

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 Wurmbbrand with wife, Sabina

September 2024

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 request form at top of the third column!)

**"If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we should reap your carnal things?"
(I Corinthians 9:11)**

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From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand
HOW TO BE AWARE OF "SPIRITUAL THINGS?"

The Jews in times of old had the Messiah living among them, but they did not know that He is the Messiah. We all see the Communist world revolution marching on the streets of the free world, but we don't recognize that what is going on is the start of this revolution.

Terrorists who explode bombs are called "Freedom Fighters." Revolutionists shoot policemen and then are free on bail or acquitted. JOHN KENNEDY was shot by a Moscow-trained Communist. The secret of the murderer OSWALD could not be known, because in his turn he was shot only two days later by Jack Ruby. The safe of RUBY containing unknown documents has never been opened. When it should have been sold at an auction, it disappeared. Who feared that it might contain some secret? ROBERT KENNEDY was shot by SIRHAN who says in his diary that Communism is the best system.

In Britain, the Communists have key positions in the trade unions and wreck the country through strikes, Children only ten years old demonstrated on the streets with MAO badges and throw bottles at the Police, calling them "pigs" and asking for pupils' power. Even a head of the National Students Union of Great Britain was a Communist. For the first time, a Communist ended up being the rector of the Glasgow University.

Communist-trained Arab guerillas hijack planes. Communist guerillas fight in a number of Latin American countries. That is how revolution started in Russia, China and Cuba.

If things continue so, after a few years we will have the dictatorship of the Reds, the closure of churches, the torturing and killing of Christians in our own country.

Politicians suffer from blindness. Many church leaders of the free world are also blind. LESLIE LYAL, a director of the OVERSEAS MISSIONARY FELLOWSHIP, writes in the publication "CRUSADE," London (May 1972) that it is wrong to condemn the entire Communist experiment on the ground of its atheism. He questions if it is right to call MAO yet another of history's tyrants. "MAO has proved himself to be a great leader. The passion for social justice motivates every true Communist."

Is it even conceivable that "passion for social justice" will have made MAO kill 60 million innocents, among whom over one million Christians? Is it "passion for social justice" that made him gouge eyes of prisoners and maim them? A mission-director praises MAO, instead of praising the victims of MAO, the heroes of faith WATCHMAN NEE, WANG-MIN-DAO, WEN-YUANG, LIU-LING-CHIU and others. The Lord calls those who slay Christians — murderers" (Matthew 22: 7) not "great leaders."

Love and courage of Christian sufferers

In this world of killing and deceit enters a refreshing stream. The Christian sufferers in Communist countries sow among us "spiritual thing" of love, hope and faith.

Bishop WALSH, who has suffered 12 years of solitary confinement in Red China, referring to the fact that the Bible calls the Gospel "a power" (in Greek "dynamis) says in "MARYKNOLL NOTES" that "Christianity is a sort of dynamite We must be ready for some explosions." With serene words, he passes over the terrible ordeal which he has endured. It has just been an explosion of hatred that needs be healed by an explosion of Christian witness. You could not expect something better from the Communists. He adds "I have no bitterness towards those who tried and condemned me. I love the Chinese people."

The Protestant minister Wang Min Dao. refused to join the communist Three Self Patriotic Church instituted in communist China by Mao. Both he and wife were imprisoned. Wang suffered 25 years of communist prison. Even after being released due to US diplomacy he remained an example of uncompromised Christian faith. These examples are "the precious spiritual things" we need recognize, value and give to our children!



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!)



“You can’t change the truth by hanging those who speak the truth.

If all the Christians were hanged, it would still remain so that there is a God, and He is love.”



Late Reverend
Rebreanu Petre

Late Reverend Gheorghe Coceanga suffered 5 years of communist imprisonment. Pastor Richard Wurmbrand described in front of a US Senate Committee Reverend Coceanga’s astonishingly courageous testimony given to a communist prison commander in former communist Romania:

“Captain,” he went on to say, “I so pity you. We have the truth, and you have whips. We have love, and you have iron bars on prison cells. Violence and hatred is a very poor argument against truth and love.”

See our online 1/2016 Newsletter for the full text.

Before his death, Reverend Rebreanu wrote: “I thank you from all my heart for the help sent by Mr. Michael Wurmbrand to my numerous family, needing this help. Please advise what else should I do with this money. I was imprisoned in the Communist prison camps during 15 years and I suffered in a terrible way. God brought me back home. I finished my theological studies and that’s how I answered the call to serve Christ.” We continued to help his widow Melania (picture above.)

See our online 2/2016 Newsletter.

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

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



Helped With Your Gifts!

