

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 Wurmbbrand with wife, Sabina

February 2023

Announcement:

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

**"And all the brethren which are with me,"
(Galatians 1:2)**

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 communist prisons.

From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand
WE ARE NOT ALONE

St. Paul had decided to write an instructive letter to a church. What he wrote down was the eternal Word of God which would serve to the edification of Christians unto the end of the world. In such a case you don't write your own opinion. You unite with all your brethren. There exists a faith **for all** which was once delivered to the saints: the faith held, by all brethren always and everywhere. Only in communion with all the saints does one become able to deliver everlasting truth. Therefore, St. Paul wrote his letter to the Galatians together "with all the brethren who were **with**" him.

We are presenting Christ to the leftist world in Western Europe. We are counteracting Communism in America and many countries around the world. We are not alone. We do that with all the Christian brethren around us. Who are they? The One on whom St. Paul relied most was his brother, Jesus. In Him we trust. Praised be His holy name. Jesus is with us!

Apostle Peter wrote: "For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount." (2nd Peter 1:16-18)

The Bible saith, "seeing we also are encompassed about with a great cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1). It should not be an unusual thing with Christians to live really in communion with saints. It should not be difficult to be in communion with those who compass about us. In some circumstances you could see them.

It is said in a biography of St. John Chrysostom, the greatest preacher Christianity has ever known, that when he wrote his sermons a Christian saw St. Paul and St. John standing near him whispering ideas in his ear. Those who have become children can believe this story. I personally had similar experiences when imprisoned in communist Romania for more than 2 years in solitary confinement. These experiences are not spoken about often because talk would show that we do not believe the miraculous to be "the normal" in Christian life, that we do not believe the communion of saints is an everyday experience.

Not only the brethren who are alive around us but the glorified saints are with us. John Panko, dead as a result of nine years of hard labor in a Communist prison camp in Siberia; Hmara of Kulunda, the underground pastor who was killed in Siberia by torture, his tongue cut out; Lamdin, Vins, martyrs for Christ. Bishop Welychkowsky together with several others, killed in communist Soviet prisons; Bondarenko, considered a Ukraine's Billy Graham, also killed; Bishop Frentiu, Bishop Suciú killed in communist Romanian prisons; millions of other Christians martyred by the Communists; These heroic witnesses for Christ compass about us. Who is vain enough to believe they encompass us solely for the pleasure of looking at us? Their example inspires us. St. Paul knowing the brethren who were with him knew that he did not write simple words when he greeted the brethren in Galatia but that he imparted spiritual realities.



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!)



Rodin Vladimir Pavlovich

A Baptist minister, now deceased, from Vyksa in the former Soviet Union, about 300 miles east of Moscow. Countless times Vladimir Pavlovich was fined for preaching the gospel, he was also repeatedly detained for 15 days terms. He was convicted and suffered three years imprisonment. **Read his wife's full testimony in our online 9/2020 Newsletter.**



Pavlov Alexey Ivanovich

He wrote: “myself and others were sentenced to two years of prison (for holding home prayer meetings) in the (former) Soviet Union. A close neighbor, after many years, confessed that he had betrayed me and asked for forgiveness. God gave me the strength to preach to my persecutors and to those who were imprisoned with me.” **Read his testimony in our online 9/2020 Newsletter.**



Deme Maria

Though not under a prison sentence, Ms. Deme requested with tears in her eyes to be deported in communist Romania together with the wife of late Reverend Visky Ferencz and their 7 small children. Pastor Visky had been sentenced to 22 years of communist prison for organizing a prayer-group called “Betania.” **Read about her in our online 9/2020 Newsletter.**



Vasiliy Makarovich Aleksandr

A deacon in a Baptist church. He served two prison terms of 3 years each in the city of in Debaltsevo, former Soviet Union, for conducting underground Christian Sunday schools in the former Soviet Union. **Read his son's full testimony in our online 10/2020 Newsletter.**

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



The **Family Tuzenko** wrote: “We woke up from strong explosions near our village at 5 in the morning. People ran out into the street in horror and realized that a full-scale invasion of Ukraine had begun, the military unit that was near us was destroyed by Russian missiles. We gathered our things and realized that we had to leave the country. Since we don't have a car, it was very difficult for our large family to find tickets for the train going west of Ukraine to the Polish border. Then we crossed the border on foot, where we were met by Polish volunteers. Now we live in Spain (Torrent), but we do not receive any financial aid, so we are asking for your help. Thank you in advance!”

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.



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



From brother Sasha Melnyk: "We had to flee to Poland because we were afraid and the children were crying that the Chechens would come and abuse us. We left and lost our jobs and housing because the apartment was not ours, we rented it and now other people live there."

