

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

NOVEMBER 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 that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." (Ephesians 4:24)

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From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand

HOLINESS

Ordinarily, men confound holiness with goodness, though these are very different virtues. We read in Genesis 1:31: "God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good." After this 'very good' followed something entirely else. "and God blessed the seventh day, **and sanctified it**: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made." (Genesis 2:3) Sanctification belongs to another sphere than goodness.

Someone can be very good, without being holy, put aside for God. There are also extreme cases when men are holy without being simply characterized as 'good.' 'The Second Epistle of Peter 1:21 writes: "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." 'Prophetic truth' is not just simple 'good' advice.

The commandment to us is to become holy by "putting on the new man." The 'new man' is a symbol for holiness. How to put on 'the new man'? The answer is by feeding upon the right spiritual food. If you wish to put on the new man, a man of righteousness and holiness, symbolically feed upon Christ.

We read in the Gospel of John, chapter 6: 29-35: "Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent. They said therefore unto him, What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work? Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread. And Jesus said unto them, 'I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.'"

Lord Jesus explained further what His words mean: "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." (John 6:63)

One becomes evil by watching the levity of many TV shows, by reading bad books, and frequenting evil company. I remember a communist Russian officer I met. I asked him if he believed in God? I expected a "yes" or a "no" answer. Instead, his reply was, "We have no order to believe. If we ever get such an order, we will believe." He was a man who lost the most important gift God gives men: the right to be a personality who could say "yes" or "no" to God even! He was a machine. Even some misguided ministers preach their doubts instead of preaching the Word of God. A famous Christian of the early church (4th Century AD) Saint Augustine wrote: "No one dies for a faith of which he is not sure!" Only people who sacrifice can show 'The Way' and lead out.

You put on 'the new man' by faith, without any effort, when your spirit feeds upon the beautiful examples of faith given by the Christian martyrs. Christians, feeding upon the examples of those who are faithful to Christ risking even death-sentences put on the new man, whose heart goes out to sufferers! One of the persecuted Christians wrote: "I pray for these people that their witness and faith may remain strong so that their persecutors, the Communists, may recognize that these Christians worship a living Savior and many more may come to love Him, too." Vladimir Ghica who died for Christ in the Jilava jail in former communist Romania, left this prayer: "Lord, take my heart and never give it back to me. Why was I born if not to love you passionately?" His last words on his deathbed were these: "May the pains inflicted upon me, united to your pain, O Lord, heal and bless those who tortured me to death." You can see 'the new man.' He thinks lovingly not only about the victims, but also about the torturers.



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!)



VATULKO Anatoli Mikhailovich

was arrested in the former Soviet Union, sentenced to five years imprisonment and deprivation of parental rights (had four children.) The KGB subjected him to fierce tortures to get him to sign that he would not preach about Christ. His father who was a missionary in communist China was also killed for his Christian underground work. **Read his daughter's testimony in our online 4/2022 Newsletter.**



Andrei GHEORGHE

was sentenced to 8 years of imprisonment in former communist Romania for underground Christian activities. His “guilt” as stated in his sentencing document: “spreading religious mysticism!” **Read his testimony in our online 12/2014 Newsletter.**



SILAGHI Cornel

describes of his imprisonment in former communist Romania: “in the Danube Delta, we were so hungry that many ate green (uncooked) corn, their abdomen swell and they died. Some people (due to hunger) cut and ate also uncooked weeds. Many left there their bones not to ever return to their families. Faith means accepting the place God ordained for us. **Read his testimony in our online 12/2014 Newsletter.**



Joszef VARADI

was sentenced around 1952 in former communist Romania to 10 years of prison and eventually ended up doing forced labor at the Danube Canal (built mostly with prisoners.) He was mercilessly beaten, his maxillary dislocated. **Read his full testimony in our online 2/2015 Newsletter.**

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



The family ANDRUSIAK wrote:

“When the war started, I lived, worked and went to church in Kyiv. But from the very morning I woke up and heard the words "Olya, you need to run away, the war has started." On the same day, I packed the most important things and moved to Ivano-Frankivsk.

I did not believe that it would last long. And I drove with the thought that in three days - a week I would return to my usual activities. I lived in Ivano-Frankivsk region for about a month, but when I realized that one day my family might not have enough to live on, I left and decided to move abroad.

Now I'm in Canada. Thank God for the church and friends. Thank God that He is with us in every corner. In the picture: ANDRUSIAK Basil with wife Oleksandra and children.

