

“Have we not all one father? Has not one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another, profaning the covenant of our fathers?” (Mal. 2 : 10).

“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all” (Rom. 16 : 24).

With brotherly greetings—former pastors of the CCECB :

1. Savchenko¹ Pyotr Ivanovich—Zhdanov.
2. Polyakov Vladimir Vasilievich—Smolensk.
3. Popov Alexandr Grigorevich—Nikitovka.
4. Osipov Alexei Grigorevich—Chuguyev.
5. Maivka Maxim Ivanovich—Lvov.
6. Lepesha Vladimir Stepanovich—Fastov (Kiev region).
7. Fomitsa Nikolai Yegorovich—Sumy region.
8. Remigailo Alexandr Karpovich—Kirovograd.
9. Kamyshov Nikolai Fyodorovich—Nikopol.
10. Kovalenko Leonid Yefimovich—Kiev.
11. Malik Nikolai Pavlovich—Berdyansk.
12. Senichenko Stepan Semyonovich—Donetsk-Petrovka.
13. Zakhartsev Anatoli Kirillovich—Kishinyov.
14. Yatsenko Grigori Alexeevich—Kokhtla-Yarva.

Kiev, 17 June 1972.

2. *An Appeal for Pastor Baturin*

Efforts to achieve unity among Baptists are jeopardized by the continuing persecution of those supporting the Council of Churches. Pastor Baturin was arrested in October 1972, and we print here an appeal from his wife and mother.

To All Christians

To the Whole of World Public Opinion

from Valentina Matveyevna BATURINA, Pelageya Vasilevna BATURINA
and the six children

address: USSR, g. Shakhty, ul. Sadovaya 4, flat 13.

“Therefore turn thou to thy God” (Hosea 12 : 6)

“Ebedmelech said to the king: these men have done evil by casting
Jeremiah into the cistern” (Jer. 38 : 8-10).

APPEAL

I am the Christian mother of six children; we are constantly being persecuted for our faith in God. Today we are again sentenced to death by starvation because of the arrest of our husband and father, the only breadwinner of our family. On 7 October, 1972, my husband Nikolai Georgie-

¹ The surname is printed first.

vich BATURIN, pastor of the church of Evangelical Christians and Baptists in Shakhty and a member of the Council of ECB Churches, was seized—arrested on the long-distance train from Shakhty to Rostov. Having arrested him, the Rostov authorities concealed his whereabouts for five days. For his ministry in the Gospel of God he has already served 13 years in Russia's prisons and in exile; he is now in Rostov prison IZ 59/1, and since 9 October he has been on hunger-strike. He is in bad condition. My repeated petitions and requests for an interview with him to find out whether he is still alive have been categorically refused. I am afraid that he will die as a martyr for his faith in God, like Nikolai Khmara and Vanya Moiseyev. Letters from him, possibly containing instructions in the event of his death, have been seized by the Rostov authorities.

I have lost all hope of receiving justice from the Soviet government for it is with their knowledge that the disgraceful campaign of persecution against believers in our country is carried on.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, on the foundation of Golgotha, and all people of good will who love their neighbour and desire truth and justice, which bring peace to the earth, we beg you :

1. to raise your voice to God who is able to send defence and help,
2. to petition the government of the USSR and competent international organizations for an end to the Soviet government's persecution of my family and fellow-believers, because of their faith in God,
3. to petition for the release of my husband, our breadwinner, from prison.

Your sister Valentina Matveyevna Baturina and the children :

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|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Vanya—16 years old. | 2. Zhenya—14 years old. | 3. Gosha—13 years old. |
| 4. Alyosha—10 years old. | 5. Vera—8 years old. | 6. Lena—5 years old. |

I confirm this declaration with my own signature and with photographs of my husband and family.¹

Signed by Baturina's wife and mother. 4 November 1972, Shakhty.

3. A List of Baptists imprisoned in the USSR during 1972

For the first time in five years we are able to print a list of Baptist prisoners. It is the most recent one available and gives the names of those imprisoned last year.

The official reasons for their imprisonment are given in two articles of the RSFSR Penal Code: article 142 and article 227. The first of these concerns the law on the separation of church and state and of schools from the church: a defendant found guilty under this article can be fined 50 roubles or imprisoned for one year for a first offence and for three years for a second offence. The following actions are considered an infringement of this law :

¹ Copies of these photographs are held at CSRC.