

HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC.

A tax-exempt, non-profit corporation

Michael Wurmbbrand, President

Tel. (310) 544-0814, Fax: (310) 377-0511.

PO Box 5161, Torrance, Ca. 90510, USA.

Email: hfr@helpforrefugees.com; Website: <http://helpforrefugees.com>

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



MAY 2020

“For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood.”

(Hebrews 7:14)

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From an Unpublished Bible Meditation by Late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand

Who are God's Ordained Priests?

Too much depressing news falls on everyone's ears daily: hunger, oppression, pestilence, troubles throughout the whole world. Neither political- nor church-leaders are able to cope with the many crises. Our purpose in writing is not to bring more shadow into your hearts. None of us is a world ruler. We cannot cause the situation of mankind to be other than what it is, nor is this our calling. Still, each of us can do some helpful, positive things. We can contribute a prayer, a good word, a loving thought, a generous deed to make the world sunnier.

There are two extremes in the spiritual battle in which we all get involved. At one extreme there is a Satanic priesthood which seized power under communism promoting the ideas of Karl Marx. Red China with a population of 1.3 billion is only one of many countries where the terrorizing ideas of Karl Marx were put in application. This priesthood reigns with terror. In my book "WAS KARL MARX A SATANIST?" I have shown that Marx, the founder of modern Communism was a high priest of the Satanist sect, whose avowed aim was to enter into the eternal abyss, drawing all mankind after him and mocking it as he succeeded. He wrote that it was his ideal to have a throne built on human horror. He has seen his desire fulfilled.

Communists not only rule the bodies of men but master their minds as well. Many hundreds of millions of MAO's writings have appeared in Chinese, while Christians in the Free World would

consider it a big success to smuggle a few hundred Bibles into that huge nation. Neither the VATICAN, the WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, nor the many fundamentalist or charismatic conventions ever had even a prayer for these people at their meetings. Meanwhile the Communists succeed in spreading Satanic poison and hatred of God even as MAO hated Him. In many atheistic indoctrination classes in the Soviet Union, 4th through 6th graders were named "The Little Devils" while 7th graders were officially called, "Servants of the Devil!" In another school the 8th graders have the name "The Faithful children of the Devil," and so on. At their meetings the children came clothed as devils with horns and tails. The Soviet dictator STALIN's daughter, SVETLANA ALLILUYEVA, who never learned about the depth of Satan, wrote, "BERIA (the Soviet minister of Interior Affairs) was bound with our family with a DEVILISH bond," "BERIA was a frightening, wicked DEMON"; "A terrible DEMON had taken possession of my father's soul"; "He considered goodness and all-forgiving love to be worse than the greatest crime." (quoted from "Twenty Letters to a Friend," Doubleday) Such a Satanic priesthood rules over more than half of mankind, and it orders terrorist acts in many countries of the Free World.

On the other extreme are God's priests. There is much theological discussion about priesthood. Must it have apostolic succession? Where has it been kept, in Catholic or in Orthodox churches? Are the ordinations of the treacherous priests in Communist countries, who are stooges of the Reds, valid? Those who assisted the bishop in ordaining me gave later accusatory statements against me to the Communists. Did their laying of hands consecrate me? What difference does it make if a bishop who denies the deity of Christ and the inspiration of the Bible ordains a man or a woman? In both cases I believe the best thing to do after being ordained by such a man is to wash your head. Is the ordination done in the free churches, by a born-again believer proper? If so, by which free church? In Israel there was a legitimate priesthood to which all descendants of Aaron belonged by birth. Every theologian and everyone learned in the law of Moses would have laughed at the assertion that Jesus of Nazareth could be a priest. He was not a descendant of Aaron nor of the Levites, the only ones entitled to this profession. But Jesus is a priest "not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life." (Heb. 7:16) The penitent thief on Golgotha spontaneously became a priest and taught the Word of God, while the legitimate priests mocked The Crucified. Now also there are men with priestly hearts among the clergy and the laity of all denominations. The enemies of Christ do not know that for priestly hearts it is a great joy to suffer for the cause of the Kingdom. Such priestly hearts exist in Communist countries, but I have known saints, dressed in shining white also in the free world. They have their troubles and their enemies but remain unafraid, steadfast and loving. Learn from Jesus, our high priest. "Ye are a royal priesthood." (I Peter 2:9)



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.

