

## 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**



Late Reverend Richard Wurmland with wife, Sabina

March 2022

### Announcement:

A free copy of the paperback book, "**Reaching Towards the Heights,**"

A Book of Daily Meditations on the Word of God by Richard Wurmland, may be requested using the order form on the internet, at the <https://helpforrefugees.com> site.

(See third column!)

"I hated all my labor." (Ecclesiastes 2:18)

Late Reverend Richard Wurmland spent 14 years in Romanian communist prisons. Mrs. Wurmland 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From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmland

## HEAL THE SIN OF DEPRESSION!

In a moment of depression King Solomon wrote, "I hated all my labour." The very minute he drew this sad conclusion of his life-work he was writing an immortal book, later included in the Bible, a book destined to be translated into a thousand languages. This book, which has instructed many in the ways of God, tells men about the vanity of depression. In such a mood even, great saints can say foolish things. In such a mood the prophet Elijah, who was never meant to taste death, prayed that he might die.

You might have overwhelming personal motives for being sad: loneliness, bereavement, betrayal, loss, sickness. There are also powerful temptations to be depressed when one observes some of the things that happen in the church. A Catholic priest by the name of GUILIO GIRARDI was one of the VATICAN COUNCIL II mentor who determined that, in spite of the request of 600 bishops, the assembly should not condemn Communism, this intrinsically evil doctrine. He declared himself openly to be a Marxist Christian. In his book "CHRISTIANS FOR SOCIALISM" he gives details about the perfect organization of a multitude of priests of the same ilk. One cannot be a Marxist Christian any more than one can be a devilish disciple of Christ. There is no possible compromise between a burning torch and a barrel of gasoline. MARX was

a devil-worshiper connected with a Satanist sect, as amply demonstrated by me from his own writings as you may read in my book "WAS KARL MARX A SATANIST?" (Available for free reading online at <https://richardwurmbbrandfoundation.com> see link the third column. N. Ed.) Many of our persecuted brethren suffer long prison sentences. To sit in prison for your belief in Christ is not depressing, but it surely is — to know that those who have denounced you are fellow brethren who formerly ate heavenly bread with you and who have since taken the name of "progressists" in order to please Satanist tyrants. A French Protestant pastor RICHARD MOLLARD wrote: "I dare to hope, because of the quick social and political evolution of the actual world, that the French Communist Party will evolve . . . toward a true respect for those who do not share Its benefit, and toward an authentic democratic freedom." (CIRCES, France) This is as wise as hoping for the devil's conversion, or that social evolution will produce crocodiles that do not eat men. The "adultery" of some Christian leaders with Marxism has to be denounced.

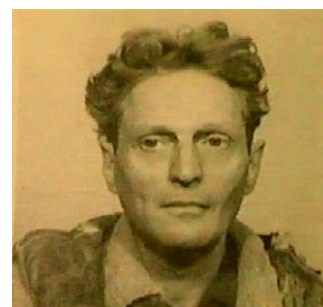
A Christian has to work hard to achieve correct thinking. To become depressed will not help. Just as in one's private life not everything is gloomy, so we too can see the bright side of things. Knowing of the shining examples of the courageous faith of our persecuted brethren allows us come out of our narrow thoughts of gloom and doom. We can be thankful for every blessing we received from God and above all for our freedom to worship, our freedom to express and grow in our faith. When I was still in communist Romania, since I spoke Russian, I yearned to witness my faith to the any members of the Soviet army who had invaded the country. Thus, I stopped a Russian lady- officer on the street and told her "Comrade, I know it is impolite to stop an unknown lady on the street. I do it only because I have something very important to tell you. She stopped and I told her the way of salvation. She asked me, "Do you love Christ?" When I answered "yes," she fell around my neck and kissed me – a very unpleasant situation for a pastor in public. I invited her to our home, where I had the surprise of discovering that she did not know the slightest thing about Christ, but loved Him heartily. Knowing well she comes from an atheistic, communist country, I asked how come. She answered, "When I was a child I was taught to read through pictures. "A" was for an apple, "b" for a bell. When I was in high school, I was told about "proletarian" morals and about my holy duty to defend the Socialist fatherland. But I did not know what "morals" and a "holy duty" looked like. Then, I remembered that our forefathers in Russia had had a picture of everything good, lovable and moral. They called it Jesus Christ; I loved the picture. I knew only the name!" I remained amazed how nothing more than a morsel of faith is able to enlighten a whole mind, how the smallest flicker of light can chase all darkness. Rejoice in the Lord for the sorrows which tempt you to be depressed. Learn from the persecuted Christians how to overcome depression yes, to rejoice in tribulation.



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!)



