

HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC.

A tax-exempt, non-profit corporation

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Late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand with wife, Sabina

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"And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God ... all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee... Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body..."

(Deuteronomy 28:1-4)

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

From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand

Are Your Children Blessed?

SOLZHENITSYN, the Russian writer and Nobel prize winner expelled by the Soviet government relates the story of the Russian couple LESHTSHEV, who had been imprisoned for their Christian faith. They left children behind. He describes how these children grew up richly blessed because their parents hearkened to the voice of God even when it meant suffering. The children also had the privilege of being imprisoned for their belief in Christ. This was their blessing, which once more was multiplied.

All their children were sent to communist concentration camps for their adherence to Christ. All, except a daughter named ZOIA, who was ten years old. She was put in a communist foster-home for children to be re-educated. There she declared that she would never part with the cross her mother put around her neck just before leaving the house in handcuffs. To be very sure that the Reds would not take the cross away from her while she slept, she bound the chain very tightly around her neck. Considered incurable, ZOIA was sent to a home for retarded children. Here she continued the fight for her cross and for the Savior whom it symbolized. When other children tried to teach her to blaspheme and steal, she answered, "A holy woman like my mother should not have a criminal child." She brought to faith several of her schoolmates.

As in any school, there was the statue of STALIN in the yard. In a childish manner, the children wrote on it their opinion about this ruling criminal and their homage to Christ. Then the children proceeded to smash the head of the statue of this greatest terrorist in history, who killed countless millions of innocent men, women and children in his lust for power. The Soviet secret police, the KGB, were alarmed. Declaring it a "terrorist act" the KGB demanded: "Denounce the criminal! If not, all 150 children will be shot." ZOIA LESHTSHEVA came forward: "I alone have done it! Why should STALIN have a head if he never had loving, righteous, compassionate thoughts?" She had a special blessing promised by God children of faithful parents. She was sentenced to death at the age of 14. Her sentence was changed to 10 years of prison. At the end of this long prison term, another was added. Her parents and brethren had long since been free while she continued to enjoy God's blessings in prison.

Which is God's highest blessing? When we read in the Bible that blessings are promised to children of the faithful, some of us expect a good material position, a happy marriage, high degrees and positions of honor. But the Bible never deceives us about what is understood by the Christian word "blessings." Lord Jesus said, "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake." (Matthew 5:10-11)

Christians know only one sadness - not to be saints. They have one suffering - not to share enough the sufferings of Christ and their fellowmen. When sorrows are given to their children because they have the right attitude in life, Christians rejoice and count them as blessings. Obviously not everyone has to go to prison for his faith. Free Christians have to remember those like ZOIA LESHTSHEVA who are in bonds, AS BOUND WITH THEM. (Hebrews 13:3). They weep with those who weep. They pray for them. They fight for their freedom, they help in a practical manner, they call upon others in their church to do the same.

There are many examples like Zoya, of Christian children who followed their parent's life of faith and sacrifice, in conditions of extreme hardship. Brother Razumovskii Alexander was only 13 when his father Razumovskii Evghenii, a preacher of the underground Baptist church in the Soviet Union, was sentenced for his underground Christian activities to four years of prison. Undeterred his son Alexander started being active in the secret Christian publishing house named "Krestianin" (the Christian) and printed and spread tens of thousands of New Testaments and even magazines containing information on the thousands of Christians persecuted by the KGB, the communist secret police. As a result, Alexander was also arrested, sentenced to two years of communist prison, serving his term 1,500 miles away from his home town, working in terrible cold in a slave labor camp. Alexander continued his underground Christian work as soon as freed from prison.

Another Russian Baptist minister Muhin Alexander was also sentenced to five years of jail for leading underground Christian work. At his trial he rose his voice in his defense shouting loudly, "Even if I were broken into pieces, I would never leave my faith in God". The communist judges were stunned though, when his son, present at his father's trial, threw a large bouquet of flowers in his father's direction and tried to complete his father's words by shouting aloud: "And my

place in the work of God, will be occupied by my sons." The communist judges ordered the whole court-hall emptied.

