



IMPACTING MILLIONS THROUGH FATHER'S GRIPPING STORY OF COURAGE AND FAITHFULNESS

On October 23rd, DOHI celebrated 50 years of ministry at our anniversary banquet in Glendale, CA. I want to express my thanks to all who attended and everyone who joined us on zoom. What a blessed time it was!

For this special celebration we were able to give a "sneak peak," in a teaser film, of our upcoming movie based on my father's book *Tortured for His Faith*.

I want to share with you a small snippet from the teaser film, a story that greatly impacted Father during his horrible years in the infamous Belene concentration camp on Persin Island in the middle of the Danube River. It was December 24, 1952.

One week earlier, the Danube River began rapidly rising. By Christmas Eve half of the island had flooded. The prisoners were forced to build up the riverbank. Father was on a raft bringing material across the river when the strong current tore his raft in half and he fell into the raging icy river.

Father tried swimming to shore but his winter jacket and heavy rubber boots dragged him under. In desperation he cried out, "God help me!" Miraculously, God gave him strength to swim to the shore.

Dad's life saved on the island of terror!

As he lay breathless on the shore, Father saw two nuns being forced towards him by a woman prison guard carrying a rifle. One of the nuns had great difficulty lifting her feet in the thick mud. The guard cursed and hit her with the gun then kicked her in the back with such force that she fell forward onto her face. The other nun managed to reach Father and pulled him out of the cold water.

At that very moment, bells from a nearby church in Belene city began ringing in Christmas Eve. Deeply grieved, Father's heart cried out to God, "It is Christmas, oh, God. Why am I here? Why is this nun lying in the mud? Why such inhuman treatment? What is our crime?"

The beautiful sound of the ringing bells was a reminder of his savior, Jesus Christ, and Father instantly knew:

"The newborn Savior came to suffer. For this same Jesus many of us are suffering. Throughout history it has been given to Christians to suffer for His name's sake. For this reason I am a communist prisoner. For this reason this Catholic nun is lying in the mud."

...continued

Today, this story of the 'Christmas bells' serves as a reminder to us, and all Christians suffering for their faith in Jesus Christ, of God's wonderful love.

'TORTURED FOR HIS FAITH' IS BEING MADE INTO A CHRISTIAN MOVIE



Ruth and Haralan falling in love in London.



Haralan sentenced for being an American Spy in 1949.

The making of a movie based on *Tortured For His Faith* (TFHF) is perhaps one of our largest and most costly endeavors.

As we finalize the movie script, we hope to begin production of the film for theatrical release. Our hope is that this true story, based on historical context of the Cold War, will reach a wide audience, including non-Christians, Muslims, and others who have never heard the Gospel and turn their hearts to Jesus Christ.

Likewise, there are countless Christians still unaware of the heart-breaking reality of the Suffering Church worldwide. This film will tell Father's powerful story in a moving way, reminding Christians to pray and help their persecuted brethren.

With Thanksgiving in our Hearts for You

We are thankful to God for 50 years of ministry. None of which would be possible without our ministry partners and thousands of supporters around the world.

As I look back through the years, I can see how God always brought the right staff, at the right time, to enable us to accomplish our ministry goals in some of the hardest missionary fields in the world, like behind the Iron Curtain (atheistic communism), the Bamboo Curtain (China) and the Muslim Veil Curtain.

But you, our DOHI supporters, are the core backbone of our ministry. Without you, your prayers and the leading of the Holy Spirit who moves your heart in faithfulness, none of our endeavors would have been possible.

Thank you for 50 years!

Together in His ministry,

Paul H. Popov

For our 50th Anniversary we have published a special edition of *Tortured For His Faith*, with additional information and family pictures never published before.

Request your copy on the enclosed card.

Yes Paul, I want to do my part to help make the film about Haralan Popov's life and how God faithfully sustained him during his 13 years in communist prisons.

- Use my gift where most needed.
 \$50 \$75 \$150 \$500 \$1,000 \$_____
- Here is my gift to make the new film project move forward.
- With my donation (of any amount) please send me a 50th Anniversary edition of Haralan Popov's book.
- Printed Copy Digital Copy — My Email: _____



Actor portraying Haralan praying and thanking God for his release.



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Haralan Popov
Actual footage of trial 1949

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The Bulgarian Secret Police created a movie from the court trial to show the (forced) "confessions" of 15 pastors accused of being spies. The sole purpose of Stalin's henchmen was to discredit the church and to show that the leaders of these various denominations were criminals and traitors.