

HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC.

A tax-exempt, non-profit corporation

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Late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand with wife, Sabina

June 2018

" Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ " (Ephesians 3:8)

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

From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand

Do We Know the Riches of God?

A beggar once said to an emperor, "If you are going to give me anything, it must be on one condition." The emperor, who had never met such a beggar, asked what the condition might be. "You must absolutely fill my bowl," said the beggar. "I'm no beggar! I can fill your small bowl even with diamonds," replied the emperor and he ordered it done. Many precious stones were poured into the bowl, but they disappeared as they fell in. Now the emperor said in a rage, "Even if my whole kingdom disappears, I cannot allow this beggar to embarrass me." But the diamonds continued to vanish. Finally, the emperor asked the beggar to tell him the secret of the begging bowl. "It is made of human ego, of selfishness," replied the beggar. " It gloats everything, yet remains always empty, hungry, never satisfied." Luxurious cars, big bank accounts, fine houses, high positions and reputation are just challenges to the ego to demand more.

There is though a way this "bottomless bowl of human selfishness" be filled up. "The unsearchable riches of Christ" can fill "the bottomless bowl of human selfishness." How so? The Gospel recounts how two of Jesus' disciples, James and John, came unto him, saying, "Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory. "They "did not know what they asked for." Jesus said to his disciples: "whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: And whosoever of you will be the chiefs, shall be servant of all. For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many. "(Mark 10:37-45) Thus "the unsearchable riches of Christ" were described by the Lord Jesus Himself: The Son of God Himself being our servant and we following Him in sacrifice for truth. The only real glory is to renounce glory. Even heavenly beings cast down their crowns before the throne of Christ. (Revelation 4:10)

Under communism, thousands upon thousands of Christians received these spiritual “riches of Christ.” Lord Jesus said: “Remember the word that I said unto you, the servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you.” (John 15:20) Comfortable Christians in the Free World must urgently seek, “these riches of Christ” by inquiring of their brethren and sisters persecuted for their faith. The sufferings they pass through are unimaginable. The Pentecostal minister of a church in Turda, Romania, brother Detesan Mircea describes, “In 1987 though I was married with three children, not being a member of the communist party, I could not obtain an apartment and so, we had to live in cramped quarters in my parents’ modest dwelling. The communist secret police called me repeatedly asking me to be their informer. They wanted to know who are the church members, who are the active Christians? The communists told me, “we do not ask you too much.” “Indeed, not too much,” I replied “just be a Judas! And I cannot do that” They threatened me, they will invent something to get me arrested. After two years of such harassment, in 1989 I was detained by the local police. In front of me was a communist secret police officer who, in order to impress me on the spot, took out handcuffs and a rubber truncheon and placed them on the table. He asked me to confess to a lie, having printed and spread anticommunist flyers. At that moment appeared in my mind the Bible verses from Acts 12:1 and following, how King Herod apprehended Apostle Peter and put him in prison. That time came for me also. For many days, I was placed under arrest early morning and released at midnight. Every time the torture-routine was the same. The officer obliged me repeated times each day, starting in the morning, to stretch face down on the wooden floor. He put the handcuffs on me and took off my shoes. Again and again, I was hit on the soles of the feet with the rubber truncheon. Then after a while, such beatings would be interrupted for about half-hour only to be restarted, going on for hours on end till late at night. I was shouting in pain, my feet swollen beyond recognition. The blows continued also over my entire body. On a last evening, the communist officer placed me on my knees, fixing by aid of the handcuffs my hands around one of the legs of the heavy table. I saw through the window the church clock. I started praying and thought how, I was in communion with other Christians on the outside who were praying for me. I was released at midnight, being sternly told that I will be killed if I divulged to anyone the torture I was subjected to. Since I could not walk on my feet, I crawled on my knees toward my home. I thought I was set finally free but next morning early, three officers of the secret police showed up at my home. I was taken again to the same interrogation room. A new officer shouted, “he is the church elder who refused collaborate with us!” He started punching me with his fists over the head. They shouted to me, “Get it! There is no other god in this country but us, the communist secret police!” In the afternoon I was allowed home, being warned, “In the next three month we will liquidate you, your wife will be taken by someone else, your children will become poor street-children. Then you will have to figure out, where is your God?” The Bible verse of Psalm 46:1-2 came to my mind, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, will not we fear, though the earth be removed!” This was at the end of October 1989 and not even two full months passed, when the “god of the communist secret police” the dictator Ceausescu ended up shot together with his wife. I met these former secret police officer who confessed, “Indeed there is no other God but your true God!” These sacrifices are the unfathomable riches of Christ flooding the hearts of true believers. (Pentecostal minister Detesan Mircea is now involved in Christian mission work in Vietnam and South Sudan. N.E.)



