

HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC.

A tax-exempt, non-profit corporation

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We help orphans and elderly Christians (many in their 80s, even 90s) who had been imprisoned for their faith in present or former communist countries.

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



Late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand with wife, Sabina

January 2023

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 third column!)

"Ye have said, It is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts?" (Malachi 3:14)

Late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand spent 14 years in Romanian communist prisons. Mrs. Wurmbrand 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From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand
Godliness is profitable

The Bible is mainly an answer to the question, "what profit is it that we have kept God's ordinance?" Jesus himself asks: "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:26) Saint Paul writes: "Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come." (1 Timothy 4:8)

Christians have a unique source of profit that unbelievers do not have. Unbelievers regard value in terms of money or objects. Saint Paul writes: "We glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope: and hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." Saint Paul describes where are to be located profit and loss when he writes: "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." (Ephesians 6:12)

Neither atheism nor formal Christianity will be profitable for your soul. It is senseless to do anything other than what is profitable from God's point of view.

When the Soviet army invaded Eastern Europe, a Russian officer was lodged in the house of a painter who liked his expressive face and used him as model for a painting. While he worked at it, the model looked at a picture of Jesus crucified and asked what it was? The painter answered briefly, but the Russian officer insisted: "If He was good and wished the salvation of all for eternity, men would surely have taken Him down from the cross in time and cured His wounds."

"Please, don't disturb me in my painting," came the reply. "No, He was not freed. He died on the cross. This is what He was meant to do. He paid the price for our sins. But let us continue our business."

The Russian officer would not be quieted, "How aglow you must be in your love for somebody who brought such a sacrifice for you." The painter put down his brush. He had many times painted Jesus crucified, but he realized now that it had been done without love aglow. The unbeliever who was his model taught him how he must love Christ. This is Godliness. This transforms the crucifixion into a prelude to the glorious resurrection.

Disorder in the family? Losses in business? Ill health? Bereavement? God beautifies your eyes through tears. He honors you with the martyrdom of great temptations. He loves you when you resist. When you fall, He gives you a precious lesson in humility. Fill your house with the incense of prayer. Suffering borne with Godliness is more valuable than the treasures of the world, if we have our eyes riveted toward the eternal profit of bearing the cross of Christ.

Unemployed Christians win souls for heaven while standing in line for food stamps. Poor Christians open the gates of heaven to sinners in the slums in which they live. Bereft Christians witness for Christ in the cemetery and rejoice when they succeed in finding a lost sheep. Hospital beds can be pulpits as useful as those of cathedrals. "All things work together for good to them that love God." (Romans 8:28) This is the reward of Godliness.



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 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!)



Olinik Lydia

A Baptist from Lvov, Ukraine, formerly part of the Soviet Union, had nine children. Her husband Peter, was a preacher who helped print secretly Christian literature. He was convicted to five years imprisonment, was freed after less than 2 years but continued to be fiercely persecuted because he refused to become a KGB (communist secret police) informer.

Read her testimony, in our online 7/2020 Newsletter.



Bitina Stepanovna

Her husband, Alexander was an exceptional specialist in construction engineering. They had nine children. He lost however both his job and housing, because he refused the KGB demand to write a statement denying his faith.

Moreover, he was sentenced to three years of prison for leading a Christian youth gathering.

Read her testimony in our online 7/2020



Galina Dulia

Though just married and pregnant, was sentenced in the (former) Soviet Union to two years imprisonment for having led Sunday School classes.

Read her testimony in our online 8/2020 Newsletter.



Anatol Kirilyuk

From Lugansk, Ukraine in the former Soviet Union, was sentenced to 3 years imprisonment for conducting Sunday School activities. He wrote to us, saluting with verse 17 of Isaiah chapter 54: “No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.”

Read his full testimony in our online 8/2020 Newsletter.

Christian Refugees of the Ukrainian-War Helped with your Gifts!



Sister Chaika Katrina of “The Ark” church wrote:

“I came with 5 children from Kyiv because it was dangerous. We traveled with the minimum number of things and money. In Spain, we asked for help and were accommodated in a small room where we were very comfortable, though bitten by bedbugs. We lived in the city of Burgos for several months, then we moved to the city of Pamplona, where we rent an apartment, but I already have to work a little. In Spain, we experienced difficulties related to ignorance of the Spanish language, stress to adapt to new living conditions, problems with lack of food and clothing. Now we have financial difficulties, instability in work and living. But we are glad that we are safe and there are no bombs flying overhead. We thank God for everything, worry and pray for the end of the war in Ukraine. In the city of Pamplona we visit the Ukrainian church “God's Salvation”, where I serve as a Sunday school teacher for children, we have here a good and loving servant of God Yuriy Nastichenko. We will be very grateful to God and to you, for any help for our family.”

Apartment house destroyed through Russian bombing in Mariupol, Ukraine, where 40% of whole town has been close to obliterated. Over 7 million refugees have escaped Ukraine in the last 6 months.



