

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.

At this critical moment, we help also many Christian refugees from Ukraine!



Late Reverend Richard Wurmland with wife, Sabina

December 2022

Announcement:

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

"Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus." (2nd Timothy 2:1)

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From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmland

THE MIRACLE OF GOD'S GRACE

Three percent of the world's population are victims of nervous breakdowns. Fifty percent of the hospital beds in the USA are occupied by mental patients, and all nervous disorders are on the increase, even among believers. You might be the next candidate. A nervous disorder, however, will profit you nothing, so we advise you against it. It is easy to escape it by simply following the apostle's advice, "Be strong"—be strong emotionally and spiritually. People suffer nervous disorders because of unexpected shocks in life. The shock is your guilt. Why did you not expect mischief? Absolutely anything can produce varied, sometimes opposite, results. So, to prevent mental disorders, expect the unexpected.

The French scientists, Marie and Pierre Curie discovered polonium and radium, the first radioactive elements. Science is no more absolute than religion. Both are applied to life. The Curies' discovery had two possible uses. The rays of these elements have the ability to kill cancer cells, but made into bombs they kill people. The work of the Curies led eventually to the release of atomic bombs. At every step of life consider the possibility of good results as well as bad ones, and you will no longer be dismayed if the bad happens.

These dual consequences are in the laws of nature. Did you accomplish something good through great sacrifice, but without receiving any recognition? This will not result in a nervous breakdown if you anticipate no recognition. Mme. Curie went to Paris after making her great discovery. The crowd did not come to cheer the woman who had brought scientific glory to France. Paris attention was diverted that night by the Charpentier-Dempsey world heavyweight boxing fight. She was received only by two reporters who asked the scientist one "important" question: "What do you think of the boxing match?" She replied, "I regret that I have no opinion on the subject." Then all by herself, on foot, she had to carry a heavy lead case containing radium to the laboratory, because all the taxis were at the boxing competition. She did not own a car. Do you expect to be treated better? Don't expect recognition from your marriage partner, your brother in faith, or your children, and you will keep your head up. You will be spared nervous disorder.

Paul calls Timothy his "son." By virtue of the fact that he had brought him to Christ and had taught him, an unalterable relationship developed between them. Paul was his father in faith, and also father of all the churches in Asia, which owed him obedience. But they did not give it. **"All they which are in Asia have turned away from me,"** Paul writes. (II Timothy 1:15) He said it without bitterness and was not depressed, because he had learned about human ingratitude from the Lord. He accepted it and continued to love those churches, which eventually turned back to him. For the good of his own soul, we are happy when someone expresses a word of gratitude, yet we are not dismayed when it does not come.

Christians are strong because they have found the source of strength. **"Be strong in the grace that is in the Lord Jesus Christ."** Your own strength is not enough. Hagar, Abraham's maid, had only a bottle of water. When this reserve was depleted, she was sure that she and her son would die. An angel showed her she was wrong. A well of water was at hand. (Genesis 21:15-19) When you are at the end of your tether, it is only you who can go no further. "Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3) prepared by the Lord. If a class of one hundred students is shown a black point on a sheet of white paper, 90 will answer, "We see a black point." Nine will answer, "We see a white paper," and only one, "I see a white sheet with a black point on it." **See the whole.** We have our setbacks, failures, and disappointments as well as our victories. You have them, too. Count your blessings and you will not be a candidate for a nervous breakdown. Remember not only your sins, but also the many occasions you said "No" to temptation. Remember not only the evil which men have done to you, but also the good. Be strong in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.



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!)



Mahovik Stepan Methodovich

was sentenced to three and a half years imprisonment under article 209 of the Soviet Penal Code. He was accused of converting youngsters to the Christian faith. In prison, someone slipped him a gospel. Some of the other prisoners when they heard his Christian message were converted. Even a KGB officer, after he was released and met him on a bus, asked for a gospel. **Read his testimony in our 4/2020 Newsletter.**



Vera Klimoshenko

Her husband, Nikolay Stepanovich, was sentenced at first to 2 years of prison for Christian activities. Wife was left to take care of 8 children. Then he was sentenced to another 3 years of communist prison. He never worried and repeated again and again, “without the will of God, nothing will happen.” **Read her testimony in our 5/2020 Newsletter.**



Evangelist Vitaly Bosco

was imprisoned in the (former) Soviet Union at first for 4 years having refused as a Christian to swear an oath to the communist state. Though he had 8 children, following his Christian underground activities, he was sentenced after several years to another 3 years imprisonment. **Read his wife’s testimony in our 5/2020 Newsletter.**



Liudmila Petrovna Protsyshina

A Ukrainian lady living in the (former) Soviet Union was baptized secretly at midnight in a river. She was arrested by the KGB at a young age, kept 10 months in interrogations and detention without a trial for conducting underground Sunday schools. She served nearly 3 years imprisonment in a communist prison holding over 2,000 inmates. **Read her full testimony in our 6/2020 Newsletter.**

Christian Refugees of the Ukrainian-War Helped with your Gifts!



“I am Bugrim Kathy who lived in Donetsk with my husband Yury and daughters Liza, 17 years old, and Elmira, 15 years old. The area in which we lived was heavily shelled (yes, it is being bombed right now), the children were very afraid, especially after a bomb fell on the neighboring house and demolished several floors.

The children could not finish school this year (they are in 9th and 11th grades) because it was not possible in that environment and there were constant interruptions with the Internet, electricity, and water. My husband and I decided to move to Poland. So, on April 19, we ended up in Warsaw. Now the girls study in a high school named Lyceum.”

