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60TH ANNIVERSARY OF U.S.S.R.

D.B. KNOX

"THE CHRISTIAN FAITH"

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The Soviet Union is celebrating its 60th anniversary. Sixty years is a long time, almost two generations, quite long enough to find out whether the theories on which it was founded work out in practice. It's plain that they have failed; the Berlin wall is proof of that.

The Soviet Union was founded on the principles of Karl Marx who maintained that the dictatorship of the proletariat would be followed by an era of prosperity and brotherly love through the change of the economic system from capitalism to communism. But events have proved Marx wrong. There is no withering of the state nor any era of brotherly love and cooperation in the empire governed by the Kremlin. It is just another dictatorship.

Government by fear is the principal of dictatorship and this characterises countries of the soviet block. The Soviet Union is a prison. You are shot if you try to escape.

The marxist dream has failed because it is based on a misunderstanding of human nature. Marxism says that the evils of society and of human nature are caused by economic conditions, so that when these were changed human nature would be changed. But it is the other way round; economic evils are caused by evil human nature which cannot be changed merely by a distribution of wealth or political power.

The Christian gospel however does change human nature and it is the only thing that ever has. In a word, God is able to change our natures to make them what they ought to be and he does so when we open our lives to Him. He forgives us for the past and changes our disposition. It is a slow process because it is a one by one process, but it is the only hope for humanity.





Marxism denies the reality of God, and regards religion as a man made concoction designed to dope the populace into acquiescence to its rulers. For sixty years the Soviet Union has been persecuting the Christian Church in Russia. But here again it has failed. Christianity appears to be more vigorous today in Russia than at any time for centuries.

Christians are still being cruelly persecuted in Russia. Take Alexander Argentov and Georgi Fedotov for example. These young Christians in their mid twenties were last year taken away to a psychiatric hospital where doctors told them they were mad for believing in Christianity and locked them up with genuinely insane people and forcibly gave them drugs which made them withdrawn and depressed, and all this simply for taking part in a Christian discussion group. Georgi Fedotov tells of a fellow Christian and I quote 'he has already spent many years in hospital. He is given injections of sulphur, his Bible has been taken from him, he is not allowed to pray and the doctor in charge of him has said that he will lie in bed for another ten years! 'He is my brother in Christ, Georgi Alexeyevich Musatov'. Other Christians are imprisoned in Siberian concentration camps. In particular Pastor Georgi Vins arrested for his Christian leadership and now suffering from suspected mercury poisoning in prison who wrote to his family last Christmas Day 'It is 10 o'clock in the morning, the frost is moderate, no more than 40 degrees celsius below freezing point. The sun has just appeared above the horizon, an enormous bright beautiful disc in the frosty sky against the snow white wilderness. My heart is joyful. It is Christmas Day. One of the officers asked me "On what do you set your hope?" I replied "On God and on the prayers of His people"'.

These sixty years have shown that Christianity is true and works, and marxism is wrong and fails. But we Christians need to give ourselves to prayer for our own community as well as for our fellow Christians

suffering in countries of active persecution. For it is a spiritual struggle for which we have been enlisted and it will be won, and is indeed being won, by spiritual means, by prayer and faithfulness and suffering for the sake of Christ. So pray.

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