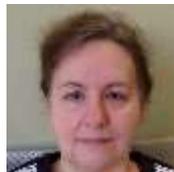
“Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father are this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.” (Apostle James Epistle 1:27)

Some Pictures of Elderly Christians Imprisoned for the Faith, Helped with your Gifts!
Read their testimonies in our past newsletters at <http://helpforrefugees.com> (third column!)



Victor Kuzmichi

suffered 11 years of imprisonment, in the former Soviet Union for his Christian activity in the underground Baptist churches. His wife Liubovi, continued underground Christian work, while being 5 years in hiding. Read their testimony in the 4/2017 Newsletter.



IUDINTEVA Olga

Was sentenced to 2 years of communist prison for gathering materials, testimonies, names and pictures about the Christians who had been imprisoned and their families. Read her testimony in the 5/2017 Newsletter.



Iacovo Georgi Skorniakov

suffered 13 years of communist prison, being sentenced to three prison-terms for his Christian activity as an ordained minister. He refused becoming a KGB informer. Read his widow's testimony in the 5/2017 Newsletter.

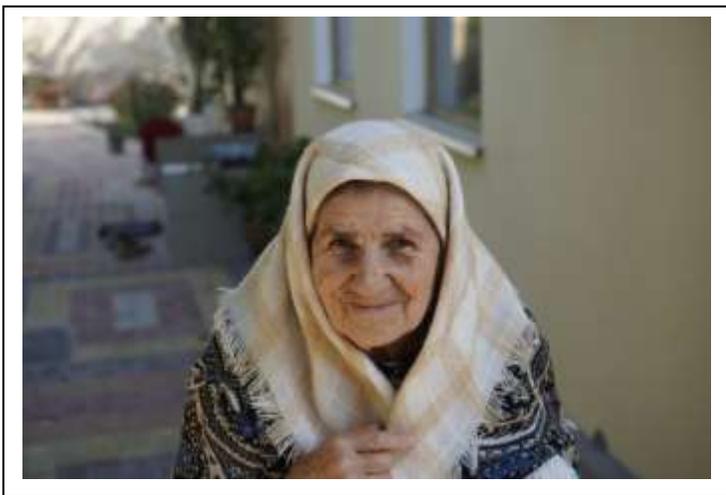


Eugen Blajut

Was sentenced in communist Romania to four years of prison for his fearless Christian witness. He continued his underground Christian work as soon as he was freed from one of the worst communist labor camps. Read his testimony in the 5/2017 Newsletter.

Christians Helped with Your Gifts

Five Years of Communist Prison for a Church Presbyter Witnessing his Faith



Vera Klimoshenko wrote: “Dear brother Michael (Wurmbrand): I greet you with the love of our Lord Jesus Christ. Grace, mercy and peace be upon you from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord!

I am the wife of (late) Klimoshenko Nikolay Stepanovich, Vera Gavrilovna. I received a letter from you. When my husband was imprisoned, from 1980 to 1988, we received letters and parcels from different countries, including from the United States, for which we always thanked the Lord. Perhaps the help came from your mission, I can't say for sure. (The mission I led at the time, called Jesus to the Communist World, organized the sending by scores of cooperating American Christians, hundreds of help-parcels to many families of imprisoned

Christians. We obtained surreptitiously through secret couriers, lists with names and exact addresses of hundreds such Christian families. The Soviet authorities in their quest for hard currency, were allowing such parcels be received, so long very high custom duties, of nearly 100% of the value of the goods, were paid in US Dollars, N. Ed.) Thank you for your attention!

