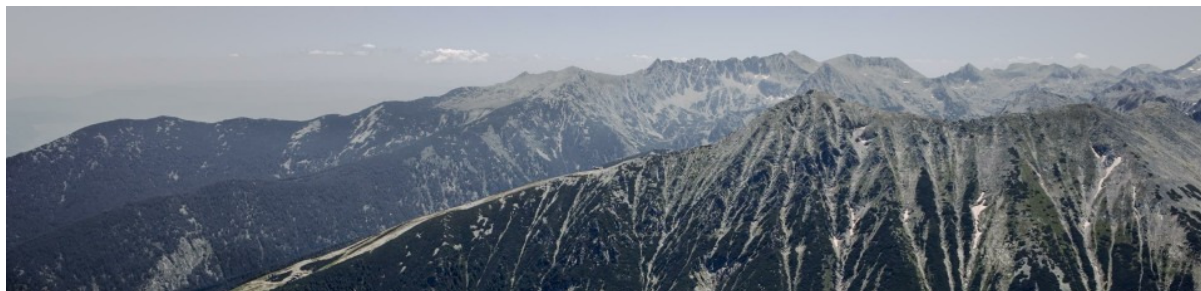


In Amongst the Shaking



I shall build my throne high overhead,
Cold, tremendous shall its summit be. (Karl Marx)

Some of the great sadnesses in history are the 'if onlys.' Karl Marx was a practising Christian in his early years, but he was turned off by what he saw in the Church. The ideology that replaced his faith in Christ ended up affecting the lives of something like a third of the whole world - and it continues to do so, even in the West. The Communist Manifesto, apparently once the second bestselling book of all time, is again proving popular in many parts of the world. In America, Bernie Sanders has succeeded in introducing - or reintroducing - a form of left-wing class politics. See <https://www.salon.com/2017/08/12/bernie-sanders-the-socialist-revival-and-the-unexpected-upsurge-of-millennial-marxism/>

In Britain, too, before being elected Labour Party leader, Jeremy Corbyn wrote that "Marx obviously analysed what was happening in a quite brilliant way, and the philosophy around [him] is fascinating. . . He was essentially a fascinating figure . . . from whom we can learn a great deal."

You will have heard of the attempts by the Chinese President Xi Jinping, China's most powerful leader since Mao, to increase his already formidable power base in the ruling Communist Party. Is this not reminiscent of President Putin in Russia? No surprise, therefore, that we are hearing of the two countries now conducting joint military exercises.

A great clamp down on dissidents and on contact with the outside world has accompanied China's recent national congress. It is important to recognise that Xi is setting himself up as a formidable *ideological* leader, denouncing not only corruption but also western ways. In all this he is quite deliberately seeking to lead the Chinese Communist party back to its Marxist roots. See for instance this speech given a year ago to mark the party's 95th anniversary:

<https://www.ft.com/content/be1b2528-3f57-11e6-8716-a4a71e8140b0?mhq5j=e5>

<http://www.ctvnews.ca/world/china-s-president-looks-to-extend-power-at-communist-party-congress-1.3635380>

But behind the apparent social attractions of Marxism are spiritual roots that we need to understand. I wrote the following article some years ago and I feel the time has

For many years we have been warning of China's growing projection of power and rule. The most blatant demonstration of this is the requisition and even building, of islands in the South China Sea to serve as runways for their Air Force. (The Spratly Islands are around 500 miles from the coast of China, and Fiery Cross Reef about 740 miles away). The only area they do not cover is the Scarborough Shoal (or reef) which lies in international waters just 150 miles off the Philippines coast (about 400 miles away from China), and which America has warned in no uncertain terms to keep away from.

When Richard Wurmbrand was released from fourteen brutal years of imprisonment in Romania for his faith under the utterly oppressive Communist regime, he set out to study the links between Karl Marx and Satanism. His research showed that Marx undoubtedly *did* believe in eternal life, but rather like Lucifer himself, he was determined to set up a kingdom that would oppose the Most High in every way – a kingdom that would be based not on love but hatred. [1] In his *Invocation of One in Despair* he recorded, "Nothing but revenge is left to me. I wish to avenge myself against the One who rules above." [2]

Rightly or wrongly, Marx felt he had been rejected by Christians. When we convey the impression that people are not worth listening to, we leave them not only alienated, but a ready prey for the devil's ploys. The wound left in Marx opened his heart to evil and he came to the horrifying conclusion that, "There is nothing more beautiful in the world than to bite one's enemies." How great a contrast to the Biblical command that we "love our enemies, do good to them, and pray for those who persecute us, that we may be children of our Father in Heaven (Matt. 5:43 and Luke 6:35)!

Marx's hate-filled Communism gave people permission to attack, in the name of the oppressed masses, all that appeared 'bourgeois,' no matter how innocent the actual victims. Such an appeal brought out the very worst of self-righteous bigotry. And still today communism continues to cause great suffering to believers. In places like China and Vietnam, Christians are still being sent to re-education camps and beyond that again, thousands are forced to endure the horrific conditions of the North Korean Gulag.

And yet, still the Lord can reach in by His saving mercy: there are churches in North Korea that are doing more than just clinging on.

Amongst many examples of the power of love reaching down to sustain His servants caught in the midst of such tribulation, making them bold in their witness, you may like to [read this short account](#) of how Watchman Nee, whose name has long been taboo in China, led one of his guards to the Lord.

Prayer for 'secret' believers

We used to say at university that there is no such thing as 'secret' discipleship because either the secrecy would blunt and dull the discipleship or the intensity of the discipleship would kill the secrecy. It is easy to pontificate when you are a university student! It is so important to pray for the many millions of our brothers and sisters around the world for whom the hiddenness of their faith is a matter of life and death.

You might be interested in Brother Andrew's book [Secret Believers](#).

– Pray for all who are pondering making a decision for Christ – All who have been made to suffer for making that decision.

God has His people everywhere – and He continues to draw people to Jesus in places where it would seem impossible for believers to survive, just as in the church in Pergamum where Satan had his temple. (Rev. 2:12-13)

In Korea [Catholics experienced truly appalling persecution](#) before the first Protestant missionaries arrived. Who could have foreseen then that there would one day be millions of believers in South Korea alone, with something like 30% of the population at the last count loving Jesus. Praise God!

It is the same today in North Korea. How does the church survive in such a place? For all the world it would appear to be too thorny and rocky a desert – and yet there are beautiful flowers growing in the thinnest of soils. [1]

In one of his poems, (The Pale Maiden) Marx writes, *Thus heaven I've forfeited, I know it full well. My soul, once true to God, is chosen for hell.* Marx admits that his aim is not to improve the world, but simply to ruin it and enjoy it being ruined. *"With disdain I will throw my gauntlet full in the face of the world, and see the collapse of this pygmy giant whose fall will not stifle my ardour. Then will I wander godlike and victorious through the ruins of the world and, giving my words an active force, I will feel equal to the Creator.* [In *Human Pride*, p.24] See communism/marx.htm

[2] [Marx and Satan](#). See also [The Marxist Goliath](#) amongst us. *The David we need to be.* Ronald Lawrence. See especially pages 234-237 which provide convincing details Marx's conversion at an early age to Satanism and pointers to his subsequent destructive career.