



Broadcast Transcript

Broadcast: Saving My Assassin – Part 2

Guest(s): Virginia Prodan

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- Dr. James Dobson: Well, hello everyone. I'm James Dobson and you're listening to Family Talk, a listener-supported ministry. In fact, thank you so much for being part of that support for James Dobson Family Institute.
- Virginia Prodan: I praise the Lord. There is no greater honor than to suffer for Christ because I was able to see in that moment the power of God's Word, how God can change a criminal into your brother in Christ.
- Roger Marsh: Welcome to Family Talk. I'm Roger Marsh with your host, Dr. James Dobson. Today we're continuing the incredible story of Virginia Prodan. She was born and raised in communist Romania under the brutal rule of Nicolae Ceaușescu. As you can imagine, that environment was steeped in deception and as Virginia grew up, she yearned to discover and reveal the truth. That focus drove her to the legal profession, but that ultimately didn't satisfy her. A little while later, she found the ultimate truth though in Jesus Christ and that was only the beginning of her incredible story. So let's hear what happened next right now on Family Talk.
- Dr. James Dobson: Virginia, welcome back. It's so good to have you here. And I loved that interview last time where you talked about your troubled childhood and what it was like living under a communist regime and many of the things that I hope people will go back and listen to. And they can certainly get a copy of it from us, but let's pick up right there. You had just found Christ after law school and it had changed your whole life. He had changed your whole life. So now you're practicing law in a communist regime where it's illegal to even talk about Christ. What did you do next? You've got truth that other people don't have. You can't even legally practice the way you believe. What happened?
- Virginia Prodan: When I accepted Christ, I also accepted His divine appointment. Clear presented to me that He brought me to Him in order to protect and defend Christians and human rights cases in Romania. And shortly after that, lots of Christians came to me. I did not-
- Dr. James Dobson: The word got around.

Virginia Prodan: Word got around. I did not know that I was the only Christian lawyer in Romania. So they came around and asked me to help them. And I help Christians that they were put in jail for having a Bible in their home or sharing a Bible with others or for watching in their own home, Jesus movie. And the government will take the parents to jail and put the kids in the government orphanages or I defended churches that the government will refuse to give them approval to fix the church or extend the church. And after a while the government will demolish the church and will confiscate the land. But after I started defended the churches and Christians, I used the Romanian law that we had in the book, but everyone was afraid to use it. And I presented to judges and prosecutors.

Dr. James Dobson: How did you get a hearing with those judges? They were biased in the other direction.

Virginia Prodan: Well, when God sent you to a job, he prepares everything. And when I started I had no clue. You walk by faith step by step. The Lord told me to sue the government and I did. And I found clients that said, "Yes, we want to sue the government." So we did it. And God protected me by sending angels. I had no idea when I was in front of the court that behind me there were representatives from United States of America, from Italy, from France, from Germany, and they were taking notes of someone like me under five feet tall.

Dr. James Dobson: But the government was also watching you.

Virginia Prodan: The government was also watching you, but the voice of America started to talk about congressmen like Frank Wolf and Christopher Smith.

Dr. James Dobson: He's a great friend of mine.

Virginia Prodan: Yes, came to Romania to talk with me, and that was God's protection. And for that reason, the government, in order to keep the most favored nation status for Romania, that I was exposing to the entire world, they don't respect the human rights. They had to agree with me and let me win those cases.

Dr. James Dobson: I see. Because the government needed America's trade and couldn't get what they needed unless they cooperated with the most favored nation status.

Virginia Prodan: Yes. But the other side, they started, my life became absolutely amazing, controlled by the government. They will put me under surveillance 24 hours a day. They will interrogate me daily. I did not know from the interrogation room if I will go home or not. They will beat me. They will threaten me that they will kill my kids.

Dr. James Dobson: Tortured you.

Virginia Prodan: Yes, they torture me. But let me tell you, under the torture, under all these circumstances, I noticed a few things that I want to share with people. That those people, the interrogators were huge. Everybody is bigger than me. I'm five, but they were six and they were violent to me, but Christ in me told me-

Dr. James Dobson: How did they torture you?

Virginia Prodan: Oh, in many, many, many ways.

Dr. James Dobson: I won't ask.

Virginia Prodan: So when blood was coming out of me and I was hitted in every directions and everything, the Holy Spirit in me spoke to them and I said, "I don't like what you're doing, but Christ loves you." And I can't tell you how many times those horrible people-

Dr. James Dobson: Virginia, Virginia, you were being beaten up and you witnessed to people?

