

HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC.

A tax-exempt, non-profit corporation

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Late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand with wife, Sabina

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"I was afraid and went and hid thy talent in the earth" (Matthew 25:25)

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 prisons.

From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand

Entrust God with the Little You Have

A man travelled into a far country – says Jesus in a parable - and gave those working for him different amounts of “talents,” sums of money varying in value from one to five thousand dollars (in Jesus time under the Roman Empire, in Israel a gold-coin called “a talent” was worth the equivalent in today’s money of about US \$1,000.) Some of these employees traded with their money and, at the return of the Lord, could present the Lord with their gain. But one who had received only one talent, had no profit to show. Out of fear to lose it in commerce, he had hidden the talent in the ground. The Master took it away and gave it to the other most successful servant. This is a parable about faith. We need believe God’s gifts to us should be employed to advance His Kingdom, even when there is the risk of an apparent loss.

The losing servant had misjudged his Master. A thousand dollars is really not much for starting some commerce. But Christ, when He gives you a very small gift, by your faith, He makes also things to concur for your best, so that you can achieve very great results with it. He works with you. As long as you remain faithful to Him, you cannot lose. Most of those who will read the present meditation have very limited possibilities of serving. Some are old, infirm, crippled, lonely, abandoned by beloved ones, bereaved, unemployed, poor. Others are too young, uneducated, dropouts, men or women of low position or even addicted to grave sins. Among those who wrote to me are men who sit in jails in countries of the Free World for criminal

offences. These are people with only one talent. Whatever little you consider as good in your heart, do not hide. It can bring gain.

If ever there were men on whose ways there were great hindrances to become fruitful servants of the Lord, they were the Communist writers PASTERNAK and SOLZHENITSYN. They had been brought up both in the strictest Atheist discipline; they had been members of the murderous Communist Party. SOLZHENITSYN has been kept in prison during many years by his own comrades. (Communism persecutes not only its adversaries, but also its adherents. It is a religion of hatred.) This should have made him bitter. But they changed their liabilities into assets as every one of you can do. PASTERNAK defied Soviet terror and published abroad his novel "Doctor Zhivago," in which he, a Jew, is the first to bring back into the Soviet literature, Lord Jesus as the Savior. For this he was expelled from the Writer's Union. Soon afterwards he died because of the persecution. But he has served his Lord. By secret channels, his book bringing the message of Christ, was spread also in the former Soviet Union. SOLZHENITSYN showed the same courage. He stated: "Communism has infected the whole world with the belief in the relativity of good and evil... Among "enlightened people" it is considered rather awkward to use seriously such words as 'good' and 'evil.' Communism has managed to instill in all of us that these concepts are old-fashioned concepts and laughable. But if we are to be deprived of the concepts of good and evil, what will be left? Nothing but the manipulation of one another. We will decline to the status of animals... For me (the Christian) faith is the foundation and support of one's life."

You should also not care about your handicaps. Do what is right and God will use you greatly. Ask your pastor how you could become useful in the Kingdom of God. You have only one talent? You are poor materially, in your health, spiritually even? Don't hide the one talent you have. Trade with it. The Gospel explains how a few loaves of bread can miraculously feed thousands, how faith need not be more substantial than a mustard-seed. In many countries where Christians are persecuted, our sisters and brethren are poor. So, they can afford to give for God's work, for the underground churches on an average, 40% of their income. No money is spent on luxurious buildings, choir robes, cookies after the service and so on. No time is spent for idle socializing. They spend their time rather spreading the Gospel message in dire circumstances. Everything goes only for the propagation of the Gospel. A brother told us: "The beatings and the pressure put upon us in prison were so big, that perhaps the faith of some of us would have broken down, if we had not known that we are not alone, that brethren of the Free World care for our children, they should have a piece of bread. From such belief our resistance got stronger" You have only one talent. Place it to work. We received a 2½-lines letter from an American child of four. He writes that he renounced sweets and chocolate in order to send a gift to Christians he heard from his parents, are suffering. This one little sacrifice may have made the difference and kept as hero a Christian who was at the verge of giving up his faith.



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.

“Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.” (Apostle James Epistle 1:27)

Christians Helped with Your Gifts!

