

as much as you want. He refused to accept the offer and Wurmbrand was tortured many years in prison. Finally, his wife who was from some Scandinavian country raised money for him there and paid a ransom and got him out. He was only one of a considerable number who have escaped from a communist prison in our day, but there are probably 5 times as many more who have suffered until they died for their faith.

Solzhenitzyn -- I don't know how much he knew about Christianity before he went to prison -- was an officer in a Russian army, a captain and a very effective one. He had a friend who was an officer in a different part of the army. They corresponded back and forth. There were things Stalin did they were disgusted at. They used a kind of code word for Stalin in their letters, and made occasionally oblique references criticizing Stalin. Nothing very extensive, but the censors examined these letters and expected what it meant and decided they were right.

One day an officer of the secret police, while the war was still on, came to the camp and asked to see Capt. Solzhenitzyn and took him off. They tore off the emblems from his shoulder and put him with some common criminals and he was in Soviet prisons and concentration camps for more than 10 years. One day as he was working in the cold and rain and in utter misery he felt what's the use of it all. Might as well give up. He sat down for a few minutes on a bench. A man came over. Sat down beside him, and took a piece of wood and made a picture of a cross on the earth in front of him. Solzhenitzyn saw that picture of the cross and saw what Christ had done, and realized that there was something much more in life than the communist persecution and torture. He said he received new hope when he saw that and was given courage to go on and resist it until his time of slavery was over.

Eventually he escaped from Russia and wrote books that have been read all over the world, and translated into many languages and are recognized as among the great writings of the world's history. But he is one. We don't know how much he knew about the Lord when he went into prison. I'm not sure how much he knows about the Lord now. There have been thousands thus persecuted and many of them for their faith.

There was an interesting book called When Iron Gates Yield. The story of an English missionary, an excellent writer, who told how he was a missionary in Tibet and he was there when the communists took over. They put him in prison for 3 years. His Bible was taken from him. He said how much the verses he'd memorized meant to him. He would go over and over them. They did everything they could to break his faith. Everything they could to make a communist of him. Eventually they released him. Gave him back his Bible. He went back to England and wrote this book, When Iron Gates Yield. He's written several other very fine Christian books since that time. He's only one. An outsider who wishing to please the British they released him. Think of the thousands in China who have suffered for their faith.