

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

June 2025

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!)

" Let all those that seek Thee rejoice and be glad in Thee: and let such as love Thy salvation say continually, Let God be magnified." Psalm 70:4

Late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand suffered 14 years in Romanian communist prisons. Mrs. Wurmbbrand, Sabina, was imprisoned for nearly three years, also for her Christian testimony, in some of the same communist prisons.

From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand **THE TRUE CHRISTIAN GREETING**

ALEXANDR SOLZHENITSYN, the Christian Nobel-prize winner expelled from the Soviet Union, in his book "GULAG ARCHIPELAGO", tells the story of our sister in the faith TANIA HODKEVITCH, who got ten years in prison for having described the religious situation under the Communists in these words: "You are free to pray in communist Russia on condition that only God should hear you!"

We cannot accept restrictions on religious liberty. Can any law stop nightingales from singing? Angels praise God unceasingly. Many Christians treat each other with more than a "hi" or "hello". They utter loud and clear the "Praise be the Lord" greeting.

We cannot understand or explain what God does: we can only praise Him. As spoons cannot know the taste of soup, so reason is not fitted to comprehend the mystery of God's love. Knowing that sinners must perish unless His only-begotten Son died on the cross for their trespasses, God nevertheless was willing that Christ should suffer on our behalf that we might inherit heaven. But, God did not give peace to His Son even after His terrible death. He made Him descend into hell. Only a man who has passed through the hell of a Communist prison, or of war, or of personal

tragedies, or the hell of bitter remorse for past sins can sense a bit of what this meant for Jesus. Then Jesus was resurrected. This is what we celebrate at Easter. He assured us that we will be resurrected too, and be for ever with Him in paradise.

In communist countries such as Red China, communist Cuba, North Korea, Vietnam, Christians continue to praise Christ unafraid. Many are in prison. Others are in psychiatric asylums. There also they praise God. They repeat often Job's famous utterance: "The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised." (Job 1:21)."

Let us also leave aside our grumbling and complaining. Let us accept with good grace all the things which befall us. At Easter celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the tomb. He had accepted flogging, mockery, death on the cross, an early tomb, and the descent into hell. A glorious resurrection followed for Him. It will follow for us, too, if in all circumstances, even in maddening ones, we keep saying, "Let God be magnified"

We wish to establish the Empire of Jesus Christ in the hearts of all men. We wish Him to be king over the whole world. When we sing "Crown Him king of all", we mean it.

Communist ideas of imposing the "dictatorship of the proletariat" exist not only in countries ruled by communist regimes. The ideas have infiltrated the Free World, employing the confusion of liberal minds.

Communism is wrong, and what is wrong should be opposed to the uttermost, even if it succeeds, and for righteousness even if it is crucified. Even if all mankind were to become atheists I would deplore their foolishness and would continue to say continually, "Let God be magnified." Should we who praise the Lord not care about the little brethren of the Resurrected One? Politicians do not care. But Christians have fountains of tears for their suffering churches. When they say "Let the Lord be magnified", they mean that this should be done not only through words, but also through deeds of love.



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!)



Pentecostal minister
Gheorghe Aron **MLADIN**,
was arrested in 1958 and suffered
4 years of jail for “plotting against
the social order” (through religious
activity) in former communist
Romania. He was charged by the
communist police with organizing
prayer meetings on behalf of
Reverend Richard Wurmbrand,
imprisoned 14 years and for his
wife Sabina, imprisoned for her
public Christian witnessing for
nearly 3 years. **(Read his
testimony in our online September
2016 Newsletter.)**



RACEANU Nicolae wrote:

“I was also arrested and kept in prisons for 2
years (for organizing underground church
meetings.)

When freed I was taken under surveillance by the
secret police until 1966 when together with a
group of 25 believers I was arrested again. I was
tried publicly twice. When freed again I was a
parolee as I had to report weekly to the police. I
am married to a Pentecostal believer and we have
11 children.”

