

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

AUGUST 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!)

**"...nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer."-(1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 4:5)**

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From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand  
**WITH CHRIST THERE IS FREEDOM EVEN IN JAIL**

The food we eat, the families we enjoy, our gains and losses, our poverty or riches, our spiritual achievements and our church work, our daily labor, our troubles and sorrows, even our conscience is sanctified before God, though we know that by our deeds we are always unrighteous. To the Christian his sins are a challenge to do better next time. He knows no despair. From his sins he discovers that there are new peaks to be conquered. Every transgression shows us that we have not yet become like Him.

Blessed is the ascension from what we are to what we will be! Blessed is the knowledge that all sins committed on this narrow way - sins committed because we are only human, though we have accepted the divine challenge - are fully understood and forgiven.

Everything is sanctified by God's word of forgiveness and love. Consequently everything is sanctified by prayer. The life of American children of God is sanctified. But what about one billion people living in Communist China, where the Word of God is forbidden or where it encounters many limitations? What about the new generation there, which is not taught today.

A martyred Lutheran minister, Konrad Moeckel, imprisoned, sentenced to 25 years of communist jail, tortured in former communist Romania, said, "Heaven is open above the suffering one...suffering which you bear with patience and self-control is a new, creative value for life." Ransomed, like me, by German Christians after a few years, he died in Western Germany as result of the torture through which he passed. Many Christians in the Free World who travelled and met Christians suffering persecution assert how amazed they have been. They thought they need give comfort to these suffering Christians only to find out how on the contrary, from their suffering brethren emanates a power which strengthened those who visit them. Shortly after I was kidnapped by the communist secret police and thrown into solitary confinement in 1948, a church bishop, Anton Durcovici visited my wife, Sabina. She recounted his last words when parting, "we came to comfort you and we received true comfort." Bishop Durcovici himself, one of the 12 bishops of the Greek-Catholic church in Romania who did not compromise with the communists, ended up tortured and died only 3 years later in the Romanian communist prison of Sighet.

I have before me a secret appeal from the Underground Church in a communist country, which reads: "Our brethren remained faithful to the Lord, although they are in chains. The church sees children who have remained orphans. It heard the groanings of wives and mothers. It weeps with those who weep, it shares its bread with the hungry, its heart goes out to the prisoners." "Christ considered it an honor to suffer for His beloved sheep. If He considered shame as a glory, the more so we." This church has a hymn reading, "With Christ there is freedom even in jail. Without Christ you have prison even in freedom." Reading this, you remember Luther's words: "Suffering, suffering, cross, cross, this is the Christian's lot."

From the letter of another prisoner I quote: "A few years more, a few battles more, a few tears, sorrows and needs, a few prayers more, a few more pains and sad dreams, a few groanings and bereavements, a few hymns more, and after this comes the eternal peace and the eternal banquet, and the eternal day which does not end with a grave, then comes the endless hymn of praise."

Christians who enjoy so much freedom will not forget their persecuted brethren and sisters. They will find an hour to pray for them and a place in their heart to love them.



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!)



### Lyudmila Leontivna Savchenko

Described her father Fedorchenko Ivan Ivanovich in the book: ‘GOD IS WRITING A MEMORABLE BOOK’ “He went into eternity when I, Lena was 14 years old. He remains in my memory as my father who loved God very much, he worshiped, was in awe, read the Bible early in the morning and gathered us for Evening and Morning Prayer. There were Christian meetings in our home and therefore the KGB (Russian communist secret police) took our home away.”  
**Read her testimony in our online 12/2021 Newsletter.**



### Shokha Viktor Petrovich

The KGB (the Soviet communist secret police, N. Ed.) arrested him in 1978 and he was sentenced to 2 years imprisonment for holding underground Christian meetings. They wanted to make him an informer, but off the bat he answered: ‘I am responsible only for myself, I will not take the path of Judas. I will immediately report the entire conversation to the church.’ **Read his daughter full testimony in our online 12/2021 Newsletter.**



### Enns, Yakov Yakovlevich

had 9 children. He actively worked with young people, conducted youth and church services. On June 19, 1974, the KGB police came for him. The trial lasted two days. Enns Yakov Yakovlevich was sentenced to 4 years of imprisonment in a general regime colony. The KGB tried to extort information about the church and other brethren. To the best of his ability, Enns testified to everyone about God. **Read his children full testimony in our online 12/2021 Newsletter.**