In 1973, our family moved to Kherson, Soviet Union (presently in Ukraine, N. Ed.) and my husband, Klimoshenko Nikolay Stepanovich, began to work actively in the church. At that time, an unregistered church could not have a house of worship, and believers gathered in homes. Two years later, as soon as the construction was completed, our family provided a larger room in our home for regular worship. Very often the Soviet secret police (the KGB) interrupted the service, dispersed the meetings and imposed heavy fines upon those attending. Once, after another dispersal of the ministry, the KGB searched for my husband to arrest him at his place of work but his superiors defied the police and hid him among railroad cars in a large railway depot. For several years he continued to serve as a deacon in the church, and despite the disruption of meetings by the Soviet police, fines, and confiscation of the house by court order, he was not arrested until 1980. Shortly before the arrest, many

believers' homes were ransacked, police investigators issued written warnings not to leave the homes. Defying these persecutions, my husband packed his bags with fruits and vegetables and went all the way to Irkutsk, Siberia to visit Christian sisters banished there by the Soviet regime and celebrate the Lord's Supper with them. Having returned from there, he went to Izmail, in the Odessa Region, (present Ukraine) the access to which was allowed only by special permits. But the Lord kept him and led him there, so that he could support the local church.

The first time Nikolai Stepanovich was arrested was on August 18, 1980. On the same day, another elderly brother was arrested - the presbyter of our church, Yuri Ivanovich Arnautov. The trial took place in September, not in the courthouse, but in the culture house of a suburban collective farm, where Arnautov worked before his arrest. The large hall was filled with communist youth Komsomol members and communist activists from the village. Relatives and believers who came from different cities were not allowed in. After my husband refused to answer court summons, demanding that he admits being guilty, he refused the state attorney assigned to him and asked for a Bible. Amazingly, I was allowed to go into the hall and give him the Bible. (Then, for some time, the Bible was in the prison-cell with him, where other prisoners had the opportunity to read it but ended up being confiscated later, when he was transferred to another prison camp.) In this trial, Nikolai Stepanovich defended himself. He referred to God's laws set forth in the Bible. After his defense many of those present said: "Why are these believers being judged? They are not doing anything wrong." The communist court sentenced him to 2 years of general-regime prison. When he and Arnautov were taken away after the trial, there were a lot of faithful friends around this court-hall who threw flowers at the convicted brethren, surrounded the prison-van even singing psalms. This aroused the interest and bewilderment of the unbelievers present at the trial. This was what happened in the first court-trial of Nikolai Stepanovich. He served time in Staraya Zburyevka of the Kherson region prison. In addition to him, there were other believers in the camp, at different times, up to nine persons. Despite all interdictions, they found the opportunity to meet for prayer and fellowship. Brethren Sasha Lebzak, Vasya Fenchak from Transcarpathia, a brother from Kivertsi and others were in the camp with my husband. The Lord made it possible to establish an underground connection with the prison-camp and we were able to even introduce the Word of God to the brethren (which was often confiscated.) Sometimes we also managed to transfer money or food. Once, due to extremely poor nutrition, the prisoners rebelled, there were shootings, a lot of panic. Nikolai Stepanovich found brother Sasha Lebzak, an 18-year-old other brother, they hugged and were led away, as there was a real threat to life. Together they were able to take refuge in a safe place.

