

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 also help many Christian refugees from Ukraine!**



Late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand with wife, Sabina

JULY 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 not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not steadfastly look to the end of that which is abolished."  
(II Corinthians 3:13)**

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From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand

**TRUTH NEEDS NO DEFENSE**

Nijole Sadunaite, a young Lithuanian Christian, was tried for her Christian activity in LITHUANIA, when part of the Soviet Union. She was sentenced for her faith, to 3 years of prison and another 3 years of forced deportation. Her testimony before court was amazing.

Sister SADUNAITE said before the communist court, "Truth needs no defense, because it is all-powerful and unconquerable. Only deceit and lies, being powerless before truth need weapons, soldiers, and prisons to prolong their infamous rule for a while. A partial government digs its own grave. I am on the right side and am ready to lose liberty for truth. I will give gladly even my life. ONLY THOSE WHO LOVE HAVE THE RIGHT TO BLAME AND CRITICIZE THE OBJECTS OF THEIR LOVE. Therefore I speak to you.

"You rejoice about your victory. Victory over what? Over morality? . . . Over mean and debased men, infected by fear? . . . Thanks be to God, not all men have compromised yet. We (Christians) are not many in society, but quality is on our side. Without fearing prisons, we have to condemn

all actions which lead to injustice and humiliation. We must distinguish what is written by men from what is commanded by God. We owe to Caesar only what remains after having given to God what is His due. **THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN LIFE IS TO FREE HEART AND MIND FROM FEAR, BECAUSE YIELDING TO EVIL IS THE GREATEST SIN.**

“This is the happiest day of my life. I am tried for the cause of truth and love toward men. What cause could be more important? I have an enviable fate, a glorious destiny. My condemnation (in the communist court) will be my triumph. I regret only to have done so little for men. Standing today on the side of the eternal Truth, of Jesus Christ, I remember His fourth beatitude, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled. (Matthew 5:6.)

“How could I not rejoice when God Almighty has promised that light will overcome darkness and truth will overcome error and lies. May God give us the assurance that his last judgment will be favorable to all of us. I will ask this in prayer for you every day of my life. Let us love each other and we will be happy. Only the one who loves not is unhappy. **WE MUST CONDEMN EVIL, BUT WE MUST LOVE THE MAN, EVEN THE ONE IN ERROR. THIS YOU CAN LEARN ONLY AT THE SCHOOL OF JESUS CHRIST,** who is the only truth for all, the only way, and the only life. Good Jesus, your Kingdom come into our souls."  
*(Quoted from the Underground "CHRONICLE OF CATHOLIC LITHUANIAN CHURCH," #17.)*

Sister SADUNAITE lifted before court the veil which she like every other Christian, wears in everyday life.

Moses must have had a very expressive face. Through him God made for many centuries a covenant with the people of Israel. As marvelous this revelation was for entire humanity, it was a veil for the ultimate revelation: the resurrection and ascent to heaven of the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

You have your sorrows, troubles, apprehensions, even dramas. It is as important to reflect on them and try to find a solution. We appear busy only with the things of this world, even if they are good works. These form a “veil.” Christians behold with open face the glory of God and are changed into the same image of our Redeemer. (II Corinthians 3:18.)



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!)



**Iakimenko Maria Afanasii**

When only 32, she was sentenced by the communist authorities to three years imprisonment in Soviet labor camps for organizing Baptist church meetings. She was held in Moscow's worst KGB prison Butyrka. She wrote: "The KGB commission to decide whether to be freed, asked one question: "Do you still believe in God or have you changed your mind?" I replied that I remained faithful to God, and they replied: "in that case you could not be released from prison." **Read her testimony in our online 10/2021 Newsletter.**



**Gontar Olga, born Germaniuk**

was the fourth child of the Baptist minister Stepan Germaniuk. She was only 7 when her father had been sentenced for his Christian activities, to 4½ years in Soviet prison-camps and following that, to 3 years banishment in Siberia by the Sea of Okhotsk. Her mother had also suffered a 3 years prison-sentence. When 13 she joined her parents in their Siberian banishment. **Read her full testimony in our online 10/2021 Newsletter.**



**Andrusenko Lyudmila**

wrote how she was sentenced in the former Soviet Union to 2 years imprisonment for printing the "Bulletins", containing information and pictures of Christians arrested and sentenced to many years of prison for the faith. For their staunch Christian testimony, both her grandfathers had been shot by the Soviets. Her father a Baptist minister, was imprisoned 5.5 years! **Read her full testimony in our online 10/2021 Newsletter.**



**Tkachenko Petr Ivanovich**

was sentenced to 3 years of prison for publicizing the sufferings and assassination by the KGB of the young Christian Baptist Ivan Moiseyev.

