

## THOUGHTS ON CHRISTMAS EVE

A couple of weekends ago, we watched a video "Tortured for Christ", the story of Richard Wurmbrand, a Lutheran pastor in Romania in the 1940's, who spent 14 years in prison for his faith. The Nazis had been defeated, but the Communists from Russia had "liberated" the Eastern European countries and imposed on them their godless religion of communism. So Christians were officially outlaws, especially pastors like Wurmbrand who refused to comply and continued to preach Jesus Christ.

Wurmbrand's 14 years were not spent simply sitting in a cell, reading and praying peacefully. Instead, he and others were beaten and tortured often: confined for days in a 2' by 2' box with nails in the walls so they couldn't move without getting punctured; hung upside down for days, while being beaten; locked in a device like old-time stocks while the torturer beat the feet so much that Wurmbrand couldn't walk normally the rest of his life; and many other means of torture.

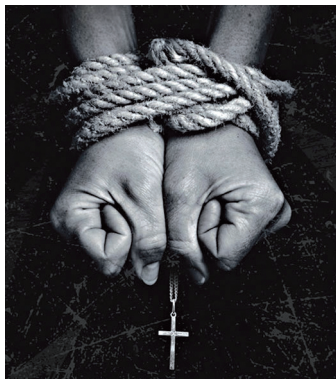
Wurmbrand said that one of the great things about that time was how there were other Believers and Pastors in the prison, and they developed a relationship and courage that were like Jesus' disciples and the early Christians who were similarly imprisoned, tortured, and killed. He survived his time in prison, and with his wife, founded Voice of the Martyrs, an organization dedicated to being the voice of persecuted Christians all over the world, of which there are an enormous number that we rarely hear about.

And then this morning (12/24), I saw a headline on Christian Broadcasting Network's news page: "The Coming 'Turkish Jihadist Invasion' Against Christians: A Christmas Plea from Syrians to US Christians."

*In an open letter to Christians*

*in the United States, the head of the Syriac Union Party pleaded that his people not be abandoned to Turkish forces if US troops pull out of Syria. . . .*

*"The US has been the one force that saved our people from ISIS. We are proud that we can say that we as Syriac-Assyrian Christians have fought side by side with the US. Our Syriac Military Council has been part of every battle against ISIS in North-East Syria. The reality is that we could not have won and protect our people without the US forces. Now Turkey wants to destroy all of us. 100,000 Syriac and other Christians will be killed or driven away if Turkey invades. Turkish jihadists hunted down the Christians and Yazidi's of Afrin in Northwest Syria. They will do the same again but at a much wider scale. The very same Turkish jihadists are standing ready and are waiting for the US to leave so that they can kill us and destroy our communities and Churches. This*



*disaster against our people will happen while the US Army will be standing by in Iraq at a few hours driving distance. Basically, the US Army will be looking on at a very short distance while Turkish-backed jihadists commit exactly the same crimes as ISIS. . . ."*

Have you been aware that this killing and torturing of Christians has been going on for years in the Middle East? Does the lying fake news media tell you the truth about these things?

What bugs me so much about this is how warm, well-fed, and comfortable we are in our lives in the U.S., even in the People's Republik of Kalifornia. (Although we should be fairly warned, that the extreme leftism practiced by our governing elitists in this state inevitably leads to the chaos and suffering that we see others experiencing in other places in the world.)

We sit here, listen to Christmas music (no longer carols, sad to say), eat too much food, buy too many things, and bemoan returning to work after all the "good" times, while so many in the world sit in prison, or live in fear for their lives,

or watch family and friends get beaten or killed, or flee across an ocean to find some kind of safety.

How are we so lucky or blessed to live in comfort and safety while others live in fear or starvation? Why am I HERE, Father?? And because I AM here, and have all of this material comfort, what should I do to help those who are suffering??

What is best to do for them, that would offer significant help? There are no easy answers. Many would say, President Trump included, that we have no business fighting battles and shedding American blood that should be handled by other countries, and so our troops are leaving the most difficult and nasty battlefield in the entire world, Syria.

While I agree with him in principle, I also believe that we who have so much owe much to help the helpless. In the Middle East, the Kurds in northern Syria and southeastern Turkey, and the Iraqi, Syrian, and Iranian Christians, are sitting ducks for the dark forces of evil who are targeting them for extinction. They already have been chased from their homes and murdered in front of their families. Now they have only more of same to look forward to.

I wish I had an answer. I wish I could be over there helping at least to alleviate suffering. The only things I can think of doing are these: 1. Pray! Pray! Pray! Pray for a solution that protects these vulnerable people from ISIS and the other jihadists who are out to destroy them. 2. Send money to organizations dedicated to helping them. Voice of the Martyrs is one. Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN) is another. American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ). Many more. 3. Write the President and Congressman Cook asking them to figure out a way to help these people. (I guess now I'd better do that myself!)

The most important thing is to keep in perspective how blessed we are to live here and to be THANKFUL TO GOD that He

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placed us here. For a reason. Figure it out and do it. And help these helpless, whatever that means.

"HAPPY" NEW YEAR!!

*Linda Gammel*

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

*Contributed. From the Web.*

**I finally realized it..  
People are prisoners  
of their phones  
that's why they are  
called Cell Phones.**



## ROE vs. WADE -

Ordinarily this would be considered just plain dumb, but in today's world of millennials it is considered funny.....go figure!

A co-ed in her freshman year at University of Arizona, sitting in her U.S. Government Class, was asked by the professor if she knew what the "Roe versus Wade" decision was about.

She sat for quite a while pondering this very profound question, finally sighed, and answered, "I think that is the decision George Washington made prior to crossing the Delaware!"

## Secret Code

*Someday us old folks will use cursive writing as a secret code!*

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Every Thursday except December  
8:30AM - 3:30PM in our parking lot.

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### LVEDA Meeting

(Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association)

**TUES. JANUARY 8, 5 PM.  
at the Senior Center**

**Date changed since the first  
Tuesday is New Years Day.**

- New County Supervisor - implications for desert communities.
- Updates on community plans - solar projects - the Roadrunner's toy run - etc.
- Report on meeting with Watermaster.
- Discussion: What do we want LVEDA to do in 2019; What kind of presentations?; Local business issues?

### L.V. School Board Meeting

Thursday, Jan. 10, starts at 5:30PM.  
At the Alternative Education Center,  
8560 Alianto Rd up Highway 18.

### Household Hazardous Waste & E-Waste Collection

**SATURDAY, January 12, 9A to Noon** Free disposal of household hazardous waste (Antifreeze, Batteries, Motor Oil & Oil Filters, or latex paint only). And thanks to a special arrangement with the County collection of Electronic Wastes (Computers, TV's, Microwaves, etc, etc). Behind LV Fire Station, 33269 Old Woman Springs Road. For info call 1-800-OILY CAT.

### LIMITS & MULTIPLE PRICING

Please, unless otherwise indicated, **ON AD ITEMS NO MORE THAN 6 TOTAL** (including all flavors or varieties) **OF ANY ITEM, PER FAMILY, DURING THE AD PERIOD, AT THE SALE PRICE**, except in produce and meat, which are limited to normal retail quantities, or which carry limits specifically stated. Sorry, we must reserve the right to further limit or refuse sales.

**ON MULTIPLE PRICING**, when purchasing items in quantities more or less than the multiple stated, the register is built automatically to charge the "each" price times the quantity. (Example: Price of item is \$3/\$1. The price of: one = 34¢, two = 68¢, three = \$1, four = \$1.34, five = \$1.68, six = \$2.00).

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