HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC.
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We are a tax-exempt, non-profit corporation that helps 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 needy Christian refugees from Ukraine! Where needed, content and pictures are dated.


Late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand with wife, Sabina

November 2026

"The living know that they will die..." (Eccl. 9:5)

The late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand endured 14 years of Romanian communist imprisonment. For nearly three years, Mrs. Sabina Wurmbrand was also imprisoned for her Christian witness. She was kept in some of the same prisons as Richard (separately and at different times) and in the forced-labor camps at the Danube-Black Sea Canal.

From **Reaching Toward the Heights (Jan. 11)** by the Reverend Richard Wurmbrand:

The surest business is that of the mortuary, while other trades may come and go. You might never enter a jeweler's shop or a theater, but you will have to die. How will you meet death?

Julius Caesar died a disillusioned man. His foster son was among his murderers. The great Caesar's last words were, "Brutus, you too?"

Goethe said, "More light, more light!" He had not sought it before.

Oscar Wilde's last request was, "Please, champagne," and he added, "I die as I lived, above my means."

Napoleon died in delirium with the cry, "Mon Dieu, the French nation, at the head of the army!"

The renowned arithmetician Lagny passed thirty-six hours in silence on his deathbed. He did not react when his beloved spoke to him. But when an acquaintance asked, "Do you still know how much sixty-seven to the second power is?" the mathematician answered smiling, "Four thousand four hundred eighty-nine" and died.

Carlyle said, "So this is death? It is good."

The German poet Heine's last words were, "Flowers, flowers. How beautiful is nature!" He had no thought about the Creator.

The French writer Rabelais said before dying, "Let the curtain fall. The comedy is finished."

Jesus' last words were, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit" (Luke 23:46). When in prison, I decided that if I were conscious in the moment of my death my last words would be "Jesus and Binzea" (the name by which I call my wife). Christians know the reason for death and have the assurance that love waits for them on the other side.



The Communist Jilava Prison, entrance to the underground cells.



A cell in the Jilava prison: bunk-beds without mattresses, the stove never heated in cold winters.



A mugshot of the late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand while held in the Jilava prison.

~ In Loving Memory of Michael Wurmbrand ~

Dear Contributors,

on Sat. evening, 10/17/26 Michael Wurmbrand passed away peacefully. He was surrounded by his family and we mourn his loss. Michael was a Christian and we can be joyful and confident that he is now celebrating with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for eternity. He is reunited with his parents, and has joined the angels, saints and the heavenly choirs in worshipping at the throne of God.

Please keep the Wurmbrand family in your prayers. Michael was tireless in leading the charitable work of ***Help For Refugees*** and honoring his family legacy with ***The Richard Wurmbrand Foundation***. Please keep his organizations and their leaders in your prayers as they continue Michael's work and legacy. On behalf of the board of ***Help For Refugees,*** thank you for your steadfast kindness and generosity.

Alex Wurmbrand (Michael's son)

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

HELP FOR REFUGEES supports Christians who had been imprisoned for their faith in communist countries, and if contacts are available, their descendant families. We also support: the Agape House in Pascani, Romania - an orphanage founded in 1993 by Pastor Richard Wurmbrand and his family, and also the Richard Wurmbrand College, a high school in Iasi, Romania (where children of disadvantaged Christian families are able to study).

A Testimony from the Lupashtian family:

Peace to you and our Christian greetings from Romania! My name is Konstantin Lupashtian, and my wife is Natalya. Today, our family consists of six people: my wife and I, our three youngest daughters (aged 9-16), and Natalya's mother, who is 80 years old.

We come from Ukraine. I am from Chernivtsi, Natalya is from Rivne. All our relatives lived there. Ukraine has always remained our family and spiritual home. When we came to Ukraine on vacation, our native churches accepted us as missionaries, supported our ministry, prayed for us and helped us. We worked in close collaboration.

Missionary Work in Siberian Prisons: Back in 1989, when the Soviet Union still existed, the Lord called us to missionary service in Siberia. Thus began 33 years of our life and service in Russia — in Siberia, Transbaikalia and other places where there were ministry needs. Our children were born and raised there. There are seven of them in total. Our four older ones (two sons, two daughters) have already started their own families.

I was in pastoral ministry for about thirty years, and eighteen of them I served in the prisons of Siberia. We saw people come to God, repent, change, and saw churches being created and strengthened.

Why did we leave Russia? In 1991, after the collapse of the USSR, we automatically received Russian citizenship. We did not refuse our Ukrainian citizenship - no one asked us about it. For many years this did not cause any problem. We were able to travel to Ukraine to visit relatives and the churches who supported our ministry.

