

HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC.

A tax-exempt, non-profit corporation

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We help orphans and elderly Christians (many in their eighties, even 90s) who had been imprisoned for their faith in present or former communist countries.

At this critical moment, we also help many Christian refugees from Ukraine!



Late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand with wife, Sabina

December 2024

Announcement:

Free copies of the paperback books written by Pastor Richard Wurmbrand: "Reaching Towards the Heights"; "Tortured For Christ"; "Was Karl Marx a Satanist?"; and "The Pastor's Wife" by Sabina Wurmbrand, may be requested using the order form at the <https://helpforrefugees.com> internet site. (See request form at top of the third column!)

"He that has the Son has the life. He that refuses to have the Son of God has not the life."

(1st Epistle of John 5:12, according to the original)

Late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand suffered. 14 years in Romanian communist prisons. Mrs. Wurmbrand, Sabina, was imprisoned for nearly three years, also for her Christian faith, in some of the same communist prisons.

From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand
NOTHING HAS HIGHER VALUE THAN YOUR ETERNAL SOUL

TIME magazine, USA, made an inquiry into the main concerns of people and discovered that 62% of the population worried primarily about the economic situation, 20% about the crime rate, 28% about the energy problem. In many countries the main concern is the food shortage. Humans suffer and loudly express their fears. Eventually, when all the cries of sorrows and all the vain noise of this world have passed away, humankind will remember the silent meditation of the few. These few will be happy because they have endured much. It is difficult to pass through storms, but the stronger the storm, the shorter it is. The basic reality is the calm in the great depths of the soul.

When Paulinus, the 7th Century AD Christian missionary, came to the Anglo Saxons asking them to embrace his faith, an old warrior told the king in the national assembly: "On a dark night, when the tempest was abroad and snow was falling without, when you were seated by the fire in the lighted hall, a sparrow entered through a window open for a moment, fluttered through the room, and then left by that same window. We have never seen it again. So, we come from somewhere, enjoy light and heat for a moment, and afterwards we go. If this stranger can tell us whence we come and where we go, we should accept his religion." Christians have the answer to this question. All the stars, the earth, and all living creatures on it are not as valuable as one single

soul, your soul, because your soul knows both itself and them, whereas they know nothing. Our souls came from God but have gone astray attracted by the lights of this world. Therefore Jesus, the Son of God, came to this earth, pleasing the Father by His life of perfect obedience and His innocent death on the cross. He did not need to earn these "credits," since the heavenly Father loves Him for His Divine nature, but the credits acquired on earth Jesus imparted to His believers, who may thus inherit a beautiful paradise forever.

If you have the Son of God, you love even when not loved, and you can see the falsehood of this world. Unbelievers need accept a Reality beyond their economic worries, their materialistic hopes, or their personal problems leading to death and burial as the ultimate solution. They need to have the Son of God, they need His grace, His gifts, His aid to do good and to avoid evil. They need the Son of God in order to have life. This is why the Gospel must be preached in all lands.

When I was imprisoned in former communist Romania within the same hospital-cell was a very sick Christian named Florea. He died near me in the prison of Gherla, Romania. He had been beaten until both his arms and legs were paralyzed because he refused to do slave labor on the Lord's Day. He could only move his neck. It is bad enough to be in such a situation in a nursing home, being taken care by a family, but he was in a prison cell where we had no water, no sheets, nothing with which to help him. Yet he remained most serene and joyful among us. His faith was outstanding. His face shone. When we sometimes sat around his bed brooding about our sorrows, moaning that our outlook was bad he would reply, "If the outlook is bad, try the up look." St. Stephen, surrounded by men who threw stones at him, abandoned by the other members of the church who did not stand with him in his moment of trial, nevertheless looked up and saw Jesus standing at the right hand of the Father. This comforted his heart; it will comfort yours also. Look up!"

The first emotion that usually engulfs a person attacked by a monstrous enemy is panic. Children of God however are saved from being frightened. The depth knows the storms of the surface, but the storms do not know the power of the depth to remain unmoved by them. We know the sufferings, the trials, the fights; we share all these, we bear our own sorrows, but we belong to another sphere where the final questions are answered. Therefore, we can be useful in a world which has lost its head. The worst thing is to brood about how difficult the struggle is. We need be dedicated to getting as many things done as possible for the Gospel before the great darkness of Antichrist's rule comes. It will be followed by Christ's victory. Then it will be seen that those who had the Son of God had life, and those who refused the Son had no life.



The Communist Jilava Prison.
Entrance to the underground cells.



Prison cell with bunkbeds with no mattress, prisoners were obliged to sleep on. Stove for show only, never heated in cold winters.



Mug-shot of Late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand when held in the Jilava prison, in communist Romania.

“Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father are this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.” (Apostle James Epistle 1:27)

Heroes of the Faith and their Families, Helped with your Gifts

Some pictures of elderly Christians Imprisoned under Communism for the Faith.

Read their full testimonies in our past newsletters at <http://helpforrefugees.com> (third column!)



Reverend Jidveian Nicolae was imprisoned 16 years for his faith in former communist Romania. Before his death in 2016 at the age of 102 he wrote to us: “My pension is now (in US Dollars) about \$80/mo. of which hardly anything is left after I pay heating, electricity, water, waste management and phone. I live of some church services I undertake. Otherwise, I would be a beggar.”

Read his full testimony in our online 3/2016 Newsletter.



Ms. Kisvaradi Magdalena was a deaconess in the Reformed Church. She was kept in solitary confinement in former communist Romania and mistreated physically in prison.

Together with another seven Christians she was sentenced to 8 years of prison, specifically for her Christian missionary activity. When arrested in 1958, the communist police told her inside the police van, “you are in too good a mood, which we will make sure to spoil shortly in a (communist) prison.” She answered, “Christians have been persecuted throughout history. I am not guilty of anything. Should you imprison me never-the-less, it represents for me nothing more than a change of my employment location. God’s Word is most necessary in prison.” **(Read her full testimony in our online 3/2016 Newsletter.)**



Children in the Agape Orphanage, Pascani, Romania. Your gifts have allowed us to send help to this orphanage founded in 1993 by late pastor Richard Wurmbrand and his wife Sabina. We also help the Richard Wurmbrand College (an established, accredited Evangelical school, 1-12 grades) in Iasi, Romania.



Apartment house destroyed through Russian bombing in Mariupol, Ukraine, where 40% of whole town has been close to obliterated.

Over six million refugees have escaped so far from Ukraine into different European countries.

Ukrainian Christian Refugees Helped with Your Gifts!



Brother VAKAR Vladimyr wrote: “I am a father and guardian of five foster children who have been in our family since 2018.

On February 24 of this year (2022) we woke up in our house to powerful explosions, which scared the children into a corner. A very disturbing and stressful day made us understand the news that a war had begun in our country and that our family needed to be saved. After another day at home, we decided to take the children to the western border of the country and cross the border. At the invitation of the church, my wife and children went to Belgium, where they are currently located.

I returned home to Ukraine to volunteer among internally displaced persons, in a local church. They provided shelter and transportation to a safe place during the first month of the war. In early April, I decided to go to my family and serve in the local church where I am currently.”

The background sign reads in Ukrainian: “Christ is risen!”



Sister VINKOVSKA Olga wrote: “The war began in my country in February (2022), We have a large family. We immediately decided to leave the country.

We lost our job in our country and we cannot return because it is very risky for life. There is fighting around our hometown - Konstantinovka, so we have nowhere to return.”

Ukrainian Christian Refugees Helped with Your Gifts



Brother FESUN Genadii and wife Vitalina wrote:

“Two weeks after the war began, we were forced to leave our home, car, and everything we had...

After 4 days, we reached Poland, where we stayed for 10 days, from where we were sent to Italy. We were given housing for nearly one year and after that we will be

evicted. We obtained food, the church and friends helped as much as they can, but that is not enough. In addition, three children should go to school, so we need finances to support them. It is exceedingly difficult to find work here, but we are trying, looking for at least small part-time jobs. There is fighting around our hometown - Konstantinovka, so we have nowhere to return.”

Fesun family was helped through a local Ukrainian pastor in Rome, Italy.



Sister Olena KITSEN wrote: “At the beginning of hostilities, we experienced a huge destruction and did not understand how to continue living. Our family has three children, two are disabled. After the start of hostilities in Ukraine, we could not get medical treatment for our children from the state, expensive medical treatment, so, we decided to leave, a group was formed from the church, mothers with children. The road was very difficult but thank God we reached Poland. In Poland, for several weeks, my group and I did not know how to get to Spain. We were invited there by a volunteer organization. Then we turned to local churches for help, which organized a minibus transfer for our group. A few months later, after a group of medical checks, our children were given the necessary medicines. At the moment, we live in a monastery with our whole group, all are alive and healthy, thank God!”

Ukrainian Christian Refugees Helped with your Gifts

April 16, 2022*

Dear contributors:

My gratitude to all who donated generously toward helping so many refugees from Ukraine, a true flood of displaced individuals. More than four million have escaped the current war and another three million are expected to come out. If one reads the daily news, one will be convinced easily these are not exaggerated figures. These are persons who flee from extensive bombing and continuing total destructions of whole towns.