#### Uniate Minister Ioan Mereu and wife

Minister Mereu was held in the most dreaded prison of Aiud in communist Romania, suffered in the Danube Canal prison-camp where more than 100,000 prisoners were held and thousands exterminated. Together with wife both were banished for 5 years to the deserted Baragan fields. He continued his Christian activities even after 15 years of prison and forced banishment. He died when 90.  
**Read full testimony in our 6/2019 Newsletter.**



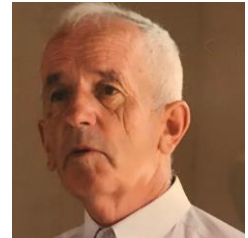
#### Baptist sister Jukovskaia Evelina

Was sentenced to five years imprisonment for distributing Christian literature in the former Soviet Union. She served the imprisonment term in 11 different prison-camps, travelled during 38 days to Siberia in a prison-wagon.  
**Read her full testimony in our 6/2019 Newsletter.**



#### Ekaterina Shepel, wife of Nikolay Emelyanovich Shepel

Shepel was sentenced in the former Soviet Union to be imprisoned for 5 years and then for another five years to serve being banished to Siberia. His guilt: Held youth evangelizing meetings.  
**Read her testimony in our 6/2019 Newsletter.**



#### Baptist Iatziuc Vasilii Ivanovich

was arrested and sentenced in the Soviet Union to 2½ years imprisonment for the underground Sunday school education of children. The sentence was based on Article 183-3 of the Criminal Code of the former Soviet Union (disobedience to the authorities, organization and leadership of religious assemblies and meetings prohibited by the authorities.)  
**Read his full testimony in our 7/2019 Newsletter.**

### Heroes of the Faith!

#### Persecuted Christians Helped with your Gifts

#### Communists Banged Children Heads against Walls to Obtain Confessions!



Baptist Nadezhda Reiner,  
born Voronova

From Smirnova Natalia, daughter of Mrs. Reiner. “I greet you, dear brother in Christ, Michael! Today I had a conversation with my mother Nadezhda Iosifovna Reiner (born Voronova), she tried to answer your questions.”

Mrs. Reiner gave the following testimony: “In my youth, I fell in love with the Lord and had a great desire to serve Him. With my heart I felt and understood that I wanted to engage in spiritual education with children aged from 10 to 15 years. Classes were held once a week in my group in the local church of the village of Lyubuchany, Moscow region. There were 25 children On May 3, 1966, I was convicted under Article 227 and imprisoned. The children loved our communication and worried about me. When the police came to pick me up, the children surrounded me with a tight ring and they didn’t want to let me go. Some boys were also taken with me. They beat their heads against



the wall, tortured them so that I could hear their groans and crying. And at that time, they tried to persuade me to renounce the faith in my Lord ... I prayed and asked them to let the children go and of course I was not going to renounce God. I served faithfully and endured these experiences for the name of the Savior. The court ruled I should be imprisoned for three years in a general regime prison-camp. Yes, I talked about God to my cellmates. Some of them listened with pleasure, and some rejected the Good News ... God arranged it in a miraculous way that in a second prison-section four more sisters were serving time for faith in God. I remember their names Vera Shuportiak from Kiev, Lyudmila Bogomolova from Oryol, also Lydia Govorun from Smolensk and Evgenia Shimkina from Karachay-Cherkessk. Together we gathered with these dear sisters to remember the Word of God and prayer. Together we talked, shared some food and warm clothes It was a blessing for us in such harsh conditions. Then in May, while imprisoned, an article about me appeared in the local Soviet newspaper with the title “Life passed by” ... and the article reproduced my conversation with the judge at the trial. The judge's question: “Accused Voronova, where is your father?” My answer: “in Heaven!” The judge's question: “What happened to him?” My answer: “he was shot!” .. The judge's question: “who (killed him?)” My answer: “The Soviet authority!” ... I never regret that I suffered for Our Lord! Always and everywhere, I felt His hand and help! The church interceded for me and according to His will they changed the article and set me free. (Most likely because she was underage. N. Ed.) The whole time of my imprisonment was one year and three months. God bless you and your ministry in His glory.”

## **Heroes of the Faith!**

### **Persecuted Christians Helped with your Gifts**

### **7 Years Imprisonment and 12 Years Underground Church Work**

### **A Testimony by Deineka Liubov, daughter of the Baptist Minister Sasin Victor Pavlovich**



Liubov Deineka family picture with parents.

