22,000 Baptist Ministers Killed

Lydia Vins, mother of the well-known Georgi Vins, died in May 1985 at the age of 78. She has spearheaded the Council of Wives and Mothers of Baptist prisoners in the Soviet Union.

Lydia gained the love and respect of a multitude of other Christian women whose husbands were arrested. She organized them into a self-help group that aided those in greater need.

After 1967, when *Jesus to the Communist World* was started in the United States, Lydia Vins became one of the contacts for couriers who brought Bibles, medicine, and financial help for the persecuted.

After her arrival in the United States she continued to help the Council, for which she became a speaker in the West, along with her son.

Shortly before her death she wrote a biographical sketch, out of which we publish these few excerpts.

"Religious freedom has not existed in the Soviet Union since the atheists came to power in 1917. One of the first assignments of state atheism in the Soviet Union was the eradication of religion.

"The 1929 Legislation Regarding Religious Cults reflects the official attitude toward religion while Stalin was in power. The same laws remain in effect today.

"Since the 1929 Legislation went into effect, tens of thousands of Christians have been arrested and tortured in Soviet prisons and labor camps. Between 1929-1940, more than 25,000 Evangelical Christian Baptist ministers were arrested; 22,000 of them died as prisoners. During the same years, almost all church buildings and temples were closed or destroyed.

"In 1927 I married Peter Vins, an American citizen who came to Russia as a Baptist missionary. He started his ministry in the Soviet Union as a pastor in Blagoveschensk. Georgi, our only son, was born in 1928.

"In 1930 my husband was arrested for his ministry and sentenced to three years imprisonment. He was then exiled to Siberia, where my son Georgi and I joined him. My husband's second arrest came in 1936. This time he spent 10 months in prison. The year 1937 brought a third arrest from which he never returned home. He was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment and was denied visits and correspondence with his family. Many years later we learned that he died in a northern Siberian concentration camp in 1942.

"The suffering and persecution for Christ's sake continued in my life. After World War II my son and I moved to Keiv, capital of the Ukraine. Like his father, Georgi became an (underground) preacher of the Gospel, while for many years he worked as an electrical engineer.

"Although the intensity of persecution has fluctuated over the years, it has never ceased. Persecution of Baptists was intensified in the early 1960's. My son was arrested in 1966.

"In 1975 Georgi was again arrested and sentenced to ten years' imprisonment. But in 1979, as a result of high-level negotiations between U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev, Georgi was abruptly exiled to the U.S.A. from a Siberian prison. Our family was asked to join him, so we also came to America.

"I continuously seek to carry out my responsibilities to defend and help persecuted Christians and their families." (RCDA, 6/84)

In these simple words speaks a woman whose heart had burned for her brethren in faith whom she helped for over 40 years.

Sister Vins wrote about 22,000 Baptist ministers who died, without mentioning many hundreds of thousands from various denominations. Yet some churches in the free world, insensitive to their persecuted brethren, busy themselves with other issues.

Wake up, preachers! Wake up, Christians! Wake up, America!

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State of the Union

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form of requirements, registrations, and regulations. Probably the thing contributing the most to our own enslavement is *blind adherence to whatever is accepted traditionally*! One such tradition is the separation of our relationship to God from all other aspects of life. How often do we carelessly distinguish the aspects of our lives as "spiritual," "physical," "occupational," "social," "political," or "financial"? We tend to say our spiritual life is set off by itself and separate from every other arena of life. Traditionally we have been taught and the clergy has promoted the philosophy of separation of church and state, which has been perverted to mean that that which is spiritual is to be separate from everything else. This is faulty thinking. If our faith is as it should be, it will color and influence all other areas of life. Through this type of subtle philosophy, Satan has succeeded in bringing America into bondage without the physical chains that normally accompany slavery. Therefore, many of the presidential addresses steeped in their groundless optimism do not truly describe the true "state of the union."

How did we arrive at this state? I believe that any time a great principle is set aside, a great nation falls, or a great man is corrupted, the work of a successful *conspiracy* is in evidence. I use the word "conspiracy" because over and over again the scriptures declare, "Satan hath conspired." Certainly no thinking American believes that we have devolved into this state of corruption, laziness, illiteracy, and dependency by accident. This conspiracy has several characteristics that are worth noting, the first being that this conspiracy is *unique*. It is unique in that it is perhaps the most comprehensive of plans to control mankind. So subtle is this attack by Satan that he has virtually all Americans enfranchised from birth. Have you ever asked yourself what the purpose of a birth certificate really is? Why is the state now paying millions of dollars (your dollars) to record the births (something done for centuries by the churches), register, and keep current records on every American? Why this incessant need to identify, locate, and register every American from birth to death?