It happens that my birth country, Romania, and the Republic of Moldova (also a Romanian language country) have together the longest common border with Ukraine. At the same time, Romania is one of the poorest countries in the European Union and Moldova is economically worse. Between Romania and Moldova so far, one million Ukrainians have sought asylum already. **Refugees come at times at the rate of 10,000 every 24 hours.** * Most of these refugees are women with 3 to 8 children. Fortunately, many other countries in Europe and North America are accepting to resettle these refugees if they can arrive there. Many churches outside Romania, have sent transportation means, like buses and even chartered flights. These refugees speak Ukrainian and Russian. Here and there, the communality of the Romanian language is of help, since some closer to the border localities like the university town of Czernowitz (name in German, Cernauti in Romanian) where my mother was born, used to be part of Romania before WWII. Some of the younger generation might have a little knowledge of English. Through many dependable contacts of many years in Romania, we concentrated on helping with local Romanian currency of US \$200 to \$2,000 per family of **Christian believers**-refugees. Many came out with hardly more than the shirt on their back. There were miles-long lines at the border. Through the local Christians who deserve all praise, we provide pocket money given in hand for food and believers' lodging for a few days, until there is a partial resolution as to near- future plans of settling some place somehow or moving-on further to other countries. \$2,000 seems to be a large sum for an elderly couple who could escape but most couples come out with larger groups of 10 to 15 children and grandchildren. Just as one example, we paid for a Victoria village home, \$6,000 for a one-month lodging and food for three adults and twelve children. Most of these refugees entertain the illusion of taking refuge out of their native country and their lodging and work, for a brief time but the way the news comes out on this prolonged war, I doubt this will be the case. I believe these refugees will remain refugees for many years to come. We publish in these newsletters a few testimonies and some receipts of scores more, documenting what I wrote above.

*(Update February 2024: Refugees still pour-in most days at the rate of 8,000-10,000!) Michael Wurmbrand

409	Власенко	Валентин	Медфодьевич	1958	Украина
410	Вольф	Андрей	Корнеевич	1958	Казахстан
411	Куркин	АЛЕКСЕЙ	ЯКОВЛЕВИЧ	1958	Россия
412	Левен	НИКОЛАЙ	ВИКТОРОВИЧ	1958	Казахстан
413	Романюк	Владимир	Николаевич	1958	Украина
414	Тиссен	Давид	Давидович	1958	Россия
415	ТУРКЕВИЧ	Василий	Тарасович	1959	Украина
416	Бьчков	Степан	Павлович	1959	Украина
417	ДРИСВЯНИКОВ	АЛЕКСАНДР	АЛЕКСАНДРОВИЧ	1959	Россия
418	СКВОРЦОВА	ЛЮБОВЬ	НИКОЛАЕВНА	1959	Россия
419	Варавин	Виталий	Федотович	1959	Россия
420	Дубицкий	СЕРГЕЙ	АДАМОВИЧ	1959	Россия
421	Лященко	Борис	Владимирович	1959	Украина
422	Ткаченко	ИВАН	ИВАНОВИЧ	1959	Казахстан
423	МАРЧЕНКО	Станислав	Павлович	1960	Украина
424	Донченко	Александр	Максимович	1960	Украина
425	Отмахов	Вениамин	Александрович (Валерианов)	1960	Узбекистан
426	Савченко	Михаил	Михайлович	1960	Эстония
427	Фадеева (ШВЕЦОВА)	ДИНА	ВЛАДИМИРОВНА	1961	Алания
428	ШВЕЦОВА	АННА	ВЛАДИМИРОВНА	1962	Алания
429	Богодимов	Александр	Валерьевич	1962	Эстония

Above, a **sample only** of a lengthy list, our mission was able to compile beside other lists, of over 480 elderly Baptist Christians most of them still alive, who suffered for the Christian faith in the former Soviet Union. The prison sentences amounted from 2 years, to as many as 18 years of communist prison. If considered together, their years of prison-sentences shown in our **abbreviated** table, would add up to over 2,000 years of prison. The 4th and 5th column together, show year of birth and the most recent country they live in (like Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, etc.) We try obtaining exact addresses, so we may be able to send encouraging help to those still alive. We were able to send repeated help to about 120 such elderly Russian-speaking Christians and over 110 speaking other languages. Many of their testimonies you can read in the monthly newsletter. Testimonies available also on the internet. **Look up third column at: website: <https://helpforrefugees.com>**

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Email: hfr@helpforrefugees.com,
Gifts are US tax-deductible. Help for Refugees is listed in Publication 78, Cumulative List of Nonprofit Organizations described in Section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Service. For IRS nonprofit status you may use this link:

<https://apps.irs.gov/app/eos/allSearch>
and enter EIN: 953064521.