

HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC.

A tax-exempt, non-profit corporation

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January 2017



Late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand with wife, Sabina

““Lord, I have called daily upon thee, I have stretched out my hands unto thee.” (Psalm 88:9)”

Late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand spent 14 years in Romanian communist prisons. Mrs. Wurmbbrand was imprisoned nearly three years also for her Christian faith in same prisons.

**From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand:
A Remedy for Suffering**

Some psalms in the Bible show headings indicating ancient melodies to go with the particular psalm. Psalm 22 subtitle shows how it was supposed to be sung on a melody named "The Deer of the Dawn." Some psalms subtitles point to the instrument that should have accompanied the singing, be it flute or some (now unknown) stringed instrument. A few such introductory headings were puzzling the Bible translators and therefore were left untranslated. Psalm 88 is introduced with the words "to be set to (something called in ancient Hebrew:) "Mahalath Leanoth" and this expression does not correspond to any known instrument or song name. Translated literally, it means however: **"to be sung when in bitter suffering."**

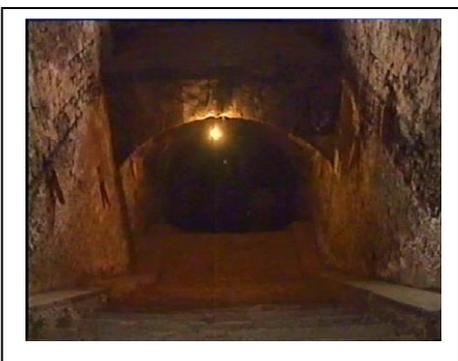
Having myself undergone many years of communist imprisonment, I became familiar with such a unique "howling melody" called "bitter suffering." When one is in great pain, this is when thoughts raise also to the sufferings of others. This is the time when one seeks to talk to God. In bitter suffering the most hardened atheist forgets his unbelief, his proud "critical" thinking and would cry, "Oh God!" Elihu told Job what to do in his suffering: "If now thou hast understanding, hear this..." "Remember to magnify His work!" (Job 34:16 and 36:24) Indeed Job exclaimed, "the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; **blessed be the name of the Lord.**" (Job 1:21) When I was held by the communists two years in an underground solitary cell, I had place to make only 6-8 steps, I received for a certain period only one slice of bread a day. It was cold,

pitch dark. The thought occurred to me to praise God. I nearly shouted " I am hungry but praise God my brethren and sisters in the Free World have plenty what to eat. I can only make a few steps but my brethren in the West have cars and travel. Many are missionaries in faraway lands. I am alone but in so many churches brethren meet in great numbers." I started dancing in the cell and shouting of joy. The guards thought I lost my mind and brought me more food thinking they could quieten me down. In this way, I was helped. Many believers who had passed through communist prisons, when coming out rejoiced having had unique opportunities to witness their Christian faith and share the Gospel with communist guards and to fellow unbelieving political prisoners.

The Bible asks us to "Weep with them that weep" (Romans 12:15) The Son of God was described by the prophet Isaiah as "a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief." (Isaiah 53:3) If you are ready "to weep with them that weep," the Bible indicates whom to pay attention to, at first around you, for it is written: "Jesus wept." (John 11:35) In John 20:13 it is described how Mary, Jesus' follower, was weeping. The Gospel writes: "But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre, and seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou?" She hardly has the opportunity to explain and here the resurrected Jesus "saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? " In both cases, sobs were turned miraculously into incredible joy. The apostles saw the resurrected Lazarus. Mary broke the news to the frightened apostles of Jesus' resurrection. Let us weep with the weeping Jesus and with His weeping followers. This is how weeping brings trust in God and joy.

While a large ship was crossing a sea channel, a child on the shore was frantically waving with both hands. A man nearby shouted to him: "You might be able to stop a car on a road but what use is to wave your hands when such a large ship is passing by. Stop it! This looks stupid." Yet the child did not stop. He continued waving his hands again and again. To the grown-up's amazement the ship did slow down and eventually stopped. A motorized boat was sent to the shore. It picked up the child and turned back toward the ship. Safe in the boat the child shouted to the grown-up: "I was not stupid. The captain is my father!"

The psalm urges us in our suffering to call upon God, Our Father and stretch our hands in praise.



The Communist Jilava Prison.
Entrance to the underground cells.