**(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.**

Ukrainian pastor Alexander **KOLISNYK** wrote:

“My wife's name is Tatiana, we have two daughters and a granddaughter. By the grace of God, I served as a pastor in the Baptist church in Melitopol. Until the beginning of the war, our life was very peaceful. But on February 24 at 5:00 everything got worse. That morning the Russian army began to bomb our peaceful city, and our children had to leave to save their lives.

As I was carrying out the work of shepherding the church, we decided to stay with the church. The next day, Russian troops surrounded our city and began to steal all kinds of goods from shops and from people's homes.

In the first days of the war, 25% of our church went abroad to save their lives and families, so in the next 6 months up to 60% of the believers left our church. But even in these times, God did not leave us, but he blessed us and our church with His wonderful miracles. More than once, Russian troops and representatives of various intelligence agencies entered our church for interrogations, checks and other provocations.

On 05/21/2023, just before the morning church program, about 12-15 armed people, wearing masks and military equipment, entered and interrupted the church program. They began to check and interrogate everyone who was present in the church. The next day, they attached a sign to the entrance of the church announcing that they needed the building for themselves, which meant that at any time they could enter and use the church building for their purpose. On 10/23/2023, this happened: Two cars arrived in front of the church, two people got out of one of them and demanded that we give them the keys to the church gate and leave the church as if it were already belonging to the Russian state. With great deep disappointment we had to give them the keys to the church and leave the property. It was impossible to contradict them. A great test for the believers who woke up overnight on the land already occupied by the Russians was to receive Russian citizenship and a Russian passport.



In order to receive Russian citizenship one has to take the oath of the Russian state and enter one's signature. I asked the Russian services to come to the aid of the believers so that they could obtain a passport without taking the oath, but they replied that Muslims take an oath, Orthodox take an oath, so you will take an oath too. So without the Russian passport we could live on the land occupied by the Russians until 3/29/2024. Then we had to go outside the territory in order to extend the validity period of our Ukrainian documents, because in Ukraine at the age of 45 one needs to renew the passport. If you don't do this, the passport is no more valid. And that's why we left to renew our Ukrainian documents and then return and continue the work. But when we were already packing our things to return, the Russian services wrote to us that returning to our locality was forbidden and so we couldn't return to our home. During this period, my wife got very sick. Doctors diagnosed her with "rheumatologic arthritis" It's hard to write everything that happened during this period of occupation, but God protected us and protected us through His powerful miracles in our lives.” (The pastor and family are presently living in the Republic of Moldova.)



Brother Vadym **ZORKIN** with wife Alla (43 years old) and daughters Alina (14) and Yana (16)

Brother Vadym wrote:

"At the beginning of the full-scale Russian invasion, I was forced to send my children and wife abroad for safety. Until 12/26/2022, I was home in the city of Ternopil (work-to-home, home-to-work). Every day, due to anxiety and negative information, I felt that my condition was worsening, sleepless nights, panic attacks and internal anxiety and thoughts about children, my body was in a state of overload. After repeated visits to the doctor, they suspected Parkinson disease. The options were different: panic attacks, multiple sclerosis and Parkinson.

In December 2022, a wave of mobilization began. For the safety of my own life, I turned to our brethren from the Church of the Gospel "Bride of Christ" Spain, city of Murcia, to the family of Yura and Irina Savin, (at that time, I was carrying out the mission of a pastor.) By the grace of God, on 12/26/2022 I was already in Spain. **At the moment, I have a documented diagnosis of Parkinson.** I am registered with an organization for employment and selection of working personnel.. looking for a job for me. So far without results, because most of the vacancies on the job market require physical activity, and I cannot have it... Therefore, on the recommendation of brethren in the church, I decided to contact you... Thank you very much for the financial help. I will say frankly that you pleasantly surprised me with the size, and also with the speed. Thank you very much for the lightning-fast reaction..., may God bless you and the things you do.

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	Медодьевич	1958	Украина
410	Вольф	Андрей	Корнеевич	1958	Казахстан
411	Курикин	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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