

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!



March 2024

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!)

"Jesus saith, 'Whosoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.' Then He asks Martha, 'Do you believe this?' She saith unto Him, 'Yea, Lord,'" (John 11:26-27).

Late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand suffered.
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From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand

BELIEF MEANS "JESUS IS THE CHRIST!"

For the mortals at end of each year another year has passed, not so for the immortals. Christians know that they will never die. This body will pass away, as the bodies which we had as babies, as children, as young men, have passed away. The body of a caterpillar passes away in order that the same being might have the body of a butterfly. The body of a seed passes away, that the same being should get the body of a flower. This body will pass away so that we might have a Christlike nature. But we will never die.

You attain immortality simply by saying "Yes, Lord" to the claim of Jesus, by simply believing like Martha that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God which had to come into the world.

But hundreds of millions of men do not know this Name above every name. To millions it has not been proclaimed yet at all or they might have heard about it in a distorted manner, which made them not love Him. How will they become immortals?

The greatest gift which a man can give to his fellow man is unlimited possibilities. You can make a man an immortal, who will no longer melancholically count the passing of years, by bringing him to the faith in Christ.

Christians have been awakened in many countries of the Free World. Hundreds of thousands pray now for the martyred church, but also- as Christ has taught – for those who torture them. The visions of Christians in prayer have been enlarged. Innumerable churches in the USA and all over the world are praying now in their religious services for their persecuted, even imprisoned brethren living under Communist dictatorship and for the conversion of the Communist dictators. Children would not go to bed without praying thus. The demon of acquiescence to the torture of brethren has suffered a defeat!

God fulfills prayers. The Underground Church in many oppressed nations has decided to put aside every Friday for prayer and fasting. They ask for strength to bear the persecution and they pray for the conversion of their Communist torturers. We ask Christians in the Free World to take up the same practice. A minister from a communist country smuggled out a letter that reads: “The One who has given you the thought to help us, may fill you with the Holy Spirit. And as much as you cannot contain of the Holy Spirit may overflow to others around you!”

Prayer is the most powerful weapon, because in Communism we must do it not with flesh and blood. We fight against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. (Ephesians 6:12) Spiritual evil forces appear in the disguise of nonbelief, of evil beliefs, of various addictions or outright lies.

The Greek philosopher Plato said rightly that if the Wicked One would not appear in the disguise of good, he would not be the Wicked One. One of the main attributes of wickedness would be missing: hypocrisy. The angels of darkness disguise themselves as angels of light. They make the appeal for peace, for a peace which would assure the unrestrained expansion of the domination of evil.

Demonic forces are at work. Let us pray unceasingly against them. The Bible saith that the Son of Perdition will sit in the temple of God. (II Thessalonians 2:3-4) Not to expose him means not to fulfill your duty toward the sincere but naive worshippers. We ask Christians in the Free World to fight against communist infiltration in churches. Fight the infiltration of communist, atheistic ideas among young people. In one of the rallies a radical communist student said: “I am rebelling against the American way-of-life. I asked my father what life is? He answered that to live means to study, to get a job, to grow old and retire and then to die. I find such a life stupid.” We need tell this young generation about Christ whose disciples will resurrect!



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!)



POPA Elena

Her father, **Mihai Nicolae**, had been sentenced to 10 years of jail for his faith, for Christian activity in former communist Romania. He had 8 children. Her sister STAN Valerica wrote: "In our thoughts and prayer we direct ourselves to those who have the heart to help and prop up those in need." **Read her testimony in our online 9/2015 Newsletter.**



PREDA Iovita

whose father was sentenced because of his fearless Christian activity, to 7 years of prison in former communist Romania. He suffered in the prisons of Aiud, Gherla, (where Reverend Richard Wurmbrand was also imprisoned at the same time, NT) and Jilava. **Read his testimony in our online 9/2015 Newsletter.**



STEPANESCU Victoria

widow of Stepanescu Ilie. She wrote: "My late husband was sentenced in 1959 to 9 years of jail just for being a Christian member of the Army of the Lord church. I remained alone without any support, to raise three children. The communists took away our home." **Read her testimony in our online 9/2015 Newsletter.**



VASIU Lidia

wrote: "I am the daughter of Gheorghe Chis who suffered 5 years inhumane imprisonment for the faith in the prisons of Gherla, and the Danube River Delta in former communist Romania. **Read her testimony in our online 10/2015 Newsletter.**



Testimonies of Christian refugee Families. Read their testimony on next page!
Ukrainian Refugee family of Andrii Yezerskyi, wife Anastasia and their three children.

