



Two Known Saints of God Glorified by the APC Synod, Apostolic Orthodox Church

Saint Gleb Yakunin was a religious, social and political activist and one of the founders of the APC Movement of the Apostolic Orthodox Church...a former priest of the Russian Orthodox Church.

He was trained to be a Biologist but since the late 1950's dedicated himself to Christian ministry. He studied at the Moscow Seminary and was ordained a priest on 10 August 1962.

In 1965, together with priest Nicholas Eshlimanov, he wrote a letter to ROC Patriarch +ALEXI I on the situation of the Orthodox Church in the USSR. He addressed the betrayal of the interests of the Church by the Patriarchate of Moscow. By instructions of the KGB in 1966, the ecclesiastical authorities were waiting for him to show signs of remorse for what he had done.

From 1960-1970 he participated in the human rights movement. In 1976 he co-founded the Christian Commission for the Protection of Rights of Believers in the Soviet Union. Before his arrest on 1 November 1979, he published hundreds of materials showing a massive repression of religious freedom in the USSR and on 28 August 1980, he was convicted of agitation and anti-Soviet propaganda. He was imprisoned in a political camp for two and a half years.

. In 1990 he was Deputy Chairman for the Committee of the Supreme Council of Freedom of Conscience. He helped write the law on Freedom of Belief which caused the opening of many temples and monasteries. In 1991-1992 he participated in the Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry into the causes and circumstances of conspiratorial records which were released by the KGB and tied to the Moscow Patriarchate and national security. He fought to reveal these archives, to protect the interests of Believers and Clergy and reveal the illegal privatized patriarchy of the Clergy.

He became the Co-President of the movement for the creation of the Federal Democratic Party in Russia and in 1995, the Committee organized the Committee for the Defense of Freedom of Conscience. He died in Moscow on 25 December 2014 and buried in the old cemetery there.



SAINT GLEB YAKUMIN, A FOUNDING FATHER OF THE APC, APOSTOLIC ORTHODOX CHURCH



*“We magnify thee, //
the Holy one, the Holy Father, Glebe, //
and we honor your honest suffering, //
you have suffered for Christ!” //*

In accordance with the Decree of the Holy APC Moscow community, the Apostolic Orthodox Church appealed to the Primate of the APC Metropolitan Vitaly with a request to bless the beginning of local veneration of Fr. Gleb Yakunin, as a new Russian priest, and the inclusion of his name in the Cathedral of New Martyrs and Confessors.

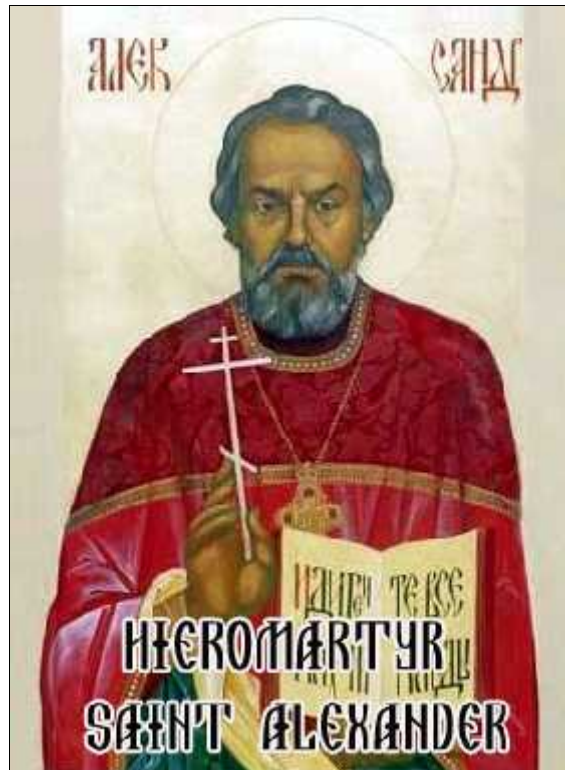
After receiving the blessing, on April 13/26, 2015, in the Week of the Myrrh-Bearing Women, after the last funeral litia, a moleben of saints was served. New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia, and then for the first time they sang troparion and kontakion to the new APC Saint - Father Gleb Yakunin.

Father Gleb Yakunin is the last priest of the great cathedral of the New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia, who suffered for the faith of Christ from godless communist authorities in the 20th century.

Arrested by the KGB in November 1979, on August 20, 1980, he was convicted of anti-Soviet agitation, he served his sentence in Perm-35 (Vsesvyatskaya station, Central settlement) until 1985, and was then exiled for two and a half years to Yakutia, to the Pole of Cold Ynykchan, where in the frost knit metal cables with bare hands.

As Alexander Solzhenitsyn wrote in connection with this trial: "The shameless Soviet government is once again forced to reveal to the world how it fears faith in God and sneers at the rights of believers: they crack down on the committee for the protection of believers of all religions in the USSR - with Father Gleb Yakunin and his associates Lev Regelson And Victor Kapitanchuk. The Christians of our country revere their courageous and martyr's feat. "

The general church glorification of the new Russian priesthood took place at the Council of the Orthodox Church in the autumn of 2015.



