

HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC.

A tax-exempt, non-profit corporation

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Late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand with wife, Sabina

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"No church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving" (Philippians 4:15)

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From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand

Why Try Communicate with Persecuted Believers?

Some wonder why churches don't care much about the multitude of Christians persecuted today. This neglect is old. St. Paul has founded a multitude of churches himself, but when he, and probably many others, entered prison for his faith, his brethren did not realize that prison means hunger, destitution, anguish of soul.

Let us learn from the words "concerning giving and receiving." The Bible does not teach a technique for gathering funds. **The right order is "giving and receiving."**

Many Christians do not realize that persecuted, even imprisoned Christians **have much to give** to the churches. With Christian prisoners, the fact that Jesus enters through locked doors bringing peace is not only an old Easter-story. It happens every day in their cells. Their experiences can enrich you, your children. Christians did not sense that the suffering of some is a rich treasure from which all can draw; that hands which wear chains can bless well. So it happened, that no church had communicated with St. Paul when he was a prisoner, concerning giving and receiving, except the Christians in the town of Philippi, now named [Filipoi](#), in today's Greece.

Before I was kidnapped off the streets and ended up suffering 14 years and my wife nearly three years, in the communist prisons of Romania, I pastored a nearly 1,000-members-strong church. My son, Michael then 11 years old, remained like an orphan. It was a time of intense Stalinist terror. If members of my church encountered my son on the street, many of them conveniently crossed-over to the other

sidewalk, so as not be seen greeting him even. Those members of my church who took a keen interest in his wellbeing, could all be counted on the fingers of one hand.

In Communist prison camps, our brethren and sisters suffer crushing fatigue of body. Youth fades away in slave labor. Others have to endure the powerlessness of old age with chains at their feet. But Jesus, who had been dead-tired himself when carrying the cross, helps them to endure patiently the helpless weakness of the body.

A Russian Baptist Christian, Aida Skripnikova, by the time she was 27, had been sentenced four times to communist prison for her faith. Her father had been shot under the dictatorship of Stalin, for his courageous Christian witness. She had been sentenced to three years of communist prison for distributing handwritten Bible-verses and also for writing to the Soviet communist authorities these courageous, inspiring words: "You, the atheists, can meet together at any time and do whatever you like - talk, read or sing. Why, then, we Christians cannot visit one another? What law forbids this? Why can we not pray, or read the Bible whenever we want? We are allowed to speak about God only in (state-sanctioned, so-called) "official churches." You would certainly not acquiesce if you were allowed to talk about the theater only in a theater or about books, in a library only."

After coming out of prison, she wrote, "in prison, the most difficult thing was to live without a Bible. Yet, one text became clearer than ever before, 'My yoke is easy and my burden is light.' (Matthew 11:30) Jesus Himself spoke these words and during the three years of prison, I came to understand how real and true they are,"

Aida Skripnikova finds her Christian yoke easy! She gives us an example not to complain anymore. Our burdens, too, are light. Soviet Christians change their prisons in hotbeds where they grow new souls for the Kingdom of God. The former robber, HMARA, who afterwards died a martyr-death for Christ in the Soviet Union, was won for Christ in a communist prison. The same for the thief, KOZLOV, who afterwards spent 10 years in a Soviet jail for his faith. These persecuted Christians "give" to the Christians of the Free World the example of Christian lives, unbroken by sufferings.

5,000 persons witnessed the miracle of Jesus multiplying the little food at hand. Jesus was surrounded by 12 Apostles. Yet, in the end it is written, Lord Jesus is glad if 2-3 disciples would gather in His name. Jesus explains it "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled." (John 6:26) Our minds look for personal advantage, rather being amazed of God's miracle. The faith of our persecuted brethren, is a miracle that need leave us amazed.



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.

“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! Disadvantaged Child Studies at the Richard Wurmband High School



Antonia with her mother.

Rebeca Lucaci, a teacher of English and the wife of Cristian, the Principal of the Richard Wurmband College (a Christian High School in Iasi, Romania) writes: “Antonia has been in our school for 4 years. She is an only child. Her mother strives to shape her character and prepare her for life. Sadly, the father is not present in her life. He did not even want to know of her existence. You can imagine what scars and trauma that produces in the heart of a teenager. Antonia is very smart and enjoys studying languages, History, Romanian and Geography. She wants to further pursue an education in humanities. Antonia needs a lot of prayer and support because she is very fragile. Although she is bright

intellectually, she is so insecure and damaged on the inside. Her self-worth is almost inexistent. Her mother does a great job at loving her, caring for her and being with her every step of the way. However, as a teenager, Antonia has questions and insecurities about herself and her biggest wound is the fact that her father does not want to do with her. She longs for affection and emotional support. She knows the Lord Jesus, but still struggles with the idea of being loved unconditionally because she did not receive this from a father figure.

