

HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC.

A tax-exempt, non-profit corporation

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**We help orphans and elderly Christians (many in their eighties, 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 Wurmland with wife, Sabina

May 2025

**Announcement:**

Free copies of the paperback books written by Pastor Richard Wurmland:  
"Reaching Towards the Heights";  
"Tortured For Christ";  
"Was Karl Marx a Satanist?";  
and "The Pastor's Wife" by Sabina Wurmland, may be requested using the order form at the <https://helpforrefugees.com> internet site. (See request form at top of the third column!)

"But Mary stood without at the sepulcher weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulcher, and seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou?" Gospel of John 20:11-12

Late Reverend Richard Wurmland suffered

14 years in Romanian communist prisons. Mrs. Wurmland, Sabina, 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From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmland  
**MIRACULOUS SIGHTS**

There are two ways of looking at a tomb. We read in the Gospel of John, chapter 20 that Peter and another disciple of Jesus came on Easter morning to the tomb of their Master, found it empty, and saw in it the linen in which Jesus had been wrapped. Mary Magdalene also looked into the empty tomb, but she saw angels where the body of Jesus had lain. Soon after this, she was the first to see the risen Lord Himself. Now, some today see only the crumbling of Christian civilization, while others see angels at work preparing, through dreadful events, the blessed kingdom of God. Just as Saint Stephen saw the glory of God, while murderers threw stones at him (Acts 7:55), so we see, amidst the slaughter of whole nations, the powers of resurrection working at the creation of a new heaven and a new earth, in which God's elect will be forever happy.

Materialists, atheists cannot see spiritual realities. If a thermometer shows 200 degrees, the atheist believes that such a temperature exists objectively; but it is difficult for him to believe that morality exists objectively. For the atheist it is impossible to compare the soul to the tube

of the thermometer and the Ten Commandments to degrees. They have lost the scale of morality. They are morally sick people. They believe a thermometer but don't believe each other. They don't believe in the good. Mankind needs look toward God, because through faith in God, one also obtains love and hope.

How does a man get to see angels, to sense their presence? The apostles had been very active in the service of the Lord. Mary had sat quietly at the feet of Jesus (Luke 10:39) and listened to Him expound the Scriptures beginning with Moses and all the prophets. (Luke 24:27) She probably heard from His lips the stories of many saints and martyrs for the faith and became familiar with them. Communion with saints and martyrs prepares for communion with angels. Every church service should mention the martyrs and engender among believers respect for these martyrs who were willing to sacrifice all for the Christ they adored.

We have expanded the notion of martyr. Martyr proper refers only to one who has died for Christ. But we think also about the "confessors", the old name of those who sit in prisons and are viciously persecuted for Christ's sake. Jesus promised that "whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward." (Matthew 10:42) His reward will be to have eyes open to see angels where others see only disaster.

George Vins, was the secretary of the true underground Baptist Union in the former Soviet Union. He suffered eight years in communist prisons. He addressed the judges and the prosecutor at his first trial saying: "I don't see in you enemies. You are my brothers and sisters in the great human family. After I have left the court house, I will pray in my cell to God for you all, that He may reveal to you His divine truth and the marvelous sense of life. It is the Bible which formed me. It is the Bible which has taught me always to tell the truth."

The Bible teaches us rather "to weep with them that weep" (Romans 12:15) and "to remember them that are in bonds as bound with them." (Hebrews 13:3) Only when looking through tears one begins to see angels where there seemed to be only a tomb. Look well to your hungry brethren, who now, while it is summer for you, have their emaciated bodies pierced by the cold, sleeping on bare cement in unheated cells where snow never melts. You might see angels around them.



The Communist Jilava Prison.  
Entrance to the underground cells.



Prison cell with bunkbeds 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!)



Late minister **Liviu Chifor**, was arrested and sentenced to 7 years of jail and 10 years loss of civic rights for “plotting against the social order” (through religious activity) in former communist Romania. He wrote:

**“A communist prison guard stated to me, ‘we will level you off with a heavy roller!’ They imagined we (religious people) will never be able to spring out from the ground. God’s plan was for some to die but for some like us to survive and spring up. He be praised!”**  
(Read his testimony in our online September 2016 Newsletter.)



Late **Rev. Vasile Gherman**, after conducting underground church services was arrested and sentenced to 6 years of imprisonment for “a plot against the communist social order” in former communist Romania. He executed his sentence and was three times placed under 24 months-long house arrest. (Read his testimony in our online September 2016 Newsletter.)



**Apartment house destroyed through Russian bombing in Mariupol, Ukraine, where 40% of whole town has been close to obliterated.**

**Over six million refugees have escaped so far from Ukraine into different European countries.**



Christian children in the Ukrainian refugees church in Oradea, Romania

Ukrainian Sister **NEFEDOVA OLESIA VASYLIVNA** wrote:

There was a very difficult situation in the capital city of Kyiv. Due to the fact that the infrastructure was damaged, the electricity and water were constantly turned off. Air raid sirens were so frequent and explosions could be heard on our street, since we lived near the center. It was especially difficult to go through all this with three children. We slept in a hammock and felt fear.

We left Ukraine on 01/17/2023 to the city of Oradea, Romania. Through our Church "Tabern" in Kyiv, we learned that there is a Ukrainian Church in the city of Oradea and Tenyaev Alexander is the Pastor. When we arrived in Oradea, we began to actively serve in this local Church.

We receive from the government an amount in Romanian RON representing only US \$59 per child per month. Life in Romania is very expensive, it does not cover the money we earn, so we sell what we can.

Thank you for your help!



The Ukrainian Christian refugee family of Ihor **BONDARCHUK** 48 years old, with wife Nefedova, 39, and children, Anna, 16, Timofii, 12 and David, 8.



Sister Natasha **OLEFIRENKO** (above left with family) wrote:

On 02/24/2022, we were caught in a war in our city. All the plans we had made with our family were destroyed in an instant. When the evacuation was announced, we left everything and had to leave our home. Two days later, we were travelling aimlessly, not knowing where to go, in order to do everything to feel safe. We stopped in the city of Lubny, Poltava region, from where we left a few days later abroad. There was uncertainty and fear ahead of us. Sometimes it seemed that our strength was completely gone, we had to spend the night at the station with a three-year-old child, there were a lot of people, there was nowhere to stop, even practically to drink hot tea. All that gave us strength was the understanding that I was responsible for my family.

We traveled to Estonia for 5 days. Here we were met by volunteers. After some time, we met Pastor Pavlo Duchenko of the Salt of the Earth Christian Church. They accepted us with love, understanding and compassion. We have hope for the future, to start all over again. Of course, it was not easy to immediately find and rent housing, get used to a new language, new people, a new land.

The church helped us to recover morally with God's help, every time we come here we feel like we are in a big friendly family, and we thank God for new friends.

We have hope for peace in our land and our return home.

## 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 four million have escaped the current war and another three 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, one 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 closer to the 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 dependable 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 three adults and twelve children. Most of these refugees entertain the illusion of taking refuge out of their native country and their lodging and work, for a brief 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.

\*(**Update February 2024:** Refugees still pour-in most days at the rate of 8,000-10,000!) Michael Wurmbrand

409	Власенко	Валентин	Медфодьевич	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	Ляшенко	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 lengthy 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 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 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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Gifts are US tax-deductible. Help for Refugees is listed in Publication 78, Cumulative List of Nonprofit Organizations described in Section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Service. For IRS nonprofit status you may use this link:

<https://apps.irs.gov/app/eos/allSearch>

and enter EIN: 953064521.