

HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC.

A tax-exempt, non-profit corporation

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Psalm 118:24

“This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.”

Late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand spent 14 years in Romanian communist prisons for his Christian faith. Mrs. Wurmbrand was imprisoned also for nearly three years in same prisons.



Late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand with wife, Sabina

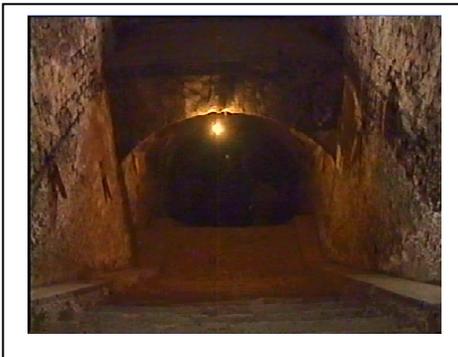
From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand: **The Inner Man**

My parents were non-religious Jews. Father died when I was only 10. When a parent dies, the Jewish son should be part of a group, for saying during several days a prayer in the synagogue. Another man happened to ask on the same day the rabbi to make a prayer ritual for his dying daughter. Thus the rabbi retained the group I was in, to make an additional prayer. Next day when I rejoined in saying prayers, the same man came in to inform the rabbi of his daughter's death. Though only a child I dared ask the rabbi, how come God allowed this daughter to die. Instead of explaining, the rabbi shouted and chased me out of the synagogue. My relationship with the synagogue ended early in my life. Then a few years later I entered a Christian Orthodox church amazed at the many candles people were lighting up. A lady shouted, "what is this Jewish kid doing in our church?" So ended at that moment my relation to religion.

I was a meditative youngster, very thirsty of knowledge, reading intensely. I visited many cemeteries some of which in Romania look like strolling gardens. Looking on funeral stones or crosses some read how so-and-so had been a general, but now he was dead, so-and-so had been a great poet or another personality, now dead. By some tombs I could see grieving families, on some tombs even the funeral stone had decayed broken. I thought, when I will be dead who knows who will cry after me, a mother, a brother? Themselves will be dead in their turn. Why would capitalism, communism, a king or a president have any meaning? I did not care for religion but neither for atheism, if death finishes our being. As a stockbroker I was financially successful and selfishly enjoying life but even so I thought, no matter how greedy, these life enjoyments are limited and fleeting. I wished I could find a source of youth without old age and life without death. Freshly married, accompanied by my wife we went eventually for a vacation in a small village of Romania, called Săcele. Our residence was next to the house of a German Christian carpenter, named Woelfkes. Much later I found out how this carpenter prayed to God to allow him the grace to convert someone into becoming a Christian believer but not anyone, he specifically was praying to witness to a Jewish person. We were the first Jewish couple ever to stay next to his home. Though born in Romania, my mother tongue was German and therefore it was easy to start a conversation with him and the old German gave me to read a New Testament. As an avid reader staying in that sleepy village, I started looking over the Gospels only having nothing more interesting to read or do, and I remained amazed. I first read of Jesus' mother Mary, then I remained impressed of John the Baptist, who left the comfortable life as the son at that time of a Jewish high-priest, to dedicate himself to God and his fellow men and ending up killed for his stand for righteousness. Then the gospels describe Lord Jesus who leaves

Heavens for sinners. The sinners mock Him, yet He prays forgiving them even when close to death on the cross. This captivated my attention. I had discovered another world, a world of sacrifice instead of a selfish world. I met later another group of Hebrew-Christians and I became a Christian. At first my wife resisted becoming a Christian since she claimed she wanted to enjoy partying. Trying not to change abruptly her life, I took her to some very exclusive high-life parties. In one of them toward midnight the fellow-party-goers became boisterous, even drunk, so my wife wanted to leave. Some people started dancing on the tables but I insisted to stay so we continue partying. After several times asking to leave and myself insisting participating in the party, with tears in her eyes, she insisted we leave and she asked to become a Christian and be baptized that very evening. I later became an ordained minister and ministered a large church in Bucharest. My wife became an active missionary speaking in street meetings, distributing after WWII gospel-tracts to Russian troops.

