

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

SEPTEMBER  
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!)

"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know" (John Gospel 3:11)

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From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand

**THE CHURCH IS A BLESSING**

The Lord Jesus said about the church, whose head He is, "We speak what we do know." Christians don't deliberately speak what leads to success. Jesus had no apparent success. He was a village preacher. Caiaphas and those like him had mammoth-meetings during festivals in Jerusalem with over one million in attendance. Caiaphas had the masses under the spell of his rituals. Jesus, thankful to be among two or three disciples, had the truth. Love can be sung only on its own tune: it cannot adapt itself to the desires of the hearers. Only the proud measure in terms of size the success of their missionary work, their churches, their meetings, their sale of books. Thomas Aquinas said toward the end of his life that the books which gave him renown had been only straw. Whoever thinks of his own works with such humility has no ambition to make them universally recognized. He says with modesty the little he knows.

We know the church is a blessing. Here in the West many are dissatisfied with their churches, claiming they are full of hypocrites. Well, if that is so, there is probably room for one more. Go on in. The church is the only place where one can get rid of hypocrisy. Hypocrites, as well as men with other deformities of character, like rebelliousness, laziness, etc., can be healed in the church of Christ. It might be also that your judgment is unjust. Those whom you call hypocrites might simply be Christians who are still beginners. In any case, we know the church is a blessing.

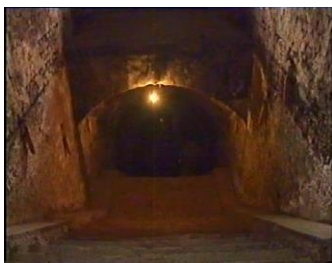
We have experienced it as such in our lives. This we know, this we speak. We call upon men to strengthen the churches.

We know one thing more and we say it: the whole free world is in imminent danger of being taken over by the Communists. The world does not love a prophet like Jonah who prophesizes to a flourishing capital, "Yet a short time and you will be destroyed". But we know that this danger exists and we say it.

Communism can come and with it the hunger. Never believe glowing reports about economic achievements of any Communist regime. Believe the Bible which says that whenever "the red horse" goes out "to take peace from the earth", whenever the general killings of a revolution start, "the black horse" of want of bread goes with it. (Revelation 6:4-5)

Communism is Satanic. In my book "WAS KARL MARX A SATANIST?", I have shown the connection between Marxism and a Satanist sect. The ultimate aim of Communism in conquering new countries is not to establish another social or economic system; it is to mock God and praise Satan. According to the Marxist doctrine, man is only an accidental accumulation of matter into an organism meant to live a short span and then disappear for ever. Why should man care for anyone else? Why should not every man be the object of his selfishness? The victory of the Communists is easy because "the whole world lies in wickedness." (I John 5:19) Their hatred of godliness is disguised in the free world. Communism is able to conquer because many anti-Communists who call the Reds bad names are as far from the Lord as those they oppose.

**"We speak what we do know"**. Communism means heavy persecution for Christians. It means death under torture of uncounted innocents. We speak what we do know! Under persecution the church is thriving. Christians in the Free World who enjoy so much freedom will not forget their persecuted brethren and sisters. They will find an hour to pray for them and a place in their heart to love them.



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!)



**Viktor Miroshkin**

He refused take the Soviet Union military oath of the atheist state from Christian beliefs reasons. He wrote: “During the investigation, I had to be in a very cold cell for several days, where there was a strong hypothermia of the body, due to which there was a very strong pain in the teeth and jaws. In January 1974, a trial was held. The prosecutor requested a 5-year prison term.

“**Read his testimony in our online 1/2022 Newsletter.**



**Tkach Vasily Ivanovich**

A Baptist deacon, was sentenced in the former Soviet Union for underground church activities to 3 years, six months imprisonment. Because he continued giving Christian testimony to fellow prisoners, he was confined 4 times in solitary punishing cells. This mission helped him leave Ukraine and emigrate to Canada. **Read his testimony in our online 2/2022 Newsletter.**



**Estonian Baptist Minister Pavel Vezikov**

Was active inside the former Soviet Union in three different underground Christian publishing organizations, all printing Bibles, Gospels and other literature. He was sentenced to two years imprisonment and also to prison terms of solitary confinement. He testified so much to other prisoners of his Christian beliefs that he ended up with the nickname, “the saint.” **Read his testimony in our online 2/2022 Newsletter.**



**Baptist Preacher Antonov Anatoly Anisimovich**

was sentenced to 2 years of prison for conducting children Sunday schools, church choirs and so on. He had 9 children when arrested.

**Read his son’s full testimony in our online 2/2022 Newsletter.**

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



**Yuliia Popadiuk wrote:** “February 27, 2022 became a date for a lifetime for me. On this day, 10 km from my house 4 large-scale rockets exploded. I was at work and heard explosions. My son and mother were at home and my heart froze from anxiety. They did not answer the phone. They stopped work and told me about the explosions, I understood that it was close to home. I was overcome with fear, stress, depression, I can't put it into words, I just prayed and asked God to save my family. In my thoughts, only my son and mother and sincere prayer. We waited for 2 hours until we checked the safety of the road. Finally, we left for home, we saw eruptions, clouds of smoke, and I will never forget how all the passengers said a prayer aloud. When I saw my son and mother scared to death, God understood it all. He saved us. That day I decided to save my son's life and leave for Romania. We drove with fear and faith to God. On March 3, 2022, we were in Romania. Now I am here in Romania, helping Ukrainians to adapt. I thank God for everything. After September 29, 2022, I reconciled with God. Now I prepare for baptism, undergo training, study the Bible. I help Ukrainians together with volunteers.”