TESTIMONY OF ANDRII YEZERSKYI

My family and I lived in the city of Kharkiv. I worked as an industrial constructor, and my wife started working as a realtor. My wife and I served in the church as part of the charity team, fed people on the street and preached the gospel at the "New Generation" Church, where Anton Andreevich Tyshchenko was the pastor. On February 24, 2022, my family and I woke up to explosions, not knowing what to do. There was also panic on the street, as people were running with suitcases, preparing to run somewhere. At that time, my wife Anastasia was five months pregnant. Our two little daughters were huddled nearby with fear in their eyes. The eldest daughter Esfira was seven years old, the second daughter Eve was three years old. I called a friend, asked what was the matter, and he explained to me that Russia had attacked us and was bombing our city, that the streets were crowded with people leaving in panic, gas stations were overflowing with queues, and many people were dying. My wife and I decided to stay put and prepare to meet the war where it would find us. We packed an anxious suitcase, we put a children's sofa behind the second wall where there were no windows. They slept dressed, when they were alarmed, they ran down to the basement, where they had left the most necessary things in advance. This is how we lived for eight days, seeing how in our yard people were injured and killed by the shells that Russia fired in our direction. And since we lived on the outskirts of the city, these eight days of shelling practically did not end. On the eighth day of our arrival under fire, we were at home and observed the corner of two walls. Suddenly I felt a strong anxiety inside me and I immediately began to pray to God, and after a temporary prayer I felt peace in my heart. I went to the toilet, and my wife was sitting with two children behind the wall, reading a book to the children. Suddenly I felt the floor shaking under my feet accompanied by a loud explosion, I couldn't even get out of the toilet as shrapnel was pounding on the wall for about two minutes and I had the impression that our apartment was being shelled from a machine gun. As soon as everything quieted down, I ran out into the hallway, where my girls were sitting, my wife covered our two children with her body, holding them with all her might. I asked if everyone was alive and well, to which the answer was that everything was good. After that, we quickly got dressed and, slowly listening to each shot, moved towards the basement. We spent the night there. In the morning we came out of the basement, it was cold. In our 16-story building, two floors from above collapsed, windows and doors in the entire house were blown out, water was running from the broken pipes from above. The back-window of our car was blown off by the explosion. We fished some things out of the water and went to the Church, where we spent the night and decided to leave Kharkov. We were advised to go by train, as some cars came under fire on the way. We arrived at the station, where, as in a horror movie, thousands of people with horror on their faces were trying to get on the train. Nastya says "I can't stand this crowd," and we decided to take a chance and go by car, covering the blown glass with a transparent plastic.

During an entire day we could drive only 120 miles, all day shaking and praying at each explosion. There were checkpoints on the road, soldiers with machine guns checking our documents. Our heads could not contain the whole terrifying picture of what was happening, the children were hiding all the time, holding on to the windows of the car with fear in their eyes after what they had experienced. We arrived in Dnipro, where my aunt lived. She fed us and we felt relatively safe. The next day, my wife felt sick and had a high temperature. An ambulance arrived and took her to the hospital. It turned out to be inflammation of the kidneys. A couple of days later, the eldest daughter was also hospitalized with otitis media. I had a temperature of 40 degrees Celsius, my youngest daughter was poisoned. After we recovered, we left for Chernivtsi, where we lived for 5 months before giving birth. We had another daughter, Ruth. We went to Romania to the town of Radautsi, where we were preparing visas to go to Canada. There we met Pastor Konstantin, who sent us to the city of Galati to serve Ukrainian refugees at the center. We have been serving here for 6 months. We conduct services in our native language. The program by which we received money and paid for the apartment is closed. At the same time, we have not received money for food for three months. We used up all our reserves, which we brought with us from Ukraine, and now we need financial support. May God bless you for your open heart.

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

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



**Testimonies of
Christian Refugee-Families from War-Torn Ukraine, Helped with your Gifts!**



Sister HAVRILIUK Anastasiia wrote: “Good day! This is a brief history of what the war did. From the very beginning, it brought tears, fear, pain and loss. Children were afraid, often cried in panic. They hid in cold basements from shelling. An uncle died from an explosion. After one of the rockets exploded nearby and the explosion blew out the windows, we realized that we had to flee. We left everything we had and started a long journey. It was a difficult road. They stopped for the night in churches. Volunteers helped us and we were able to leave in three days. At first, we lived in a refugee center. Then I was able to apply for child support and with this money we rented a one-room apartment. One of the children is ill and needs treatment. Due to lack of knowledge of the language and lack of funds, it is difficult to treat her. But often God gives people who support. It is exceedingly difficult to do all this in a foreign country and without relatives. But God does not leave. If you can help, we will be very grateful. So, we received your help. I received the money. It was a great support for me. I cannot work, I have to be with the children. We live thanks to the fact that God has good people, and they help us. From time to time, we receive food products from the church. Still, there is very little money.”

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 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 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 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	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

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 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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