

HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC.

A tax-exempt, non-profit corporation

Michael Wurmbbrand, President

Tel. (310) 544-0814

PO Box 5161, Torrance, Ca. 90510, USA.

Email: hfr@helpforrefugees.com; Website: <http://helpforrefugees.com>

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 2024

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!)

"But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience."
(II Timothy 3:10)

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From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand

GIVING OUR BEST!

St. Paul gave himself as an example. Modern preachers mostly avoid doing this. They would speak about the example of Christ, not about their own. Is this reasonable?

A madman asked once the cook of an asylum "Are you able to prepare good food which would make those who eat it look well and healthy?" The cook answered "I, surely, do." The madman said "You better become a mental patient in our institution. Because being a cook, you yourself are thin and pale." How can one show me the right doctrine, the right manner of life, the right faith and the right charity, if he does not have them himself? Example is the best witness and the best sermon.

If the apostle gave himself as example to be followed, it does not mean that he had a sinless life. Only one has had it. But just this is the message: The sinless "was delivered to death for our offences and was raised again for our justification" (Romans 4:25).

I am justified, that is "I'm just as if I'd never sinned." And I can give myself as a best model of a person who has been saved, to be followed by others.

A minister had tried unsuccessfully to bring faith to a great railroad trade union leader. At a certain moment, a strike broke out. It was prolonged. The strikers tightened their belts and held to their demands in the face of hunger and mounting debt.

The minister went to visit the trade union leader and told him, "I have a suggestion which will enable you to win the strike. You can get the full weight of public opinion behind you." For the first time, the leader became interested in the words of the preacher and asked to learn the proposal. The minister explained, "To demonstrate the truly desperate condition of the workers, and to arouse compassion for them, tie your son to a railroad track and run over him with a locomotive. You would have the victory."

The trade leader indignantly refused, "I would rather see the whole world starve before I would sacrifice my only son." Then the minister had the occasion to show him the love and wisdom of God which surpasses that of human leaders. God has won over men of all nations, races, and social positions by sacrificing his only son.

God could have sent an ancient saint or an angel to die for us, but instead he gave the Best in heaven, Jesus Christ. Realizing the extent of the sacrifice, our hearts are attracted to repentance. Jesus died for our sins on Good Friday. But death could not hold Him. Death is a low quality phenomenon. It cannot contain the Best. He resurrected. This is what we feast on Easter Sunday, Christ's conquering death.

V. MOROZ, a Christian formerly imprisoned in the Soviet Union wrote: "The Christian renewed Rome. What gave the illiterate Christian with his naive sermons the power to conquer the Roman philosopher with his baggage of Greek and pre-Greek wisdom? Did the Christian preacher know something which the Roman philosopher did not? Generally the essential difference is not between what somebody knows and another does not know. The deciding factor is the degree of emotion which one possesses towards the truth. The first only knows it. The latter lives it. For the one, the given truth is simply information, knowledge. For the other it is revelation, without which life loses its meaning. When truth boils in the soul to a certain "degree", it becomes a value. And only then, man (gives his best) he shows true love.

A Christian giving his best feels of those in bonds as bound with them, weeps with those who weep and helps to bear the burden of the persecuted Christians.



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!)



BURUIANA Teodora

My husband Buruiana Gheorghe was imprisoned for his Christian witnessing in former communist Romania between 1961 and 1966. He suffered hunger, freezing cold, being mocked for his faith, being humiliated and do forced labor. Whatever the family possessed was confiscated. **Read her testimony in our online 11/2015 Newsletter.**



SZABO Margareta

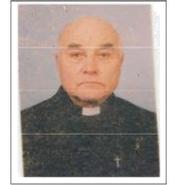
Szabo Tiberiu, my husband, was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment for his underground Christian activities in former communist Romania. Released after only 5 years of imprisonment, he died at the age of 46. I remained a widow with three children. **Read her testimony in our online 11/2015 Newsletter.**



DORZ Florica

is the daughter of Romania's most well-known Christian poet, Traian DORZ. Her father was imprisoned for more than 10 years in former communist Romania. He was the leader of the Army of the Lord Christian movement.

Read her testimony in our online 11/2015 Newsletter.



Minister ARIESAN Grigore

Was imprisoned for nearly 15 years for his underground Christian activities in former communist Romania.

Read his testimony in our online 12/2015 Newsletter.

Testimonies of Christian Refugee Families

Brother Bogdan KALASHNIK wrote: “After a long winter and long period of unemployment in our region, the war broke upon us right when the population least expected it. We were woken up by the military emergency alert. On the second morning, we were living only 2 miles away from an attack upon a major airport. My wife Julia was in a panic with 3 small children and expecting a fourth!. Having problems with my wife's health, it was difficult especially for my wife to endure months of constant rocket fire right over our house. During whole nights in prayer we shouted to God to protect us, because only God could save us. The baby in the womb was not gaining weight. The financial reserves were running out and we decided to leave the country. On April 7, we left for Poland, having borrowed money for fuel. God blessed our journey, and in an hour we crossed the border. After spending the night in Poland with Ukrainian passports, we arrived in Estonia. This is where our little girl Darina was born. Six months later, the wife underwent an operation. The war is still here but we are safe. It is difficult in a foreign country, everything is foreign and prices are rising.”