Virginia Prodan: Yes, yes. And they were crying. They had to turn their faces because they could not look in my face. They didn't know what to do with me. Because when God tells you to do and do a job, God protects you and God, I was fearful. I was fearful. I can tell you how many times I said to myself Bible verses to remind that God is with me. Also, God reminded me, pray for your enemies. And then I started to pray for, but that's how God is working in our life. I will tell you from my own experience, there is no higher, higher honor for a Christian than to suffer for Christ.

Dr. James Dobson: Virginia, what are you made out of? How did you withstand-

Virginia Prodan: I'm a child of God. I'm a child of God and God molds us into heroes. I'm not a hero. I cry, I'm a sinful person. But when you give your life to Christ, God makes out of you something that you don't recognize yourself. You can say that, but that's how God works.

Dr. James Dobson: That's so well said.

Virginia Prodan: So that's what God works in our lives and what He did in my life, He can do in anyone's life.

Dr. James Dobson: Were you growing spiritually during that time?

Virginia Prodan: Absolutely. Absolutely. The secret police was walking by me many times, walking to work, walking to the grocery store, I was following all the time, but more than secret police walking with me, I had the conviction that Christ was walking with me. And I was praying continually, like the Bible says, I learn to communicate with Christ every single minute. And they were able to see that peace in me and to see that I was not... they believed that my life was in their

hands. I had to walk and talk with God every time and say, "You promise. Remember Psalm 91 Lord." And I was saying Bible verses from Psalm 91 and He was faithful. He protected my life. That's who He is.

Dr. James Dobson: How did you escape from Romania?

Virginia Prodan: I did not escape. I continue even after I was under house arrest. When I was released, I continued to defend churches and the government was really, really afraid that others will be encouraged by my courage. And also God gave me an amazing assignment I did not ask for, I did not ask for, that actually exposed the dictator to the entire world. And I had the document with me that I was given by a Christian in the interrogation room. And that was the only day in my continued numerous interrogation when I was not searched. And they had a chance if they would have searched me-

Dr. James Dobson: Did you have-

Virginia Prodan: ... to kill me on the spot.

Dr. James Dobson: Did you have a Scripture with you?

Virginia Prodan: No. I had a document that if people will read the book they will realize that document really brought down Ceausescu.

Dr. James Dobson: Really? Can you tell us very quickly?

Virginia Prodan: It was a document that later on I presented to the ambassador of United States and he presented to Ronald Reagan. Our government was in the position after they discovered that document was presented to them, they said, "We are going to take away the most favored national status. We are not going to deal with dictator anymore." But Ronald Reagan was afraid that the dictator will kill us. So he said, "We give you most favored nation conditionally for one year with a very, very important condition that you let the Prodans to go out of United States." And that was-

Dr. James Dobson: So that was you and your two girls?

Virginia Prodan: Yes. And that was the way that we were allowed to, President Reagan wanted us to leave in 24 hours that he was so aware of the power and the end.

Dr. James Dobson: The President of the United States.

Virginia Prodan: That's when-

Dr. James Dobson: ... interceded for you and a congressman Frank Wolf-

Virginia Prodan: And Christopher-

Dr. James Dobson: ... came home and told your story.

Virginia Prodan: Yes.

Dr. James Dobson: Do you know that I was in the Capitol building when he came home and he had video of what was going on there and I saw it.

Virginia Prodan: Yes.

Dr. James Dobson: So I know a little bit about what you've gone through.

Virginia Prodan: Yeah. He is one of the person, including Christopher Smith and Frank Wolf that God used to protect my life and bring us to America.

Dr. James Dobson: You decided to come to Dallas, Texas?

Virginia Prodan: No, I did not decide. I pray for. I pray for the American Embassy, the American Embassy, everything in my life. That's not my decision. I do not belong to myself. I belong to God. I was bought by Jesus' blood. So I belong to Him.

Dr. James Dobson: Bought with a price.

Virginia Prodan: With a price. So every decision that I make and I don't make always good decision, I make mistakes. I'm a sinful person, but I try to do my best. But every decision that I make, I pray for, and I pray for when I decided then we're going to go to America because I thought at that time that it will be far away and America proved to us that they were for human rights and they worked so hard for us, I pray. And the way I did it is I used to have in Romania a Larousse dictionary and I have a map of United States and I pray and I pray and I said, "Lord, I know you told me that you want us to go in America, but you have to tell me where. I can't decide for myself." And I heard saying the name, but the girls were playing around and there were other friends with us and everything and I said, "Is the city where Kennedy was killed?" And somebody said, "Dallas."

Dr. James Dobson: That's what you knew about Dallas.

