Over twenty years ago, echoes of truth periodically came forth from the Soviet Union through Samizdat writings—poems, essays, stories, articles which were self published and circulated person to person. At that time, Solzhenitsyn had been exiled, first going to Switzerland and later to the United States. He and five other writers, all but Solzhenitsyn still in the Soviet Union, developed "Iz pod glyb." The English title, "From Under The Rubble", actually means "out of the dark depths" or the voices of a martyred people speaking from beneath the dirt and debris which buried them alive during the sixty and more years of Soviet oppression. When Christian Medical Foundation physician, Kahn Ueyama, sent me the book, he wrote "this monumental collection of writings is probably the best in Christian Apologetic coming from behind the Iron Curtain."

Solzhenitsyn was largely ignored by the American intelligencia and our political system during his exile here. He did speak to the students at Harvard in 1978 and to the Freedom Foundation about the same time. Doubtless, the American eastern establishment refused to hear his prophetic utterances, which accurately diagnosed the price of America’s adherence to hyper-cerebral philosophies and our blind faith in atheistic scientism, as we trampled down traditional Christian spirituality in the majority of our institutions. The drift he saw contained the same lethal quality of the communist carnal mind which all but destroyed Russia.

The problem of the Soviet Union, engendered by atheistic communism, was seen by Solzhenitsyn as more than a problem within the Soviet Union and its satellites. He saw the whole world enmeshed in the common acceptance and belief in "the lie." The primary principles of the lie are basically four in number: the absence of democracy, the destroying of all of the higher aspects of the personality including the subordination of individuality, the common ownership of property, and atheism including the attacking of marriage, the family, and the church.

(The original lie was "you can eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil and not surely die.")

It becomes more and more obvious that the Western world has fallen into the trap of the lie without even realizing what has occurred. That the United States government would give accolades to the Mandellas and ignore Solzhenitsyn and Buthelez, speaks volumes. When Episcopal bishops allow same sex marriage and the ordination of homosexuals, it becomes obvious that the traditional family is under attack. When racial quotas become the basis of college admission rather than intellectual achievement, it is apparent that education has become a political force rather than a national desire for mental and societal betterment through individual progress. When life itself comes under attack through abortion and euthanasia, we see the destruction of the basic Judeo-Christian belief in reverence for life. Solzhenitsyn doubtless became disillusioned in the hope that Western democracies were somehow exempt from the kind of attrition which had all but destroyed Russia within a few short decades, so with America, Canada, Great Britain, France, and the West in general.

Solzhenitsyn spells out a unique solution for Russia which is applicable to the West as well. It is a Christian solution and a basically moral and courageous formula. It is the idea of the "Spiritual Filter." It is strange that no one to my knowledge has ever spoken or written about the filter. Doubtless we have been too preoccupied by television, the cinema, the golf course, cocktail parties, and sexual pursuits to spend even a few moments in prayer and contemplation. Our freedom has become license, and we have lost our desire to study and hear the cries of the oppressed and the pleas for understanding from the millions of enslaved and impoverished on the other side of the earth.

"A society so vicious and polluted, implicated in so many of the crimes of these last fifty years, by its lies, by its servility either willing or enforced, by its eagerness to assent or its cowardly restraint, such a society can be cured and purified by passing through a spiritual filter. And this filter is a terrible one with holes as fine as the eye of a needle, each big enough for only one person. And people may pass into the spiritual future only one at a time, by squeezing through. By deliberate, voluntary sacrifice, the first tiny minority who set out to force their way through the tight holes of the filter will of their own accord find some new definition of themselves and each other.

There is no way left to pass from our present contemptible amorphousness into the future except through open, personal, and predominantly public (to set an example) sacrifice. We shall have to rediscover our cultural treasures and values not by erudition, not by scientific accomplishment, but by our form of spiritual conduct, by laying aside our material well being and, if worse comes to worse, our lives."