Children singing a Christian hymn at the Agape Orphanage in the city of Pascani, Romania



This summer, your gifts have allowed us to help financially the Agape Orphanage in Pascani, Romania, which was started by my parents, Richard and Sabina Wurmbrand.

Brother Dorin Gavril who together with Carmen, his wife, are the managers of the orphanage said:

“Reverend Richard Wurmbrand did not limit himself to speaking only of the horrors of communism but he passed from words to deeds.

When Reverend Wurmbrand arrived for the first time back in Romania after the communist regime fell on Christmas 1989, he met my mother in law Mrs. Martha Teodorescu-Schell, an old friend of the family. She shared with sister Sabina Wurmbrand her vision of taking care of Romania's orphans differently from the existing communist state orphanages where out-of-luck orphans might know neglect and may even feel unwanted. In her new orphanage such orphans would be surrounded by Christian love and would be taught how in turn they should love their fellow men.

Sister Sabina told her, "if you have such a vision, why don't you start right away." On the spot, Sabina reached into her pocket and gave my mother-in-law whatever money she happened to have on her, while seeing to it for the creation of larger funds necessary to start a Christian orphanage.

Brother Michael Wurmbrand, their son persevered in supporting us in word and deed, doing all he could for the Agape Orphanage.

Our care for these orphans starts with Christian teachings and the environment is like that of an extended family. We treat these orphans as being our own family. The Agape Christian Children Foundation is fully accredited by the state and appreciated for its social assistance results. All the children in our orphanage come out of difficult, disorganized, alcoholic or extreme poverty environments. All who work with us either hired or volunteers, try with God's help to continue this missionary commission started by the Wurmbrand Family on behalf of orphaned children. We try to honor God and bring a ray of light into the dark life of these hapless children so that we will have the grace to be among those who look forward to the glorious return of our Lord.

A description of three children in the Agape House by sister Carmen Gavrila, Director (in picture)



Ionela came to Agape at the age of 5 together with her older sister Georgiana and her younger brother Andrei, who was 2 years old at the time. They were brought directly

from the mother's house, who was an alcoholic and had no means of livelihood. The children were staying with their grandmother, who was sick in bed. Even the children took care of their grandmother. The mother had left them for a long time, busying herself with begging and living in total promiscuity.

Coming from a very immoral environment, having very bad language and mannerisms, the children had a harder time adapting to Agape, especially the older girls. Ionela, a very intelligent little girl, was the first of the three children to understand that coming to Agape was beneficial for her. Unfortunately, two years after coming to Agape, it was noticed that her eyes and legs were swelling and after many tests and consultations we discovered that she has nephrotic syndrome, a genetic disease. From then until now, we go with her every month to Iasi for control and to observe the evolution of the disease. During these years, she had very good times, but also bad ones. The worst was during the period when she fell ill with Covid and was close to kidney blockage. In this moment she is not feeling very well. She is constantly taking strong medicines and is on a salt diet. As presented above, she is an understanding and cooperative child. During the period when she takes the medicine she swells quite a lot, which makes her feel embarrassed. However, her cheerful nature gives her the strength to overcome this impediment. We all hope and pray that her illness passes away. Ionela studies very well, has a very good memory, has a very beautiful voice and plays the mandolin well. From the fall, when she will start a new school cycle (5th grade), she will move, with God's help, to an excellent college. (Individual picture of the child is unpublishable. See group picture on page 4.)

Florin came to Agape at the age of 9 and comes from a disorganized and alcoholic family. Before arriving at Agape, he had left home, because he could no longer live there and lived with a family in the village, who had taken pity on him. He came to Agape together with his brother Ionel, who in the meantime was discharged.

Florin is now 16 years old. He is a student in College, in the Social Sciences class and he studies well. He wants to continue college and have a purpose in life. At Agape, he helps with the housework and lately, the staff praise him more and more for being diligent, attentive and obedient. And at church he is active and helps with the sound station and the display of verses and chants. We hope for Florin to make good decisions in life and have a blessed future. (Individual picture of the child is unpublishable. See group picture on page 4.)

Ela came to Agape at the age of 3 together with her sister Diana. She also comes from a family with serious problems. She has no father and her mother is mentally ill. Before coming to Agape, she was in the care of her grandmother, but she died shortly after our visit.

Ela recently turned 17 and is in the class with Florin in a Social Sciences profile. She studies very well and also wants to study further in an university.

Ela is a cheerful and bouncy girl, sensitive and attentive. At Agape she loves to help in the kitchen and take care of the younger children. She is active at church, says beautiful verses and sings in the choir. A year ago she made the decision to follow the Lord. We sincerely hope that she remains faithful throughout her life and makes wise decisions for her future. (Individual picture of the child is unpublishable. See group picture on page 4.)

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	ДРИСВЯННИКОВ	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 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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