

HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC.

A tax-exempt, non-profit corporation

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Late Reverend Richard Wurmland with wife, Sabina

“Now therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the terrible God, who keepest covenant and mercy, let not all the trouble seem little before Thee... ” (Nehemiah 9:32)

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

**From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmland:
A Prayer when in Trouble**

I was asked to speak in a church about my imprisonment during 14 years by the communists in Romania. I told them the story of a doctor of early Christian times who was unjustly imprisoned by the emperor. After some years, his family were allowed to visit him, and at first, they were appalled. His clothes were rags, his food a slice of bread and a cup of water every day. Then his wife looked at him more closely. "How is it you look so well?" she asked. "You have the air of one who has just come from a wedding." The doctor smilingly replied that he had found a remedy for all troubles, "a tea good against all suffering and sorrow. It contains seven herbs, and I shall number them for you.

"The first is contentedness: be satisfied with what you have. I may shiver in my rags as I gnaw on a crust, but how much worse off I should be if the emperor had thrown me naked into a dungeon with nothing at all to eat.

"The second herb is common sense. Whether I rejoice or worry, I shall still be in prison, so why distress myself?

"The third is remembrance of past sins: count them, and on the assumption that every sin deserves a day in prison, reckon how many lives you would spend behind bars—you have been let off lightly.

"The fourth is the thought of the sorrows Christ bore gladly for us. If the only man who ever could choose his fate on earth chose pain, what great value he must have seen in it. So, we observe that, borne with serenity and joy, suffering redeems.

"The fifth herb is the knowledge that suffering has been given to us by God as from a father, not to harm us, but to cleanse and sanctify us. The suffering through which we pass is intended to purify us, prepare us for heaven.

"The sixth is the knowledge that no suffering can harm a Christian life. If the pleasures of the flesh are all, then pain and prison bring an end to a man's aim in living; but if the core of life is truth, no prison cell can change it. Prison cannot stop me from loving; iron bars cannot exclude faith. If these ideals make up my life, I can be serene anywhere.

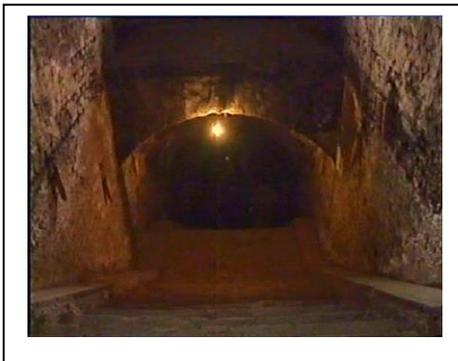
"The last herb in the recipe is hope. The wheel of life may put the emperor's physician in prison, but it goes on turning. It may eventually bring me back to the palace, and even return me to the throne."

I paused for a moment. The crowded church was still. "I have drunk barrels of this tea since then," I said, "and I can recommend it to you all. It has proved good.

In a moment of great distress, while surrounded by many enemies, Nehemiah tells us what God is like: Great, Mighty and Terrible. These are hard to comprehend impressive words. What is God like? A man who had been blind from birth once asked someone to give him a glass of milk and queried, "What does milk look like?" The other man answered, "Milk is a white liquid". The blind man asked, "But what do you mean by white?" The other man answered, "White is the color of a swan". The blind man asked, "What is a swan?" The other replied, "A swan is a bird with a bent neck". The blind man asked again, "What does bent mean?" The other man said, "I will bend my elbow and you will touch it, and then you will know what bent means". The blind man touched the bent elbow of the other man and said, "Now I know what milk looks like!" Even in the Bible, only words can be used to tell about God. These might seem ridiculous to you, as it seems ridiculous for a blind man to know the appearance of milk from a bent elbow. But we are all very limited and by nature blind to the all-comprehensive, omniscient, omnipotent God. A man came to a Christian and complained about a great sorrow. The Christian recited the creed: "I believe in one God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible". The man in pain answered, "It is enough. Now I am comforted."

Nehemiah continues defining God: "God Keeps His Promises and is merciful!"

In our trials let us pray like Nehemiah, trusting God's promises and mercy!



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.

For the last 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 where many children of disadvantaged families are able to study. See <http://helpforrefugees.com>.

“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
Husband Imprisoned Five Times**



Sister Leontevna Ludmila SAVCHENKO

Mrs. Savchenko writes: “My husband Savchenko Nicolae Roman (b.1923) was sentenced during WW II in 1943 to 8 years of prison. While in prison he met Christians, who witnessed to him from God's Word. Thus, while already imprisoned he became a dedicated Christian.

He became a staunch missionary-minded believer. Once freed from the first common-law prison sentence, his activity got him in 1963, three years of Soviet prison but this time it was for his Christian witnessing. In 1967 he was again sentenced and in 1971 resentenced to a 4th term of imprisonment. Even in the periods he had been free, because of his fervent activity, he had to pay heavy fines. The Soviet press and radio publicly criticized his Christian activity.

When 60, he ended up being rearrested a fifth time, right at his work place. After several months of interrogations, he ended up being sentenced to 2.5 years of prison. He was savagely beaten up and tortured. He died at the age of 66 in March of 1989 (right at the fall of the Soviet Union communist regime - NT.) We were threatened many times by the communist authorities with the taking away of our children. We bring thanks to God that the children remained with us and for being alive now as I am 85 years old.”