We could learn something from the 10 years old Russian Christian girl Zoia. I preached in the University of the Philippines. Though the Communists are a small minority there, they had filled halls and corridors with their hateful slogans and pictures of LENIN and other rogues like him. In the presence of hundreds of students, I tore down the biggest picture of LENIN. Communists jumped to beat me while the Christians took my defense. They knew that an angel had ordered Gideon to throw down the altar of Baal, a heathen deity (Judges 6:25.) The Christian students passed from defense to offensive and many souls were won.

The time has come for Christians to overthrow in universities and colleges the tables with the poisonous books of Communist propaganda, which are far more dangerous to souls than the tables of money changers in the temple that Jesus overthrew. ZOIA cut off the head of the statue of STALIN and wrote on it her faith. So, she received the blessing of passing decades in prison for the Lord. Learn from her. Do you observe all the commandments of the Lord? Do you prepare real blessings for your children?

In my country, communist Romania, Szilagi Sandor, a pastor in the reformed (Calvinist) church of the city of Pancota, was arrested in 1958 and sentenced for his underground Christian activity to 18 years of hard labor. He had been a minister for 22 years. During his interrogation, the communist officers in order to pressure him in betraying the church, asked him at length of the activities of his son, Imre. Pastor Sandor answered, "he loves the Savior Jesus, exactly like his dad." One of the officers made a grim joke: "then let's arrest him as well." The father unafraid answered: "If God gave His only Son to die for us, I am ready to sacrifice my son."

Do you prepare for your children only earthly possessions, fun, enjoyment, good careers or do you think primarily about preparing for them highest blessings: to be partakers of Christ's passion? It is not enough to bring children to Sunday school and church or to have devotions with them in the home. They must learn to understand the real sense of being a Christian, which is to be a cross bearer, one who looks upon suffering for God's truth as joy.



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)

Disadvantaged Children and Orphans Helped with Your Gifts!



Lunch at Agape Orphanage, Pascani, Romania

In November 2018, a mission donor, visited and brought help to the Christian Agape Orphanage in Pascani, Romania, founded in 1993 by late Pastor Richard Wurmbbrand and his wife Sabina, presently under the leadership of Christians, Carmen and her husband Dorin Gavrila. <http://www.orphanageagaperomania.com>

On the internet you may find that Romania is at the top of poverty in the European Union. Just the maintenance in an apartment block is \$100-\$150/month.

Because Romania is part of the European Union the price of food is at the European level.

Therefore, we help orphanages with money so the orphans can eat properly. Please bring this to the knowledge of your own church members. Many in the former Soviet Union space, in the Ukraine and smaller villages in Russia “live” on \$50/month. Besides our regular help we also sent financial help in November and December for Christmas, specifically in hand to over 100 formerly imprisoned Christians in territories that used to be behind the communist Iron Curtain. This is not a matter of a simple remittance of money. Many of these Christians live in Russia at the Arctic Circle, in villages close to the Mongolian border or in the far-outreaches of Siberia, by the Pacific Ocean. The Soviet government as a matter of propaganda, had on the books, the right for families to visit imprisoned members. However, to torture more these Christians, they placed many prisoners whose families resided in Western Russia, in the Ukraine or in the Republic of Moldova, in such faraway places in Siberia, so it would turn out very inconvenient for a family visit. They also ended up banished after their prison terms, many having no choice but continuing their life in such faraway places. You can read the testimonies of many Christians now advanced in age in their 80s and 90s, who suffered long years for their Christian faith in communist prisons. Access our newsletter at above website <http://helpforrefugees.com> (see third column.)

Some pictures of Christians Imprisoned for the Faith, Now Helped with your Gifts!



