

Communists Murder Youth, 20, for Christian Beliefs

Gary Jarmin
February 1973
From The Rising Tide



On July 16, 1972, John Moiseev, 20, a young Christian and soldier in the Soviet Army, paid the highest price for his devout, unshaking faith in God. He was murdered; murdered not so much by men, but by an ideology. John was killed by men whose sense of morals and values had long since been sacrificed on the highest altar of materialism -- Communism.

John ("Ivan" in Russian) was an exceptional Christian. He never shrank from his duty to bear witness to Christ. In fact, in a country where most believers usually speak in hushed voices, he ardently proclaimed aloud his belief and actively sought to win others to his faith. His only crime, for which he was finally murdered, was that he loved God very deeply and was even willing to sacrifice his life to fulfill his Christian responsibility.

Just before he died, John proclaimed: "I love the Lord with all my heart and am ready to pay any price for Him."

John was drafted into the army at the age of eighteen. Unlike other soldiers who were Christians, he did not become silent, but continued his evangelical work among the soldiers around him.

Most of them mocked and persecuted John, but gradually, many became converted, after he demonstrated an amazing ability to predict the future. However, most became convinced of the God John spoke of by seeing the tremendous loving example he set in his daily life.

Records Trials

Before long, his persecution increased. In a tape recording made from May 2 to May 12, 1972, which he smuggled to his parents, John described much of the torture and harassment he was undergoing.

"There is no rest for me, night or day," he recorded. "Fifteen times a day they send for me from different sections, in order to make me change my mind."

Often his persecutors would keep him hungry five days at a time to force him to renounce his faith, but John would only become stronger in his faith as a result.

John further described on tape how he was forced to stand for five hours at night in the snow at 25 to 30

degrees below zero. This lasted for two weeks. Afterwards, he was sent to a camp in Sverdlovsk where he was "worked over" and passed through five special torture chambers.

It was in Chamber No. 5, John described, that his most unbelievable torture took place: "They put me in a special rubber suit and by swelling it with air compressed my body, gradually increasing the air pressure and every time asking me: 'Well, then, you better change your mind or else you will be here for seven years.'" After twelve days of this, John was returned to his military unit in Kerch.

Fate Expected

In one of his last letters to his family before he died, John wrote of what now seemed his unavoidable fate: "The greetings of your son will soon be at an end. They have forbidden me to preach Jesus Christ I am undergoing testing. I have told them that I cannot stop preaching Him. I am following Christ's order. The testings are great and the torments are not light."

After his death, John's military officer, Malsin V. V., commented of him: "Moiseev died hard, he fought with death, but he died a Christian."

When John's parents learned of his death, they left for Kerch to claim the body. When they returned with the coffin for burial, it was pried open to see what had actually caused John's death. The death certificate read he had died of "mechanical asphyxiation from drowning." However, an autopsy by friends of John's family revealed something else altogether.

What they discovered was more than the body of a drowned man, but of one who had been subjected to tremendous punishment and torture. There were six deep punctures in the area of the heart; head wounds and abrasions from beatings; the feet and back were severely beaten; and on the chest were large burns.

Truly, John's death stands as a symbol of the insane inhumanity of an ideology without love or truth. May John's courageous life and death likewise serve as an example to all of those who desire true freedom and justice on earth.