

# South Pacific Division Strategy: Mission to the Cities



## BIG TREES REPLACED BY SMALL TREES

“We’ve already told you many times to stop sharing Bibles and building churches,” said the officer to Pavel’s father (also named Pavel). During the Romanian communist era, those who were against the government or who were sharing Bibles were often arrested and beaten badly. “So many of my friends were beaten very badly,” says the son, Pavel Goya, Ministry magazine editor, “but it didn’t stop anything.” Nevertheless, for some well-known people, additional consequences could be even worse.

One comedian, for instance, after speaking on TV for many years, started to subtly make fun of the dictator. Not wanting to make the comedian a martyr, the government officials decided to kill him in such a way that they wouldn’t appear guilty of his death. So, they radiated him without his knowledge and sent him home to die.

That time, instead of beating Pavel (the father), the officers just warned him again and, strangely, let him alone in a room during the whole night. In the morning he was allowed to go home, apparently unharmed. Goya smiled and asked, “You just left me alone in a room?” But they shook their heads and said, “You don’t get it, do you?”

But after a few days Goya experienced extreme diarrhoea, started to lose his hair, and then began losing his nails. The doctor told him that he had leukaemia caused by high radiation. “If I live, I live for Jesus”, said Goya before resting in the Lord. “If I die, I die for Jesus. Sometimes, it is good to take out a big tree so that small trees may grow. Please, God, give fire to my children.” He longed for his children to love and witness for the Lord, and God granted his request!

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### Appeal

How much are our children ready to sacrifice for Christ? If they are not willing to sacrifice something in order to keep the Sabbath, to retain moral purity, to live a healthful lifestyle, or to return tithes and Promise, will they in the future be willing to sacrifice even their lives for Jesus? It is today that we must teach them by instruction and example how to sacrifice for Christ.

### Prayer

While we worship You with tithes and Promise, help us to learn how to sacrifice for You, and how to teach the next generation to do the same! Amen.