Both Father and Son Suffered in Soviet Communist Prisons



Alexander Razumovskii at age 24 when arrested on 4/24/1982 by the Soviet KGB for his Christian activity. Picture of his father below.

Razumovskii's son wrote to us: “The peace of God! My name is Razumovskii Alexandru Evghenievici, and I was born in 1958 in a Christian family. In 1971, when only 13, my father was arrested and sentenced to four years imprisonment for the work he did in the church. I was the oldest of the children, and all the care for my family fell upon my shoulders.

“At age 22, I was baptized, and then I was involved in church work. I was asked to work at Krestianin (“The Christian” underground publishing house) where Christian literature was printed surreptitiously for our unregistered churches. For two years, together with other brothers and sisters, I worked for this (underground) publisher.

“In 1982, me, a few brothers and a sister, were arrested by the KGB (Soviet secret police) as we transported a printing machine from one place to another. I was sentenced to two years of communist prison and in order to serve this sentence I was banished and transported to a prison in the Pavlodar region of Kazakhstan (about 1,500 miles away from his home, NT.) It is a region of extreme climate conditions, with very strong winds all winter and often temperatures dropped to -40 ° C (-40 ° F). I was obliged in such a harsh environment, to do hard labor in construction and therefore got very sick. The prison authorities offered no healthcare whatsoever.

“Nevertheless, God gave me strength and I resisted through all these difficulties and was released from prison in 1984 but sentenced further to be exiled far from my home. After the fall of the Soviet Union, in the year 2000, I was ordained as a pastor of a Baptist church back in Fergana (his home town, NT) in the former Soviet republic of Uzbekistan, now an independent country. The main religion of the Republic of Uzbekistan is Moslem. The local Moslem population persecutes the Christians. For these reasons, we were forced in 2014 to move back to Russia, to the Tver region. I am currently a minister of the Tver Baptist Church. We have a large family, 9 children and 6 grandchildren.



Razumovski Evghenii born 1933, now deceased, suffered 4 years of imprisonment for his Christian witness in the former Soviet Union. His Christian son was also imprisoned for 2 years.

For the past 40 years, *HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC.* has extended financial support to Christian refugees from communist countries, orphans and Christians who had been imprisoned for their faith in present and former communist countries. Also helped is the *Richard Wurmbrand College*, a high school in Iasi, Romania where many children of disadvantaged families are able to study. See <http://helpforrefugees.com>. Anyone may use a "DONATE" button on site. Due to tax laws in all Eastern Europe or Russia, some help needs be sent through local nonprofits in Romania and in the Republic of Moldova.

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Pictures of some Christians arrested by the Soviet KGB in January-February 1982. Scores of such pages were published under the titles: "New Prisoners in the Work of the Gospel. Published by the Christian-Baptist Evangelical Church." From *Krestianin* ("The Christian.") A monthly bulletin secretly published and circulated at great personal danger in the former Soviet Union. We try locate and help many such elderly, surviving Christians.



"Peace, dear brothers and sisters! Thank you very much for the letter I received and yes, I do wish to be of help! My name is **Dorofeeva Galina Stepanovna**. We have received a letter from you that you would like to know what we experienced in the communist period. I believed in Jesus exactly at the time when in the USSR, Christians were severely persecuted, especially our community. Because I fell in love with Jesus, I also wanted to be useful with something. So, there was a job for me, too, to be a teacher at an (underground) Sunday School. At that time the pastors, church ministers, Christian press workers, and Sunday school teachers were most often arrested. So, in 1983 I was arrested, and after the trial I was sentenced to 2 years in prison (1983-1985). This burden was not light. We also had humiliations, different types of threats, and there were also heavy conditions because of (being bitten) by swarms of insects. Before I was in jail, I was living in an apartment that I received from my job. After I got out of jail, that is after 2 years, I was left homeless. There was nowhere to live. In this issue, Christian brothers in Germany helped me a lot. Now I'm old, I'm bedridden. I can just lay down, I cannot sit, so I cannot go out somewhere. Last year I became 80 years old. For a few years I have been sick with diabetes, and last year this illness worsened. I also suffered an accident, and I fell. Since then I cannot go, I cannot stand up, nor do anything

by myself without the help of anyone. All my relatives, my sisters have already died. Today, both Christians from the church and other persons are taking care of me. Thank God I'm still alive, He's my life. I do not know what His plans are, but I trust Him. Thank you wholeheartedly because you remembered me and found me! I am grateful for your attention and care! God bless you and reward you fully! Continue to serve Him! PS. This letter I did not write with my hand because I cannot write, instead I could sign it only."