Her mother works at a foundation for women in difficulty ever since she has come to know the Lord. This is her way of paying it forward. She has had a radical change in her life, she knows what mistakes she made as a young girl and wants to prevent or help those young ladies who might be in a similar situation with hers. Of course, her pay check is not great so she needs a lot of support in keeping Antonia in our school. We appreciate her heart and working spirit. The thought of moving Antonia to another school does not even cross her mind. Once, in a parent-teacher meeting she confessed that she would rather go without food for days than to know that she needs to move Antonia to another school.



Children living in a dirt-floor house in a Romanian village.
Romania: 2nd poorest country in the European Union!

**Cristian Lucaci,
and
wife Rebeca.**

The Richard Wurmband
College is a
Christian high-school
(kindergarten-
12th grade) with over 450 students in Iasi, Romania.



Please pray for Antonia – to find her worth in the eternal, unchanging love of the heavenly Father. Also, please pray for her mother, who struggles financially but who has been redeemed by Jesus’ death on the cross and whose new life empowers her to be a fighter and a survivor. She still has 4 years in our school and our prayer is to find people to support her and also for her to come to really know the Lord and trust him fully with her life. It is our privilege to invest in this beautiful young lady and to see how miraculously the Lord can work in her life to bring beauty from brokenness.”

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 local nonprofits in Romania and in the Republic of Moldova.

Christians Helped with Your Gifts!

Baptist Minister Imprisoned Three Years for Refusing to Become a KGB Informer



Dear brethren, I received your letter, to which I answer with joy. My name is Levtzeniuk Anatolii and am 79 years old. I start regarding myself, with same exhortation of Apostle Paul to the church in Philippi: "Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation: Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me." (Philippians 2:29-30)

I will describe what has happened in my life in the last thirty years, of the last century (the 1970s to the 90s). Defying any persecution by communist authorities, I was ordained as a Baptist minister in an unregistered church. Myself and my entire family ended up being persecuted, especially my children during their high school years. Persecution started with me being called by the Soviet police, to the building of the KGB. The purpose of these talks was for the KGB officers to obtain from me to deny my faith in God. I clearly answered them, that I will never do this. They continued with other insistent suggestions for me to collaborate with the KGB. I asked them, what such collaboration meant? They answered in general, "from time to time, meet us to speak with us and answer all the questions that we are interested in." I explained to them that I will never be a Judas. I did not want in any fashion compromise my Christian faith. I continued to do my job as a pastor of the church of our Lord Jesus. We did not have a prayer house, and we made our gatherings here and there in private homes and under the open sky. We gathered around 150 people, men, women, young people, elders and children. Often, local authorities, the communist police, were imposing heavy, punishing fines. They disrupted our church service asking us to disband all prayer-meetings. I was called often to the prosecutor's office and threatened being arrested and sentenced. March 1981, I ended up being convicted on the basis of the Soviet Penal Code, Article #187 to 3 years of prison. My wife remained home with our 8 children, being pregnant with her 9th. These three years I spent in a communist prison in the city of Rivne, a town now in today's Ukraine, but then, part of the Soviet Union. I was imprisoned, though very sick with osteoarthritis. Because of the disease, some of the prison guards showed here and there, a little bit of pity. The prison-commander said out loud: "Be aware, here you are answering only to myself and to your Lord!" From time to time while in jail, I was being visited by the KGB, so were visited at home my wife and children also. The communists were making different "offers" for me to have a better regime in prison, even be released from prison. At one time for a short period of time, amazingly enough, they allowed me even read the New Testament, so I would not write complaints to higher authorities. I continued to pray. One time, my wife and children were allowed to pay me a prison-visit. At the meeting with the newborn baby Natasha, the prison commander allowed me to hold her and pray. What a great miracle! Many other communist guards objected seeing my many children at this meeting. I believe such a miracle happened, because of the unceasing prayer intercession of fellow-believers in so many churches. The many interventions on my behalf by other Christians unnerved the communist administration. I was released ahead of my prison term. After my release from the communist prison, I was able to continue my underground Christian activities. I have serious leg pains due to my sickness. Please pray for me to be faithful unto death. Your brother Levtzeniuk Anatolii, a former (political-Christian) prisoner (in the former Soviet Union.) God is with us when we are with Him."

Christians Helped with Your Gifts!

Former Student at the Richard Wurmbrand Christian High School, now Professor in Same School



Carmen at a study-seminar on Down Syndrome, a sickness affecting her son. This genetic disorder is caused by the presence of all or part of a third copy of chromosome 21. It presents developmental and intellectual delays in babies showing this syndrome.

wonderful man who had been a classmate for four years. After ten years of giving birth to three children and finishing my degrees, I was invited to teach Physical Education at the school that shaped me and molded my character and personality. It has always been my dream to coach a volleyball team and reach the high world of sports. I had never pictured myself tying shoelaces or teaching PreK students how to jump rope. God gave us a son with Down syndrome and through him taught me to celebrate the smallest of victories. Through my son I was taught to reconsider the worth that the Lord has placed in every human being. I now consider it an honor to be a teacher to the youngest of children, to be able to help them overcome limitations or fears and by doing that to show them how precious and loved they are by God himself.