When the communists took over Romania, I was kidnapped a Sunday morning from the street while going to church. My wife was also imprisoned for nearly three years because of our Christian activity. I ended up imprisoned by the communists for fourteen years. The tortures myself and many fellow Christians went through should not be described in detail. I tried once do that while preaching in a church in Belgium and in the audience some fainted. For over two years I was kept in solitary confinement. It was a totally starving regime, the communists hoping to make me make false confessions or starve me to death, thus doing away with me. Due to some communists officials fighting other officials, some of my torturers ended themselves imprisoned and so I was placed in common cells. In 1964 I was freed in a nationwide amnesty decreed by the communists when they got substantial loans from the United States. I was ransomed for \$10,000 out of communist Romania to the Free World in 1965. The communists hate the capitalists but love “the capital!” The communist government sold me for this sum paid by some Christians in the West. When in the Free World, I realized other Christians suffered under communism much more than myself. Victor Beliv, a Christian in the Soviet Union, was kept 20 years in communist solitary confinement for his Christian faith. The Bible speaks of the outside-and the inner-man. It is so hidden that people you are acquainted with for many years would still remain for you a mystery. While in solitary confinement there is nothing to distract your attention. I did not end up bored because I discovered my inner spiritual man I had not known. That inner-man was not in prison, in solitary confinement. While the outer-man suffered, the inner-man was in communion with God, its existence was eternal, infinite. In mathematics, infinite is represented by an horizontal written number (∞). Whether you add or subtract any sum to or from the infinite, the result still remains an infinite. The gospels narrate how Lord Jesus went to the cross after having sung a Jewish Passover song. Because I am familiar with the Jewish religion I know what he sang. The song in Hebrew is called Hallel and continues to be sung to this day. It consists of Psalm 118. Verse 24 reads: “This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.” Our Lord entrusting His spirit to God sang on the way to the cross. Christians under persecution and in prisons did not have musical instruments like violins. But we accompanied our singing with the rhythmical sound produced by shaking our chains. While suffering outwardly, we learned from our Lord, the strength of the inner-man who enjoys youth without old age and life without death: a life of sacrifice that brings victorious spiritual rewards!



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 Jilava.

“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)

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Orphans in Romania as they were kept under the communist regime.



From the web: Gypsy (also called Roma) children living still now in mud huts in Romania and playing in the mud!



Romanian Christian missionary Traian Chilau (left) witnessing to Romanian Gypsy orphans and their families Their mud hut in the background.



The orphan girls of Agape, an orphanage started by late Rev. Richard Wurmbrand

Your gifts have allowed us to help financially several orphanages including the Agape Orphanage in Pascani, Romania, an orphanage started by my parents, Richard and Sabina Wurmbrand; the Richard Wurmbrand College (an established Evangelical high school, 1-12 grades) in Iasi Romania and many elderly Christians (between 70-100 years old), who spent years within communist prisons in Eastern Europe because of their Christian witness. Some of them were held in common cells with my parents. Thank you for all your prayers and gifts. Michael Wurmbrand

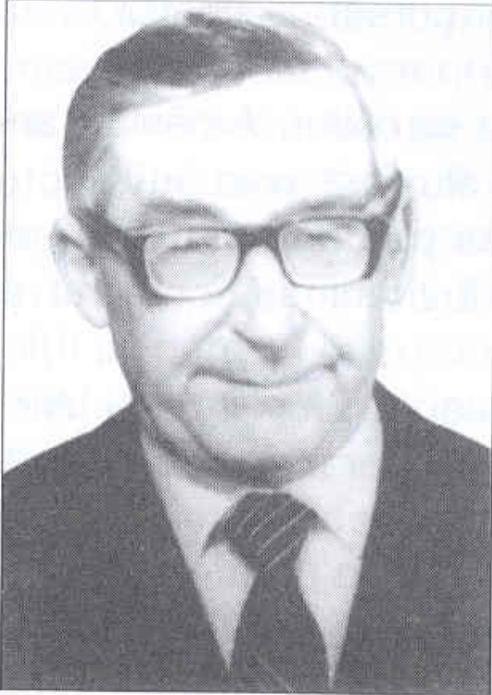


Orphans participating in school classes at Agape



One of the orphans in Agape, Ana-Maria celebrates her graduation

**Christians helped with your gifts
Püsök Miklós (deceased)**



His biography comes from the Romanian book “The Prisoners of Hope” by Rev. Ferenc Visky.

