From Canada → Communist!!

Today in "Godless Russia"

They are beginning their 50th year, living in an atheist system. What are people like, brought up in a land where most of the churches are only museums? NN's Editor met nearly every nationality and age in the USSR. Here are his impressions of "godless" citizens of Socialism.

Their supreme belief is in human labor.

Socialism is a system in which everything (except personal goods) is publicly-owned; and everybody (except the young, the old and the sick) is required to do useful work for the common good. So they have no rich, no idlers living off the people. You can't get what you want unless you work for it. But you can always work, always get paid, thus labor is all-powerful.

"Communism equals practical, positive humanism".

That's from Karl Marx, not the Bible. He said: "A man's character is created by circumstances, so it is necessary to make his circumstances humane". Soviet people have worked hard, for 49 years, to change life so it will be kinder to human beings, and they are getting results faster than ever today. This is having greater effect on people than thousands of years of going to church.

What do they worship? The development of Man.

But in a way radically different to the religious way. They believe what Marx predicted: Socialism makes it possible for each individual to develop fully only because all his fellow-men in the New System likewise develop themselves. They worship the goodness and greatness of Man growing forever and ever, not in a god-like way but in a human way, together.

People over there despise "the root of all evil".

Of course they use money. And some of them, clinging to the past, are still spiritually sickened by the love of money. However, in Socialism money cannot win you respect, or power over your fellow-man. The vast majority of Soviet people now are quite free from that "evil love." This makes them strikingly free for all the other really human loving.

Human life is not priced in dollars, cents.

What this has done in Socialism shows up vividly in Soviet youth. Over here, we spend millions on "youth surveys"—because the "youth market" is worth billions in cosmetics, hit-records, birth-control pills. In the USSR the youth are busily surveying themselves, and they see themselves as the creators of the glorious future of Mankind. So they are happy, ambitious and proud . . . never priced, they are priceless.

Russia is a land where people don't kneel down.

The only times I've ever seen them bow their heads was at a funeral and beside a war memorial. For half a century they have been free from fear of the boss, fear of being fired, fear of recessions and depressions. It's wonderful to see Soviet, Socialist dignity, on a mass scale, the splendid new thing in our world, the dignity of Man laboring for himself, unafraid.

They sing many hymns, glorifying work.

Trade unionists over here find it hard to grasp what work does to the human soul, when workers no longer toil just to exist. In Socialism you labor for yourself and for society. Work is social activity, the way to win respect, small honors, even great fame.

They declare: "My will be done!"

You don't find people in the USSR praying for favors, in church or in the boss's office. Now that tens of millions are well educated, astonishing numbers of people, young and old, consider themselves the actual bosses of Socialism. They are. A steel-worker wrote to a Donbas paper and said: "Here we look on each other as making our own happiness." They do it by managing the system they own. No matter who sits in the manager's chair, millions of Soviet people now administer the system . . . it's their will that is done.

". . . as you would have others do unto you."

The new generations don't know that biblical advice. They don't need it. They are literally born with it, nourished with it in infancy, childhood, school. Why would they harm others? There's no profit in it. They can't get rich crushing competitors. They are humane because Socialism is humane. When people grow up free from Capitalism they don't need advice on Sunday on how to behave towards others during the week.

"I am my brother's keeper" all over the world.

Propagandists in the West call this "Red imperialism." Trying to justify their butchery in Viet Nam (much worse than Hitler's) they talk about "stemming the tide of Communism." Soviet people speak of helping their brothers in Viet Nam, in their native land, defending their Socialist system against an enemy from across the world. Great sacrifices are being made now, all over the USSR, as the people slow up their own progress to pour aid into a far-off Asian country. They will never own one inch of Viet Nam soil, or one share in any company there, but they are laying up treasures in the hearts of their brothers.

The faith of their fathers is joyous.

Not many of the men and women who carried through the Socialist Revolution, in 1917, are living now, but they all are immortal beings in the USSR, and the glowing faith that inspired them is born again in every Soviet child's heart. It is the faith that in the new People's World, humanity will start to live in a way worthy of Man. And they proclaim this in books and banners and great neon displays, all over their land, in words that make powerful visitors from the West bite their lips . . . "Communism is the Youth of the World!"

They believe in Man, and no one says "Man is dead!"

In Capitalism the philosophy of gloom, despair and hopelessness is so fashionable that even clergymen make big money selling the idea that "God is dead." In Socialism they don't argue about God, and they ridicule the notion that Man is now absolutely alone in an empty universe. Nonsense! Socialism is bringing every man, woman and child ever closer to the heart of every other person. The new society no longer develops, as Capitalism does, by isolation and oppression of the individual. On the contrary . . . at long last Man is living, supremely rich in the great friendship of comrades.