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



Mug shot of Late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand when held in Jilava.

For the last 40 years, HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC. has extended financial support to Christian refugees from communist countries, orphans and Christians who had been imprisoned for their faith in present and former communist countries. Also helped is the Richard Wurmbrand College, a high school in Iasi where many children of disadvantaged families are able to study. See <http://helpforrefugees.com>.

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

Christians and their families helped with your gifts
A few individual receipts

КВИТАНЦИЯ
CHITANȚA

Я, нижеподписавшийся
Subsemnatul (a) Наприенко Валентин

подтверждаю получение денег в сумме
confirm primirea sumei de 200 \$

от Христианской Ассоциации Сабина Вурмбранд, за что
расписываюсь и сердечно благодарю.
din partea Asociației Creștine Sabina Wurmbrand, pentru care vă mulțumesc.

Дата 16.12.2016 Подпись В. Наприенко
Data Semnătura

**Receipt Naprienko Valentin (66 years old.
Imprisoned 5.5 years in Soviet communist prisons
for his Christian faith. Read short biography below)**

CHITANȚA

Subsemnatul(a)
Баклажанский Владимир Игоревич
confirm primirea sumei de 300 \$ (6000) din
partea Asociației Creștine Sabina Wurmbrand, pentru care vă mulțumesc.

Дата 02.11.16

Semnătura В.И. Баклажанский

**Receipt Baklajanski Vladimir (60 years old.
Imprisoned 2 ½ years in Soviet communist prisons for
his Christian faith)**

CHITANȚA

Subsemnatul(a)
Хорьва Вера
confirm primirea sumei de 200 \$ (2000) din
partea Asociației Creștine Sabina Wurmbrand, pentru care vă mulțumesc. Хорьва Вера

Дата 26.10.2016

Semnătura Хорьва Вера

**Receipt Horeva Vera (83 years old. Husband
imprisoned twelve and a half years in Soviet
communist prisons for his Christian faith.)**

Christians and their families helped with your gifts
Brother Stephen Ghermaniuk
7.5 year of communist prison for being a Christian



He writes:” I greet you brother Michael,

I greet you all with the peace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ! Through our God's mercy I am 83 years old. God gave us a large family: we have 7 children, 42 grandchildren and 26 great grandchildren. For the last 6 years we live in the town of Shebekino, the Belgorod Region, Russia. We lived before in the remotest eastern Siberia in the town of Khabarovsk. We lived in a wooden home. We used wood logs to heat it up and carried water from a long distance away. Therefore we changed in the last 6 years in my advanced years, to a milder climate and we strive to serve the Lord so long still alive.

In previous times (living in the Soviet Union) we underwent much suffering and persecution. In 1973 I was sentenced the first time to 7.5 years of prison. The first 4.5 year I was imprisoned in the Lugansk Region of the Soviet Ukraine. Afterwards I was deported to the Siberian far east close to Khabarovsk. I was transported during 2 months all the way to the Okhotsk Sea shores. I suffered in a very terrible climate. In 1983 I was resented a second time to 3 years of prison. Two years later in 1985 my wife was also sentenced to three years of prison. Our five children remained without a father or a mother. Brethren and sisters in the church took care of our children. When freed from prison in 1986, my wife was still imprisoned. I was carrying food packages to her prison. In prison she became very sick. We suspect the KGB having contributed for her to get so sick. She died only two months after being freed. At this moment, I am sick with Parkinson. Yet, I am grateful to the Lord for never abandoning me. Your brother Stephen Ghermaniuk.

I greet you with Hebrews 6:10, "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have shewed toward His Name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister."

Christians and their families helped with your gifts
Three years of communist prison for being a Christian