In general, my husband did not like to talk about himself, so I know little, more from others. In the camp, the prisoners called him "Father Nikolai" and he was very respected. In his detachment, everyone knew by heart his beloved Christian song, "Let it be, on the threshold of unknown days ...". Many when, freed, came to our house to convey greetings from him, and sang this hymn to us. After his release, Nikolai Stepanovich again worked in the church, he was ordained a presbyter (before that he had been a deacon). In 1985, on January 21, he was arrested right at work. I remained with 8 children, one, less than 7 years old. They arrested him in January but the court-trial was only in May. This time, the trial took place in the assembly hall of a shoe factory, where my husband worked before the arrest. The police drove all the workers out, and they didn't let anyone into the hall, except myself, the eldest daughter and two sisters of my husband. The people in the audience (communist agitators brought in by the KGB) were very angry. They shouted that people like us should be killed, hanged even. There was a lot of slander and negative articles in the press, but God is our defense. As I described, in the first trial, simple rural people attending the trial could not understand why Christians were judged. At the second trial, the KGB had prepared the audience: the communists, the atheists were ready to tear us apart. At this trial, the husband also refused a state lawyer, but did not defend himself. Instead of a protective word, he said: "God is my defense, and so will His will be done." Many friends gathered at the factory, hoping to see my husband at least when he would be taken out after the trial. But the authorities were afraid that he would be greeted again with flowers and singing, and they took him out of the factory in a roundabout way: they opened the back gate, which had not been used before. They sentenced my husband to 3 years of strict-regime. He was imprisoned in the city of Kirovske, Donetsk region (city in Ukraine.) The KGB from back in Kherson did not give him any peace there. They constantly asked my husband become a KGB informer. The husband said that physical pain was easier to bear than these regular visits. The Christian Valentin Naprienko (one of the Russian Baptists helped by our mission. See both his and his brother testimonies in the 1/1/2017 Newsletter) served time in the same zone, and although they were in different units and contacts between the units were forbidden, the brethren managed to meet for fellowship and prayer. He was transferred to a hot workshop, where everything burned his hands, while they did not give him mittens. I tried to pass gloves on to him, but authorities refused to allow this.

When "perestroika" began (the liberal-reforms introduced at first by the Soviet president Gorbachev, N. Ed.) and brethren throughout the Soviet Union began to be released ahead of prison-terms, the KGB did not like my husband would be freed and they even threatened to drown him in a canal. The KGB harassed us in many ways, cut our heat for 6 months by seizing our propane canisters. After the release of my husband, the whole family went to the city executive committee, seeking recovery. Only with time everything ended up being returned.

The second term greatly undermined my husband's health. From his youth, he had severe pain in his legs, and in the camps he had a very hard time, since there was no treatment and he had to endure everything. On September 3, 1988, in the evening, the Lord recalled my husband to Himself. He calmly passed on to the Lord.

Nikolai Stepanovich remained faithful and went to the eternal abode to the Lord. He had a desire to quickly go to the Lord, and the Lord fulfilled his desire and took to Him at the age of 50. Until the last days of his life, the KGB did not leave him alone. On the eve of his death, the KGB came to check his condition, and the next day, when he was already lying in the coffin, the KGB came again to make sure that he was dead. KGB officers were also present during the funeral, though services were not disturbed. All the same, they accompanied us and watched everything, because at the funeral there were a lot of ministers and believers from different cities of the (former) Soviet Union, as well as my daughters, who at that time worked illegally in the underground publishing house Khrestianin (the Christian.)

Nikolai Stepanovich sincerely loved the Lord, never worried, he trusted everything in the Lord, trusted only in Him. "The Lord will provide for everything," "without the will of God, nothing will happen," he always said that serving God was his first duty. He was loved by the church, especially by youth. He always participated in youth conversations. My husband was very modest, so I can not tell much about his ministry. He never liked to talk about himself, although he attended other churches, comforted, instructed, and talked a lot, because in those years there were very few ministers, but he tried not to talk about his work anywhere, did not want any praise, no glory, all glory belonged only to God. And he, as a servant of God, did modestly what he was supposed to do.

Now I am 83 years old, I live with my children. Six months ago, I suffered a stroke, but, thank God, I can walk with a cane, read, pray and thank the Lord for His grace and mercy. Over the years, much has been experienced, much has been forgotten, but God writes a book in which everything remains.

Praise God for your work, for your service. May the Lord reward you and preserve to be faithful to Him, like our relatives who have gone into eternity! With God, sister Vera."

*The mission continues sending help to the surviving spouse.

Christians Helped with Your Gifts

Father of 11 Children Suffered 7 Years in Communist Prisons for the Faith



Sister Nina and late* husband
Vitaliy Nikolaevich Bosco

Nina Bosco wrote: "My husband, Vitaliy Nikolaevich, was twice tried in the communist courts for believing in God. The first time, as a 19-year-old youth, he was drafted into the Soviet army. Since he refused to take the atheistic oath, they threatened him but he did not give up and after 4 months, the communist military tribunal sentenced him to four years of prison. He completed this 4-years first prison-term in 1973.