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.

Christians Helped with Your Gifts!
Romanian Baptist Sentenced by the Communists to 20 Years of Hard Labor
for Home Bible Study Meetings



Brother Gheorghe Mladin wrote: "I come from a very poor family and was married in 1954. Four years later, on December 16, 1958, I was arrested together with other brethren of the same church and sentenced to 20 years of hard labor. The charge? Plotting Against the Socialist State by assembling in our homes for unsanctioned Bible studies. I remained imprisoned only 4 years due to a general amnesty decree and thus was released on February 15, 1963. (Communist Romania was seeking loans from the United States and in anticipation of receiving such, released tens of thousands of political prisoners. NT) I walked through the "valley of the shadow of death" being held in the following prisons: Penitenciarul Timisoara, Gherla, Balta Brailei, Galati, again in Gherla, then Aiud where I stayed longer than in all other prisons. From Aiud I was taken to the Penitentiary Periprava (Danube Delta) from where I was released. I testify that throughout the

detention the Lord was with me and my family.

At 10PM, on the 16th of December 1958, five communist security officers entered our home, undertaking the entire night a brutal house search till 5AM. Of course, they found nothing incriminating. My two children were just 2-4 years old. Eyes covered, together with other brethren, I was transported in the morning to the secret police headquarters in Timisoara, to start being interrogated. Being handcuffed, facing a wall, we were not allowed to make a move or speak a word to each other. The interrogations lasted two months. On Christmas I was charged with conspiracy against the socialist regime and sentenced to 20 years of hard-labor imprisonment. It was a terrible moment and it was hard! Knowing I had done nothing wrong, how I deceived myself, imagining being freed and back with my family at Christmas!

All we had done was, participating in home Bible studies. We were repeatedly asked who was our "leader." To this we could only repeat again and again our answer, "Lord Jesus Christ." I told the interrogator and my words were duly recorded in my accusation file, "Lord Jesus promised to return and his church will be raptured even if inside a communist prison." At first, I was held in prison in the city of Timisoara. We were 100 prisoners in one room. The conditions were atrocious but we enjoyed having the opportunity to meet other Christians. In whispers we prayed and repeated from memory God's Word to each other. In-between other prisons, we were transported in prison-railway cars, stuffed to refuse with prisoners, having heavy chains at our feet. These prison-cars were nothing but cattle cars in each one being transported 50 prisoners. In the labor camp we were in, we were assigned to build by hand (carrying in wheelbarrows incredible amounts of stones and dirt) a dam around the Danube river. Being in groups at this work, we met some other Christians and profited of some rest-period to sing in a low voice a Christian song. When the communist guard caught on to what some Christian prisoners were doing, he beat one till the man fainted.

In one of the prisons I was held, in the town of Galati, the prison being old and built before communism, our prison cell was the church room built for this prison. The communists had transformed the church into a prison cell. When freed I had to present myself again to the local headquarters of the secret police. The communist police officer asked sarcastically, "what have you learned in these four years of (communist) prison?" I answered him how I have no regrets since the Bible writes, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28) The communist officer shouted in disbelief to other officers present in the police station, "listen to this one, (this Christian) is happy he was imprisoned!"

During the four years I spent in communist prisons, my children 2 and 4 asked repeatedly their mother, "where is Daddy?" My wife tried to quieten them, explaining their father is on a long trip and will return bringing them candy. It did happen like this, since when having been freed, my wife brought a little bit of money to pay our transportation. The captain of the ferry who carried us, knowing I had just come from a prison, did not ask for any money and so we had the money to buy some candies for the kids. I close this testimony with the verse of Hebrews 9:28 where it is written of our Lord Jesus: "and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation."

Christians Helped with Your Gifts! Five and Seven Years imprisonment for Preaching the Gospel



Pusok Miklos, senior (1906-1980) a reformed church minister, was arrested for his faith on June 18, 1958 together with his son Miklos. The communists confiscated house and movable property. The house search started at midnight and lasted until morning. His interrogation took place in Cluj-Napoca, Romania and he was subjected to a rough and severe treatment. Before being arrested, he was given the opportunity to become an informant for the communist police, which he did not accept, being willing be sentenced rather, to five years of communist prison. The real reason for the arrest was to intimidate Christians to participate in public religious life. For his Lord Jesus he accepted the sentence with dignity. After having been sentenced he was not allowed say goodbye to his family.



