

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 Wurmland with wife, Sabina

MAY 2023

Announcement:

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

"There is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond, free, but all in all is Christ."

(Colossians 3:11, according to original)

Late Reverend Richard Wurmland spent 14 years in Romanian communist prisons. Mrs. Wurmland 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From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmland

CHRIST IS ALL IN ALL

Believers know Christ is present in all circumstances of life and therefore remain undisturbed when they meet great adversities. Lord Jesus had seen in the cross the symbol of God's triumph. We feast this triumph at Easter. We all will be swallowed up by death in some manner. The question is, what are you searching-for in life? If you look for the truth, death will reveal to you the mystery, and it will be just a veil through which you will enter into the presence of the Lord. This applies not only to death but to every great suffering. In every sorrow which strikes you, seek the name of God. Then you will value and understand it.

Christ is THE ALL IN ALL, in all circumstances of life, even in some great disaster. We can be confident. He is also THE ALL in all kinds of men, in the cultured Greek, in the chosen religious Jewish people, in those who practice rituals or those who neglect them, in Barbarians (this is what the Greeks called all nations that did not speak their language), in Scythians, who were savages at that time, in slaves who dreamt only about freedom, and in free men who considered their privileged position as God-given and wished to preserve it. Christians do not belong to one party

exclusively. A Christian is neither a left nor a right-winger. No bird belongs to a wing; both wings belong to the bird. So Christians have understanding and love for all kinds of men.

I received a letter from Russia which came after a long delay. It was written by a Russian Christian named ALEXANDER PETROV-AGATOV, who had spent a total of thirty years in prisons and concentration camps for his faith. The letter is a gem of love. It states: " I remember all men, independent of their faith and color, of their social position or level of education. I remember men in power and those who suffer in jails and camps, the rich and the poor, the strong and the weak, those who have risen to peaks and those who have fallen into the abyss, the sick and the healthy, the persecuted and the persecutors. Foremost, I think about those who I only recently left after having been with them in prison and camps for almost thirty years . . .

“My heart rings like a bell: can you eat all these abundant things while at least one man is hungry? Can you sleep in a warm bed, when somewhere a prisoner is not allowed to lie down even on the cold concrete? ... I do not write only about Soviet camps and prisons; I think also about those who have no freedom in other countries. I think about all those who do not eat and drink this night, who cannot look at the sparkling stars because the prison windows are covered with planks. I greet, eagles and doves — mothers and not yet brides — my brethren who take the cross for the word of God, for truth, for righteousness, for faithfulness toward God and love toward men . . . Greetings to all the persecuted, the suffering, to all those who seek light.

“Greetings even to all persecutors and oppressors, to all those who curse and confiscate. . . All men, prisoners and guards, men of the secret police and patrol officers, secretaries or the Communist central committees and presidents — pray while it is not too late. There will be no second birth of Christ. There will be a second coming. 'Behold, I come soon', says the Lord. Soon, very soon."

The resurrected Lord expressed His love for all men. He also warned them lovingly that "he that believes not shall be damned." (Mark 16:16) We love all and tell the Communists and their stooges within the church in the East and West that, if they do not repent, they will perish. Christ is the all in all. For the believers, He is the Savior; for the unbelievers the ruthless judge.



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!)



Baptist minister Stepan Germaniuk

was sentenced to four and a half years imprisonment in Soviet labor camps and three years in Siberian exile. While starving, he was summoned to the camp commandant. Next to him was a half-open bag, in which you could see sausage, condensed milk, cookies. Being enticed to become an informer for the KGB, he answered: "It's not going to happen! Cover your bag, I won't take any crumbs from there. I'm happy with everything, I'd rather die in prison than compromise!"
Read his testimony in our online 3/2021, 4/2021, 5/2021 and 6/2021 Newsletters.