We got married in 1974, in the church where he was the leader of the youth. Our church was holding in-house meetings. The Soviet police

(the KGB) interrupted violently our services and fined all attending believers. In the warm season

we gathered in forests, but even there, we were often discovered by the KGB, dispersed and fined.

My husband was ordained as a full-time evangelist in 1982. He did Christian work and tirelessly carried out his ministry. He was fined many times. He was arrested in 1985 in the factory where he worked as a locksmith, the police brought him home, searched the house, (we were waiting

for our eighth child) and the KGB took him away. He was judged in the regional center of the city of Lutsk and again sentenced to 3 years of strict-regime communist prison.

He served imprisonment-time only 60 km from us. In the camp he continued unafraid to testify of his faith. They gathered, read the Word of God, prayed. Once, at the end of the term, eavesdroppers were set up, they came from the KGB, but we were informed about this, and we tried not to disclose anything about the. Due to the general amnesty (under president Gorbachev) he was released from prison on a Friday after he served this entire term less 38 days. Believers in our church gathered at our home, a joyful service began, but even then, the KGB dispersed the meeting and fined us.

When the persecution stopped (after the “perestroika” reform in the former Soviet Union, N. Ed.) my husband, Vitaly Nikolayevich continued to work in the church, constantly travelling on trips in cheap cars. Friends from Germany invited him to come abroad, wanted to give him a car, but he refused. He lived very modestly. I often talk about this with my children.

After one such missionary meeting, he fell very ill, was bedridden for two years. When he departed this life, he left for all a good example of fidelity to God. We have 11 children. One son died at age 20. It was difficult for me without a husband to bring up the younger children. I prayed a lot for them, fasted. God had mercy and all the children are members of the church. I am currently sick with cancer. God bless you, dear friends in your good desire and work for Him. With love, sister Nina Bosco.”

*The mission continues sending help to the surviving spouse.

Across, a **sample only** of a long list, our mission was able to compile beside other lists, of over 480 elderly Baptist Christians 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:** <https://helpforrefugees.com>

409	Власенко	Валентин	Мефодьевич	1958	Украина
410	Вольф	Андрей	Иорнеевич	1958	Казakhstan
411	Нуркин	АЛЕКСЕЙ	ЯКОВЛЕВИЧ	1958	Россия
412	Левен	НИКОЛАЙ	ВИКТОРОВИЧ	1958	Казakhstan
413	Романко	Владимир	Николаевич	1958	Украина
414	Таскин	Давид	Давидович	1958	Россия
415	ТУРКЕВИЧ	Василий	Тарасович	1959	Украина
416	Бычков	Степан	Павлович	1959	Украина
417	ДРИСВЯННИКОВ	АЛЕНСАНДР	АЛЕНСАНДРОВИЧ	1959	Россия
418	СКВОРЦОВА	ЛЮБОВЬ	НИКОЛАЕВНА	1959	Россия
419	Варавин	Виталий	Федотович	1959	Россия
420	Дубицкий	СЕРГЕЙ	АДАМОВИЧ	1959	Россия
421	Лещенко	Борис	Владимирович	1959	Украина
422	Ткаченко	ИВАН	ИВАНОВИЧ	1959	Казakhstan
423	МАРЧЕНКО	Станислав	Павлович	1960	Украина
424	Донченко	Александр	Максимович	1960	Украина
425	Откасов	Венямин	Александрович (Валерианов)	1960	Узбекистан
426	Саченко	Михаил	Михайлович	1960	Эстония
427	Федеева (ШВЕЦОВА)	ДИНА	ВЛАДИМИРОВНА	1961	Алания
428	ШВЕЦОВА	АННА	ВЛАДИМИРОВНА	1962	Алания
429	Богоурков	Александр	Валерьевич	1962	Эстония
430	Миньков	Павел	Дмитриевич	1962	Эстония

Sample of a List of 480 former Imprisoned Christians in the former Soviet Union

Help for Refugees, Inc. PO Box 5161, Torrance, Ca. 90510, USA. Email: hfr@helpforrefugees.com, website: <https://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 US tax-deductible.