“Greetings dear brother in the Lord! I was glad to receive your letter, and especially the fact that someone remembers the prisoners who, together with their families, suffered for their faith. My father, Sasin Victor Pavlovich was born on March 12, 1929 in Ukraine in the city of Shostka, Sumy region. the sixth child in the family of 7 children. The first prison term he served in the Volyn region, the village of Manevichi. The sentence was of 3 years in a strict regime prison camp and the second term he served 3 years more and also in this same prison. During the third prison-term he was transferred from prison to prison for about a year. He got out during the Perestroika (Freedom reforms introduced by Gorbachev toward the end of the existence of the Soviet Union. N. ED.) He was not only amnestied but was given even a document

attesting him being rehabilitated. Between the terms of imprisonment, he worked secretly in the Brotherhood of the Council of Churches and served as an evangelist in different regions, like in the Belarus, throughout Siberia, in the Caucasus mountainous region. During all this time he did not live at home and worked in the underground church for a total of 12 years in between his

prison terms. because he was under criminal investigation. Our family was under constant surveillance, oppression by the authorities, there were police-searches in our home. Christian literature was confiscated and the KGB confiscated a musical instrument my sister played. Our family lived in poverty. My always tried to somehow get us food, she always worried and took care of us. She took us far to Volyn for personal prison meetings with dad, once a year for three days. We were traveling with all seven children and my mother was carrying various sacks, because she was carrying food for the whole family and for dad to support him. He had a sick stomach and suffered of Periodontitis. I don't remember much, but I told you briefly (what I could recall!) Thank you for your kind heart, for remembering the prisoners, for your financial assistance, God bless you! Mom and dad passed away at age 87."

## **Heroes of the Faith!**

### **Persecuted Christians Helped with your Gifts**

#### **Nine Tons of Paper of Christian Literature Surreptitiously Printed and Distributed!**



Baptist Bogdan Serghei Egorovich

“It was very difficult for Christians of my time (1980-1987) to find spiritual literature. In 1985, the brothers suggested that we (my wife and I) organize a secret printing shop where we could print Bibles, Gospels and more.

In 1985, the “Circulation,” as we called it, was successful. In our humble abode, 4 tons of paper were printed. In 1986 the “Circulation” increased. It involved 5 tons of paper. It was also successful. The printers left; the printing machine was also sent to another place. The times were difficult, and it turned out to be even more difficult to separate the printed literature for binding, but with God's help we managed to send 4 tons of spiritual literature wherever needed. There were then about 1,600 lbs. left.

On July 1, 1986, in our city (Fergana), the KGB (Soviet secret police, N. Ed) conducted house-searches in 16 different homes at the same time. We were arrested out of bed at 6 o'clock in the morning. At the end of the day, as the owner of the house, they took me along with the literature. The first 15 days I was in the bullpen (preliminary detention cell) and was kept in solitary confinement. During the day, evening and night, KGB officers conducted interrogations. They persuaded me to tell everything. I didn't speak. Then they threatened.

When this did not help, they appealed to my conscience. Let me explain. On June 30, I brought my wife from the maternity hospital, and my 6th child was born. They offered for me to become a member of the official church, and then I would be released. On the 15th day, I was offered a cup of tea in the evening. I agreed, losing my guard. After 1.5-2 hours, I really wanted to sleep, and then I realized that sleeping pills had been poured into my tea. I then I later calculated, to have slept for 48 hours. What did they do to me then, I do not know?

Then for two months it was difficult for me to concentrate. My head was spinning, everything was getting out from under my feet, it was difficult to keep my balance, etc. Then they sent me to a pre-trial detention center. There, I was again under interrogations, persuasions, threats. ...

Summer in Uzbekistan is very hot. A small window, and a lot of smokers, it was often difficult to breathe in the cell. They tried three of us: they took our elder and brother, who was responsible for the publishing house “Christian”, straight from work. He was in an illegal position and that day he was in Fergana to resolve the issue of delivering the remaining literature. The trial took place on Christmas Day 1986. The presbyter and the brother in charge of the publishing house were given five years imprisonment of strict regime (they had already been in prison before). I was given a sentence of two years.

Already in April 1987, I was sent under the commandant's office to a brick factory, where I had to do very hard work (it was called "cage"). The dry bricks had to be stacked on a trolley and sent to the kiln for firing. One pair of mittens was put on for a month. But this pair was enough for 4-5 days, and then it was necessary to work with bare hands. At first, until the blisters appeared, my hands were bleeding, and the required number of bricks had to be put on the trolley.

In 1987, Perestroika already began. There was an amnesty, and those brothers who were tried with me were released immediately, because they also had been sentenced under a political article. I did not have this article, there was such a decision of the Central Committee of the Soviet Union Central Committee - half of the remaining term. I didn't make it for about 5 months, and in January 1988 I was released.

After the release, the KGB workers more than once came to work and tried to convince me to cooperate. I didn't agree and they said that they wouldn't leave me alone anyway. God ordered it in His own way. The Soviet Union collapsed, and this system collapsed as well. I, both then and now, thank God for such a great mercy that He allowed me to suffer quite a bit for His cause and remain faithful to Him.

P. S. Now in our family there are 10 children, all members of the Church of Christ. So far there are 61 grandchildren, but there will be more, as God gives.”

*Our mission has sent help to as many of these faithful Christians we could locate and contact personally!*

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
430	Миняков	Павел	Дмитриевич	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 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 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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