He became a Christian in 1953 and a Reformed church-missionary and singer. In June of 1958 he was arrested 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.” For this and on each occasion he communicated Bible verses to other prisoners, he was beaten. He found great consolation in the verse preached at his wedding, three months before his arrest, of Matthew 9,15, “Can the children of the bedchamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them?” He thought how Jesus remained with him even in a prison and this gave him reason to fulfill this verse by rejoicing. Among many other tortures, he also was not allowed to lie down or sleep for extended periods. He thanked the Lord Jesus for sharing a little bit His fate, according to the Bible verse in Luke 9,58, “but the Son of man hath no where to lay His head.”

We continue helping his wife, Catalina!

**Christians helped with your gifts
Reverend Jidveian Nicolae**



He wrote:

I confirmed by phone the money received. I am sending you also my picture. To be able to write you all I suffered in the hands of the communist police in Romania starting in the year 1948 till now, it would take many pages and a lot of time. If you need to find out about it, let me know and I will take the time to write.

Before being arrested I stayed in hiding for a year and 7 months inside a stable. During the day I tended the animals while at night I slept in the hay. From the time I was freed from the communist prisons I passed through till now I lived in poverty, I lived in misery as I lacked the most elementary needs.

It is a miracle I could live so long while enduring so many difficulties.. On the money order, you wrote the money is from Mr. Michael Wurmbrand and I thank him from all my heart. My pension is (in US Dollars) about \$80/mo of which hardly anything is left after I pay heating, electricity, water, waste management and phone. I live of some church services I undertake. Otherwise I would be a beggar. I hope you understood my situation from these few words. The Good Lord should bless and reward you.

(December 2015: Reverend Jidveian died at the age of 102!)

Christians helped with your gifts

Kisvaradi Magdalena



She wrote:

“Esteemed Sir, brother in the Lord. I received the present sent in the name of Michael Wurmbrand. I have no words to express how encouraging it was for me to encounter his esteemed father (late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand.)

“More than 50 years have passed since I heard him speak in the Evangelical church of Cluj. He strengthened our faith, awakened in us the desire and hope to meet in the Heavenly Jerusalem all the saints. His face shone when he was reading the prophets. This strengthened me so much in the dark days of (communist) prisons. Several years later, I heard him preach again in Arad. He took off his shoes like Moses in front of the burning bush. Now he is close to the Lord. I embraced many time your family in my thoughts. I thought a lot of about his son, how difficult must have been without parents.

“God is not abandoning us (acts 14:17.) I thank you again. I have no want. Praise the Lord. I greet you with 2nd. Cor. 14:18. With respect and brotherly love.”

Her biography comes from the Romanian book “Prizonierii Speranței” (The Prisoners of Hope) by Rev. Ferenc Visky.

Ms. Kisvaradi is a deaconess in the Reformed Church. When arrested in 1958, the communist police told her inside the police van, “you are in too good a mood, which we will make sure to spoil shortly in a (communist) prison.” She answered, “Christians have been persecuted throughout history. I am not guilty of anything. Should you imprison me never-the-less, it represents for me nothing more than a change of my employment location. God’s Word is most necessary in prison.”

She was mistreated physically in prison. Her only pain was though the young girls in her Christian community ever in danger to be imprisoned as well.

When sentenced she was asked specifically to whom did she witness? She answered, “to anyone who crossed my path!” Together with another seven Christians she was sentenced to 8 years of prison (specifically for her Christian missionary activity.) She was imprisoned in an 18th Century former castle, many times having chains on her hands and legs and being kept in solitary confinement. She was much tortured and many other women prisoners lost their mind. She was blessed by many people who years later expressed their thankfulness for their conversion through her missionary activity.