Apartment house destroyed through Russian bombing in Mariupol, Ukraine, where 40% of whole town has been close to obliterated.

Over eight million refugees have escaped so far from Ukraine into different European countries.



**NEWS FROM THE RICHARD WURMBRAND SCHOOL IN IASI, ROMANIA!
Testimonies of Ukrainian Christian Families, Helped with your Gifts!**



Sister Halyna VLASENKO writes: “My family came to Iasi shortly after the conflict started in Ukraine. The morning of 24th of February 2022 found us in Kiev. After spending days and nights under bombing and shadowing with worry by the *"two walls rule"** we chose to leave the capital towards our relatives located 300 miles heading to Western Ukraine. The way was long, hard and dangerous, the future unsure. Russia forced us to run away from our home, but we found in the western part of Ukraine the same fear and hopelessness.

We decided to come to Romania, Iasi, because we heard Romanians were helping with shelter, food, medicine and most important: we could save our children. (We believed naively that) all of this temporary solution was supposed to last no longer than 2 weeks, then 2 months. After 3 months of staying in Iasi, studying online and waiting for the end of war, we realized the reality was cruel. "The smoke of war" stopped us from returning home. I was alone with my children and aged parents (my husband stayed in Ukraine) and

needed to be able to answer all my dear-ones' questions. They were depending on me to keep them at peace with everything that was going on.

Facing worries, uncertainty and the big unknown "new", we tried to start a new life in Iasi. We found information about the Richard Wurmbbrand Christian School and agreed to meet with the Head Teacher. My children, 9 and 14 years old, passed tests in English and were enrolled to this school. From the first moment I set foot in the school and met the school staff I felt comfortable and safe, people were friendly and authentic. My boys found a new place where they could make friends, be part of the community, have equal rights and learn from wonderful teachers-mentors, developing spiritually and finding their own way, for which I'm grateful to God every day.

*** The "two walls rule" is a basic safety rule that can help save lives during enemy missile strikes in Ukraine. The rule states that you should have at least two walls separating you from danger, with one wall likely collapsing on impact, and the other taking on the broken wall or window glass. It is safe to hide in a place located behind the second retaining wall from the facade, such as a vestibule, corridor, or hallway.**



Sister Iryna Korniiichuk wrote: “The relocation of my family to Romania happened suddenly. It occurred almost a year after the extensive bombardment of Ukraine's territory by enemy aircraft.

During the initial weeks of bombardment, I, along with my children, neighbors, friends, and parents, spent time in shelters. Everyone was frightened and unsure of what to do. The

invaders sought to capture Kiev, advising women with children to leave the city. I left with my children to Chernivtsi, a city in the west of the country. It was also dangerous there due to the bombardments, but physically further from the enemy, as everyone already knew how Russian military criminals tormented and tortured Ukrainians who fell into their hands, sparing neither children nor the elderly nor women.

After seven months, we returned home to Kiev, to our friends and relatives. The resistance continued; our military bravely defended the country. The shock of all the horror subsided, we got used to the sirens, knew where to seek shelter, how to protect ourselves and our loved ones.

My eldest son returned to kindergarten and began attending preparatory courses for school. Life went on. However, during one of the bombardments, an enemy bomb fell near our house. And we decided to leave the country.

We didn't know which country or city to go to, the main thing was for the children to have a place to study. We chose the city of Iasi because of the Richard Wurmbrand Christian School. The values of the school, the teaching methodology, good reviews, and acquaintance with the director convinced us of the correctness of our choice.

I like that they don't pressure the children, respect the individuality of each one, and promote harmonious personality development. My son

says his teachers are very good, which pleases me and gives me hope for a better future for the children.”



The wife of Berezovskyi Heorhi wrote: “We could not imagine that in 2022 someone (namely Russia) would be able to deliberately kill people, children and bomb our country, our city. We didn't have a packed bag in case “if”... Then on the night of 2/24/2022 I woke up from explosions. I went to a gas station and stood in line for 4 hours. Payment by card did not work anywhere. I also prepared a canister. On this day, my husband, who was not in Ukraine, simply forced me to leave the country. He instructed: rescue, take out the child! I was overcome by despair and panic. My parents are staying, I am leaving alone with the child. The closest border is Moldova. 2 hours from my house. We were stuck in traffic for 18 hours. It's winter, I didn't turn off the car. I couldn't sleep or eat. We naively believed that it would only be for a few weeks and we would be able to return.... We spent a week in Moldova, and decided to move on and the choice fell on Iasi, Romania.

The way the volunteers greeted us, the way the Romanian people helped us, just people who heard that we left Ukraine because of the war, it was more than just good deeds. This gave us hope. One of the most important things was that we found the Richard Wurmbrand Christian School for our son, where we were accepted, where we were supported. I gave birth to a daughter in Iasi.”



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	Медфодьевич	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	ДРИСВЯНИКОВ	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>**

Help for Refugees, Inc.

PO Box 5161, Torrance, Ca. 90510, USA.

Email: hfr@helpforrefugees.com,

Gifts are US tax-deductible. Help for Refugees is listed in Publication 78, Cumulative List of Nonprofit Organizations described in Section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Service. For IRS nonprofit status you may use this link:

<https://apps.irs.gov/app/eos/allSearch>

and enter EIN: 953064521.