Mikhail Pshenitsyn,
5 years in Soviet Jails
See 2/2017 Newsletter



Petru Rumatchik
18 years in Soviet Jails
See 12/2016 Newsletter



Liubovoi Uhina
3 years in Soviet Jails
See 1/2017 Newsletter



Stephen Ghermaniuk
7½ years in Soviet Jails
See 1/2017 Newsletter

Shining Examples of Christian Faith



10 months Labor Camp for belonging to the Underground Church

Atanasoai Neculai

He wrote: “I was born in a village called Zanesti in the Neamt county, Romania, son of Neculai and Trandafira. I was a member of the Army of the Lord since being 16. I worked in a weaving factory since being 15 in Buhusi until I was pensioned. In 1958 I was drafted in the regular army. After 14 months my superior found out I was a Christian from the Army of the Lord Christian movement. They let me go home for 2 months only to draft me again, this time in the forced labor detachments (in lieu of the regular army) in a labor camp-building site Braila-Chiscani where I was kept for 10 months. I married in 1961 and had 8 children. I was constantly followed by the secret police. In 1984 at a church gathering in a locality called Podoleni-Neamt, the secret police came and asked me to present myself at the police headquarters. Officer Neacsu asked me to become an informer but I refused. They threatened me, searched my home, and my place of work, was criticized in an open meeting mock trial and was asked to renounce to my membership in the Army of the Lord movement. I was persecuted till the anti-communist revolution of 1989.”

HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC. has extended for the past 40 years, 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 are the Agape Orphanage in Pascani and the Richard Wurmbrand College, an Evangelical and accredited high school in Iasi, Romania where many children of disadvantaged families are able to study. See <http://helpforrefugees.com>. Anyone may use a “DONATE” button on site.



Family with Five Children Incurs Heavy Fines for Holding Christian Underground Meeting

Aursulesei Ioan

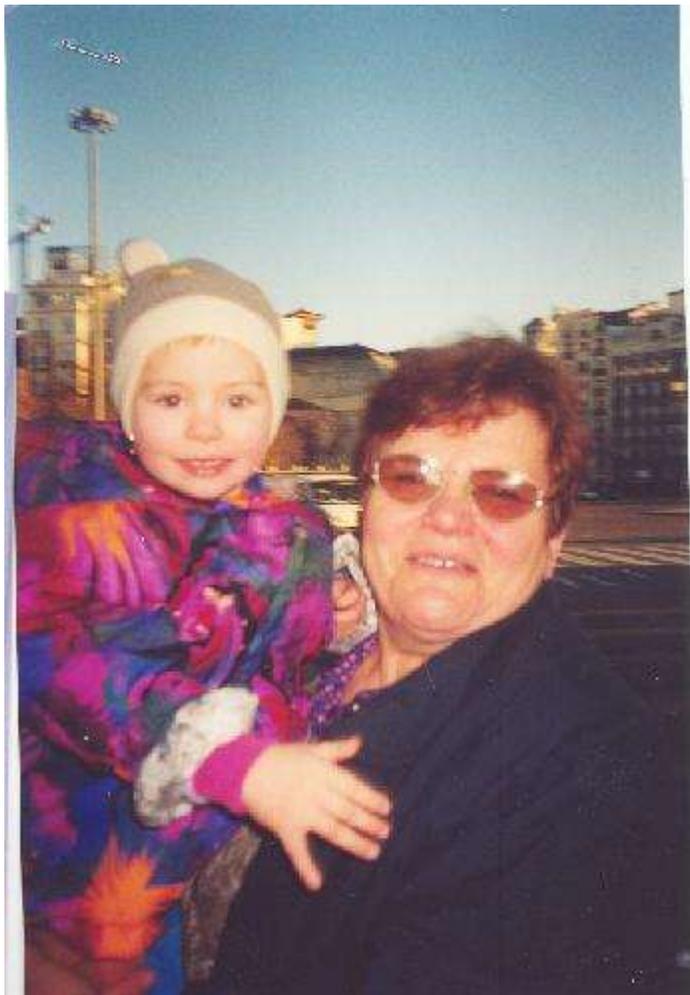
He wrote: “I was born in Roznov, Slobozia village, Neamt county, Romania. I was since my youth active in the Army of the Lord movement. During Communism we held underground church meetings. Because of my youth, courage and dedication, the communist authorities noticed me.