Virginia Prodan: That's what I knew about Dallas, and I came to Dallas, yes, by prayer and by faith, not by my decision.

Dr. James Dobson: Where'd you get the money to travel?

Virginia Prodan: I was sponsored by an organization and then when I came here, I paid back the organization.

Dr. James Dobson: Now have you practiced law here?

Virginia Prodan: I went back to law school. I learn English because when I came to United States I didn't know one word in English.

Dr. James Dobson: You sure got it down now.

Virginia Prodan: So I mastered English and I went back to law school, SMU Law School, and I graduated with two diplomas in three years. Usually you take four years to do this and I got a juris doctor and master of law and in the same time I raised three kids. And the first one graduated from SMU, the second one graduated from Harvard Law School and the third one, my son graduated from United States Air Force. He is a rescue pilot in the United States

Dr. James Dobson: Right here in Colorado Springs.

Virginia Prodan: Yes, yes. This is our God, this is what God can do in your life.

Dr. James Dobson: What a story you have to tell.

Virginia Prodan: That's God's story.

Dr. James Dobson: It is His story.

Virginia Prodan: He can do in anybody's life, not only in mine, in every person's life who will trust him and who will say, "Lord, I give You my life. I give You my dream." And He will change your life. He will change your family's life. He will change your country's life because now Romania is a country where kids can go to school and can read the Bible, can pray, the seminaries are everywhere, people can pray. There are people that I defended or kids of the pastors that I defended and now they're in the government, Christians, that's what God can do in one person that will give his life or her life to Christ.

Dr. James Dobson: You know what really touches me today and yesterday as well is that we are talking right now by means of radio with a lot of people out there who do not know experientially what you have experienced with the Lord. They don't know how to find Him. They may never have heard that message before. Doesn't that break your heart? There's a whole generation in Europe that has never heard the name of Christ. Well, there are some people here who don't know Him either, and you're telling them about something they want and they're listening very carefully to you because they want to find what you found. Some of them have lives as difficult, maybe not as difficult, but certainly difficult like you did. And they see no way out. There's no hope. And others are depressed and miserable. Some have been abused, some have been rejected by their family. Some of them have gone through the kind of things you did and they've heard this today and yesterday and they want it. Tell them how to get it.

Virginia Prodan: God can be found in many places. Early in the morning where you hear a bird singing, God is saying to you, "I love you. I'm looking for you. Would you

respond to my love?" When you see a rainbow, God is saying, "I died for you. Would you accept my sacrifice? I want you to be my son." God says in the rain, "I want to wash your pain away. I love you. I want to hold you in my arms. You are my son. You are my daughter. I will love you forever and you'll live with me with joy and peace that surpasses all understanding." God has written a letter and is the Bible, in every word that is in the Bible God is saying, "I love you. You are precious on my side. You haven't done anything to think that I don't love you. Don't leave. Don't believe the lies. I love you with all my heart."

Dr. James Dobson: What about the belief that I'm not worthy? I've done sinful things in my life. Some things are unmentionable, and I've got to get all that cleaned up before I can come to Christ.

Virginia Prodan: That's not true. It's a lie. It's a lie.

Dr. James Dobson: It's a gift, isn't it?

Virginia Prodan: Yes. God says, "Come here, don't be a beggar. Only when things are really, really hard, I have a house full of everything. You're my son. You can live with me forever. Forever. And I can wash away your pains. I can wash away everything that others did. And I died for you." He's an amazing God and He created you. I tell my kids when they look at everything in my life, he was not asleep when everything happened. He allowed those things so I can be who I am today and he can make out of your pain treasures.

Dr. James Dobson: You're telling these folks that the God who spoke the whole universe into existence knows us all and cares individually about me and you?

Virginia Prodan: Yes sir.

Dr. James Dobson: And the person we're talking to?

Virginia Prodan: Yes sir. Yes, I'm telling you, I was one time at Billy Graham Crusade in Dallas and we had a huge, wonderful event and we pray for every different sections and everything. And at the end we were told, "Pray for yourself." And I started to pray for myself and I heard the Lord saying, "Virginia, you don't have gas in your car." And I was thinking, "Lord, there are so many people here and you are talking to me." But I was running to my car to see if God was right or not, and my car didn't have one, nothing in my car.

And I was supposed to go in traffic on highways and it was 12 o'clock in night and I said, "Lord, you are talking to individual, to their needs." And I said, "Lord, now you have to protect me because I have to go to the gas station and there's nobody there." Yes. I'm giving this example to show people that God, it's a personal God. God is talking to you if you have the time to sit down and listen. He's crying over you. He is smiling over you and he's saying, "I love you the way

you are. I don't need you to change." Christ will change you. He sacrifice will change you. Just come the way you are.

