



# TRIBUTE TO LIBERTY

## News

Commemorating the Victims of Communism

Volume 4, Issue 2  
Spring 2012

Tribute to Liberty is a Canadian organization whose mission is to establish a memorial to the victims of Communism in the National Capital Region.

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## Tribute to Liberty Q&A

### ***Why a Canadian memorial to victims of Communism?***

According to the 2006 census, there are over 8 million individuals in Canada who trace their roots to countries Communism once ruled or still rules. This is about 25% of Canada's population; therefore, the topic of Communism and its victims is of national significance to Canada.

### ***Does the Tribute to Liberty memorial to victims of Communism project have any connection to the Canadian Human Rights Museum in Winnipeg?***

No, they are two separate projects. Tribute to Liberty is responsible only for building a memorial in Ottawa to the victims of Communism.

### ***Why does Tribute to Liberty work with the National Capital Commission (NCC)?***

Tribute to Liberty works with the NCC because the NCC is the government agency that oversees the development of federal land in the National Capital Region. Tribute to Liberty chose to build the memorial on public lands because of the project's national significance. Once the memorial is built, the NCC will be responsible for maintaining it. Tribute to Liberty abides by the NCC's rules and requirements.

### ***Where will the memorial be built?***

Several locations are under consideration. Originally, the memorial was to be built in the Garden of the Provinces and Territories.

### ***How much will the whole project cost?***

Approximately \$1.5 million dollars.

### ***How much money has been raised to date?***

Approximately \$130,000. Updates can be found on Tribute to Liberty's virtual *Pathway to Liberty* at [www.tributetoliberty.ca](http://www.tributetoliberty.ca).

### ***What is included in project expenses?***

Building material; design competition award; design competition consultant; professional project administration; building engineer; fundraising & administration expenses; travel costs; expenses for memorial maintenance by NCC; contingency; etc.

### ***Who will pay for the memorial?***

Project supporters of all backgrounds who value freedom, democracy and rule of law—individuals, organizations, and different communities affected by Communism. Tribute to Liberty hopes that the Government of Canada will contribute also.

### ***Do I get a tax receipt if I make a donation?***

Yes, Tribute to Liberty is a Canadian charitable organization since April 2010, and issues tax receipts to all donors residing in Canada. Organizations and foundations receive a letter of recognition.

### ***Can people in other countries donate?***

Yes, but they do not receive tax receipts. Tribute to Liberty has received donations from Singapore, the U.S., the U.K., and Latvia.

### ***How can I donate?***

Via the Tribute to Liberty website through PayPal or by cheque, payable to "Tribute to Liberty," which can be mailed to: Tribute to Liberty, P.O. Box 84558, 2336 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario M6S 4Z7. Please visit [www.tributetoliberty.ca](http://www.tributetoliberty.ca) for more information.

### ***What is the "Pathway to Liberty"?***

A donation of a minimum of \$100 buys a brick on the *Pathway to Liberty*. The bricks and the *Pathway* are virtual and are visible on Tribute to Liberty's website. A donor's name and dedication, message or story appears on the *Pathway*. Donors can also make anonymous donations. Please see the website to view dedications, messages and stories: [www.tributetoliberty.ca](http://www.tributetoliberty.ca).

### ***When will the design competition start?***

The NCC requires that Tribute to Liberty raise 80% of the total project budget of \$1.5 million (\$1.2 million) prior to initiating the design competition. Tribute to Liberty expects that the Government of Canada will contribute with matching funds, once Tribute to Liberty has raised \$600,000.

### ***Why doesn't the Government fund the whole project?***

Tribute to Liberty will already be receiving a high profile property for free from the NCC. It is important that individuals and organizations contribute financially to the project because it shows that this project is of importance to them.

### ***Why must there be a design competition?***

The NCC requires that major memorials have a competition. This helps engage and involve communities, and raises the profile of the project.

### ***Why is so much money needed to start the design competition?***

The NCC requires this because once the competition starts there are several large expenses. The design competition process usually takes 6-8 months. Also, the building of the memorial should begin immediately following the competition and should not be held up due to lack of funds.

### ***When will the building of memorial start?***

After the design competition, and when the funds for the full project budget have been raised.

### ***How can individuals and organizations help fundraise?***

Spread information about the memorial and its funding needs to as many understanding and supportive people as possible. Organize fundraising events according to individual/organization abilities. Non-active foundations that have stopped functioning are welcome to donate funds to Tribute to Liberty. Representatives from organizations and communities can write articles and publish them in their newsletters and newspapers.

### ***How will I be recognized for my donation?***

Donations of \$100 or more are recognized on the virtual *Pathway to Liberty*. There are also other donor categories

for major donations. Please see the website for more information: [www.tributetoliberty.ca](http://www.tributetoliberty.ca).

### ***If I make a major donation will I get recognition at the memorial site?***

The NCC currently has a policy that does not allow donor recognition at the site. However, Tribute to Liberty is advocating for this policy to be changed (for donations of \$50,000 and more to be recognized on a plaque at the site).

