

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 Christian refugees from Ukraine!**



Late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand with wife, Sabina

September 2022

**Announcement:**

Free copies of the paperback books written by Pastor Richard Wurmbbrand:

**"Reaching Towards the Heights,"**

**"Tortured For Christ" and**

**"Was Karl Marx a Satanist?"**

may be requested using the order form at the

<https://helpforrefugees.com> internet site.

"Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ."

(I Thessalonians 2:6)

Late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand spent 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From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand

**BURDENSOME CHRISTIANITY**

A Christian is supposed to be humble in his private affairs. When hit on one cheek he turns the other. The canvas never quarrels with the painter. He is free to paint on it what he likes, be it a beggar or a king. The Christian accepts any condition in life as coming from God. If he is successful, he does not boast of it. Can a brush boast that a beautiful picture has been drawn with it? Only the master-painter deserves glory. So is our relationship with Christ. A Christian seeks glory from nobody.

Therese of Lisieux gives a little illustration in her autobiography. One day while standing near a sister who was washing the laundry, she was inadvertently splashed in her face with dirty water. If Therese had left suddenly without uttering a word of reproach, the sister might have guessed that she had done something wrong and been sad about it. If she had said "Stop it!, a quarrel might have arisen.

Therese said to herself, "What is wrong with being splashed with dirty water? Jesus, the Son of God, allowed Himself to be spat upon." Thinking like this, she began to like the dirt with which

she was sprinkled. For you, too, this is the best response when subjected to humiliations in private life.

Christ was humble, as was St. Paul, though their humility had a feature apart: it was difficult to make others understand it. Jesus had to say: "I seek not mine own glory" (John 8:50) and "I am meek and lowly in heart" (Matthew 11: 29). Paul also had to assure men that he sought no glory. Normally, a humble man does not go around boasting about his humility. It is only when he makes an impression of great pride, or even arrogance, that he has to explain what is in him.

A Christian is humble in his own affairs, yet he is very sure that he has a message from God. This he asserts with full authority, ready to contend with anybody, even to the point of being considered burdensome or annoying, or giving the impression of being an "I-know better" man. "Apostles of Christ might be burdensome" (I Thessalonians 2:6). Paul was such when he wrote that he sought no glory from men.

We also are unworthy messengers, but we have a worthy message, It consists in telling Christians Of the free world about the heroes of faith in countries dominated by communists, in telling the churches and believers in the free world that to be shallow and lukewarm is a grave sin and that we should take example from the martyrs of faith in Communist lands and choose their heroic Christian lifestyle and luminous example.

Would you give up witnessing for your faith at your place of work if this were burdensome for your employer and you might risk losing your job? The heroic choice is the Christian one.

I have often seen youth in the free world who were sad because they could not study, instead of accepting lovingly whatever God decides is best for them. Would you witness for your faith knowing that, though having a physician's diploma you would have to be a porter? The heroic choice is always the right one in Christianity. Become a porter shouting Hallelujah. A whole chapter of the Bible (I Chronicles 26) puts the porters who loved the Lord on a roll of honor. If God honors porters who serve Him and rejects millionaires who deny Him, why not prefer to be a porter? We know that we will be considered burdensome and arrogant for criticizing the average Christian manner of life. It is our right to seem burdensome for we have God's message. He rejects the lukewarm, He spits them out of His mouth. (Revelation 3:16) Therefore everyone has to choose a heroic attitude in meeting the problems of life, whatever the cost.



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 Krivtsova  
Natalia Pavlovna**



**Baptist Viktor  
Miroshkin**



**Atanasoae Neculai**



**Aursulesei Ioan**

from Mozdok, former Soviet Union was arrested and sentenced to 4 years in prison under Art. 227 h. 2 of the Criminal Code of the Soviet Union. (This article condemned all adults who tried to introduce children into religious activities, like Sunday schools, church choirs and so on. N. Ed.) She was placed for 6 hours in a concrete cell named "the glass." In it one could only stand, leaning against some ledge. **Read her full testimony in our 1/2022 Newsletter.**

### Christian Refugees from the Present Russian-Ukrainian War Helped with your Gifts

**Apartment house destroyed through Russian bombing in Mariupol, Ukraine, where 40% of whole town has been close to obliterated. Over 7 million refugees have escaped Ukraine in the last 6 months.**



of the Army of the Lord Christian movement in former communist Romania, has 8 children and because of his faith was sentenced to work 10 months in an army labor-camp.

