

## **Free Room and Board**

My second trip to the Soviet Union was in August 1969. This was while I was working with Trans World Radio in the Principality of Monaco where two of my married cousins and an uncle lived.

On a Saturday evening they prepared a dinner in my honor and invited some family and friends. At one point, Olga asked me if I wanted to meet someone who – for 12 years – had been imprisoned for his faith. She pointed to a white-haired man. Of course, I would be delighted to meet him! So, I made my way to him, introduced myself, and sat down next to him.

I started the conversation. “I have been told you suffered 12 years of imprisonment for your faith.”

“Yes, I spent 12 years in prison for being a believer. But I would never call it ‘suffering.’

The Lord put me in that prison as His missionary, as His representative. I was able to witness to my fellow prisoners.

Even some of the guards were converted. And, mind you, I had 12 years of free room & board,” he added with a smile.

“You could say the Soviet government was my sponsor. Anyway, I wouldn’t trade those years for anything.”