In 2022, everything changed when the war began. In the Pskov region, where we were living (in Russia close to the border with Estonia), there was one of the roads along which refugees fleeing the Ukraine war, traveled through Russia into Europe. We could not remain indifferent: we accepted Ukrainian refugees, fed them at the border, brought warm clothes and necessary things.

This posed a threat to us. Our acquaintances and friends who did not support the war were fined, inspected, searched, and then arrested. We realized that we can no longer stay in Russia.

In the fall of 2022, after much prayer, we decided to leave Russia and eventually settled in Romania. The departure was very painful: we were leaving the city in which we lived for more than fifteen years, an apartment, brothers and sisters in faith - and the most precious, our older children. They stayed in Russia.

This move was especially difficult for our three youngest children. They did not fully understand why we should leave Russia. For them, it was their home - the place where they were born, grew up, and where everything was familiar: native language, apartment, school, familiar life, older brother and sister.

They often asked: "Will we return to Russia? When will we return home?" Sometimes they cried and were bored. We saw that this separation was also reflected in their emotional state.

In their early days at Romanian school, one of our daughters wrote poems in which a strong longing for home was felt: “There are a lot of people around me. So why am I alone? I see them, but they’re all the same, as if a wall were standing between us.” Even now, the youngest daughter sometimes asks: "Are we going back to Russia? Shall we go home?” For her, the word "home" is still associated with the place where she spent her childhood.

Today, we have not been able to see our older children and our only grandson for four years. We know that even the elderly suffer from this separation. They say that it is unbearable to see an empty apartment, where before it was so fun and noisy.

Life in Romania: Here we had to ask for asylum and start almost all over again. It was a completely new environment for the whole family: my wife and children had to learn the language, get used to a new school, a new culture and a new life. God sent us help at the very beginning - one Christian mission provided our family with a home and helped us buy the most necessary things. We also brought Natalya's mother, who is 80 years old, from Rivne, her hometown. She is disabled with dementia and needs constant care, so it was important for us to have her by our side.

Current Ministry: By God's grace, today I can again be useful in pastoral ministry. I serve together with the young pastor Alexander Tynyaev in the Ukrainian church, which was formed in Oradea from people forced to leave because of the war. For us, this service has a special meaning: we ourselves know what it means to leave home, be far from relatives and start life anew. Therefore, people who come to this church are especially close to us.

Now I work part-time in educational ministry. This is our main permanent income. Sometimes the older children help, but they have their own families and their own expenses, and we cannot count on this all the time.

My first profession was as a builder. Once upon a time, this skill helped me to participate in the construction of prayer houses in Siberia, and today I'm using this skill to help other families whenever possible.

Our Current Needs: Three minor children and Natalya's mother live with us. We pay 2,000 lei per month for an apartment, utilities are about 1,200 lei, and in winter they rise to 1,800 for heating. (***Please note: 1,000 Romanian Lei = apx. $220 USD.)*** When working part-time, it is difficult for us, and there are two needs that we cannot cope with on our own.

Our first need is winter clothes and shoes for daughters. Children grow, shoes wear out quickly, and good warm outerwear is expensive. About 900 lei are needed for winter outerwear for three girls, and another 900 lei for shoes.

Our second need is taking care of Natalya's mother. She has dementia, she cannot be left alone, and Natalya takes care of her herself at home. Because of this, Natalya does not work - she is with her mother all the time. We didn't count to a penny, but about 700 lei are spent on diapers, care products and medicine.

At the same time, we want to say that we see God's care for our family. We do not know what our future will be like. But we know one thing: God has been faithful to His promises all these years and remains faithful today. We continue to pray for the end of the war, for peace, for our relatives in Ukraine, and especially for our children who are far away from us. We pray for the day when we can hug our older children again, see our grandson and be together as a family. We are grateful to everyone who prays for our family. For us, not only material participation is especially important, but also prayer - for the end of the war, for our children and grandson, for service and for the Lord to continue to lead our family further.



Konstantin & Natalya Lupashtian



Natalya's Mother

April 16, 2022 **(***please see the update below)**
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. Some of the younger generation might have a little knowledge of English. 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 of some Ukrainian Christian refugees.

(*****Update**: As of May 2026, more than 210,000 refugees from Ukraine have obtained refugee status in Romania.)

Thank You for Your Generous Gifts!
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	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
430	Миняков	Павел	Дмитриевич	1962	Эстония

Above, **is only a sample** 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 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 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:
https://helpforrefugees.com

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