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THE KGB'S MOST WANTED

The story of Joseph Bondranko, Russian Evangelist

Hunted by the USSR's notorious secret police and imprisoned for his faith, evangelist Joseph Bondarenko's inspiring story will motivate readers to risk everything to answer God's call.

THE KGB'S MOST WANTED is the riveting story of Joseph Bondarenko's passion for sharing the love and good news of Jesus in the Soviet Union, despite severe persecution, deprivation, and harassment. Following the end of the cold war, I was with Joseph when he preached in one of the prisons where he had been incarcerated. Joseph said, "Charlie, this is my trip to the moon!"

"I thank God for the story of Joseph's life and I consider it my honor to have been his co-worker on Christ's field in those historic days in Moscow."

—BILLY GRAHAM

Behind the oppression of the Iron Curtain, a young pastor named after the biblical Joseph was arrested and thrown into a Soviet prison, where he would end up spending almost ten years in merciless conditions.

The KGB's Most Wanted gives witness to the extraordinary faith of God's humble servant, while also illuminating a dark chapter in Russia's history. The reader will encounter a man determined to do the will of God radically and even to the point of death.

Readers will also come face to face with the God who sustained and upheld Joseph in miraculous ways, bringing him from a solitary confinement cell—just "four steps long and three steps wide"—to freedom and the chance to bring the gospel to countless people in the world's stronghold of atheism.

We believe that Joseph's story will plant seeds of the gospel and ***inspire American believers to fearlessly proclaim and live out their faith*** in a world that is at times apathetic and at other times hostile, to those who spread the Good News.

"Having known Joseph Bondarenko for many years, I am fascinated and inspired hearing him speak of God's unfailing grace through unimaginable circumstances and immense struggles. I pray those who discover his thrilling testimony are—like me—blessed, inspired, and challenged in their own walk with the Lord."

—LUIS PALAU, EVANGELIST

About JOSEPH BONRANKO



JOSEPH BONDARENKO (ThD, International Theological Seminary) is beloved in his native Russia and around the world as a pastor, an evangelist, and the organizer of countless crusades. He is known as the “Billy Graham of Russia.”

Joseph was born and grew up in Ukraine. He attended the Naval Academy but was expelled because of his faith just before graduation. He was condemned to prison three times, serving a total of nearly ten years of imprisonment for preaching God’s Word.

He is married and has five children and six granddaughters. All his children are Christian believers and serve the Lord. Joseph now lives and ministers in Southern California with his family.

THE KGB’S MOST WANTED

The story of Joseph Bondranko, Russian Evangelist

As the cold war was winding down in 1989, I received an invitation from Joseph Bondarenko inviting me to come to Russia and Latvia to share my faith in Jesus. I flew to Moscow and then boarded a train for Riga, Latvia, where I was met by a band and the congregation of Joseph’s church. When I stepped off the train, I saw this man who glowed with the love of Jesus. It was Joseph. That meeting started a ministry together that took us all over Latvia, Lithuania, Eastern Russia and eventually to Siberia. Everywhere we went, Joseph’s preaching was electrifying and many came to faith in Christ.

With my wife, Dotty, I made two more trips to Russia to speak at various venues that Joseph had organized. Everywhere we spoke, the Lord confirmed His Word and many came to know Jesus. Once we met in the offices of the KGB, where Joseph shared his story of arrests and persecutions at their hands. In a very moving moment, Joseph said he had forgiven them and there was healing and prayer between old enemies.

Our trip to Siberia was empowered by the Holy Spirit as we traveled from place to place. Joseph’s preaching was anointed and many came to faith. We visited churches that Joseph had helped plant and, like the apostle Paul, he encouraged the believers.

I have met few men with the passion for God and the zeal for evangelism that Joseph possesses. He has been an influential mentor for me and my wife. His zeal is infectious. I praise God for bringing Joseph and his family into my life. May this book inspire many to give their all for Jesus, just as Joseph has done.

CHARLES DUKE, JR. is a retired U.S. Air Force brigadier general and a former United States astronaut for NASA. As Lunar Module pilot for Apollo 16 in 1972, he became the tenth and youngest person to walk on the moon.