## **Tribute to Liberty Participates in Polish Day**

On May 5<sup>th</sup>, Tribute to Liberty Board Chair Mrs. Alide Forstmanis participated in the Canadian Polish Congress, Kitchener District's Polish Day, "A Taste of Poland," at the Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex. The event drew large crowds who came for a taste of Polish culture.



Tribute to Liberty was honoured to be invited to participate in this celebration of Polish culture, and to be given the opportunity to reach out to the Polish community and spread the word about the memorial to victims of Communism project.



In her Polish Day speech, Mrs. Forstmanis spoke about the memorial project, and read the following dedication from a

Tribute to Liberty donor, Dr. Andrew Caruk:

*In memory of the 2 million innocent Polish victims of Communism that were transported to Siberia in the early 1940s, on orders from the Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin. Taken abruptly from their homes and traveling in cattle cars under horrendous conditions, they went to far off labour camps. Many of them have no graves to call their own, and it's our moral duty to honour them with a memorial in Ottawa.*

*Communism is a cancerous, God-less system that has perfected the methods of extermination and suppression of whole nations, by massive hunger, poverty and killing. Poland was one of those victims.*

*Let's not allow history to repeat itself - for all that evil needs to survive and rise up again is to remain hidden and forgotten.*

To view more dedications and stories on the *Pathway to Liberty*, Tribute to Liberty's virtual donor recognition webpage, visit [www.tributetoliberty.ca](http://www.tributetoliberty.ca).

## **The Canadian Polish Congress Challenges Polonia to Raise Funds for the Construction of the Memorial to Victims of Communism in Ottawa**

The Canadian Polish Congress recently announced the following fundraising challenge to their community, to help build the memorial to victims of Communism in Ottawa:

*...the Canadian Polish Congress challenges every Polonia organization to donate at least \$100 in support of this extraordinary cause (in most cases this is only \$2-\$3 per member). We also ask Polonia at large to join in this campaign. Along with \$100 you are invited to include a personal story about how you, your family or friends were affected by Communism. These stories will be posted on the "Pathway" section of the Tribute to Liberty website.*

*Together with all of the communities that have been oppressed by Communism, we can help to make this monument a reality and immortalize those who gave their lives, lost their homelands, and suffered physically and psychologically as a result of the scourge of Communism.*

Tribute to Liberty is grateful to the Canadian Polish Congress for assisting in this way with fundraising for the memorial. Tribute to Liberty encourages other communities who support the idea of building a memorial to victims of Communism in Ottawa to launch similar fundraising campaigns within their own communities. Please contact Tribute to Liberty Board Chair Mrs. Alide Forstmanis for more information: [alide1@rogers.com](mailto:alide1@rogers.com).

## **History Unhidden**

### ***Inside North Korea's War on Christianity***

In August 2011 in the Chinese border city of Dandong, Pastor Kim, a South Korean Christian was murdered by a North Korean agent with a poisoned needle. He was heavily involved in an underground railway to help North Koreans escape. A few weeks later, the South Korean Intelligence Agency prevented assassinations of two South Korean Christians, Mr. Park and Mr Kim, who send information materials by the thousands to North Korea in balloons. The Agency arrested a North Korean refugee who carried poison and needles. These South Koreans feel it is their Christian duty to help North Koreans. Trying to kill them is North Korea's way of warning other Christians not to interfere.

North Korea's war on Christianity has been raging on for more than six decades. Before the Japanese were driven out of the Korean peninsula in 1945, there were estimated to be some 500,000 Christians in the north of Korea. About ten years later, there was no visible evidence of a church. When Kim Il-Sung emerged as the supreme leader of the Democratic Republic of North Korea, he was convinced that Christianity was a huge threat to his own *Juche* ideology of self-reliant, race-based nationalism. The pureness of the Korean race was not to be infected by foreign religions. When many Christians fled the country during the Korean War (1951-1953), it was evidence to Kim that followers of Christ were traitors and spies for the Americans. Yet Open Doors estimates that today there are still almost 400,000 Christians professing their faith in secret in North Korea. Though all are secret believers, sadly 50,000 to 70,000 are prisoners in North Korea's notorious labour camps.



### **Four Groups of Surveillance**

According to former secret agents, there are always four groups of surveillance in North Korea: the National Security Agency (NSA), the Public Safety Agency (PSA), the neighborhood unit and the Party. "We gave instructions to the neighborhood unit and the Primary Party Committee to watch certain [Christian] people. If an informant did a good job, we made sure he received a better job," said an ex-PSA official. All information is saved in the PSA's resident registration dossiers, which contain information



on family backgrounds, past religious activities and political propensities.

