

*These are stories experienced over 45 years of ministry, traveling and ministering in countries that are hostile to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Testimonies of miracles smuggling Bibles and conducting healing festivals.*

## **The Faith Adventure**

By Lee Hunter

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Lee Hunter

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## IN THE BEGINNING

Acts 13: 2,3 As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, The Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work for which I have called them.” Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.

How did this all begin; this Bible study, faith, smuggling Bibles? In the spring of 1971 I was a junior at the University of Iowa. During the day I attended classes, at night I worked to support my family. I was on a quest for truth. Involved in the anti-war movement of the time, organizing rallies, trying to find meaning unsuccessfully through politics and athletics. Is this an unusual combination!

While in parochial high school I had abandoned traditional religion and belief in a God of religion. A student friend at the University had captured my attention. While waiting for class one day I asked him what made him so different. I could see a specialness about him that I didn't have. He was a good student, good athlete, quick with encouraging words for others. I asked him if he read Dale Carnegie's: “How to Win Friends and Influence People?” He laughed and said no, but he read the Bible a lot. Stunned, I responded in an unkind way: “the Bible was bull.... and a bunch of fairy tales. He didn't get mad, just quietly responded he based his whole life on that book.

Convicted and seeing the reality of “something” in his life, I picked up a Bible and started to look through it. It didn’t make much sense to me. Two weeks later I made an appointment to talk with him about it. We met in his dorm room and at his desk while he explained the Gospel to me. He told me things about Jesus I had never known before; about His love, the forgiveness He offered and eternal life available to me by faith. We talked for a long time. He shared a scripture that changed my life. Revelation 3:20 Jesus says: “Behold, I stand at the door (of your heart) and knock. If any man will hear My voice and open the door, I will come into him and sup with him and he with Me.” I got up and opened the door to his room and said: “Jesus, I want you to come into my life and forgive my sin.” In that moment all the guilt from sin was washed away. I was changed. This began my search for the Source of all Truth. I desired to know Him in a personal and intimate way.

A key concept to growing in faith is what the Bible calls: “Abiding.” According to Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance the word “abide” is derived from the Greek word: “Meno” which means to: Remain, dwell, endure and persevere. As we look at the scriptures in this book keep this definition in mind.

In our ministry and travels, one problem we see in so many believers is low self-image. Individuals do not understand the relationship the Lord desires to have with His people, or comprehend the power He has made



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available to us, for competing the task He has given us. Our lives would be so much different if we did. We were saved to fulfill a special role for God that only we could do. He needs you, your worship and your life. He DESIRES a relationship with you as close and intimate as you desire with a spouse or close friend. Is it hard for you to comprehend the God who made the earth, heavens and all its creatures needs you?

There is a new beginning for all of us. We all have a part in God's plan to reach the world with the Gospel. We just need the courage to step out.

## **FIRST TRIP INTO COMMUNIST EASTERN EUROPE**

1Cor. 12:25,26 ...there should be no division in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. and if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it, if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.”

My wife, two co-workers and I lumbered along between the West and East German borders. We were traveling in a large self-contained camper. There was a big difference between this camper and others. This one had secret compartments holding hundreds of Russian and Polish Bibles, Christian books and Gospel portions. If we were caught with this material, it meant confiscation of the books, arrest and detainment for us, or worse.

We were aware of others who had tried. Many were successful. Some got caught. A few were arrested. Some went to jail. I wasn't afraid for myself it was only a couple of days ago that I had resolved my fear for my wife. I believed it was better to be in the center of God's perfect will, no matter the cost or circumstances.

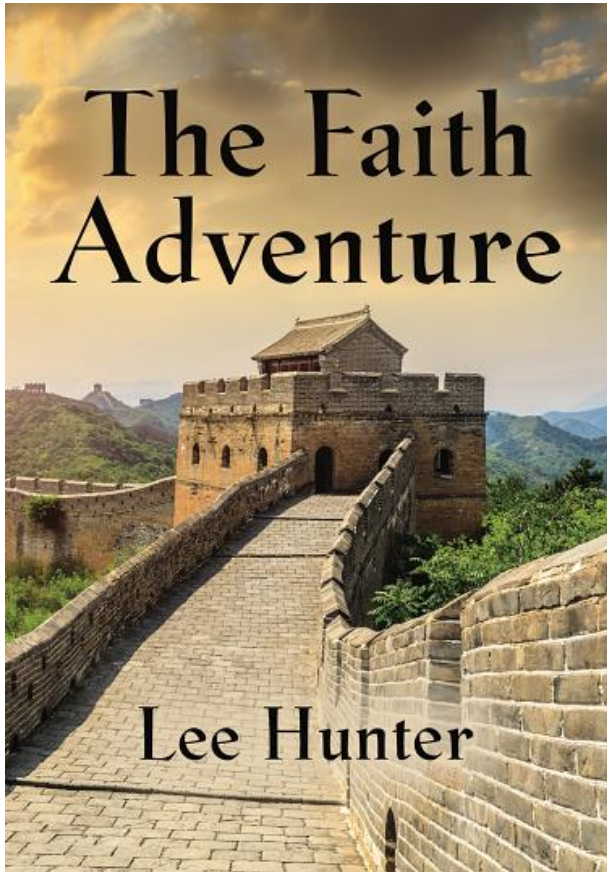
Our team leader was driving. She was fluent in Russian and German, and had traveled in these areas before. I was riding in the passenger seat, my wife and other co-worker rode in the back seats. I glanced back at them and noticed a floor panel in the middle of the floor

had sprung its lock and buckled the floor boards. I told the team leader to pull off the road. We were in the middle of no man's land. I knew binoculars in the hands of East German border guards had to be watching us. While the two of us tried to fix the compartment, my wife and the other lady grabbed a roll of toilet paper and headed into the tress near our stopping place. I prayed this would divert the border guards. When they returned, we had restored the floor panels to original appearance and drove the rough road to the guard posts. The guards ordered us off the road and began their inspection. While our passports and papers were examined another guard looked over the exterior of the camper. Another guard opened the back door and climbed into the camper. The morning sun flooded into through the door and revealed the floor panel had once again buckled. I turned around in my seat and prayed the Lord would blind the eyes of the guard and direct his steps around the loose floor boards. I was perspiring in spite of the cool September morning. He walked directly on the loose floorboards. I prayed more fervently. He walked around and looked in some of the overhead cabinets where we kept food and canned goods. He smiled, gave us our papers and told us we could leave.

The Lord had just taught me a big lesson in His school of faith. In the days, weeks and years to come, He would teach me more, much more.

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Each one of us will have an opportunity to care for others in the Body of Christ. Through our caring we identify with those who suffer



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