**Read his full testimony in our online 11/2021 Newsletter.**

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



**Ihnatenko Oleksii wrote:** “When the war started, we lived in the city of Berdyansk. On February 27, Berdyansk was under Russian occupation.

“We lived without heating, gas, and almost no communication for nearly a month. It was unsafe to stay there with the children. We left everything, took only the most necessary.

“In order to leave the occupied territory, I had to go through about 30 Russian checkpoints with constant checks of documents, things and phones. We decided to go to Belgium because there were friends and a church there. Now we live in Kortrijk, Belgium. We attend the "City of Truth" church, pastor Denys Kokoshin.”

**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!**

“Good day! My husband was a pastor of a church in the Luhansk region, Severodonetsk, Metolkina, City of Faith. He had been in ministry since 2008. Since 2014, this was a front-line zone, explosions were constantly heard, and for 8 years we served people from front-line villages.

“Our church worked a lot with children from disadvantaged families, from families on the poverty line, fed the homeless, the elderly and those who found themselves on the poverty line. The church had a rehabilitation center for drug addicts and alcohol addicts. Street evangelism was conducted and served. In 2021, we built a two-story Prayer House after years of old rented halls. We were very happy to be able to invite people to a beautiful Prayer House.

“But.... This full-scale war began, our city was bombarded from the very beginning. My husband took all the people of the church to safe places, and for several months he carried groceries to the city of Severodonetsk in his bus and took people out of the shelling until our city was occupied.

“Our house destroyed, our church was destroyed..(see photo above). We lived in Chernivtsi, but they let us into the house temporarily and we had to vacate it already. We decided to go to the USA. But it is difficult to find a job without knowing the English language. As much as possible, we are asking for help for our family. We used to help people, but now we need help. May the Lord bless you in your ministry!” **Victoria Gritsenko**



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



**Pastor Ruslan Nazariev wrote:** “My wife and I are from the eastern city of Slavyansk, Donetsk region. Since 2014, I had to learn what war is, only the scale was much smaller than now. Loss of friends, relatives, servants... Sleepless nights, fatigue, and the desire to help others - this is how our days passed. From February 24, 2022, we did not sleep peacefully again. Explosions, shooting, unknown... In the spring, friends and brothers in faith offered to go to Poland. We arrived with nothing: a small suitcase of things and a Bible. This is all we have left from our past life in Ukraine. We have nowhere to turn now. The city is completely destroyed and occupied by the enemy, there are constant battles. There is nothing left of the church, the house is destroyed, the city is empty (if possible, everyone has left).

“At the moment, I am serving as a pastor in the local church "Word of Faith" in the city of Lodz, Poland. I am engaged in soul care with people who suffered in connection with the war. In general, the "Word of Faith" church helps refugees from Ukraine: we bless them with food packages, provide short-term accommodation on the basis of the church, carry out outreach evangelism, and provide prayer and financial support.”



“Good afternoon! My name is Anya (last name on file, N. Ed.) I came to Poland from Belarus, I will serve Ukrainians who fled the war. It so happened that I asked for international protection in Poland and became a refugee myself, since I am being prosecuted in Belarus for the political events of 2020 and for my help to the Ukrainian people, I cannot return home for the next 10 years. Vadym Radchenko gave me your contact, he and I serve in the same church. Now I have been serving and working with Ukrainians for more than 10 months. Here God blessed me with a husband from Ukraine. And now we have a difficult financial situation. We rent accommodation and we would be very grateful if you could help us. Thank you in advance.”

## 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 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 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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