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A Fulfilled Prophetic Dream!



Julia Andreevna Romanov,
born 1936, at time of arrest.

Julia Andreevna Romanov writes:

“Dear brother in the Lord! Greetings to you with the love of the precious Lord Jesus Christ! I am writing (briefly) of my life at your request.

Somehow, back in 1971, a servant of God visited our church and he made a request (that was under the Soviet communist regime personally very dangerous.) The unregistered Baptist Churches (in order to be of help to the families left-behind, after so many hundreds of Christians had been arrested by the KGB) needed to form a Council of Relatives of the Imprisoned Christians. I did not hesitate for a second to agree to be part of this surreptitious help-committee and I never ever regretted it later in my life.

My work in the Council of Relatives of the Imprisoned Christians was to visit various families of prisoners, find out what their urgent needs were, the age of their children, etc. Then I was supposed to find out means of livelihood among the underground church members and deliver this help.

In the end (I was discovered by the KGB) and was arrested in the city of Kiev, the capital city of the former Soviet Republic of Ukraine, on October 11, 1971. My imprisonment had to do with a famous Russian Christian family, who had much suffered for the faith, named Vins. (Georgy Vins, one of the leaders of the Russian unregistered Baptist was already as a third generation of Christians, imprisoned for the faith in the Soviet Union. Both his father and grandfather had died in the Soviet gulags-prison-camps, NT) Lydia Mikhailovna, was the mother of Georgy Petrovich Vins, and she headed this secret Council of Relatives of the Imprisoned Christians. She had been arrested by the KGB a short time before I ended up arrested. Since I attended her court-trial, a mockery of true justice, other Christians asked me to write a report on this trial. This ended up being a provocation by the Soviet KGB, because somehow, I was arrested having on me this report-manuscript and was charged in court for spreading “slander” against the Soviet regime.

At the trial, the judge told me: had you kept silent, you could have gotten only 1-year imprisonment, but because you spoke (in your defense) we give you 3 years of imprisonment! In my defense-speech, I denounced in many ways the oppression of the Soviets against our Christian church.

By the time I had been tried, Lydia Vins, her son Georgy and their entire family had been freed by the Soviets. They had been expelled to the United States, in an exchange for two Soviet spies caught in the Free World.

Something very special happened, when I arrived in the crowded prison cell. At first, the fellow-prisoners inquired why and how I had been arrested. Then they pointed to a specific place on the crowded bunker-beds for me to sleep on. When I asked, why this particular cot, they answered: “Your Baptist friend Lydia Vins when imprisoned, was sleeping on this very cot, before having been freed recently.” I reverently sat on the cot, honored by the place the Lord had prepared for me. Yet, immediately next, I felt bad and I could not understand why? I went to bed full of anguish. I could not close my eyes for a long time, but when I fell asleep, I had this dream: I climbed a high mountain, reached half of the mountain and saw a little white sheep, which did not let me go further up the mountain. The sheep turned suddenly into my daughter and while still dreaming my mother appeared in my dream and interpreted the first part of this dream to mean, that the Lord will hear His children’s prayer and my prison time would be shortened to half (since I had dreamt I climbed up only half the mountain!).

I woke up and immediately began to tell this dream to other prisoners. They riled at me: “if everyone in-here had such (optimistic) dreams, none of us would be in this prison.” Full of faith, I answered: “I don’t know about you, but my Lord sent me this dream and I know for sure I will not serve the full time of my prison sentence!”

Only a few days later, unexpectedly the prison commandant entered the cell, called my name and shouted, “How come she was born under a lucky star?” He continued: “Sign this paper! Your three years sentence had been cut to 1½ years” All of a sudden, the entire prison-ward was amazed. I understood I had received a special grace from the Lord.”

[Sister Romanov, now 82, wrote to us a very long testimony of her suffering inside these communist jails. She described several spiritual experiences, how a prisoner was converted as a result of her testimony and how even a prison-leadership officer claimed publicly having been blessed through sister Romanov’s Christian faith.]