Apartment house destroyed through Russian bombing in Mariupol, Ukraine, where 40% of whole town has been close to obliterated. Over 7 million refugees have escaped Ukraine in the last 6 months.



PASTOR VLADIMIR NIKITCHENKO WROTE: “Since the beginning of the war, our family continued to serve in the pastoral ministry and also helped to conduct services in the city of Dniprorudne in the Church of the Word of Life, since their pastor could not leave Melitopol, where he and his family lived. They lived, served and prayed in the occupation for two months of the war. The children are all of school age, and there is no opportunity to study, no Internet, no opportunity to withdraw funds received on the card, there were no working shops, we saw enemy tanks, etc. We decided to leave the territory, but before that, almost 85% of the church members had already left for the territory controlled by Ukraine. On April 24, the Great Day of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and the Easter holiday, we left on Monday morning, April 25, not having our own transport, with God's help, we drove through Polohy and Orekhov, through 19 enemy block posts to Zaporozhye, we reached the battlefield at 8 p.m., and left at 6 in the morning. We drove through mined territories under the sights of the enemy and the occupier, the children were worried, there were no toilets on the road, no opportunity to drink water, and they drank their own bottled water, which they finished almost immediately. My wife's father has Parkinson's disease and is very weak, especially coordination and walking, there are no pills that need to be taken constantly, according to the schedule, we were worried that he should not step on a landmine, there were explosions nearby, but we avoided problems and safely arrived in Zaporozhye, where they were happy to see our soldiers and our flag. Then we spent the night in the church "Light to the People" in Zaporozhye, got on a bus on Tuesday, April 26, to Poland and on April 27, after 32 hours of driving, crossed the border around 9 p.m. With God's help, on May 1, we were at a service in Warsaw at the Church of the Word of Faith and became members of the church in Warsaw, and we were also blessed to open the local church of the Christian Faith of the Evangelical Pentecostal Church "Light for the Nations" in Warsaw, where we serve as pastors and preach the gospel, pray and help those, who, like us, have to be here now. Such is the will of God for us at this time. Thank you, in advance, for the opportunity to receive financial assistance, since we left with elementary things and documents, and practically everything needs to be bought here. We need transport for 7-8 seats. We thank God for everything!”

Examples of Christian Refugee Families from War-Torn Ukraine, Helped with your Gifts



FROM THE KIRILLOV FAMILY: “My name is Yura, my wife is Lyudmila, the eldest son Svyatoslav is 5 years old, and the twins Makar and Egor are 4 years old. Years ago, we got married and I also became a member of this church.

On April 16, 2022, we had to leave our house, our church and go into the unknown in order to get our family out of constant shelling. Since Donetsk was occupied in 2014, we had to leave through Russia, we drove for almost 5 days, because when we

reached Riga, we got to the Easter holidays and there were no tickets to Warsaw.

Once at the station late in the evening, with small children, we found out that the hotels are overcrowded and there are no places because of the refugees.

We met a man at the station, he turned out to be a brother from the Riga church and settled us in a family until we bought tickets. We thanked the Lord so much that He takes care of us so much !!!

Arriving in Warsaw, we stopped at a refugee center, this is a huge hangar (for FOUR THOUSAND people) with folding beds. When we left Donetsk, we didn't know where we were going, we just agreed with another family, who left Donetsk with us in a different way, that we would meet in Warsaw. Thoughts were to go to America or to Spain.

But once in Warsaw, (this family) decided to temporarily stop, as my wife had an expired passport. But God had other plans! The Word of Faith Church came to the refugee center to evangelize, we went to their service on Sunday and realized that we weren't going anywhere anymore, we were at home. (The question of the church was the most important for us, and God provided for it.) Michael, we received 374.87 euros, thank you very much!!!!”



From **KOLESNIKOV NATALIA** of the “Morning Dawn” church in Vinnytsia, Ukraine: “On the second day of the war, 2/25/2022, the airfield in our city was blown-up with a powerful explosion. After that, almost every day there were sirens warning about a possible next missile attack on the city. The sirens were frequent (7-10 times a day and the same at night) and lasted from 10 minutes to an hour. Our daughter, 7, who has a disability, started to be afraid of the sound of sirens and cried in hysterics. We had to leave and move to Poland. The eldest son stayed behind in Ukraine because he is 22 years old and does not have the right to cross the border. Two days ago, two rockets exploded not far from our house: the son is alive and the apartment is intact. Constant worry about a possible missile attack on our city and about our son”

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 4 million have escaped the current war and another 3 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, nearly 1 million Ukrainians have sought refuge already. Refugees come at times at the rate of 10,000/24 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 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 reliable 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 3 adults and 12 children. Most of these refugees entertain the illusion of taking refuge out of their native country and their lodging and work, for a short 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 this newsletter a few receipts of scores more, documenting what I wrote above. Again, thanks and God Bless. **Michael Wurmbrand**

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	ДРИСВЯНИКОВ	АЛЕКСАНДР	АЛЕКСАНДРОВИЧ	1959	Россия
418	СКВОРЦОВА	ЛЮБОВЬ	НИКОЛАЕВНА	1959	Россия
419	Варавин	Виталий	Федотович	1959	Россия
420	Дубицкий	СЕРГЕЙ	АДАМОВИЧ	1959	Россия
421	Лашенко	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 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 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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