

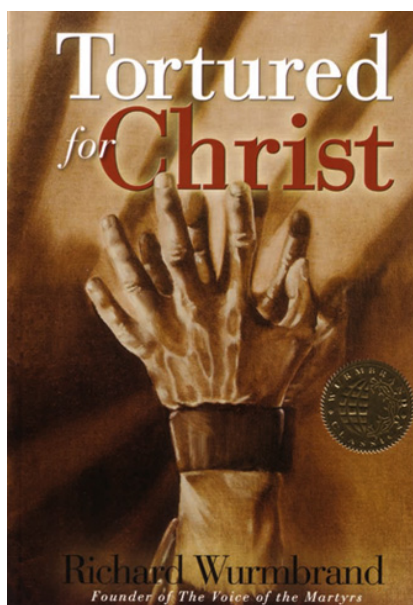
Tortured for Christ

Richard Wurmbrand

During World War II the country of Romania became a part of the Eastern Europe Communist bloc. A new tyranny was imposed, creating conditions hostile to Christian worship. People were forced to swear their allegiance to the communist government. This put Christians in danger, as their first allegiance was to Jesus.



After the war, Romanian Pastor Richard Wurmbrand spent 14 years in Communist prisons for his belief in Jesus Christ and his public proclamation of his faith. He suffered months of solitary confinement, physical torture, hunger, cold, mental cruelty and brainwashing at the hands of his captors. However, his faith and that of thousands of other believers persisted. Of being in prison, he wrote the following:



“It was strictly forbidden to preach to other prisoners. It was understood that whoever was caught doing this received a severe beating. A number of us decided to pay the price for the privilege of preaching, so we accepted their [the communists'] terms. It was a deal; we preached and they beat us. We were happy preaching. They were happy beating us, so everyone was happy.”

“Persecution has always produced a better Christian - a witnessing Christian, a soul-winning Christian. Communist persecution has backfired and produced serious, dedicated Christians such as are rarely seen in free lands. These people cannot understand how anyone can be a Christian and not want to win every soul they meet.”

In the ensuing years, in several different prisons, guards broke four vertebrae in his back, and many other bones. They carved him in a dozen places. They burned and cut 18 holes in his body. However, he stood firm and never renounced his faith in Jesus.

In 1965 he was set free from prison, and later penned the now famous book *Tortured For Christ*. He also founded a ministry called *The Voice of the Martyrs*. Its mission: to ask Christians everywhere to rise up and support their brothers and sisters facing terrible persecution under many anti-God regimes.

You can read more of what happened to Richard in the book *Tortured For Christ*, or even see the film of the same name.