Help for Refugees, Inc. PO Box 5161, Torrance, Ca. 90510, USA. Email: hfr@helpforrefugees.com, website: <http://helpforrefugees.com> (EIN: 95-3064521) is listed in Publication 78, Cumulative List of Nonprofit Organizations described in Section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Service. Gifts to Help for Refugees are tax-deductible.

Christians Helped with your Gifts! Son shot dead by the KGB

Brother Victor Sasin writes: “Dear brothers and sisters, (be greeted with the Bible verse:) "Let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we hope in Thee. Psalm 33:22”

“I received your letter and decided to answer you. Regarding the lives of past believers (during the Soviet period, I need explain), how I was sentenced (for my Christian activities) together with six other brethren, pastors, preachers, and church ministers. Of all those condemned, through God’s mercy, I alone remained alive, all the other six brothers went to the Lord.

“My family has suffered greatly because of our faith. Before (the so-called) Soviet leader Gorbachev’s Perestroika (the liberalization of Soviet life, NT) at the factory I was working in, the communist director organized an assembly in which I was publicly fined and mocked as a Christian. I was threatened by the plant manager, and I was told that in the near future my sons would be enrolled in the Soviet Army, and then they would be punished (because of my faith.)

“Indeed, my two elder sons, Daniel and Benjamin, were conscripted in the Soviet Army. Within a few months of having been drafted, Benjamin was shot in the head and died instantly. This happened in 1985. Because they refused to disavow their Christian faith, many Soviet Army soldiers who were Christian, were tortured, shot at and even assassinated during their military service. Our family wrote complaints to the Soviet government in Moscow and publicized such atrocities throughout churches (inside the Soviet Union.) No one heard our complaint. The guilty ones (in the Soviet KGB who shot Benjamin) were not found and punished.

“Our other son, Paul, was poisoned by a neighbor. As a result of this poisoning, Paul ended up suffering from schizophrenia. Our entire family is struggling with him, even he is now in a hospital. These are the (sad) experiences of our family life. At the age of 82, I continue to go to church. I continue thank God for His mercy as it comes to me. God bless you fully!”



Picture from Krestianin (“The Christian”) bulletin, published and circulated secretly inside the former Soviet Union. A young Christian, member of the underground Baptist church, Loiko Nikolai, 17, shot by the KGB, in the city of Mogilev, former Soviet Union when the communist police disrupted a church meeting on 5/2/1974.

409	Власенко	Валентин	Мефодьевич	1958	Украина
410	Вольф	Андрей	Иорнеевич	1958	Казакстан
411	Куркин	АЛЕКСЕЙ	ЯКОВЛЕВИЧ	1958	Россия
412	Левиен	НИКОЛАЙ	ВИКТОРОВИЧ	1958	Казакстан
413	Романюк	Владимир	Николаевич	1958	Украина
414	Тиссен	Давид	Давидович	1958	Россия
415	ТУРНЕВИЧ	Василий	Тарасович	1958	Украина
416	Бычков	Степан	Павлович	1959	Украина
417	ДРАСВЯНИКОВ	АЛЕКСАНДР	АЛЕКСАНДРОВИЧ	1959	Россия
418	СКВОРЦОВА	ЛЮБОВЬ	НИКОЛАЕВНА	1959	Россия
419	Барвин	Виталий	Федотович	1959	Россия
420	Дубицкий	СЕРГЕЙ	АДАМОВИЧ	1959	Россия
421	Лашенко	Борис	Владимирович	1959	Украина
422	Ткаченко	ИВАН	ИВАНОВИЧ	1959	Казакстан
423	МАРЧЕНКО	Станислав	Павлович	1960	Украина
424	Донченко	Александр	Максимович	1960	Украина
425	Отмахов	Вениамин	Александрович (Валериянов)	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

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Above, a sample of a list, our mission was able to compile, of over 480 elderly Baptist Christians who suffered for their 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 fourth column shows year of birth and the 5th, present 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 help to about 70 such elderly Russian-speaking Christians. Many of their testimonies you can read in the monthly newsletter. (Testimonies available also on the internet at: <http://helpforrefugees.com>).