

HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC.

A tax-exempt, non-profit corporation

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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 Wurmband with wife, Sabina

October 2024

Announcement:

Free copies of the paperback books written by Pastor Richard Wurmband: "Reaching Towards the Heights"; "Tortured For Christ"; "Was Karl Marx a Satanist?"; and "The Pastor's Wife" by Sabina Wurmband, may be requested using the order form at the <https://helpforrefugees.com> internet site. (See request form at top of the third column!)

"Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, **THEIR CONSCIENCE** also bearing witness."

(Romans 2:15)

"For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of **OUR CONSCIENCE...**" (II Corinthians 1:12)

Late Reverend Richard Wurmband suffered.

14 years in Romanian communist prisons.

Mrs. Wurmband, Sabina, 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From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmband

HOW TO GET A SUPERIOR CONSCIENCE

"**Their conscience**" (Romans 2:15) "**our conscience**" (II Corinthians 1:12).

Jesus tells us that two men prayed in the temple. One of them, a proud pharisee, compared himself wrongly with a humble fellow-worshipper who was a publican. Jesus says that he was wrong in doing so.

From this, some Christians have drawn the false conclusion that any comparison between a person and a neighbor in which someone arrives to the conclusion that he himself is superior would be wrong. If you are superior to another in some respect, this superiority is a simple fact. You can be aware of it and tell it.

St. Paul thinks with a shudder about the *conscience of other men. It is defiled. He compares it with his conscience and the conscience of his fellow-workers (II Cor. 11:23) which bears a good testimony, matter of rejoicing, while the former are in inner conflict, with self-reproaches and attempts to excuse themselves.*

Many will have received in the mail lots of urgent demands for money from missions. Some demands are so pressing, as if the ship of Christ would drown unless you send immediately your gift. The ship of Christ cannot drown. It would not have sunk in the tempest, even if the apostles

would not have awakened the Lord to beg Him to intervene. The advance of the Gospel does not depend upon such appeals, but upon the work of the Holy Spirit there and in your souls.

Was smuggled out to the Free World a letter to the communist government of the Soviet Union, written by brother BASIL KOZLOV of the town IOSHKAR-OLA. He had been brought up, as all Soviet children, with the knowledge that there is no God. He became a bandit. For this he was sentenced in 1947 to ten years of prison.

In jail, he met for the first time Christians, who did not get funds from anywhere, neither made appeals for funds. They shone with spiritual beauty. They had no Bible. But they had a righteous life, a deep faith, calm manners. These brought KOZLOV to Christ.

Played a big role in his conversion the Christian N. HRAPOV, who at the age of 56 has passed already more than half of his life in prison, because of his faith. No American organization or church had cared for him in this time. No church publication had ever mentioned his name.

KOZLOV tells in his letter not only about his conversion, but that **"the communist prisons and concentration camps are the place of spiritual rebirth and meeting with Christ for a great number of people."**

Released in 1957, after having finished his sentence for robberies, he became a member of the underground church. Since then he had been **condemned four times to a total of ten years of prison**, but now it was **for his faith**. The officers of the communist Secret Police told him "It would have been better for you to remain a bandit than to become a Christian." At one of his trials, the prosecutor said "Look to the past of this KOZLOV. He has been a thief and now he pretends to be a holy apostle," to which KOZLOV replied **"Yes, I was a bandit and for this I have taken my punishment. But I died for sin and for the past. The power of the blood of Jesus has cleansed my criminal heart. Now I am a new man. What the prosecutor shows are relics."**

This example shows how a wrong conscience can be transformed into that of a Christian!



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!)



Melania Ritiu's life story is entwined with intense religious persecution and suffering of the church under the previous communist regime in the northern part of Romania. Her father was a minister who together with some parishioners hid for 2 years in a cave while the rest of the family underwent fierce persecution. Eventually the location was betrayed and he and most parishioners were sentenced to long years in prison. Her brother was arrested and sentenced to 7 years of prison which he fully executed in one of the worst communist prisons of Romania, the Aiud prison. On 1/24/1951 she was arrested together with her mother. Mother died in prison. Read more in our February 2016 newsletter.



A missionary in the Reformed Church, **Püsök Miklós**, was arrested in former communist Romania together with his father. The communist interrogator, seeing that he cannot build a legal case against him, proposed to let him free, provided he is no more preaching and also would not disclose what happened during 7 months of preventive detention. He answered, “I do not want to be like the servant in the Gospel, described to have hidden the talent in the ground. I must preach and sing of my Savior.” See his testimony in our March 2016 newsletter.

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



Ukrainian Christian Refugees Helped with Your Gifts!



My name is **Olena Servatsynska**. I am 59 years old. I am disabled for life. I am from Ukraine.