### Krivtsova Natalia Pavlovna

was sentenced to 4 years of prison for conducting children Sunday schools, church choirs and so on. Her mother was also imprisoned for 4 years for exactly same Christian activities. **Read her full testimony in our online 1/2022 Newsletter.**

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



Ruslan KATSURA wrote: “On April 7, 2023, I left for Europe from the village of Huta, Volyn region, which is in the immediate vicinity to the Belarusian border. Our village is on the border, so there is a threat of attack from Belarus. Around minefields traveling is dangerous. There is more than one case when local people were blown up by mines on the border. Therefore, before reaching the age of 18, I left my native place to serve in God's army and to carry the message of the Gospel for our refugees in Europe, in particular in Italy. Together with, as brothers and sisters, we serve in the city of Genoa, where we help and preach to Ukrainian refugees. I am asking for financial support, because I could not find a job during my stay here, and therefore there is a need even for basic necessities. Thank you very much for your open hearts.”

**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!**



From Christian sister Lubchenko Natalia: “Living in a peaceful country is a great blessing when your children do not know what war is. I could never have thought that such a misfortune could come to our land in peacetime. One morning we woke up and found out that the war had started and there were flights not far from us. It was a real shock. In the early days, we helped people hide in the bomb shelter of our church. They preached to them and assured them that the Lord is above everything. But the children were so scared that we had to make the decision to evacuate. We miraculously got on the evacuation train, we took turns standing for 14 hours, because there were not enough seats for everyone. Then by the border to Poland. We waited in the cold for 12 hours, the children froze so much that they thought it was over, the wind burned their faces. Many people even had to call an ambulance. It was terrifying when a crowd just knocks people off their feet. But thank God, everything is over. Still, the fear of the unknown was present, because we were going to a foreign country, foreign people and with

almost nothing. But the main thing is that we are alive. When we came to Estonia, we met new Christian people, because the Lord never leaves his children. We were kindly welcomed by Pastor Pavlo Duchenko of the Salt of the Earth Christian Church in Tallinn and by his family. These are truly people in whom God is the Lord! These are God's workers who work tirelessly in God's field. They help people find the real thing in this world, help with products, things, lift the spirit and help glorify the Creator. Praise be to God for all that He wonderfully does in our lives!

We do not stop going to church and praying for peace on our land and we praise God for His actions!” (In the picture her children: son, Nikiforov David and daughter, Lada.)

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



Brother Dmytri Nosko wrote: “Good afternoon. For me and my family, the war began back in 2014. We then lived in the village of Uspenka in the Luhansk region. In the hope that everything would end up very quickly, we remained living under the Russian occupation.

Addressing our prayers to God, we asked for peace, continuing to serve those who were left without provision and He did not leave us.

Soon the new government that occupied the territory began to close Protestant churches. And the brothers will be forcibly taken to the war. Once, the military searched my personal belongings and finding a Bible in them, began to ask many questions. I found out that since I am a Pentecostal they wanted to shoot me. At that time, the Spirit inside me prayed that God would have mercy on me and save me. I miraculously stayed alive. My God is a miracle-working God.

After that, we decided to go to the territory under Ukraine government control. And we moved to the city of Korosten in the Zhytomyr region on September 13, 2018. We rented an apartment, I got a job, I had a son. We thanked God for His mercy to us.

After a period of time, an oncological disease was found in my mother, we did not know why God allowed it. She underwent a major operation, the treatment lasted for several courses of chemotherapy. The doctor offered treatment under the threat of death without guaranteeing survival. Mom refused this treatment. Saying: as much as God will allow, I will live. She was assigned the disability of the second group.

When a full-scale war began on February 24, it was no longer new for us and we knew what needed to be done. After a few months, we wanted to leave Ukraine, but men of draft age are not released. Then I learned that a man of conscription age can leave with a disabled person of the second group, as an accompanying person. And we arrived in Romania. We did not know where we would live, but God took care of everything. We were accepted by strangers who turned out to be brothers and sisters in Christ. We are grateful to God and all Romanians for their help in this difficult time. God bless you!

(In the picture brother Nosko, his wife Valenyna, 4-years old son Maxim, father and mother, Nosko Olexander and Nataliia.)

## 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. 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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