

October 10, 2020

CRAZY FOR HIM

Pavel Goia, father of the Ministry Magazine editor of the same name, was a construction contractor working in the private sector in communist-era Romania. As a very active Seventh-day Adventist lay evangelist, he was preaching, building churches and distributing Bibles he would bring, hidden in his car, from the former Yugoslavia.

On one occasion, after being arrested, an officer put a gun to Pavel's chest threatening, "We already told you not to bring more Bibles. Now we are going to kill you." Pavel raised his hand, asking, "Hold on a second!" But the cop interrupted him saying, "Stop begging. I'm not going to let you live."

Pavel insisted, "No, no! I'm not begging for my life. Just hold on a second." "Why?", said the cop, "Do you want to say your last prayer?" "No, no", answered Pavel, "I don't say my prayers in crisis. I say my prayers all the time." "Why do I need to wait, then?" asked the officer?

Pavel calmly took off his shirt. "Now you can shoot me", he said. The officer said, "Well, the bullet has no problem entering the shirt." "I know that", answered Pavel. "The problem

is that there are people who don't have a shirt. So, don't stain it. Give it to somebody." Releasing him the cops said: "You are crazy!"

True Christians will ever consider others' needs first, imitating their model, Jesus, who for the sake of others, offered Himself. In addition to worshiping God, the main reason for giving tithes and offerings is to provide for the salvation of others, far and near to us.

APPEAL: During a moment of crisis, we may not be required to take off any piece of clothing that we are wearing in order to benefit others. However, we may help them in different ways, one being returning the tithe and a self-stipulated percentage of our income as offerings.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, please accept our worship today, and bless those resources so that they may reach people and places where they are most needed! In Jesus name, Amen!