The children were scared and cried all the time. My children and I walked 6 km to the customs office under the gates, and asked the drivers to take them to Poland. We were not able to take things with us because we were walking, we only took documents and food for the trip. The youngest child is 4 years old and had to carry her most of the time in our arms. At the customs, the Ukrainian border guard put them in a minibus, where small children and women were taken, because the drivers (of large buses) did not want to take them because all the buses were already full, there was not enough oxygen in the bus, and it was difficult to stand for a day in an overcrowded bus. 5 people were sitting on one seat.

Many relatives remained in Ukraine. Not everyone left, I am very worried about them, especially now that winter is coming. When we arrived in Poland, we had nowhere to live, we lived in a house in one tiny room, four of us with one bed, because refugees also lived in other rooms, we took turns washing and preparing food for everyone.

Because of the difficult journey to Poland, my children and I caught colds and fell ill. In Poland, it is difficult to get to a doctor, I traveled from one hospital to another with sick

children because not everyone accepts them for some reason. I couldn't work for the first 3 month. There was no kindergarten, they were overcrowded and the children were sick again and again.

Poland accepts refugees well, thank God. But this is not one's own land, it is a foreign land, everything is foreign here, and various difficulties often arise due to lack of knowledge of the language."

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



“Since the beginning of the war, on February 24, our family was at home: in Kyiv, in my parents' apartment. Our Obolon district is located quite close to the highway that leads to Gostomel, Bucha, Irpen, Gorenka - precisely those cities that suffered a lot from the Russian aggressor in those terrible days.

Already from the first hours of the invasion by the (Russian) invaders, we all began to feel the constant loud shelling of enemy artillery and the work of our Ukrainian air defense systems. Only thanks to the Lord, we remained intact. At the end of the first week, two armored vehicles full of Ukrainian, Russian, and Chechen special forces broke through our checkpoints from Gostomel. They tried to get to the center of Kyiv through Obolon, but they were detained by our Teroboron fighters just at the exit from Obolon. Soon in the night we heard one of the loudest explosions nearby. And in the morning, they learned that around 3:00 a.m. a cruise missile was flying towards the dam of the Kyiv Electric Power Station, which, fortunately, was shot down by our anti-aircraft defenses. The goal of this enemy attack was the destruction of the dam of the Kyiv thermal power plant and the flooding of a huge area of

Kyiv and the region. We all constantly prayed and praised God for His protection and mercy towards us. And they clearly felt His presence. Sometimes, in addition to family home prayers, we managed to conduct several online prayer services with the leaders of our and other churches. Permanent groups of volunteers have already begun to form, in which my wife and I planned to take an active part.

But I saw that our children suffer from constant fear and stress. If we, adults, managed to deal with it for some time, then with regard to our boys (11, 14 and 17 years old) - we really did not want to allow them to develop psychosis and panic consequences in the future.

On the night of March 5-6, after several heavy shelling and a battle of our soldiers with saboteurs on our street, I clearly felt that I had to immediately take my family to Western Ukraine. Our alarming suitcases, as required, had long been packed, and I immediately turned to the familiar volunteers of the "Blagodat" church, pastor Oleg Bogomaz, with a request to take us to the point from where we can head to Western Ukraine. We took with us only toiletries, essentials and food for the first time. My parents, unfortunately, refused to go with us, because, as my father emphasized, they are already very old - they are both 83 years old, and they want to stay in their home until the end.

So, on the morning of March 6, our family left Kyiv. Volunteers and ministers offered us some direction and we, without arguing, agreed with faith and drove, not knowing where, but accepting it as God's guidance. Thus, we miraculously "flew" unscathed on a small bus along the enemy-fired Zhytomyr highway, through numerous roadblocks and holes in the road from shells. And already in the evening they reached Lutsk, where they had never been before and did not know anyone there. The ministers of one of the churches in Lutsk welcomed us in a private house, where our children immediately "fitted in" to their large family (8 children), like best friends. A day later, after communicating and researching the proposals in messengers, we felt God's driving to go to Krakow, from where our friends from the Church of the Grace of Christ responded, who once served with us in the Church of the Tabernacle in the Seminary in Puszka-Wodyka. And on the night of March 7-8, we crossed the border on foot (we never had a car), spent the night in large military tents on the border, and with the help of Polish volunteers, reached Krakow. We still live here and serve in the same church that received us on March 9 and provided everything we needed at that time. Sons study at a Polish school. We rent a 2-room apartment under a contract. Currently, my wife and I are working as music workers in a children's club for children of Ukraine. Every month we wait for the Lord's mercy in solving our financial and material issues. Therefore, we will be very grateful to you for your kindness and help, especially at this Christmas time. Sincerely, the family of Serhiy and Olesya Zakatyur”

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	Мефодьевич	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	ДРИСВЯНИКОВ	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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