“On 1/7/1971, in the afternoon, during one such underground meeting the secret police came and fined us with 100 lei to 5,000 lei fines. (Translator’s Note: His income at that time, having a family with five children, was around 800 lei/month.) I got the 5,000 lei fine since I was the house-owner. The communist police confiscated my possessions, an accordion, a tape recorder, Bibles and religious books.

“I paid the 5,000 lei by having my salary garnished and the deductions paid directly to the secret police. Afterwards I was detained and interrogated daily. They made a file and forwarded it to start a case against me. On 9/14/1971 being arrested during a Christian burial service, the police took me to the local cultural house, I underwent a public mock trial of 3 hours for being a “social parasite” and for “disturbance of public order” according to the (communist) law No. 153. Though they let me go, the persecutions as described above continued. After the anti-communist revolution which took place in the last days of the year 1989, I tried to obtain my secret police file without success.”

Christians Helped with Your Gifts

Faithful Christian Children



Sister Ileana Russ wrote: “I am from Batiz, Romania, the daughter of Petru Popa who was sentenced to 12 years of (Communist) prison for religious activity in the Evangelical movement the Army of the Lord. I was 13 years old only when my father was arrested. I remained with my mother and 2 brothers. I had it very difficult since our possessions were seized, we were not allowed to continue in schools as we were the children of a political prisoner, an “enemy” of the people. God helped us to go through hard to describe difficulties with the help of my mother’s faith who was a rare soul. We, as children, were told by communist authorities, not to follow the “superstitions” of our parents, but I elected to follow my parents on the faith path. The Lord helped me not to stray from His path till now. I am desirous to continue in faith to arrive to the proper heavenly reward.

“What great grace that His promises are always fulfilled when He says,” I will never leave you, I will never abandon you.” We thank you for all our heart and his blessings should fill your lives so you do not miss anything good. With all the love in the Lord. Praise be the Lord.”

409	Власенко	Валентин	Медведевич	1958	Украина
410	Вольф	Андрей	Корнеевич	1958	Казахстан
411	Куркин	АЛЕКСЕЙ	ЯКОВЛЕВИЧ	1958	Россия
412	Левен	НИКОЛАЙ	ВИКТОРОВИЧ	1958	Казахстан
413	Романов	Владимир	Николаевич	1958	Украина
414	Тигген	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	НИКОЛАЙВНА	1959	Россия
419	Варович	Виталий	Федотович	1959	Россия
420	Дубицкий	СЕРГЕЙ	АДАМОВИЧ	1959	Россия
421	Лашенко	Борис	Владимирович	1959	Украина
422	Ташенко	ИВАН	ИВАНОВИЧ	1959	Казахстан
423	МАРЧЕНКО	Станислав	Павлович	1960	Украина
424	Донченко	Александр	Максимович	1960	Украина
425	Спмаков	Венедикт	Александрович (Валерианов)	1960	Узбекистан
426	Савченко	Михаил	Михайлович	1960	Эстония
427	Федеева (ШВЕЦОВА)	ДИНА	ВЛАДИМИРОВНА	1961	Австрия
428	ШВЕЦОВА	АННА	ВЛАДИМИРОВНА	1962	Австрия
429	Богородице	Александр	Валериевич	1962	Эстония
430	Миников	Павел	Дмитриевич	1962	Эстония

Christians Helped with your Gifts!

Above, a sample of a list, our mission was able to compile, of over 480 elderly Baptist Christians who suffered for their 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 fourth column shows year of birth and the 5th, present 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 help to about 70 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 at:

<http://helpforrefugees.com>.

Help for Refugees, Inc. 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 Nonprofit Organizations described in Section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Service.

Gifts to Help for Refugees are tax-deductible.