The NSA coordinates efforts to uncover “reactionary elements” and “anti-government” forces within North Korea. Arrested Christians are often transferred to the NSA for further investigation. One former NSA agent was in charge of tracking down a certain group of “religious” people. “They were all executed. Things like possessing religious books, sharing one’s faith with others, or preaching cannot exist because they undermine the Kim Jong-Il regime. All we need [to arrest someone] is one bit of evidence such as the Bible with someone’s name in it. If only a Bible is found, the NSA leaves it until the real owner shows up.”

### **Anti-Christian Training for Spies**

One refugee, who was originally sent undercover to China as a false escapee, once spoke to a NSA informant, who had received a university training to uncover religious people. “The informant said he was supposed to look for things such as a person who remains silent with closed eyes and meditates, or when habitual smokers or drinkers quit smoking or drinking all of a sudden. These people should be targets to be watched closely.”

Both in North Korea and China, spies are commissioned to set up fake, “secret” prayer meetings to attract Christians. Some North Korean security officials are trained to understand religions, identify religious literature and interrogate those suspected of illegal religious activities. “When I was arrested in China, other North Korean prisoners told me never to confess I had been in contact with Christians,” says refugee Han-Me. “Even though I had met Chinese Christians, I did not admit it to the interrogators. I wanted to survive.”

After the appointment of Kim Jong-Un as the official successor of his father Kim Jong-Il, North Korea has stepped up its attempts to uncover any religious activities. There have been more house raids, more spies trained and dispatched, and as stated earlier, even (successful) murder attempts against foreign Christians.

### **The Church is Alive**

Over the years, many Christians died a terrible death, and many suffered tremendous agony in labour camps and dungeons. But the church is more alive than ever. One secret Christian leader tells Open Doors: “Whenever I visit our suffering believers’ houses, I see if they have problems and try to prepare countermeasures for them. Even though they are suffering from many things in life, I encourage them to find hope and happiness through their hardships and live with hope for the eternal kingdom of God. Of course there are dangers also. Our biggest fear is that there may be a Judas within the church organization.”

The North Korean Christians assure us there is victory, even when they are tortured and killed. “A friend of mine is being terribly tortured in prison,” says one Christian. “When he came to faith, he made the decision that one day

he would die for Christ. Every Christian in North Korea has made that choice. I am convinced he can take the suffering because he constantly reminds himself of the joy that is set before him.”

Many North Koreans discover that Jesus Christ is God, not the Kims. They commit their lives to Him. Open Doors supplies these believers in North Korea with much needed physical and spiritual food. Each year tons of food, medicines, clothes, books, Bibles and other materials are distributed in North Korea. “Your help is proof that God has not forgotten us,” says one local Christian.

The North Korean church continues to expand. And it can be that a member suddenly appears on the doorstep in nearby countries. When two Chinese church deacons—who were ethnic Koreans—heard a polite knock on their door, they were amazed to see an 11-year old North Korean girl. She had been hiking through water and mountains and asked them for help.

“Little girl, how did you know to come *here* for help?” the deacons asked her. She replied confidently: “My grandfather once told me: ‘If you ever need help, look for the cross and go there. People of the cross will help you’.”

*By Pablo Frederick with reports from Open Doors colleagues in Asia. Open Doors is an international organization that provides outreach to persecuted Christians worldwide. [www.opendoors.org](http://www.opendoors.org).*

## **Resource Spotlight**

*Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea*  
Barbara Demick, Spiegel & Grau, 2009

Journalist Barbara Demick explores the everyday lives of citizens in Communist North Korea. For more information visit the book’s website:  
[www.nothingtoenvy.com](http://www.nothingtoenvy.com)

## **Edward Lucas, International Editor of *The Economist* to Speak in Toronto**

The Strategic Foresight Institute (SFI) Toronto and League of Ukrainian Canadians (LUC) Etobicoke Branch invite the Ukrainian and Eastern European community in the GTA to attend the next SFI 2012 Speaker Series with Edward Lucas, International Editor of *The Economist*, Sunday, May 27, 2012 at 2:00 p.m., at the Taras Shevchenko Ukrainian Community Center, 482 Horner Avenue, Etobicoke. Admission is \$20 for adults; free for students with ID.

# Tell Your Story...

## And help build the Memorial to Victims of Communism in Ottawa.

A donation of \$100 buys a brick for the virtual Pathway to Liberty that leads to the Memorial.

Each brick can be donated with a story of a victim of Communism, a message or a dedication. Donate today at: [tributetoliberty.ca](http://tributetoliberty.ca).

*For more information about Tribute to Liberty and the Memorial to Victims of Communism, visit [tributetoliberty.ca](http://tributetoliberty.ca).*



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### Mail-in Contribution Form

**Don't forget to enclose your story,  
message or dedication!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount: \$1000 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_ I wish to remain anonymous: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheque payable to Tribute to Liberty and mail to:  
Tribute to Liberty, P.O. Box 84558, 2336 Bloor St. West, Toronto, ON M6S 4Z7

**Tribute to Liberty is a registered charity. Charitable Number: 814999660RR0001**