

sickening split second, to fear, to threats, to the thought of death. When the last page was finished I literally wanted to run from the interrogator's office.

Back in his cell, he reflected on his humiliation :

Slowly, reluctantly, under the gentle proddings of grace, I faced the truth that was at the root of my problem and my shame. The answer was a single word: I. I was ashamed because I knew in my heart that I had tried to do too much on my own, and I had failed. I felt guilty because I realized, finally, that I had asked for God's help but had really believed in my own ability to avoid evil and to meet every challenge.

Like St. Peter, and countless disciples since, he found in prayer the healing and restoration that he needed to face the years ahead.

The man who emerged from this ordeal, broken and restored by God's grace, was now equipped to bear the ordeal of a decade in the Arctic labour camps. How does a Christian endure when every prop is taken away? Father Cizek gives an answer in the language and terms of the twentieth century. The remainder of the story, as we go with him to meet each new ordeal, is a restatement of the great doctrines of the Christian faith as he came to see them in his trials – The Incarnation, Death and Resurrection, Faith, Man, the Kingdom of God. The things he had learned from a text book in the Seminary came vividly to life.

This would be an excellent book to give any Christian worker who has become stale or discouraged, for the root of Father Cizek's theology is faith, an unshakeable faith that God is sovereign everywhere and in all the circumstances of life, however terrible they may appear to be.

KENNETH PREBBLE

Miracle in Moscow by David Benson, Miracle Publications, Santa Barbara, 1973. 290 pp.

Vanya by Myrna Grant, Creation House, Illinois, 1974. 222 pp. \$4.95.

Two books appeared in the United States within months of each other, each very different, but both witnessing to the intense and virile life of Soviet Christians. The first, *Miracle in Moscow*, is written by Rev. David Benson, president of the Californian missionary organization "Russia for Christ". In this autobiographical book he tells how the organization grew from a tiny radio ministry by a young man who at first had no connection with Russia, but came to love this country and its people.

He describes his many visits to Russia, in particular his work at the American Exhibition in Moscow in 1959. On this and other visits he met many Russian Christians, worshipped and worked with them, and also testified to many unbelievers. His involvement with Russia led him to what must to many seem a strange step: the attempt to gain Soviet citizenship. The move was frustrated and the young missionary left Moscow to spend months of confusion and despair in Paris. Later he returned to America to continue the work he had left behind. These dark months are described without glamour and add much to the sharp reality of this book. David Benson speaks of Russia and the Russian people with love and with vivid observation. His remarks on the Russian Orthodox tradition, although foreign to him and to those Russian Christians with whom he shared most, are balanced and sensitive. †

Very different but equally gripping is the documentary book *Vanya*. The story of the young Baptist soldier Moiseyev, murdered while serving in the Crimea in the summer of 1972, is widely known. Myrna Grant, a free-lance writer, re-tells the story with remarkable imagination and sensitivity. She has based her book not only on the ample documentation available from Russia (both Christian and atheist sources) but also on personal discussion of the story with Soviet believers. The book is divided into sections each introduced by a Russian proverb; the whole is attractively presented and very readable. The documentation is appended for those who wish to follow the story again from direct sources. The book has a foreword by Michael Bourdeaux.

KATHLEEN MATCHETT

Church, State and Opposition in the USSR by Gerhard Simon, C. Hurst & Co., London, 1974. 248 pp., £4.20.

"In the West," writes Gerhard Simon in the preface to his new book, "there is a widespread lack of detailed knowledge concerning the situation of the Church in the Soviet Union" and, more specifically, about "the three main events in the internal life of the Russian Churches over the last decade": "the wave of persecution under Khrushchev from 1959 to 1964," "the internal Church oppositional movements" among the Russian Orthodox and the Evangelical Christian-Baptists "since the beginning of the 1960s," and "the present brutal persecution of a relatively large Baptist group". That little is known of religious life in the USSR is certainly true, although it can be argued that in the area of Dr. Simon's