Solzhenitsyn terms those who have forced their way through the spiritual filter the righteous. He almost terms them the sacrificial elite. He says, "It is of the lone individuals who pass through (or perish on the way) that this elite crystallizing the people will be composed. The filter will grow wider and easier for each subsequent particle, and the number of particles passing through it will increase all the time, so that on the far side those worthy individuals might reconstitute and create a worthy people."

"Yes, it is a terrible thought. In the beginning the holes in the filter are so narrow, so very narrow. Can a person with so many needs really squeeze through such a narrow opening? It will cost you cancelled dissertations, annulled degrees, demotions, dismissals, expulsions, sometimes even deportations."

"Before we purify the country, we shall have purified ourselves." Solzhenitsyn goes on to say what good does it do to purify the country if we ourselves remain dirty? He also states that
degradation of education is not as great a curse of mankind as degradation of the soul.

One wonders if the spiritual filter is not the answer for America and the Western world just as it is for Russia. The filter is the same as what Jesus termed the "eye of the needle" and "the narrow gate" Matthew 7:14, Amplified. "The gate is narrow, contracted by pressure, and the way is straightened and compressed that leads to life, and few there are who find it." How wonderful to be able to say to the Lord, Psalm 66:12: "We went through thine fire and through water but You brought us out into a broad moist place, to abundance and refreshment and the open air." Dante wrote concerning leaving the inferno, "E quindici usciamo a riveder le stelle" ("And so we emerged to see the stars"). In Pilgrim's Progress we read the difficulty facing Christian as he labors to find the promised land. "We must through much tribulation enter into the Kingdom of God." Acts 14:22

In the life of man, each person enters the life outside the womb through a painful and difficult birth process. It is not surprising that Nicodemus, in great consternation, asked Jesus, "How can an old man be born again? Can he enter again a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" John 3:4. The human being wants his spiritual birth process to be one without labor, without effort, without pain, and without time. We want it to be, "I see that hand, with the idea that at that moment of allowing the planting of the seed of Christ into the life, that person is not only saved but filled with the Holy Spirit and in the Kingdom of God." There is much difference between conception and delivery. One is often pleasurable. The other fraught with pain and labor. Women, knowing this truth, often enter into a deeper spiritual relationship with God in life than men do. They take the children to church, for example, while men play golf or sleep in. They realize that being born again is no simple process. It is analogous to the spiritual filter of Solzhentisky. It is a terrible filter, so narrow that even one's burdens, sorrow, guilt, or sins obstruct entry. Once admitted, the birth process is tortuous, unfamiliar, difficult, and traumatic. The birth into the new life allows the stamp upon the forehead "Holiness Into The Lord" and "Righteousness."

Imagine a home totally filled with holiness and righteousness. Visualize a hospital staffed by holy healing servants of the Living God! Consider universities where holy students are taught by righteous teachers and professors. Think of the Presidency, the Supreme Court, the House of Representatives and the Senate filled with Christ oriented, spirit-filled believers! Could it be that such a possibility is more apt to occur in Russia than in the United States? Suffering leads man to God, whereas affluence leads to satanic pursuits. Jesus said in Matthew, Mark, and Luke that "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of heaven." He then says to his disciples that as impossible as it seems, it is possible with God! We are warned by Jesus about the deceiffulness of riches. Are we not seeing this now in our nation? The spiritual filter stands ready. Who will enter?

Dear Friends of the Littlest Angel,

I wish to thank everyone who has been a part of our facelift for the Angel shop this summer. Your response has been very generous and we are over half way in our restoration project. Please know it is not too late to receive your "Sun Ray" stained glass angel in return for a hundred dollar donation toward our restoration project. Also, thank you for all the wonderful letters received in response to receiving your"angel". We appreciate each one and the love for the shop expressed. Our goal is to complete the work before the Annual Doctor's Conference.

Love,

Kay

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Address Correction Requested

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