In the past I had an alcohol addiction. Good people suggested that I go to a Christian school rehabilitation center where my following of Jesus began. After passing the program, I stuck to the church and moved to another city together with my husband, Leonid. We became members of the Jesus of Nazareth Church in Vinnitsia where the minister was Roman Lebedev.

Soon we learned about a terrible illness diagnosis of my husband: tonsils cancer. His treatment was taking place to the sound of sirens in a full-scale war.

My son and his family left Ukraine and went to Spain (see below.) Soon we could join them. We went with the hope that the war would end soon and during his stay in Spain, my husband might be able to recover, because medicine in Western Europe is much better.

Right after our escape, where we lived in Ukraine, a large guided missile flew from the territory of Russia and exploded. They tried to destroy the military unit located in the forest belt next to our house. Soon thereafter my husband died. I believe that he has gone to eternity.

The Spanish government program of help provided to all refugees has ended. I have nowhere to return-to.

Her son **Ihor Servatsynskii** wrote: On Sunday, February 28, 2022, our family was returning by car from the Divine Service and got in the epicenter of hostilities. The military detained a sabotage group. There was a shooting. We were very scared, especially for the children. A few days later, I took my family to Chisinau, the capital city of the Republic of Moldova. The border was crossed legally with documents that proved I had a disability and unfitness for military service being exempt from military registration. After some time, my parents came to us. Father died here in Spain in the hospital with a serious illness. The war took the life of our nephew when a rocket hit his residential building. Our village, where we lived, was shelled as it rained with Russian rockets. We cannot return to our homeland because we don't have any more either home or job.



Sister **Iryna MALICHENKO** wrote: "I am 71 years old and my husband Viktor is 72. He is disabled for life after an oncology operation. The reason we left Ukraine was my panic attacks provoked by the beginning of the war and constant air alarms. My husband tolerated the anxiety more easily, but he agreed to leave because the medical care he needed due to covid. We chose Spain because our son's wife was already there. But as our son could not leave Ukraine she returned to Ukraine with her children to be with her husband. At first we attended the Church "Bride of Christ" in the city of Murcia. We were accommodated in a hostel for refugees and were on the government refugee support program. The program ended in September 2024. We need help now. If you have the opportunity to help us, we will be very grateful.



A dramatic description by sister Carmen Gavril (in picture) of seven siblings received in the Agape Orphanage House. This orphanage was started by Pastor Richard Wurmbbrand and his wife Sabina. Carmen and her husband Dorin are the directors of Agape.

Anutza is the last child of the D. family. In 2010, three of the children of this family came to Agape. At that time there were six siblings. They all lived in abject poverty. The parents, both alcoholics, did not take care of the children, did not work and all lived in miserable conditions. Their adobe house had fallen down and a welfare organization had built them another house with two rooms, but this too was now below any criticism. They didn't have a toilet, not even a backhouse in the yard. They all lived in one room. The other room was full of all kinds of thrown away junk. The children were made to beg and ate only what they got or what the neighbors gave them. Many times the mother left the home, the children staying only with the father, who was also away from home most of the time. After a while the mother would return with another child, almost all the children having different fathers. Because they couldn't take it anymore, the older children complained to the school and to the City Hall, which is why the social workers took them all and divided them into different care centers or families. That's how Vasile, Elena and Maria arrived at Agape. This is where the lives of these children changed. Although they came from a terrible background, the three were and are wonderful children, good listeners, good-hearted and cheerful. In the meantime, their mother gave birth to 4 more children, who ended up living in the same miserable conditions as the first. In the last period, the eldest girl of the four, Nicoleta, who was 5-6 years old, had to take care of her younger siblings, two 2-year-old twins and a baby, Anutza. The mother had disappeared and the father, who was not even their father, was not taking care of the children.

The three who were with us, visited their younger brothers from time to time. The last time they visited them, they came crying because of the conditions in which they found them. It was winter, they lived in the cold, hungry, dirty, and Elena thought that the little Anutza would not live until the end of winter. Anutza was already a year old, but she looked like a 5-month-old child, she was sitting in a wooden bed, from which she had never gotten out, wrapped in torn blankets.



POVERTY AND MISERY IN THE D. HOUSEHOLD

At their request and after we also saw the situation, we also took the four little ones to Agape. Elena proved to behave like a real mother with the little one, Anutza. She took her to her room and took care of her day and night. Although she had school and things to learn, she sacrificed a lot of her time. Anutza had a very restless sleep and woke up often. Although she was offered to let the little one sleep with someone else, because she would soon take the Baccalaureate (final high school) exam and she had to prepare, she did not accept. Her sacrifice was and is admirable.

Now Elena is a social assistance student, and Anutza will turn 6 in January. All four have grown up beautifully and Agape is their home. All three older children are faithful and full of devotion to their brothers and to Agape. They are all a joy to us.

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>**

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