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!

Sister Sofia IANKOVSKAIA wrote:

“In our city there are military actions. Our houses are bombed. We fled from the bombardments.”

Sister CERNYUK Tatiana wrote:

“I come from the occupied city of Chornobaivka. I had stayed in the basement for 40 days with my neighbors. Bombardments were at different times daily. 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.”

Sister BELOKON Lidia Semionivna wrote:

“On the 24th of February 2022 Ukraine was invaded by Russian military forces. First, they destroyed the airports which were bombed by planes. Then they started to advance with military equipment on the whole territory, from the Southern and Northern directions. They started to shoot civilians. It was unexpected for all of us - a catastrophe.”

Sister Vira KRYVUTS wrote:

“Bombing started in our city and for a long time I hid in the basement. I couldn't resist anymore. I have group III disability.”

Sister MOISENKO Elena wrote:

„A war broke out in my country, Ukraine, and I was forced to leave my city and my country.”

Brother Maksim STAVISIUK wrote:

“On February 24, at 5 a.m. I decided to evacuate in order to save my children and wife from physical and psychological trauma. At the moment we are headed to Poland to help refugees (the majority of people from our church are there). We would like to thank our brothers for their warm welcome and great help! “

Brother LUBENSKII Oleg wrote:

“We lived in the district which was used for the defense of Kyiv, that is why there was a big chance of finding ourselves in the fighting zone. Our children and 6 grandchildren all decided to leave the country, and we followed them. “

Sister Kristina BEZPALKO wrote:

“Thanks for your offer to send help. Received 1,855 (Polish Zloti)”

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



Sister Bohush Elena Antolievna wrote: “My son and I were born and raised in Mariupol, Ukraine. They lived quietly and calmly, I worked, my son studied at the institute never thinking that big changes could happen in our life.

The date of February 24, 2022 was the most terrible day. We woke up at five in the morning from a loud explosion and sirens. We learned on TV that a "special operation" (Vladimir Putin’s deceptive name of the Russian attack against Ukraine – N. Ed.) had begun in Ukraine. We could not leave Mariupol because the city was encircled.

There was hope that everything would be fine, but on February 26, we went down to the basement of the house because it was unsafe to be in the apartment. There were many children and old people in the basement, it was our refuge where we were safer.

There was a catastrophic lack of food and medicine. And so a month of our life passed. One day our house was hit, the house caught fire. We had to leave the basement and run without knowing where. We reached the village of Stary Krym, where we spent the night in an abandoned house. But thank God and with God's help we managed to get out of the city. Early in the morning, a bus came to the checkpoint to evacuate people to Volodarsk. Arriving in Volodarsk, we were in a camp for refugees. Volunteers from this camp helped us evacuate to Taganrog. Upon arrival, we were transferred to a bus that took us to the border with Estonia. Ukrainian volunteers were waiting for us in Narva.

After arriving in Tallinn and getting acquainted with an Estonian family who took us to the ‘Salt of the Earth’ Christian church, we continued to go there. Here we met Pastor Pavlo Duchenko and people who help us and needy parishioners with food.

Since we are in a foreign country and starting a new life, we need help. We pray for the end of the war in Ukraine for our family and friends. **GLORY TO THE LORD GOD. AMEN”**



I am Mykhailo Bykov, a refugee from Ukraine. Until 2014, I lived in the Luhansk region, which was occupied by Russian troops. Leaving my native home, I had a very unpleasant conversation with these soldiers who did not like my language and my evangelical faith. They perceived me as an extremist. And at that time I was very scared, because there were threats of physical violence and I understood that they can do whatever they like.

Since February 24, 2022, I already understood that I had to leave Ukraine, because I would not survive such a meeting with the Russians. At the first opportunity, on July 10, I left for Romania with my family. Here we have not very good conditions, as many as three families live in two rooms and a kitchen. Sometimes I work for people in the village, but now I do not work because there is no job. In order to find a job, I registered with the employment center, but there is little hope for me, because I still do not know the language.

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 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	ДРИСВЯННИКОВ	АЛЕКСАНДР	АЛЕКСАНДРОВИЧ	1959	Россия
418	СКВОРЦОВА	ЛЮБОВЬ	НИКОЛАЕВНА	1959	Россия
419	Варавин	Виталий	Федотович	1959	Россия
420	Дубицкий	СЕРГЕЙ	АДАМОВИЧ	1959	Россия
421	Лященко	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

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 speaking 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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