

## The Trials of a True Believer!

Nine sermons bring fame and misfortune to a Soviet priest!

(From an article in "Time" magazine, May 1, 1978.)

Some 28 miles to the northeast of Moscow in the small village of Grebnevo, a stocky, balding priest named Dmitri Dudko assists at local services. Dudko, 56, is one of the most celebrated preachers in his country. But even in Grebnevo he is the second-ranking priest.

He has been assigned to the town as a kind of ecclesiastical banishment. Yet it is Dudko, not Patriarch Pimen (head of the Russian Orthodox Church), who has come to symbolize Christianity's will to survive in the officially godless nation. As much as any man in the Soviet Union, he has borne effective witness to the relevance of religion in a modern state.

The son of poor peasants, Dudko underwent a sudden conversion at 16 after reading a prayer book. During brief combat duty with the Red Army, he was wounded and contracted typhoid fever. He then entered the Novodevichy Theological Institute in Moscow and was arrested in 1948 when a fellow seminarian accused him of "anti-Soviet" agitation.

"The only thing they had against me was that I was a true believer," Dudko told Time's Marsh Clark. He was sentenced without a trial to ten years at a hard-labor camp in the Urals. Released in 1956 during the post-Stalin thaw, he completed seminary, married and became a priest. Since then, he has baptized thousands of adult converts.



Russian Orthodox Priest Dmitri Dudko—"There is a spiritual crisis in this country, a vacuum that has to be filled."

A man who seems fully at peace with the world, Dudko displays no bitterness as he discusses his current assignment to an out-of-the-way rural parish: "I don't get along very well with the (lay) church council, but I am at a place where I can work." His major regret is that he must commute to Grebnevo from his three-room Moscow apartment and only sees his wife, son Mikhail, 16, and daughter Natalya, 14, for a few days each fortnight. "I'm sorry I can't help the children," he says.

"My daughter is often yelled at. Children shout things like 'There is no God,' and when they brush against her and mistreat her, they say 'Let God help you now.' My son got sick and went to the local doctor, who sent him immediately to a psychiatrist because the boy was wearing a cross."

Father Dudko's reputation rests mainly on nine sermons delivered at St. Nicholas' Church in Moscow in late 1973 and 1974. In the West it is difficult to appreciate their impact or the courage required to deliver them.

The churches in the Soviet Union are not permitted to distribute books publicly, conduct classes or discussion groups. Indeed, they cannot evangelize at all. The sermon is the only means left to instruct the faithful, but priests have long been expected to limit their remarks to matters of ritual.

Instead, Dudko inaugurated "dialogue" sermons at Saturday night services, responding to written questions so he could address the real interests of his congregation. So powerful was his speaking style, so candid his discussions of the moral tensions in modern Soviet life that the church was soon overflowing with visitors, many of them dissatisfied young atheists. Such response would usually guarantee success for a clergyman.

For Dudko, it led to police interrogations, then removal from his parish by nervous church authorities. It very nearly ended his career. Dudko apologized to the Orthodox hierarchy for his indiscretions, and that, in addition to his popularity,

enabled him to remain a priest.

While Dudko has been ministering in obscurity, his sermons survive. Transcribed by listeners and distributed in samizdat (underground circulation of typescripts), they ultimately made their way to the West.

They are now available in English under the title "Our Hope" (St. Vladimir's Seminary Press; Crestwood, N.Y.; \$6.95). One of Dudko's aims was to make religion less abstract, to connect it with everyday life. His most eloquent answers, in fact, deal with the pressing problems of modern society. They are familiar: half the marriages in many Soviet cities end in divorce; alcoholism and hooliganism are steadily increasing.

Dudko, a patriotic citizen, preaches that atheism provides no motivation for people to lead contented lives or treat one another lovingly and that it is harming his nation: "Atheism is like an atom of evil undergoing fission. Moral, domestic and social disintegration results."

"Having undermined faith in God, atheism has undermined all bases of social life . . . Scientific development and progress have taken great strides forward. But moral conditions have taken an even greater stride backward."

Dudko takes heart from what he sees as a religious revival. "There is a spiritual crisis in this country, a vacuum that has to be filled," he says. "A woman came to me and asked for her child to be baptized even though she is not a Christian. Why? She replied, 'To fill the emptiness in my child. I don't want him to be the same as me.'"