Sister Liubovi Uhina (born Donchenko) and husband

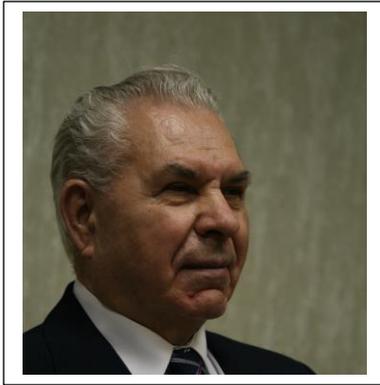
She wrote: “I am Liubovi Uhina and have received your letter and reply herewith. I will narrate a little bit about my life. I became a Christian at the age of 14 in 1965 a year in which I was baptized as well. I loved much my Savior and was keen to praise Him through my life. I wanted to do something He will be pleased with. I was reciting Christian poetry in the church and sang with the youth (choir.) Then I started being a missionary to the children. I dedicated several years to this. There was a lot of persecution in our land, the Soviet Union. Being caught teaching Christianity to children, meant sure prison. I was sent one year to be a teacher inside a Christian children camp. We were housed (secretly) in tents inside a forest. Children came from Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Caucasus, Siberia, Ural, Kazakhstan, Central Asia and the Baltic Soviet Republics (Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia.) The hearts of these children were changed as God spoke to them. In between games they befriended each other, they learned many Christian songs and Bible passages. Some children learned even how to witness. Now that so many years have passed, some of these children serve in different churches as adults. These Christian children camps were for me a life-long precious experience.

In 1980, we received some Christian underground literature in our home, Bibles, Gospels and so on. We distributed together with my brothers everything according to a specific plan. My 20-years-old younger brother went to the local train station in order to ship out some of this Christian literature to the city of Zaporozhye (in today’s Ukraine.) He was arrested on the spot by the KGB. Three month later I was detained by the Soviet police as well. They took me in some kind of a preventive arrest where I was placed in a room with several women. I could witness to them. At sentencing because of this Christian literature, I received 3 years of prison and my brother 2 years. In this way, God placed us on purpose in these prisons to be His witnesses, places you could not reach with the Gospel otherwise unless arrested. Praise God!

Due to tax laws inside Romania, some help needs be sent through the local Romanian nonprofit Sabina Wurmbbrand Christian Association. The financial support is distributed in turn as financial aid to Richard Wurmbbrand High School, the Agape Orphanage or to many Christians and their families, most of them now 70 to well into their nineties. Everyone endured many years of communist prison.

Christians helped with your gifts

2.5 years of communist prison for being a Christian



Pozdniakov Nicolae Petrovici

He wrote: "I am the deacon of a formerly persecuted (underground) church in Moscow, Russia. In 1981 I was sentenced to two years of hard labor. I completed this sentence in the most extreme harsh climate of the Siberian Far East, the former Soviet Republic of Buryatia. I was threatened to be shot. The work and prison conditions were so harsh that 15-20 persons died every month. We were producing railway ties. I badly collapsed under one of the burdens placed on my back. In the prison hospital, the doctors proposed I undergo an operation but I refused since I was aware of the (evil) intent of these so-called doctors. The prison authorities placed some poison in my food. Though I refused eating it being suspicious, the little that I ingested gave me 10 days of intense stomach cramps and vomiting. From then on, all I took were some dry crackers and water. Only 13 days prior to be finally freed out of jail, the prison authorities decided resentencing me to a new prison term. Fortunately, the necessary documents did not arrive in time from Moscow and so they had to let me go at the end of the two and a half years sentence I served."

Help for Refugees, PO Box 5161, Torrance, Ca. 90510, USA. Email: hfr@helpforrefugees.com, website: <http://helpforrefugees.com> (EIN: 95-3064521) is listed in Publication 78, Cumulative List of Organizations described in Section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, a list of organizations eligible to receive tax-deductible charitable contributions. May be checked online at: <http://www.irs.gov/app/pub-78/>