Dr. James Dobson: What a testimony, Virginia. This has been wonderful. Absolutely wonderful. I can't tell you how much I've enjoyed it.

Virginia Prodan: I enjoyed it too. Thank you.

Dr. James Dobson: You know why? Because I know it's true.

Virginia Prodan: Yes.

Dr. James Dobson: I know it's true. I know He cares for me in that way too.

Virginia Prodan: Yes.

Dr. James Dobson: And He speaks to me in different ways than He does you because He is an individual God and you are available to speak when people would get in touch with you. How did they find you?

Virginia Prodan: They can find me. I have an author website, viriniaprodanbooks.com and they can find me there. They can find me at Facebook, Virginia Prodan, Family Talk. Yes.

Dr. James Dobson: On our website we will have this information.

Virginia Prodan: Yes. And I'll be more than happy. My message is to encourage people. And my book, *Saving My Assassin* is clear explanation. What is a-

Dr. James Dobson: We haven't talked about that. How did you save the assassin? We got one minute.

Virginia Prodan: Well, he came in my office and after years of not obeying the government and-

Dr. James Dobson: You were in Romania?

Virginia Prodan: In Romania and he pulled his gun in front of my face and he said, "I'm here to kill you." But the Lord I heard clear from the Lord, share the gospel. And I did. And it was very easy because I knew by heart reciting the Bible verses and he accepted Christ there. Our job as Christians is to save our enemies.

Dr. James Dobson: Did he put the gun away?

Virginia Prodan: Yes, yes, yes.

Dr. James Dobson: What'd he say to you?

Virginia Prodan: He accepted Christ. He agreed with me that-

Dr. James Dobson: A man is there to shoot you.

Virginia Prodan: Yes.

Dr. James Dobson: He has a gun pointed at your head.

Virginia Prodan: Yes.

Dr. James Dobson: And you're witnessing to him about Christ.

Virginia Prodan: And more than that, when I said to him Bible verses, I noticed this six-ten-foot tall man. He was melting it under God's words, but I'm human and I was scared. And I was thinking, "At the end when I finished telling him the gospel, he's going to kill me." So I lost my thoughts. So I paraphrased. And when I paraphrased, he came back to anger and ready, he was looking for his gun. So I said to myself, you better stick with the Bible. And I went back really fast to the Bible verses and he melted again. And finally he accepted Christ. There is power in God's Word.

Dr. James Dobson: Did you cry?

Virginia Prodan: I did. I did. The Word of God saved him and saved me.

Dr. James Dobson: When he left, did you get on your knees?

Virginia Prodan: Yes.

Dr. James Dobson: And what did you say?

Virginia Prodan: I praised the Lord. I praised the Lord. And like I said, there is no greater honor that to suffer for Christ because I was able to see in that moment the power of God's Word. How God can change a criminal into your brother in Christ.

Dr. James Dobson: We've been talking to Virginia Prodan and her message and her story speaks for itself. I urge you to get a copy of this book, *Saving My Assassin*. There's a whole lot more in it than just that story, but I pray that the Lord will continue to bless you and use you, and that you will come back and see us sometime. Would you do that?

Virginia Prodan: Thank you. Yes. Sure.

Dr. James Dobson: Well, thank you for being with us these two days and I will never forget them.

Virginia Prodan: Thank you very much.

Roger Marsh:

Well, Doctor, I know this is a conversation that I will never forget, and I know that thousands of our listeners will never forget it either. Friend, you've been listening to Dr. James Dobson's compelling conversation with author and activist Virginia Prodan today here on Family Talk. And as Doctor mentioned, her outstanding book is available at our resource center. Go to drjamesdobson.org/familytalk and ask for information on how you can get a copy of the book called *Saving My Assassin* by Virginia Prodan. Again, that's drjamesdobson.org/familytalk. While you're there, remember, you can also share this powerful two-part program with a friend or a loved one.

You can also do so using the Family Talk app as well, and you can find that app in the App Store and at Google Play. Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk is a listener-supported broadcast outreach and we are grateful for your ongoing prayers and faithful financial support. To give a gift online, go to drjamesdobson.org or you can send a gift through the US Postal Service when you write to Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk, P.O. Box 39000, Colorado Springs, Colorado, the zip code 80949. Well, I'm Roger Marsh and on behalf of Dr. James Dobson and the entire team here at the JDFI, thanks so much for listening. Join us again right here for another edition of Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk, the voice you trust for the family you love.

Announcer:

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