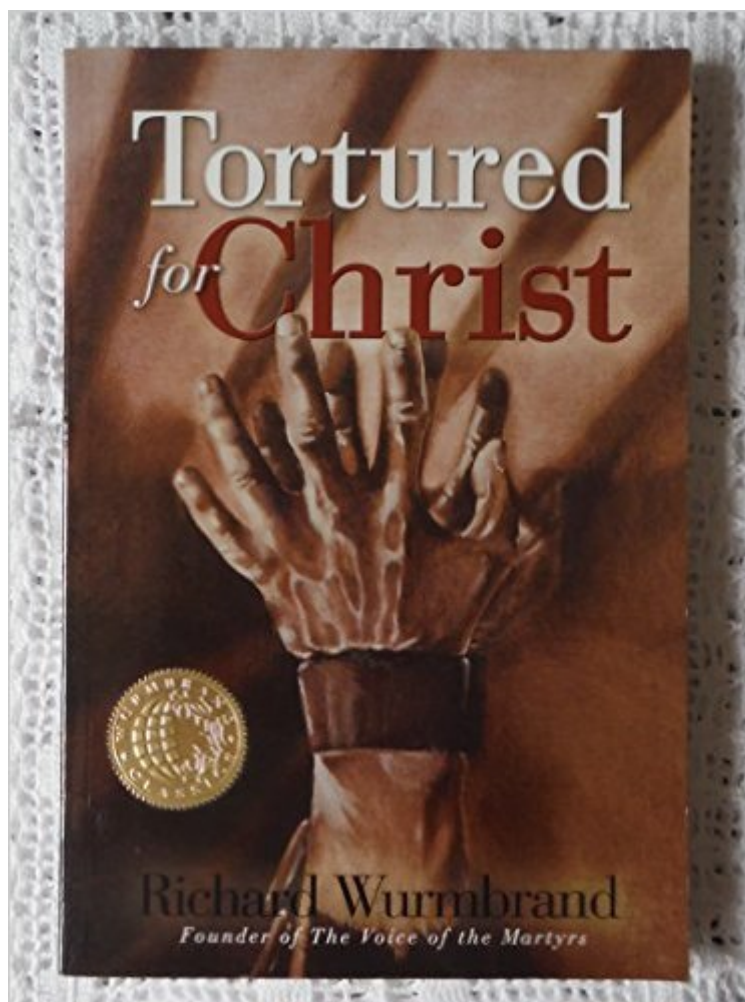


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Tortured For Christ



Synopsis

"Tortured for Christ" - After years of imprisonment and solitary confinement, enduring inhumane torture, Richard Wurmbrand emerges with a powerful testimony of courageous faith. Even today, believers are suffering and dying for Christ, yet their faith will not falter under the most unthinkable persecutions. In this stirring account, Wurmbrand (founder of The Voice of the Martyrs) encourages us to remember those in chains and equips us to help our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ around the world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Richard Wurmbrand, a Romanian Jew who gave up athiesm for Christianity in his youth, writes about his years working as a pastor in the secret, Underground Church in Romania. Wurmbrand writes about this very book that it has "no literary value," which is true. He writes in a "stream-of-consciousness" style, seemingly paying little attention to chronology and jumping from event to event. But while Wurmbrand does not skillfully craft a litarary masterpiece, he does give the reader quite a masterpiece as far as emotions and history are concerned. I'm aware of little historical work on Underground Churches anywhere--be it Eastern Europe, the Middle East, China, or other lands. Wurmbrand does history a great service as he provides a first-hand account of Romania's secret church, how they worshiped, how they evangelized, how they communicated and provided support for each other, etc. The resourcefulness of the Church was both inspiring and surprising. This book is also very emotionally charged. Wurmbrand pulls no punches as he

describes the means by which he and other Christians were tortured: placed naked in a freezer until nearly dead, warmed up, then placed back in the freezer repeatedly; made to partake in a mock-Communion service of urine and feces; cut several times then placed in a room full of starving rats; and then there's the conventional methods of torture: beating, attacking your family, and raping. Reading Wurmbrand's describing of these acts shocked this reader several times. I highly recommend this book for both its historical and inspirational value. It is also highly recommended because, while Romania's Underground Church no longer has to operate in secret, there exist Underground Churches in other nations of the world: China, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Cuba (just to name a few). Reading about this particular underground church has given me insight to how the other Underground Churches still operate today.

What a powerful book! Wurmbrand holds nothing back as he relates his many years in a Communist prison. Beaten, starved, tortured... at yet he still came out of prison preaching about God's never-failing love. In his son's book *BETWEEN HAMMER & SICKLE* (by Mihai Wurmbrand) he gives a most powerful and awe-inspiring message to his son: "Mihai, you know that in prison I had no Bible. I have forgotten it. I have forgotten all my theology. But these things I know for sure. First, there is a living God and he is our loving father. Second, Jesus Christ is the savior and bridegroom of our souls. Third, the Holy Spirit works in us to make us more and more Christ-like. Fourth, there exists beyond question an eternal life. And lastly, love is the best of ways. This is what I have learned in prison." If that doesn't stir you, what does? ...A Christian-Jew in a Communist Country. If you think you need an example of a true Believer, then you should definitely read *TORTURED FOR CHRIST* and *BETWEEN HAMMER & SICKLE*.

Back in my preteen years, I first read Pastor Richard Wurmbrand's book *Tortured For Christ*. It had a big influence on how I viewed religious freedom in Soviet bloc countries. Wurmbrand wrote this book after his release from Romanian prisons in 1964, and he did so to share the story of how the underground churches in Communist countries have to operate in order to spread the Word and their faith. Rather than continue to minister to his countrymen, he was urged to leave and spread the news about the persecution. Wurmbrand probably did more to bring this situation to light than any other single person. With the demise of the Soviet Union, the situation has improved somewhat. But by no means has religious freedom bloomed. There are more freedoms in the former Communist countries, but the surge in Islamic countries means that Christian persecution has just migrated to new locations. Much of what you read here is still valid around the world. The situation's the same,

just the names have changed. If you're wondering about the cost of being a Christian in many locations around the world, this book will help you to understand what that cost is.

When I read this book it did not take long for me to be overwhelmed by the stories. Richard Wurmbrand is not only an incredible writer, but is an incredible man of God. He talks about how hard it was to endure the Communist desire to see him deny his faith, but because of the strength given him by Christ, He was able to stand firm in his faith and never budge. He truly is a hero of the faith, and this book is what first sparked my desire to find out what is going on in the world as far as persecution is concerned. Richard Wurmbrand is now my personal hero, and is an incredible encouragement to me. Christ, through him, has taught me that I don't truly understand what it means to count everything else as worthless compared to Christ. This is a must read book, along with the sequel to "Tortured for Christ", the book "From Suffering to Triumph".

Tortured for Christ is a story that is powerful and filled with the real-life, daily experiences of a prisoner of the Communist Regime. This man endured starvation, extreme cold, and physical torture by his captors, simply because he refused to deny Jesus Christ. The amazing thing in his books is his uncanny Yiddish humor that offsets the unbearable suffering he endured. In all the survivor stories I have devoured over the years, this one is filled with something unique-HOPE. Hope in God, hope that his wife and son survived, hope that he would somehow survive to tell his story. Many men and women have survived incredible odds, but when God is in the narrative, as in Wurmbrand's, it becomes a miracle. This book changed my life...for the better!

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