Christians helped with your gifts

5.5 & 2 years of communist prison for being a Christian



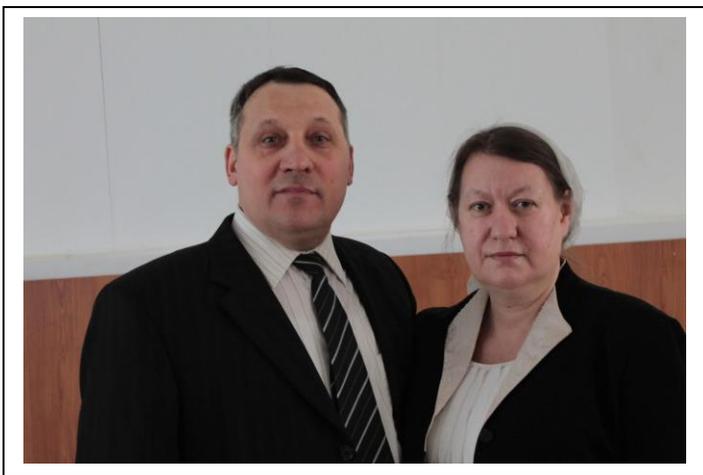
NAPRIENKO, Valentin and Benjamin

Valentin writes: "I was born in 1950 in the city of Donetsk, Ukraine. I was a church member there between 1983 to 1988. Presently I live in a town named Shakhty, Rostov Region, Russia. I served (for my Christian faith) two prison terms under the communist regime in the Soviet Union. The first term was of 2 years' imprisonment between the years 1979-1981 and the second of 3.5 years of prison regimen between 1984 to the end of 1988." Valentin's brother Benjamin was also sentenced to two years of prison. He was imprisoned in the Buryat Republic of the Soviet Union, bordering on the Baikal Lake, thus over 3,500 miles away from home. The entire population in this place is Mongolian. Five minor children remained during his imprisonment period without a father. They were charged with printing underground Christian literature.

"During my second term in prison, one fellow prisoner threatened to kill me but God protected me like through a miracle and nothing bad happened to me. I understood this was a way in which the prison authorities tried scare me. The one who threatened me with death, had himself a grave, almost deadly accident from which he barely came out alive. All those in the know around me, witnessed this incident and understood how God protects His children." In order to punish Benjamin as a Christian, he was imprisoned in the extreme winter weather, during 15 days in an unheated, underground stockade. Freezing and close to death, he had on the 10th day during prayer a revelation that God will free him so he could serve Him. Indeed, on the 11th day, the communists unexpectedly started heating the cell and he fell into a deep sleep. Valentin ends: "We came out to be a witness that God does not abandon His children and our churches have been blessed exceedingly through such Christian testimonies."

Christians and their families helped with your gifts

Spent 4 years in the Soviet communist prisons for her Christian faith. Vilcinskaia – Sapoval Galina



She writes: "(In short, how I ended up imprisoned for the faith.) The church asked me to lead a children's camp named "the Forest Church." Most children in this camp came from families in the Soviet Union whose fathers or mothers had been imprisoned for their Christian faith. The children ages were 9-14. The children in the camp were from all parts of the territory of the Soviet Union.

Sister Vilcinskaia Galina and her husband

(During the Soviet Union intense persecution of Christians, someone published secretly a statistic showing that if all prison sentences given Christians were to be added up, such would exceed 5,000 years of imprisonment. NT)

It was the end of August (1980) and we were in the train station trying to send these children back to different destinations. We were arrested without warning. Together with me, a sister with first name of Lidia and two Christians, Paul and Vladimir Raticov were also arrested. We were given the spurious reason that there had been some theft in that town and authorities need figure out if we were implicated. We were kept in arrest and continuously interrogated during one year and 2 months. We were kept separately. The interrogator told me, and each one of the others as well, "we will free you and spread the rumor that you betrayed the church and the Lord's work." The Raticov brothers were threatened to be sent close to the Arctic Circle in the most remote prison of the Soviet Union, in a region with many polar bears. And it happened just like that. We travelled two months in a prison wagon, but also inside some prison boat. Even one of the military guarding us during this travel, asked us: "what did you do so dangerous that you are being punished with such extreme measures?" Eventually Pavel Raticov was sent to a prison in Tiumen, Soviet Union. This is the first ever populated settlement of Siberia by the border of Kazakhstan. Vladimir was sent to Krasnoiarsk in Siberia and myself in Khabarovsk, by the Sea of Okhotsk, an arm of the Pacific Ocean at the utmost Far East of Russia. While travelling these long stretches I had time to think of many brethren and sisters who were persecuted and banished before us to similar places located so far away. With God's support I finished these 3 years of sentenced prison and returned back to my home from having been more than 7,500 miles away.

This though was not to be the end of my suffering. When I arrived home, I was again asked to present myself to the KGB (communist secret police) quarters. An officer asked me to become an informer. I refused and he threatened me again with prison. On my return back home by train, he fulfilled his threat, since the police found all of a sudden some drugs in my spare coat, without myself being aware of it. Therefore I was arrested and sentenced to two more years of prison. I was freed though after only one year. God blessed us, now that the Soviet Union fell. I have a very good husband, five children and ten grand children. God be praised for everything."