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## UNIVERSE'S MYSTERIES PROVE GOD EXISTS, SCIENTIST CLAIMS

Robert Jastrow, one of the world's best-known scientists, believes science has found the God of Genesis in space. It is the God of Creation, a God so powerful He can produce the kind of energy needed to create a universe.

The evidence is all around, and the current theories about the nature of the universe point directly to it, says Jastrow, of Dartmouth, Columbia and NASA. But most scientists don't like the notion and are distressed when confronted with it. "How would you interpret the fact that the world (universe) started in a way we can't decipher?" Jastrow asks. "It's an unanswerable question. Most scientists hate the idea. It means a question they can't answer."

What the scientists are confronted with is a theory which is best explained by a single act of creation by a force of unimaginable power. The theory was first proposed when scientists discovered all galaxies they could see with their instruments were rushing away from us in space. The farther out they were, the faster they were moving. The only logical explanation for this phenomenon was a gigantic explosion that blasted these clouds of stars hurling outwards. That explosion was Creation.

Most scientists, Jastrow points out in his new book, "Until the Sun Dies", are uneasy with that

scenario. They try to explain how that explosion was only part of an eternal cycle. Once the power in the explosion is dissipated, the galaxies slow and hesitate for an instant, and then, pulled together by their own gravity, they begin to shrink back toward the center. Eventually they collapse in on each other and the force of that collapse triggers another explosion, another expansion and another collapse. So it goes.

But scientists have figured out how much mass there must be in the universe to cause such a gravitational deflation and have concluded there isn't enough out there—at least not within our view.

This missing mass is one of the greatest mysteries of science, because until it is found, scientists cannot demonstrate how the explosion of creation could occur more than once.

"Rather than grapple with the implications, they try to ignore it," Jastrow says. "In effect, we have proven the existence of God. A layman would put it that way, and I like to put it that way because it's humbling. It exposes certain weaknesses in the structure. And out of those weaknesses, as was always the case, come great new advances. There is an effect without a cause, which is another name for God. And if it needles my colleagues, the hell with them!"

## A Danger for Babies!

(Newspaper reprint from "Le Soleil"  
Toronto, Canada. Translated from  
French by Matthew Canada.)

Toronto: Many bookstores in Toronto continue to sell the book by Adelle Davis, despite its recall ordered by the editor after the death of a child in Florida.

In her book on the feeding of babies, entitled "Let's Have Healthy Children", Mrs. Davis advocates potassium chloride to combat colic.

It is after having followed this advice that one mother lost her baby, in Florida, and that one other had to take her child to the hospital in Ontario.

Mrs. Davis recommends from 1,000 to 2,000 milligrams of potassium chloride be given by mouth. (FN Editors: False! Adelle Davis did not recommend this amount of potassium chloride. She merely cited one medical study in which doctors did give this amount with good results in this one study. Her advice for colic was to give 1/4-1/2 teaspoon of a potassium chloride salt substitute in the baby's milk or water bottle, along with other dietary recommendations—see Chapter 26 of "Let's Have Healthy Children".)

This quantity (1-2,000 mg.), according to Dr. Grant Gail of the Hospital for Sick Children where the sick child was treated "can cause intoxication and death in a baby."

Dr. A. B. Morrison, sub-Minister at the Federal Ministry of Health (Canada) nevertheless explained

that the bookstores did not violate any law by selling the book of Mrs. Davis, even if the advice she gave in it was dangerous.

Reminder from FN Editors: "Let's Have Healthy Children" is recommended in Chapter 5 of the "Davidito" series. Please keep in mind when using this or any other system book:

"You must use wisdom in choosing counsel from the great wealth and variety of worldly books, which oftentimes contradict each other, and you need to definitely ask the Lord about any counsel you want to put into practice. We do not necessarily support everything the authors suggest in these recommended books, although much of it seems excellent advice."—par. 66.)

And remember, the most "recommended" health manual is "MO's Pointers on Health" ("The Health Revolution!") Letter No. 353! "You have to use a little common sense and especially trust the Lord. We're not going to give ourselves all the credit for just the way we live because God, He does the rest. You do your best and God'll do the rest! You do your best to keep in good health and live right, eat right, work right, rest right and God'll keep you going." par. 357.

God bless and keep you healthy and happy as you serve Him—and He will if you keep on trusting, believing and obeying!