This conspiracy is not only unique but has been virtually *undetected*. It has remained undetected because Christians and pastors have not been willing to obey I Peter 5:8. In recent years some good men have risen to be watchful and to question the reasons for many of the binding regulations, such as the need for birth certificates, social security numbers, marriage licenses, etc., only to be labeled as radicals! It appears that the majority of society, including the religious world, has fallen right in line with the "*state of the union*" when they question the God-given order to "be sober, be vigilant," and yet praise the controls of the state with utter disregard for the Lordship of Christ over His ministries and the guarantees of the Constitution!

This conspiracy is not only unique and undetected. It is also *unified*. This conspiracy is so unified that it involves in a very coordinated fashion every area of our lives. Consider the monetary aspects of our lives. It is not a light statement when the Scripture states that "the love of money is the root of all evil." Mayor Anselm Rothschild said, "Permit me to control and issue the money of a nation and I care not who makes its laws." Compare Rothschild's statement with Luke 16:8. Mr. Rothschild, of course, is a member of the Federal Reserve Board which controls and issues not only the money of the United States, but worldwide as well!

Consider also the media in its role of conspiracy toward the people of this so-called free society. Many networks will not air any material that would benefit the cause of God and decency, or a return to a more purely Republican form of government. Yet, at the same time, a dozen confirmed sodomites (homosexuals) or a handful of frustrated feminists can raise a ruckus and it will make national news. The major networks in America are so biased in their hiring and promotions that the following statistics are most enlightening. Of all the people who shape the news by which our country is informed, including reporters, writers, editors, cameramen, stage crews, anchor persons, and producers, less than 10% believe in a God of any kind, and less than 2% ever attend a church, shrine, or synagogue.

Consider the educational system in America and its role in the conspiracy. The spiritually deficient puppets who comprise the bulk of our educators today are expertly performing their roles as "disciples of the new religion, humanism" while the N.E.A. pulls the strings.

Consider the legal system in its role in this costly conspiracy. God's Word, the foundation of all righteous laws in America, does not teach *preventive* law, but *punitive* law! It does not teach criminal rehabilitation, but restitution to the victims! This legal switch is proving to be very costly for the American public.

Consider the medical community and its role in America. The latest figures show that a startling 40% of all surgeries performed were unnecessary. Many noted sources claim that cancer can be controlled and eliminated, but alas, cancer is big business in America.

Consider the personal intrusions into our lives on every hand as we march to the conspirator's drum beat. Why on earth are you required to have a marriage license? What possible reason could the government have for any involvement in the choice of the person you would marry?

Consider this conspiracy and its effects on our religious world. Today your actions need not be Biblical but must be agreeable with public policy and the whims of every bureaucrat. This conspiracy has quietly and subtly usurped the Lordship of Christ over the church.

So without a doubt, this *unique*, *undetected*, and *unified* conspiracy has permeated every sphere of life in America. Could it be that as this conspiracy moves throughout our land all of the great principles of faith, freedom, and responsibility will be set aside; good men will be corrupted; and the greatest nation of all time will fall? Will this soon be the real "state of the union?"

The other word that further informs us of our present state is *compromise*. Compromise seems to have become the accepted mode for our society. Compromise is noted in every aspect of American life, in our homes, our businesses, our governments, and our churches. Compromise takes three particularly odious forms: when the righteous stoop to lower standards in order to become more acceptable, when God's Word is set aside, and when evil cloaks itself with enough good and truth to become palatable.

One might ask, "If this is really the state of the union, why is there such an outcry concerning liberty and freedom?" One last word rounds out the picture of the real "state of the union," and that word is *conflict*.

Thank God that there is always a Remnant that is led by the Spirit of God! The Remnant knows that Christ has always provided opportunities for His people to make wise and righteous choices. American Christians are grateful for and desire to preserve those institutions which protect and promote the freedom to choose and make our faith known. *Tyranny never offers a choice*! The chains of tyranny do not wear well with the Remnant of freedom-loving, blood-washed American Christians. Whenever right comes in contact with wrong, righteousness with sin, or God with Satan, there will be real *conflict*.

Satan and his emissaries have *conspired*. Uninformed, unawake, unsaved, and undisciplined Americans have *compromised*! Therefore the Remnant who really love America, God, and freedom have arisen to the *conflict*. I believe this is the true "*state of the union*."

Dr. B.C. Gillispie is the pastor of the Bible Baptist Church in Campbellsville, Kentucky.