One of my longtime prayers was for the school to have a real gym where we would be able to train the students. The Lord has graciously answered my prayer after many years and I am now honored to develop and invest my time in the lives of young boys and girls to train them physically and spiritually.

All our three children study at the Wurmbrand school and both my husband and I are so proud and thankful because we know that no other school in town can shape characters, train minds and mold people into God followers. I am now part of the team of teachers and I am again thankful to work and do life with amazing people, who sacrifice, love, pray and work for the Kingdom of God.

Sister Carmen Profiri writes: “I graduated from the Wurmbrand School in 2004. I became a student at the Wurmbrand School only in the ninth grade. I was not interested much in academics before entering the Richard Wurmbrand College. Once I came to this school I was challenged to use my talents and gifts, to discover what God gave me and to use it for His glory. The team of teachers at this school always knew how to teach knowledge combined with values and principles of life. They managed to challenge me and give me purpose and as a teenager I now realize how impactful character training was in my life. This is one of the aspects that make this school unique – the fact that knowledge and academics aren’t the sole purpose in school life. They are combined with strong values and well-grounded principles to make students strong believers and agents of change in the world.

Shortly after finishing high school I went to university and then got married. I got married to a



Richard Wurmbrand Highschool kids on excursion

Help for Refugees, Inc. 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 Nonprofit Organizations described in Section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Service. Gifts to Help for Refugees are tax-deductible.

Christians Helped with Your Gifts!

A 12 Years Communist Prison Sentence for writing Christian Poetry



Brother Sergiu Grosu (now deceased) studied and obtained his degree in theology shortly before 1948, the year of the total takeover of Romania by communism. An active itinerant ordained minister, he visited, and encouraged persecuted believers under communism in practically every major town of Romania. He was a much beloved Christian poet and his poems were recited in many evangelical churches of Romania. For this “crime” of promoting Christianity through poetry, he was arrested on March 7th, 1959. After 3 months of cruel interrogations in the underground cells of the “Securitate” (the Romanian secret police) he was sentenced to 12 years of hard labor. The communists staged a car accident, seriously injuring his legs. He suffered only 5 years of communist prison, due to the general amnesty issued to fulfil a condition of the American government when offering billions of dollars loans to the communist regime led by the dictator Ceausescu. Brother Grosu succeeded to leave Romania in 1969 and with the help of the Wurmbrand family, led for years in France, a Christian mission together with his wife, Colette. His wife had been imprisoned under communism also for over four years and for at least 6 months was in the same prison cell as Sabina Wurmbrand in a communist hard labor camp. Brother Grosu spread in tens of thousands of copies a monthly magazine “Catacombs” describing persecution of believers under communism.

409	Власенко	Валентин	Мерфодьевич	1958	Украина
410	Вольф	Андрей	Иорнеевич	1958	Казакстан
411	Куркин	АЛЕКСЕЙ	ЯКОВЛЕВИЧ	1958	Россия
412	Левен	НИКОЛАЙ	ВИКТОРОВИЧ	1958	Казакстан
413	Романов	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	СВВОРЦОВА	ЛЮБОВЬ	НИКОЛАЕВНА	1959	Россия
419	Варавин	Виталий	Федотович	1959	Россия
420	Дубицкий	СЕРГЕЙ	АДАМСВИЧ	1959	Россия
421	Лашенко	Борис	Владимирович	1959	Украина
422	Траченко	ИВАН	ИВАНОВИЧ	1959	Казакстан
423	МАРЧЕНКО	Станслав	Павлович	1960	Украина
424	Донченко	Александр	Максимович	1960	Украина
425	Отмаков	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	Богодримов	Александр	Валерьевич	1962	Эстония
430	Миняев	Павел	Дмитриевич	1962	Эстония

Sample of a list, our mission was able to compile, of over 480 elderly Baptist Christians who suffered for their 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 fourth column shows year of birth and the 5th, present 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 help to about 70 such elderly Russian-speaking Christians. Many of their testimonies you can read in the monthly newsletter.

(See: <http://helpforrefugees.com>).



COLEGIUL RICHARD WURMBRAND | IAȘI

Letter of Confirmation

June 13, 2018

Colegiul „Richard Wurmbrand”, sediu în str. Smârdan nr. 13, Iași, 700399, fiind înregistrată ca școală non-profit, având codul fiscal 26050452, reprezentată prin domnul Cristian Lucaci, confirm prin prezentul document că am primit 3.000 de dolari de la organizația Help for Refugees la data de 13 iunie 2018, reprezentată de domnul Mihai Wurmbrand. Această donație a fost făcută pentru a sprijini educația copiilor din familii dezavantajate.

“Richard Wurmbrand” Christian School, str. Smârdan nr. 13, Iași, 700399, registered as a non-profit school, having the fiscal code 26050452, represented by Mr. Cristian Lucaci, confirms by this document that we received \$3,000 on June 13th 2018, from Help for Refugees, represented by Michael Wurmbrand. This donation was made to support the education of children from disadvantaged families.

Colegiul „Richard Wurmbrand” Iași

Director,
Prof. Dr. Cristian Lucaci



Receipt for one of the Help For Refugees Wired Support