he had done.

As we praised him for the 400 pieces of literature that had gone out in Czechoslovakia. For the dozens of gospels that were being distributed in Russia. And for the testimony that we were able to give with our own mouths to these hardened convicts.

That it was a wonderful sight, we must admit, when we crossed Czechoslovakia into free Austria. It was like coming out of darkness into light. How we praised the Lord for every experience, every moment we had had in the Soviet Union.

Yes, an interesting experience. A blessed experience of preaching Christ to those who had never heard. And yet we know that this is just the beginning.

Just scratching the surface. We had definite plans for the evangelization of these countries. But these plans are insignificant and even insufficient.

But there is only one thing that will bring about the evangelization of 200 million Russians. 13 million Czechoslovakians. 28 million Polish people.

18 million in Yugoslavia. And the millions and millions in Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary. There is only one thing that will bring about the evangelization of these lands.

And that's the desperate prayerful actions of those who are listening to my voice. And of myself. Yes, ye shall know the truth.

And the truth shall make you free. These people are free. These people are in bondage.

But they are in bondage not because they are behind an iron curtain. They are in bondage not because they are being ruled by a communist party which is a fanatical group of men and women determined to bring about their cause. They are in bondage because they have not received the truth.

They are in bondage because they have never heard of Jesus Christ to the most part. They are in bondage because they never had the opportunity to hear the good news of the gospel. As much as we praise him for the opportunity to give out his word behind the iron curtain, we praise him for what we learned.

As we sat over three days across the table from the hardened communists answering their questions and talking with them, we realized afresh the enemy's power and the strategy that the enemy has. I have before me a book, a book written by Karl Marx and Engels, the two great leaders of the very earliest

communistic movement. And in this book is a copy of the Communist Manifesto.

And I'd like to read you just the last part of this Communist Manifesto which has been translated into close to a thousand languages. The communists disdain to conceal their views and aims. They openly declare that their aims can be obtained only by forcible overthrow of all existing social conditions.

Let the ruling classes tremble at a communistic revolution. The proletarians, that is the working class, have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to live in.

Working men of all countries unite. Let me read it again. The communists disdain or hate to conceal their views and aims.

They openly declare that their aims can be obtained only by the forcible overthrow of all existing social conditions. Let the ruling classes tremble at a communistic revolution. The working man has nothing to lose but their chains.

They have a world to win. Working men of all countries unite. To you it might be only a paragraph.

But to these men who sat across the table from us, it was everything in life. These men were convinced that every ruling society in this world had to be overthrown by Communism. They were convinced that the only way to have peace was to destroy every capitalistic government.

These men had more faith in Communism than most Christians I have ever met had faith in God and Jesus Christ. Most of them that we spoke to were convinced that there was no God. And yet we trusted in their hearts it would not send.

But they were products of Satan. But as we thought about this thing and as we talked to them and as we read different portions of literature that we could find, we realized that there was one supreme power behind this movement. But some things are the same with you.

To bring these men into captive. To bring these men into a position where they were willing to do anything to spread it. For their false cause.

As far as I could see, this one thing is the printed page. I had before me the works of Marx, the works of Lenin, and other Communistic magazines and books. As I walked freely through Soviet cities, I went from one bookstore after another.

All along the streets there were book stands. Everywhere you turned, books, all printed in Russia practically, all Communistic, were for sale. And the people who had increased in literacy in the past years were reading and studying like a people I had never seen before.

Not studying the Bible, for sure. Not studying any of the literature that you have ever read, except perhaps some of the classics. But studying basically propaganda printed in Moscow.

And I have some of this propaganda which is printed in English for thousands of books that are printed in English. And I want you to just read one paragraph from a magazine called World Youth. Which is a magazine calling all youth to join the revolution and overthrow their government.

The title of this article in this one magazine, World Youth, is called United States Imperialists Strengthening Fascist Dictatorship in South Korea. It says this, this is a 1961 magazine. In the past period,

the United States Imperialists framed up the Sigmund Reid puppet regime at the point of the bayonet.

The United States covered South Korea with a network of police and jail, suppressed and disbanded a large number of patriotic political parties and social organizations, and stifled the democratic rights and freedoms of the people. The United States massacred great numbers of the people and youth, drenching the land of South Korea with the blood of their victims. You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

But I have just read to you something that each one of you knows is a lie. Saying that the United States has massacred great numbers of people in South Korea and has drenched South Korea with the blood of their victims is far short of the truth. And yet this is typical of communistic propaganda.

This is typical of the communist way to win people to their way of thinking, by lying. Some of you have heard of J. Edgar Hoover's book, *Masters of Deceit*, and how true that title is. The communists are masters of deceit.

I have before me many other pieces of communistic literature, some of it in English, some of it in Russian, some of it in Spanish. And you can get it in dozens and hundreds of other languages also. Literature, being distributed over the world in such a way that it's hard to believe.

We've all heard the figure that the Communists spent three billion dollars on literature last year. And after my trip to the Soviet Union, I'm convinced that this is the truth. I have in my hands one of the volumes of the works of Lenin.

I bought all four volumes. One inch thick each volume, hardcover, top grade paper, for about a dollar seventy cents. You couldn't even print those books for that price.

The paper alone would be worth more than that. The communists aren't interested in making money. The communists have one goal, propagation.

Propagation of their lives. And so these books go out all over the world. Not by thousands, not just little gospel tracts, but hardbound books.

Books that carry a thousand lines per page, if we could say, if we could count the lines. For all it is, it's from Satan and it's just lie upon lie. But you see, when people don't hear anything else, all they can do is believe what they read.

And so communism, by distributing enough of this literature to enough people, have been able to captivate almost a third of the world. As we drove through Czechoslovakia, coming out of the country, we pulled up to the border. There was a young fellow carrying a machine gunner who was in charge of that border post.

And as he walked past us, we realized that he was probably only fifteen or sixteen years old. And immediately I thought back to the United States and asked myself, what are the young people of fifteen and sixteen doing in America? And so it is all over the Soviet Union, young people. Young people who are sold out and convinced about a lie.

And who are ready and willing to march the world over to see that this lie is accepted and believed by all the world. What is the answer? What is the answer to this iron straw of Satan? What is the answer to this tremendous quantity of people that are convinced about a lie? Two hundred million people in Russia

alone. Not to speak of China, not to speak of Mongolia or these other countries.

What is the answer? I believe we as Christians have the answer. And on the other side of this tape, I would like to discuss briefly Christ's answer to communism. And what it means to the Christians of the twentieth century.

While they are changing this tape, please remain in silent prayer. Thank you.

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/21/SID21437.mp3>

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/george-verwer/stl-team-visits-russia-1961/>

Grow in Your Walk with Christ

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

www.sermonindex.net