

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 Wurmbrand with wife, Sabina

JUNE 2023

Announcement:

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

**" And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen..."
(Revelation 15:6)**

Late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand spent 14 years in Romanian communist prisons. Mrs. Wurmbrand 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From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand
THE SPIRITUAL NEED TO HATE SIN

Above Bible verse sounds strange. We go to temples in the hope of being made better and meeker Christians. What is taught in the heavenly temple? How is it that good angels come out of their temple strengthened in their decision to send plagues upon the world? It is because they are taught there to hate sin, as every real Evangelical church should teach. David writes, "Do not I hate them, O Lord, that hate Thee? And am I not grieved with these that rise up against Thee? I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies." (Psalm 139:21-22)

This does not contradict Jesus' teaching to love our enemies. He never meant that we should love the hands which torture innocents. We do not love the brains which devise atrocities. There is just one thing which we can love even in an enemy of God, a Communist: like every human being, has a God-shaped vacuum in his heart. Love prompts us to present to him Christ. If the Communist accepts Him, this void is filled. He becomes a child of God and our brother; if not, he is lost. Plagues are prepared for him by the holy angels. God will send into hell unrepenting sinners, and God's children will not disagree with Him. The sinner who remains obstinate to the

end will have obliterated everything lovable and humane in himself. Therefore we make a last and desperate appeal to the Communists to repent of their sins and accept the Savior.

We hate Communism because it infiltrates the holiest institution in the world, His church, the keeper of His word. There are ministers who support Communism and even worse became members of communist parties. People come to church to hear the Word of God and hear instead the devil's doctrine. Such clergy are what Lenin calls "useful idiots," men who support with good intentions Communist causes. They have no idea of the laws which regulate economic and political life; they mix in things which they do not understand and propagate the Marxist solution to the problems of the world.

Some priests and pastors do not know the deceit of the Communists and thus become their tools, but there are also pastors who are nothing less than Communist agents. The instruction of February 12, 1957, given to the Chinese Communist Party was no joke. Consider this excerpt: "Our comrades must infiltrate into the very heart of the church and develop there a great activity ... they must invade all sectors of church life. The comrades who have this assignment must become members of the church through baptism. Appealing to the love of God and the cause of peace, they must divide the Christians. We have to ally ourselves with the enemy in order to destroy the enemy. The church must be disintegrated and destroyed totally." (Quoted from ROMA, Buenos Aires, May 1969)

We hate Communism for its poisoning of children and youth. Communist China is a major source of precursor chemicals necessary for the production of fentanyl, cocaine, heroin, MDMA and crystal methamphetamine, which are used by many Southeast Asian and Pacific Rim nations. A former premier of communist China and a sidekick of the Communist leader Mao Zedong, Zhou En Lai instructed his subordinates to grow poppies, create opium and traffic it into the non-Communist regions of China. As drugs became more readily available, people more readily used them. Opium weakened drug users, the people around them, their societies, their governments and their militaries.

Good angels will come out of the heavenly temple. They are ready to send upon the rebellious world terrible plagues. There is no joking with angels. Therefore, we call all sinners to repentance.



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!)



**Olga Georgievna
Pantiukhova**

When only 24, she was sentenced by the communist authorities to five years imprisonment in Soviet labor camps and three years in Siberian exile. Her “crime?” Multiplying on a mimeograph and distributing hundreds of copies of the John Gospel. After freed from 8 years of imprisonment, she told KGB officers: “What can you do to me? Imprison me? - I’ve been there! Throw me to polar bears? - I’ve been there! Execute me? - to that I’ll say ‘Amen!’ - the end of my journey!”

**Read her full testimony in
our online 8/2021
Newsletter.**

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



**Kushnir Mykhail
Georgievych**

was sentenced to one year of prison, in the former Soviet Union, for keeping in his home for further distribution, 284 Bibles.

**Read his testimony in
our online 8/2021
Newsletter.**

Murdered because he showed Billy Graham the truth of communist persecution!

Tamara Alfredovna, wife of the Baptist preacher

**Alexander Ivanovich
Simendyaev** wrote:

“...when the world famous preacher Billy Graham was invited to the Soviet Union, the authorities wanted to pretend to him and make a worldwide propaganda that there was no persecution of believers in the Soviet Union, when in fact persecution was intensifying...After Billy Graham’s sermon, my husband was first in a group to unfurl a large banner stating there were at least 500 children taken away by the KGB from imprisoned Christian parents. Graham left in silence! The KGB threatened: “We will not forgive you for this!”