**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!**

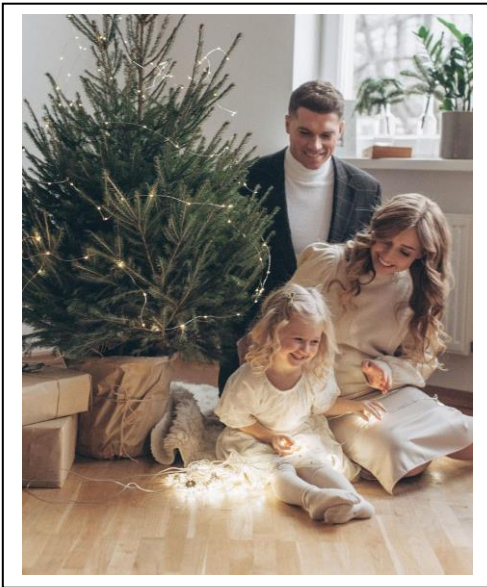


**Sister Morhun Natalia wrote:** I lived in a peaceful country, I was a pensioner in Ukraine due to an illness, I lived with my son who is my guardian, I myself am a widow, my husband went to God in 2014. That morning I woke up from the fact that my son ran to me and said, **THE WAR HAS BEGUN, MOM!** It was a shock to me, we quickly went to mom and dad's house to get together. The transport did not run, and we, with our things, which we could only take with us, walk down the street, the explosions can be heard in the distance. When we came to the family, I saw tears in my mother's eyes. We were there on Sunday, we could hear sirens and explosions, **IT WAS TERRIBLE.** We were in the bunker, we saw the fear in people's eyes before death and the brutality of the invaders.

Some time later we decided to go abroad. We were able to get on the train the first time, it was a shock. People, because of their fear, started pushing and pushing people to get there. There was panic around me, I separated from my son and my parents, I prayed and we found each other again. It was difficult, we traveled for 10 hours in a full carriage, we stood because there were no seats. We reached

Lviv, there is a kilometer-long queue for buses abroad. After that, we got on the bus to the border, my sister helped us a lot with the route. She herself lives in Estonia. When I arrived, we saw an incredibly long queue. A blizzard began. It was so cold that I thought I was going to die. After we reached the resettlement border, soldiers with machine guns stood and let 10 people through at a time, and there were thousands of us! When we got through the line and got to the table. I was scared because my son was already 20 years old. The border guard missed mother and father, and we are standing and waiting for a decision. I couldn't stand it and said that I wouldn't go anywhere without my son. I prayed and God heard me, we were let through. We are already in Poland.

Though tired, they took us to the meeting point. I was shocked how well we were received. They fed me, warmed me and calmed me down. We slept on the floor as sisters and brothers from the church took us in for 2 days.



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

**Brother Lazurko wrote:** First of all, I apologize if I wrote too much, but I think you might be interested in this story. I am Lazurko Ivan, deacon, preacher of the Yemmanuel church in Chernivtsi. On the night of February 26-27, 2022 at 4 a.m., I and my wife and 2 children Livia, 4 months old, and Amanda, 5 years old, left for the Romanian border after my wife cried for several days and asked us to leave (I didn't want to because I thought I had to serve there, but I listened to my wife). At that time, my wife's mother went with us (my wife doesn't have a father - he died a long time ago).

Lyudmila, 69 years old, came to us in Chernivtsi from Irpin (Kyiv region) (we insisted so much) and thank God that she listened to us, because a few days later **her house was completely burned down by gunfire.** (2 dead people and trenches were found in the yard). Together with her, about twelve other people came to us from the Kyiv region, whom we welcomed into our home.

When we arrived in Bistritza (Romania), we met with several local ministers of the church and thought about how to start serving the Ukrainian immigrants with help and the gospel. Personally, I have often been to hospitals and various institutions with Ukrainians, as I know the Romanian language. We started serving the children of the refugees. They made games, songs with movements, gifts and Bible stories for them. Parents came to watch. Then we invited all the adults to the Easter holiday and about 200 people came. After that we started to have more regular gatherings and on a separate day with children. Thank God two children's camps for Ukrainians were held last summer.

Once, before the war, I was at a meeting and I was told that a lot of work awaits me in places I don't even think about, and it was said that this place is not in Chernivtsi. I don't know if you believe in prophecies, but I also had an inner conviction that I should leave (even before the war), but I didn't know exactly where and I didn't know what would have to happen for me to leave home. I remembered all this already here in Romania when we started serving the Ukrainians. We continue presently in serving them.

Although I was born and lived all my life in Ukraine, I also have Romanian citizenship since childhood (due to parents), my wife and children do not have it. Because I have Romanian citizenship, they did not give me a Romanian permit. **THIS** is the reason why most of the organizations that gave help to Ukrainians did not give me (due to the lack of a permit) when we were already here in Romania. I was told not to look back because God had prepared a new field for me. Here we are already preparing 5 people for water baptism. We baptized 3 people from the city of Sighisoara already that year.

I listened to many sermons by Richard Wurbrand and his testimony, because my ancestors were also persecuted for their faith in God. Richard had joy from God even in the most difficult circumstances of life. I told these testimonies to the Ukrainian refugees.

## 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 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 of 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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