***“Light of love and faith and knowledge constantly exuding, //
struggling among the enemies of Christ, //
and his books, like the lamps of faith and the testimony of Christ lit, //
the Holy to the Enlightener and Sacerdotal Alexander, //
pray to Christ our God to save our souls.”***

The Holy Priest Martyr, Alexander Men was born in Moscow to a Jewish family on 22 January 1935. He was baptized at six months along with his mother in the banned Catacomb Church, a branch of the Russian Orthodox Church that refused to cooperate with the Soviet authorities.

When Men was 6 years old, the NKVD (People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs) arrested his father, Volf Gersh-Leybovich (Vladimir Grigoryevich) Men (born 1902). Volf spent more than a year under guard and then was assigned to labor in the Ural Mountains. His son Alexander entered college in Moscow in 1955 and transferred to Irkutsk a few years later but was expelled in 1958 due to his religious beliefs. In the same year, he was ordained a deacon, and in 1960 a priest upon graduating from the Leningrad Theological Seminary. In 1965, he completed studies at Moscow Theological Academy.

Alexander Men became a leader with considerable influence and a good reputation among Christians both locally and abroad, among Roman Catholics and Protestants, as well as Orthodox. Starting in the early 1970s, Men became a popular figure in Russia's religious community, especially among the intelligentsia. Men was harassed by the KGB for his active missionary and evangelistic efforts. In the late-1980s, he utilized the mass media to spread the message of Christ (he was offered to host a nationally televised program on religion); his days and nights were full of teaching and lecturing at packed lecture halls. Men was one of the founders of the Russian Bible Society in 1990; that same year he founded the Open Orthodox University and "The World of the Bible" journal. His strenuous efforts in educating the Russian populace in the basics and dynamics of the Orthodox faith has garnered him the label as a modern-day apostle to the Soviet people, who were benighted by seventy years of Communist atheistic rule.

On Sunday morning, 9 September 1990, he was murdered while walking along the wooded path from his home in the Russian village of Semkhoz to the local train platform. He was on his way to catch the train to Novaya Derevnnya to celebrate the Divine Liturgy. Men had served at the parish in Novaya Derevnnya for 20 years. His assailant's or assailants' use of an axe indicated a possible revenge motive. The murder occurred around the time of the collapse of the Soviet Union, and despite orders from within the Soviet (and later the Russian) government that the case be further investigated, the murder remains unsolved. His funeral was held on the day in the Orthodox calendar which commemorates the beheading of John the Baptist.

There is evidence that the consequence. Which came too close to the "dangerous" conclusions, was discontinued at the personal request of Boris Yeltsin, whom Patriarch Alexis (Ridiger) persuaded to do. In the last months of his life, Alexander was allowed to preach on the first TV channel in prime time, when tens of millions of viewers could listen to him.

Since his death, Men's works and ideas have been seen as controversial among the conservative faction of the Russian Orthodox Church, citing his strong tendencies towards ecumenism which his books advocate. Nonetheless, Men has a considerable number of supporters, some of whom argue for his canonization. His lectures are regularly broadcast over Russian radio. His books are published freely in Russia nowadays. During his lifetime, they had to be printed abroad; mainly in Brussels, Belgium by the publishing house Foyer Chrétien Oriental and circulated in secret. Several key Russian Orthodox parishes encourage following his example as one who faithfully followed Christ. Two Russian Orthodox churches have been built on the site of his assassination and a growing number of believers in both Russia and abroad consider him a martyr.

In conjunction with the 25th year Commemoration of Memory, the Moscow Patriarchate Izdatel'stvo publishing house has begun a project to publish Fr. Men's "Collected Works" in a series of 15 volumes.

Men's son, Mikhail Men, is a Russian political figure who from 2005 to 2013 served as the Governor of Ivanovo Oblast and now as Minister of Construction Industry, Housing and Utilities Sector in Dmitry Medvedev's Cabinet. He is also a musician known outside Russia for the Michael Men Project.

Alexander Men's greatest work is his History of Religion, published in seven volumes under the title "In Search of the Way, the Truth, and the Life" (volumes 1-6, Brussels, 1970—1983; 2nd edition Moscow, 1991—1992) and including as the seventh volume his most famous work, Son of Man (Brussels, 1969; 2nd edition Moscow, 1991). Because of the persecution in the Soviet Union at the time, the Brussels editions were published under a pseudonym.

An English translation of Son of Man by Mormon author Samuel Brown was completed in 1998 but is now out of print, as are several other works in English translation. In 2014, a new translation project was announced which will translate the entire History of Religion, bringing the other six volumes into the English language for the first time.

Recent works of Alexander Men in English translation include:

"An Inner Step Toward God: Writings and teachings on Prayer", (2014) ISBN 978-1612612386;
"Russian Religious Philosophy: 1989-1990 Lectures" (2015) ISBN 978-0996399227 (in 25th Year Memory Commemoration)

Many other works by Alexander Men have been published in Russian, most notably:
Heaven on Earth (1969), published abroad under pseudonym, later reissued in Russia;
"Where Did This All Come From?" (1972), published abroad under pseudonym, reissued in Russia;
"How to Read the Bible?" (1981), published abroad under pseudonym, later reissued in Russia;
"World Spiritual Culture" (1995);
"The History of Religions" (Volumes 1-2, 1997);
"The First Apostles" (1998);
"Isagogics: Old and New Testaments" (2000);
"Bibliological Dictionary" (Volumes 1-3, 2002).

His influence became so great that it could give a new dimension to the entire religious path of modern Russia. Now, Alexander is a "locally-honored" saint.