Pusok Miklos, junior, born 1933. (A Reformed, Calvinist minister, the son of above.) His Testimony: "On March 18, 1958 I got married but arrived to live three months only with my dear wife, because on June 18, I was arrested by the communist secret police. Only a few days before I kind of predicted this imprisonment since I preached from 1st Peter 4:12-13, "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you. Rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings!"

"Seven communist officers, descended abruptly upon our home, and after many hours of a house search, confiscated on the spot religious recordings and Bibles we possessed, arrested both my father and myself. During the interrogation when asked what underground church activity we conducted, I recounted for them how Jesus' disciples Martha and Mary received Jesus in their home in Bethany. The same way my father and myself, as ministers we tried receive Jesus in our hearts and spread His message of love around us. The interrogations were harsh and lasted day and night over 3½ months. During the last interrogation they baited me with the chance of being freed, provided I promise pray only in my home and not witness publicly, also not disclose any information about our detention. I referred to that servant of the Gospel of whom we are told, he received one coin which he buried into the ground. (Parable of the Talents, Matthew 25:14-30) I tried explain to these communist torturers, how I do not want to be like this servant and not share my joy of having found salvation."

"At trial, the main accusation was that we as Christians are enemies of the communist atheistic government now in power. I ended up sentenced to seven years of communist prison and seven years of loss of rights and confiscation of all possessions. We remembered the Bible encouraging words, "For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;" (Philippians 1:29) Although our families were present at the trial, we did not have the opportunity to tell them goodbye. "

"In our prison cells we were two or three inmates on a bed. The daily diet consisted of 100 grams of bread and water in which only sometimes floated a piece of potato or a bean. The communist guards were very harsh and hard with us. During the day, we were only allowed to sit on a bench; those who laid down on the bed were taken from the cell and cruelly beaten. I spent eight months in the prison of Gherla. On 25 May 1959 I was taken to slave-work to build some road in the Danube Delta. I was in several work camps and in 1961, in one of them with other Christians, their names should be known like Szoke Laszio, Nagy Jenó (a professor of theology) Kiss Sandor, Balogh Bela and even my own father (see above.) We enjoyed being together, although the conditions were miserable. In a blazing heat in summer and in bitter cold we were between 200 and 300 inmates in a hut covered with tarred paper. A particular remedy against sadness was the Bible verse I received at my wedding: "And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them?" (Matthew 9:15) Yes Jesus, the Heavenly Groom was with us. We rejoiced when we could meet with other imprisoned believers to pray with and also stealthily take the Lord's supper."

"I have survived communist prison. I lived the words spoken by our Lord, "and Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, there is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, but he shall receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life." (Mark 10:29)

For the past 40 years, HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC. has extended financial support to Christian refugees from communist countries, orphans and Christians who had been imprisoned for their faith in present and former communist countries. Also helped is the Richard Wurmbrand College, a high school in Iasi, Romania where many children of disadvantaged families are able to study. See <http://helpforrefugees.com>. Anyone may use a "DONATE" button on site. Due to tax laws inside Romania and Eastern Europe, some help needs be sent through the local Romanian nonprofit Sabina Wurmbrand Christian Association.

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

Christians Helped with Your Gifts!

Sentenced for Preaching the Gospel to 4 Years Imprisonment



Romanian Pentecostal preacher, brother Caraman (deceased) was arrested first time under communism in 1950 and worked in a slave-labor-camp at the construction of the Danube-Black Sea Canal. More than 100,000 political prisoners, including the wife of pastor Richard Wurmbrand, Sabina, were made to work in conditions of starvation. Prisoners ate grass and tree-bark to assuage their hunger. In these times of intense hunger, Caraman often repeated to himself the description found in the Parable of the Prodigal Son of whom it is written, "And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him." (Luke 15:16) He described how the many groups of political prisoners when going to work, were guarded by a husky German-Shepherd police dog. This dog disappeared and the communist headguard was shaken finding out two days later, how the prisoners out of hunger, killed and ate the dog. On one occasion, Sabina

Wurmbrand had the opportunity to tell the communist camp commander, "since you are torturing Christians to build this canal, you will not have God's blessings and it will not be finished." Indeed, such a canal was started from both ends and diggings were supposed to meet in the middle. Unbelievably true, this canal-works having been conceived and undertaken by poorly schooled yet politically promoted communist engineers and mostly dug by hand with political inmates, the two diggings instead of properly meeting in the middle, ended up 18.5 miles apart. The diggings became a big mudhole and as a punishment, the main culprits, high ranking communists themselves, were sentenced to be shot. Therefore, Caraman was released from this Canal labor-camp in 1951. Unafraid he continued his evangelistic preaching, crisscrossing the entire country and thus he was very well known to Romanian Christians. It can be published now, how he had been greatly helped in his underground Christian activities by our family Wurmbrand.