Brother Takhtaulov Sergey of the "Christ the Savior" church in Balakleya, Ukraine wrote: “At the time of the invasion, my wife and two children were at home, and the three older ones were in Kharkiv. Older Veronika lives there, and Diana and Mark are students. When the city of Kharkiv began to be shelled, our children united and were together in Veronika's apartment. During all these days, I tried to keep in touch with everyone and pray together. A few days later, I learned that a column of Russian troops was approaching our city. I came to a clear understanding that I need to bring my family, but I don't have a personal vehicle. My brother Yuri, also a Christian, came to the rescue. Myself, Oksana, the two younger ones and our mother went to the village to visit relatives - 65 km from Balakleya. Before that, I called the pastor

and the brothers and told them my decision. The next day, several vacuum bombs were dropped on our town. Almost all houses and apartments remained without windows. Some houses have damaged roofs. After that, Russian tanks entered the city. We stayed with Nina's aunt. My cousin and niece are also with her. They don't go to church. Every day we read the Bible together and prayed. Our artillery was firing 25 km from us, battles were going on. One evening at 8:20 p.m., an airstrike was carried out on our village, the plane launched two rockets, we heard their rustling over the house, it was scary, we fell on the floor with the children and prayed together hard, children cried. My youngest daughter Alisa clung to me, I heard how fast her heart was beating from fear. Thank God for His protection. Five houses were damaged, but no one was killed, thank God! We decided to go to the village shelter in the evening. There we met local residents. One evening I started a conversation with them about God and the meaning of life and repentance. This conversation lasted more than two hours, there were about 30 people of different ages.

I gave a New Testament to one guy. Air strikes on neighboring villages became more frequent, the front was approaching us. Our Timofey has diabetes - on insulin, he has been ill for 11 years. Medicine will be needed, test strips for a glucometer will also be needed, money will run out. After two weeks, there was a clear understanding and realization that it was necessary to take the family abroad. And where? It was decided to go to Spain, because our friends from the church live there. From the beginning, our older children left Ukraine for Spain with a group of believers, then a few days later we followed them. On the way to Spain, I had the opportunity to evangelize on a train, at a train station, in hostels. I gave New Testaments to those who wanted them. I thank the Lord for the opportunity to serve Him in any place. It took almost a week to get to Spain. It felt like the Savior was carrying us in His arms. Praise be to Emmanuel!”

Examples of Christian Refugee Families from War-Torn Ukraine, Helped with your Gifts



Olga Cuciurean wrote: “We are a family from Ukraine, from the Chernivtsi region, who has been serving refugees (coming out, after Russia occupied Crimea) since 2014, having meetings with them, teaching and helping as shepherds. Together with my family we tried to help many people, together with refugees we had 25 meetings with them in Chernivtsi until this all-war started.

After this all-war, through the local Hands of Mercy charity fund, we sought to help many people in the war-zone. But lately it has been increasingly difficult because electricity was destroyed in Ukraine and sometimes there is available only

2-3 hours of electricity per day. We also thought of taking refuge with our family in Romania in the city of Bacau. The brethren here, helped us find a house with one of the brothers, so that we could live and serve refugees from Ukraine in Romania. Our family consists of 9 people, husband, wife and 7 children. The eldest is Emma, who studied at a missionary school in Constanta. She was in Ethiopia for 2 months on a mission, and now would like to prepare to go to Tajikistan. The second child is Marius, who studied at the Bible School in Lvov and is now involved in the office work so that we can help the churches in Romania and Ukrainian refugees. He also thinks of establishing himself in the European Union or go to the United States, being only 19 years old. The third child is Elvis who studies at a Bible School in Oradea. We have 4 more minor children: Esther, Iosif, Timotei, Naomi, who are studying at school. Myself, I help in the work with children and where needed. The husband is involved in the work, he is responsible for the work of evangelizing the Ukrainians, planting churches and helping with what we can do further in the Ukraine. We need financial help because with this move, we need buy more things.

There are still refugees living at our house in Chernivtsi, that is, a sister from Slaviansk, another brother from Kyiv, another sister Galina Iaciva, who is sick with cancer. We had to leave the basics at home, so they could use them too. We ask if you could help us as refugees at this time. God bless you.”



From GAVRILIUK Anastasia with son, Oleg, from the Saint Trinity church in Kharkiv, Ukraine: “War is big trouble. We all worry for one’s life and the life of relatives. Sirens that always frighten. Sounds of explosions. During the rocket attack, the windows in the apartment were blown out. We were in the basement at the time. Life without water. We left the apartment and began to flee to western Ukraine. We spent nights in different places. We did not want to leave Ukraine for a long time, but the house is destroyed and there is nowhere to return.

On July 25, we decided to leave Ukraine for Poland and ask for asylum. At the moment, we also live in a family of refugees from Ukraine. Volunteers helped cross the border. We were taken away by bus. At first, more than 2,000 people lived at the center for refugees, and then a Christian family took us in.”

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 4 million have escaped the current war and another 3 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, nearly 1 million Ukrainians have sought refuge 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 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 reliable 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 3 adults and 12 children. Most of these refugees entertain the illusion of taking refuge out of their native country and their lodging and work, for a short 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 this newsletter a few receipts of scores more, documenting what I wrote above. Again, thanks and God Bless. **Michael Wurmbrand**

409	Власенко	Валентин	Медодьевич	1958	Украина
410	Вольф	Андрей	Корнеевич	1958	Казахстан
411	Курикин	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	Бычков	Степан	Павлович	1959	Украина
417	ДРИСВЯННИКОВ	АЛЕКСАНДР	АЛЕКСАНДРОВИЧ	1959	Россия
418	СКВОРЦОВА	ЛЮБОВЬ	НИКОЛАЕВНА	1959	Россия
419	Варавин	Виталий	Федотович	1959	Россия
420	Дубицкий	СЕРГЕЙ	АДАМОВИЧ	1959	Россия
421	Ляшенко	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
430	Миняков	Павел	Дмитриевич	1962	Эстония

Above, a **sample only** of a long 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 most likely 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 obtain 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 of 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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