Nina Anatolevna Chukhontseva

was imprisoned 3 years in the former Soviet Union for printing and spreading the Bible. She wrote: "The printing and distribution were very large, up to 6 tons of paper! A complete (Evangelical translated) Bible was printed for the first time in Russia! From my youth, I dreamed of being someone who will work hard for God! Glory to God for all His ways and help in my life!" **Read her testimony in our online 7/2021 Newsletter.**



Sisters Nadejda and Vera Sidorova

wrote: "Together with my sister we were active in an underground printing shop. We issued the forbidden religious publication Khristianin (The Christian, N. Ed.) In it, were also published names, addresses, sentences and even pictures of many imprisoned believers.

Several Christian workers, us included, ended up arrested by the KGB in 1980. While interrogated, we were offered many times to be let free if we betrayed coworkers and collaborated with the KGB. Since we refused categorically to be traitors like Judas, our sentence was the maximum term of three years prison. At the end of the three-years prison sentence we continued our Christian activities and were not caught again. "

Read their testimony in our online 7/2021 Newsletter.

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



Babekova Family writes:

We are: Husband: Alexandr, Wife: Liudmila, Children: KAMILA, ALEXANDER, SOFIA, TIMOFY, DAVID, LYUDMYLA, PAVLO;
Husbands mother: also Liudmila

"Our family lost their home, personal effects. And also at the time when the war began, they were in their homes under arbitrary shells, shells. And because of these, the children suffered. At the time when we were forced to flee from the city, without our housing or some elementary things, we fled without an elementary understanding of how to continue further."

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

Over 8 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

“My name is Andriy, my family and I (wife Maria, daughter Polina and son Danyil) arrived in Calgary on March 9th, 2023. Now we live with our friends, and are actively looking for housing and work. Children after spring break start going to school. We are from the occupied part of Ukraine, the city of Kamenka-Dneprovskaya, Zaporozhye region. In Ukraine, we were members of the Church of Evangelical Christian Baptists, actively participated in the ministry, the children attended Sunday school. When the Russians captured our city, my wife and children first left for Zaporozhye. It was a difficult path literally under bullets and shells, through a dozen roadblocks. But God kept them safe. A few days later they left for Poland. Until July 2022, I was at home, went to work.

“I worked at the Zaporozhye nuclear power plant, and I know that pro-Ukrainian workers were humiliated, taken away for interrogations, beaten, and some went missing. But in July, daily shelling of the surrounding cities and villages began, the Russians blocked the exit to Ukraine, I was forced to travel to my family through Crimea. The road was also dangerous, full of humiliation from Russian soldiers. But God kept me, and I got to my family in Poland. There we learned about the CUAET program and received visas to Canada. My wife is a teacher, she still works in Ukrainian online school for the Ukrainian children from occupation area. Thank you for any help to our family. Best regards, Ovdienkos family”.



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



Brother Ezersky Andrei wrote: "My family and I lived in the city of Kharkiv. I worked as an industrial supervisor, and my wife started working as a realtor, since our daughter Evochka grew up and she went to kindergarten. 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 found us. We packed an emergency suitcase, we put a children's sofa behind the second wall where there were no windows. They slept dressed, when frightened, they ran down to the basement, where they had left the most necessary things in advance. That's how we lived for eight days, seeing how in our yard people were wounded 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 being under fire, we were at home and were sheltered by 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 it was as if our apartment was being shelled from a machine gun. As soon as everything quieted down, I ran out into the corridor, where my girls were sitting, my wife covered our two children with her body, holding her 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, who was pregnant 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. It took a whole day to drive 125 miles, continuously 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 104 F, 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 Radauti, 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. During this time, 15 people accepted Christ as their savior, two people accepted water baptism on this resurrection. We preached a lot, conducted prayers and worshiped God in songs. Now a difficult time has come for our family. 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 stocks, which we brought with us from Ukraine, and now we need financial support. May God bless you for your open heart."

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 these newsletters a few testimonies and some receipts of scores more, documenting what I wrote above. Again, thanks and God Bless. **Michael Wurmbbrand**

READ AND PASS IT ON!

409	Власенко	Валентин	Мефодьевич	1958	Украина
410	Вольф	Андрей	Корнеевич	1958	Казахстан
411	Куркин	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	Лашенко	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 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 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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