After several arrests and short detentions, he ended up being sentenced in 1963 to 4 years of communist prison under the accusation of having "plotted against the state." "He demanded to be told in which fashion he plotted against the communist state? The communist prosecutor was not able to bring any witnesses to support the charge. At his trial, Caraman found out, the communists had totally fabricated a confession on his part that he had communicated to the United Nations on the lack of religious freedom in communist Romania. His preferred Bible verses were: 1st Chronicles 18:6 and 2nd Samuel 22:1 as follows:

"the Lord preserved David whithersoever he went" and "The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; The God of my rock; in Him will I trust: He is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my Savior; thou savest me from violence. I will call on the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so, shall I be saved from mine enemies."

After the fall of communism in Romania, Caraman, together with others, founded a Christian publishing house, storing a great deal of Christian literature, in the very cell where pastor Richard Wurmbrand had been held for over two years in communist solitary confinement.

Christians helped with your Gifts!



Brother Ilie Neamtu died in May 2018, aged 87. Of an indomitable courage under communism, he gave publicly his Christian testimony speaking to crowds on the street, in trains, in buses, places of work and so on. On the 1st of July 1985 he was kidnapped off the street by the Romanian communist secret police. His wife and seven children remained without subsistence. Christians around helped them get through somehow.

Neamtu was tortured to sign statements that he will no more evangelize, hold underground meetings or conduct baptisms. He replied to his torturers, “my right hand will sign after you cut it off and someone else will hold the severed hand and somehow make a cut off hand sign.”

After being beaten severely, the communist officer shouted before slamming his prison cell- door shut, “here will rot your bones. Not even the God you trust

in, will get you out of here.” He remained in this cell a year and a half, hungry, beaten, interrogated. Extremely physically weak, his prayers consisted of only the words, “Oh Lord” constantly reminding himself how in the Gospel it is written that Lord Jesus prayed for Apostle Peter not to lose his faith. Lord Jesus is described speaking to Apostle Peter in Luke 22:32 as saying: “But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fails not!” This tortured Romanian Christian was imploring Lord Jesus do same for him, he asked Lord Jesus pray also for Ilie Neamtu.

Neamtu recounts how imprisoned 15 feet underground in the dark and freezing cell, all of a sudden, his body, following above prayer, felt warmed up to the point that he got scared thinking he lost his mind and cannot feel his body anymore. Neamtu knew by heart a lot of the Bible. Miraculously the verse of Psalm 89:19, “Then thou spakest in vision to thy holy one...” came to his mind because indeed he had an incredible vision: as if projected on the cell wall, many groups of Christians appeared kneeling giving prayers on his behalf. Under this image appeared the verse of James 5:16, “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” He understood how the more fervent the prayer, the more his body got heated up and praised God. He had not lost his mind. Under US government pressures the communist dictator Ceausescu had to give a decree freeing all those political prisoners sentenced to five years of prison or less. Neamtu had been sentenced to 2 years and seven months. Though he hoped for an immediate release, this was not the case. To torture him more, he was communicated how his sentenced had been revised to be increased to seven and a half years of prisons, so he could not be freed under the newly issued decree. The US ambassador being appraised of this specific communist attempt to trick the US government, paid even a personal visit to Neamtu’s home in Romania to convince himself this prisoner had not been freed. Then the ambassador intervened with members of the US Congress and in this way Neamtu was released. Eventually under many international protests he was expelled together with the family out of communist Romania and allowed to come to the United States. In the US he met Christians who, like in his vision, had prayed for him. As soon as communism fell in Romania, Ilie Neamtu left the United States and continued as a Christian missionary throughout the villages of Romania. His five children continue his missionary vision. Help for Refugees continued giving support to his widow.

Help for Refugees, PO Box 5161, Torrance, Ca. 90510, USA. Email: hfr@helpforrefugees.com, website: <http://helpforrefugees.com> (EIN: 95-3064521) is listed in Publication 78, Cumulative List of Organizations described in Section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Service.