

People perhaps who have worked in a very difficult field for years and have only one or two converts. What a difference it would make to them if there are those who are backing them up in prayer! Holding them up before the throne of grace in their difficulties.

I think we should think particularly of those who are suffering persecution for Christ's sake. I suppose many of you have seen Christianity Today and it was over a year ago it told how the government of Nicaragua had gone into the offices of Campus Crusade (the organization that got out the four spiritual laws) in Monagua and seized thousands of copies of thank and hundreds of Bibles and burned and destroyed them and ordered them not to print any more of them. They took all the native workers of the group and interrogated them and tortured them and put them into prison.

Think of people behind the Iron Curtain suffering for Christ's sake. Just last week, I believe, there was a man who had become famous as a poet. The pressure came so strongly against Castro all over the world that he let the man out. This man had been a worker in the Postal Service. He had been happy when Castro's revolution developed. He was so glad that they would get democracy in Cuba and get rid of the dictator they had them. He favored it, but then when he saw Castro begin to move toward dictatorship he told his associates in the post office that he thought that was an awful shame because they wanted democracy and freedom, not dictatorship and communism. He was seized, put in prison and was there 22 years tortured. Twenty-two years suffering.

His book has just been published telling about his terrible experiences. It's strange how little we know about the suffering of the Christians in Cuba. He tells in it about a Protestant minister who there in the prison suffering torture led many people to the Lord. He stood for Christ in a way that was very effective until finally the guards got so angry they marched him out, took a machine gun and shot him straight up through his starting in his abdomen and rent right straight up shooting bullets and up into his neck and just cut the neck off with the bullets that they shot into this fine Protestant minister there who was standing for the Word of God, and leading souls to Christ.

Oh there are people suffering today for the Word of God and yet God does not leave himself without a witness. It's amazing in the prisons of Russia--we read about this Baptist pastor who was allowed to come to this country a year or two ago, he told how he was seized, put into a cell with a dozen people who were there for murder. He pulled a little copy of the Gospel of John out of his pocket and began to read it. One said, What is that you are reading? He said, The word of God. They said, Would you read it aloud and let us hear it? He began to read and those men gathered around him. They were so interested. He said these men in prison for murder, when a Christian came and gave them the Word of life they were so interested in hearing about it.