**Read his full testimony in our 2/2019 Newsletter.**

**Read his full testimony in our 1/2022 Newsletter.**

of the Army of the Lord Christian movement in former communist Romania. Though he has 5 children he was sentenced to pay fines nearly 8 times his monthly salary because he allowed Christian meetings take place in his home.

**Read his full testimony in our 2/2019 Newsletter.**

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



Above and right picture and receipt for an initial help of 800 Romanian lei (US \$200) sent by the family of **Chepeleva Olena** (with husband, five children and their grandmother.)

These refugees come from the town of Snikurivka, Ukraine, and were members in the local Baptist “Great Commission” church.

Olena wrote: “We left our city because it was bombed and we were in danger. Husband lost his job. During ten days we moved from one place to another.”

**Confirmare** 

Nume și prenume/ Ім'я та прізвище: Olena Chepeleva

Seria și numărul de pe pașaport/ Серійний номер і номер паспорта: FP 1480288

Localitatea/Micro: Snikurivka, Ukraine

Biserica: Церква Great Commission Church

Membrii familiei/ Члени сім'ї: 7

Descrie situația/ Опиши, будь ласка, ситуацію:  
We left our city because it was bombed and we were in danger. Husband lost his job 10 days we moved from one place to another.

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Am primit suma de 800 lei din partea Colegiului "Richard Wurmbrand" / Я отримав \_\_\_\_\_ лей від Коледжі Річарда Вурмбранда.

Semnătura/ Підпис: [Signature]



At the children's center Victoria, managed by the Richard Wurmbrand College, Iasi, Romania, the children are cared for and fed. They also have volunteers to play with and forget about the war and the fact that they will not live in Ukraine for a long time to come.

## Some of the Scores of Christian Refugee Families, from War-Torn Ukraine Helped with your Gifts

Cherniuk Tatiana wrote: "I come from the occupied city of Chornobaivka, (Ukraine.) I sheltered in the basement for 40 days with my neighbors. Bombardments were daily, from time to time. In daytime we could stand in line to buy bread and cereals. I had a supply and I helped 10 people, I cooked for them. When I left, I passed 16 Russian controls. That's why I was very afraid. My children and grandchildren are staying in Snihurivka, Ukraine. I received 800 lei (US \$200)."



Nume și prenume/ Im'я та прізвище: Чернюк Татяна Cherniuk Tatiana

Seria și numărul de pe pașaport/ Серійний номер і номер паспорта: EO 912977

Localitatea/Micro: с.п.п. Снігурівка Львівська обл. Україна

Biserica/ Церква: "Велике Дружіння"

Membrii familiei/ Chleny sim'yi: одна

Describe situația/ Опишіть, будь ласка, ситуацію:  
Я приїхала із окупованого міста Чорнобаївка перебуваючи 40 днів в підвалі з сусідками. Вночі були кожнієї ночі, по 16 російських військ. Ми могли тільки отримати чергу за хлібом і крупой. У мене були необхідні запаси їжі на 10 днів, і я була готова їсти. Коли у нас проща 16 російських військ без паспорта. Тільки дуже багато російських військ, і ми залишилися в Снігурівці.  
 Am primit suma de 800 lei din partea Colegiului "Richard Wurmbrand". / Я отримав 800 lei від Колегії Річарда Вурмбранда.



Localitate/ місто: Снігурівка

Biserica/ Церква: "Зимляк"

Membrii familiei/ Члени сім'ї: 9 человек

Vă rugăm să scrieți cu majuscule, câte persoane sunt în familia dumneavoastră, ce a suferit familia dumneavoastră pentru a deveni refugiați/  
 Describe situația/ Напишіть, будь ласка, великими літерами, скільки людей у вашій родині, чим зазнала ваша родина? Опишіть ситуацію:  
У нас троє дітей і п'ять внуків. Ми ухвалили рішення виїхати з України через війну. Ситуація, в якій ми опинилися в нашій області. Старший син залишився в Україні. Ми ухвалили рішення виїхати з України з двома дітьми: Златою і Ваней, і з двома внучками і сестрою. Ми отримали суму 1.000 RON від Мисіїні Крестине Річарда Вурмбранда. Я отримав суму 1.000 RON від Християнської місії Річарда Вурмбранда. Вукамі: Зубів, Рого і Революції



**Pictures-family of Vlaeva Ligia, a total of 9 persons (with grandmother) from the Immanuel church in the village of Zaria, by the city of Odessa, Ukraine. -Natalia Prokopova with daughter and two children. Each family received US \$500 (2 x 1.000 ron receipts/family.)**

## 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 10,000/24 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 this newsletter a few 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	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 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: website: <https://helpforrefugees.com>**

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