Alexander was imprisoned for nearly 3 years. (Following this prison term) taking a train trip to Ukraine, he disappeared. With no investigation the authorities, declared a deadly unreported train accident.

**Read her full
testimony in our
online 9/2021
Newsletter.**

From Olesia Nefedova: “Good day! We are a Christian family from Ukraine. There was a very difficult situation in the capital-city of Kyiv. Due to the fact that the infrastructure was damaged, electricity and water were constantly cut off. There were so many air alarms and explosions were heard on our street...It was especially difficult to go through all this with three children. We slept in the hallway and felt fear. Left Ukraine to Romania, the city of Oradea, on January 17, 2023. Through our Church “Tabernacle” in Kyiv, we learned that there is a Ukrainian Church in the city of Oradea and the Pastor is Denys Serhiyovych Shepelev. When we arrived in Oradea, we began to actively serve in this local Church. We are currently not receiving funding. We live on the 50/20 program, but we have not received anything yet. Thank you for your help!”

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!

HUSBAND (NOT A SOLDIER) KILLED BY RUSSIAN SOLDIERS!

On March 5, 2022, the Christian brother **Dubovik Oleksiy (Lesha)** tragically died at the hands of the Russian occupiers. For several days in a row, he helped people leave the occupied city of Sumy, risking his life.

In ten days, he took out many pregnant mothers with children. On that day, when leaving the city, the men from the Teroborona told which roads they should not take and advised them to take the road where the column of enemy vehicles of the Russians had already passed. But they did not know that a second huge column was going the same way. That's how Oleksiy met with Russian tanks and drove to the side on the way to the village of Pustovoitivka, which is near the city of Romny in Sumy Oblast. Lesha even got out of the car and talked to the occupiers, but they assured that they would not touch him. And as soon as the column began to move, continuous fire was opened on the car. Oleksiy ran out of the car to divert the fire on himself, because there were people in the car. Russian soldiers shot to death, because three bullets hit him from the front in the heart, one in the neck, shoulder, back and leg. Several men fired at the same time with different weapons. And Lesha saw his killers in the face. He died very quickly, but that was not enough for the killers, they also broke his nose, hit his left eye and the teeth of his upper jaw. The passengers in the car, a woman and her son, fell to the floor, received minor injuries and lay there until everything quieted down and the tanks moved on.



During his life, Oleksiy was a member of the local Sumy Christian Church and was always ready to help people. His kindness and sensitivity were known both by friends and distant acquaintances. He recently had a son, Viktor, who turned one year old on May 17, 2022. Oleksiy is survived by his wife, Olha and three children: daughter Oksana and minors Timofey and Viktor.



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

Pastor Dennis SHEPELEV wrote: "I am a minister and with my family we came from the Novaya Kakhovka village in the Ukraine. At my church, we had a rehabilitation center for alcoholics and drug addicts, we introduced them to Christ, and God changed their lives.

"The war broke into our city quickly, cruelly and spared no one. We could not go anywhere immediately because of the bombing, we had to hide in the basement with the children and beg God for mercy. It was a difficult, difficult time, but God gave us strength to endure. So we lived under (the Russian army) occupation for 43 days and had the opportunity to escape. We had to leave everything, our house and everything in it, leave the church. This house of prayer was later taken away by Russian soldiers for their use. We had to run to save the lives of our children. Now we live in Romania and serve refugees from Ukraine in the Ukrainian church. We are in great need of financial assistance, the earlier the better! Yours sincerely, the Shepelev family."

(Above left, pastor Dennis Shepelev with wife Natalia, daughter Milana 9 and Amina 5, in front of their former village church in Ukraine.)



Ukrainian Christian sister **SHAHJOVA Natalia** wrote: "Before the (Russian-Ukrainian) war, our family actively served in the Christian Church in various ministries: English translator, dean in the Bible seminary, worship group and Sunday school. Everyone did what they could for the glory of God! With the beginning of the war, we stayed in the city for several weeks, but because of the children, one of whom has developmental peculiarities and autism, it was very difficult for us with constant air alarms.

"Also, most of the territory of our region fell under occupation. Without medicine, without the possibility of education and work... We made this difficult decision to leave our country in search of a safe city for children. We evacuated on a humanitarian train, along with thousands of women and children. They drove during the day only standing, because there was no place.

"Together with me and my three children, my mother - 73 years old – left also. Despite the fact that we did not know what to expect, God was always with us. Now we are in Warsaw, Poland and serve God in the Christian church "Light for the Nations". We still have problems with registration documents for the youngest son and his studies in a special school. Please pray for us. My husband stayed in Ukraine and serves in the church, takes care of his disabled mother."

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 Wurmbrand**

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