**Christians helped with your gifts
Suffered for his Christian Faith 5 Years Imprisonment
and 5 Years Siberian Banishment**



Muravleov Nicolae PETROVICI

This brother writes: “I was born in 1930. At age 20 when drafted into the army, due to my Christian beliefs, I refused give the allegiance oath as a weapon-carrying soldier (for the atheistic communist state.) For this I was sentenced to 5 years’ imprisonment. I served nearly 3 years of this sentence in the town of Baku. When Stalin died, I was freed under a general amnesty. I was baptized as soon as I came out of prison in a church in the town of Saratov. Then I married and in 1961 because of my Christian witness I was arrested again being taken right out of church during the Easter church service. The communist state sentenced me to five years of prison and five years’ banishment into forced living in Siberia. (Because we held underground Christian house meetings) our house where my wife and I lived with two small children, was confiscated. My wife was expecting our third child who was born prematurely and died after 6 months. I never seen this child. Ten years later I could return to Saratov and redeem my property. Again in 1974, because of our Christian activities, the Soviet authorities decided to take away our 6 minor children. A meeting was organized by the communist authorities everyone voting to take away the children of all believers and place them under state care. Fortunately, the local enforcing agencies (police, social services) refused carry through such a heinous decision and this is why: The main state KGB prosecutor died unexpectedly and to everyone's amazement the second prosecutor of the KGB died also shortly thereafter in an accident. Thus, the local powers got scared to act against the believers. Now we have 11 children. We remain thankful to the Lord for all His care during our entire life.”



**Christians helped with your gifts
Pastor NICHITA Gheorghe**

Four Years in Communist Prisons for Being a Minister!

He writes: "Peace to you brother Michael! Through God's mercy I am the minister of a church in Straseni, Republic of Moldova. I am also the President of the Unregistered Baptist Union of the Republic of Moldova. (Tens of thousands of Baptists throughout what used to be the territories of the former Soviet Union, function now freely but inside churches which are not officially registered. The main reason being the interdiction imposed by different present governments to proselytize or trying to evangelize outside churches. This is the case now in the Republic of Moldova, a former Soviet Union republic - NT.) My wife Lidia and I have five married children, twenty-three grandchildren and six great-grand-children. All except one are believers.

Since I was active in the underground printing work named "Chrestianin" (the Christian) I was arrested three separate times, sometimes for only as long as a fortnight. A fourth time I was arrested on December 16, 1980 and remained imprisoned for four years till being freed on December 15, 1984.

In the years 1970s, we had inside our home regular underground Christian meetings with over 200 persons. So, our personal home was a true "House of Prayers." Many times, I was fined with as much as a half-monthly-salary. The KGB searched our entire home four times. The Soviet police confiscated much Christian literature as in an annex to our home we multiplied such literature by means of a hectograph (a duplicator using a gelatin reproduction medium) and had an apparatus for binding Christian books.

We continue serve the Lord and in May this year we will celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary and as many years of Christian fellowship and witnessing. The Lord blesses us and we gladly accept worshipping Him. We encourage you with (many) Bible verses like Apostle Paul wrote:

In the Epistle to the Romans 14:8: "For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's."

In 1st Corinthians 3:9: "For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building."

We thank you for your sacrifice. The Lord reward it and bless you all."

Due to tax laws inside Romania and Eastern Europe, some help needs be sent through the local Romanian nonprofit Sabina Wurmbrand Christian Association. The financial support is distributed in turn as financial aid to Richard Wurmbrand High School, the Agape Orphanage or to many Christians and their families, most of them now 70 to well into their nineties. Everyone endured many years of communist prison.

Orphans helped with your gifts
Look from what dilapidated buildings and surroundings they come!



See below the results of Christian love and care!



Former and present orphans inside the Agape Orphanage singing praises to God!

The Agape Orphanage was started by late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand and his wife Sabina in 1993 on their last trip to Romania. At the time, Romania had close to 200,000 orphans at a population of 20 million inhabitants. The United States with a population of 345 million, has less than 130,000 orphans.

Help for Refugees, 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 Organizations described in Section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, a list of organizations eligible to receive tax-deductible charitable contributions. May be checked online at: <http://www.irs.gov/app/pub-78/>

КВИТАНЦИЯ

CHITANȚA

Я, нижеподписавшийся

Subsemnatul (a).....Пшеницын Михаил Александрович.

подтверждаю получение денег в сумме
confirm primirea sumei de200\$ (Двести долларов).....

от Христианской Ассоциации Сабина Вурмбранд, за что
расписываюсь и сердечно благодарю.
din partea Asociației Creștine Sabina Wurmbrand, pentru care vă
mulțumesc.

Дата 13 декабря 2016г. Подпись

Data

Semnătura

**Acknowledgment of help sent by brother
Pshenitsyn Mikhail**

See his testimony under "My fight for the Bible" describing his 40-days hunger-strike to reclaim his Bible from authorities in a communist labor camp! (Help for Refugees February 2017 Newsletter, page 4, ONLINE at: <http://helpforrefugees.com>).

CHITANȚA

Subsemnatul(a)

Nichita Gheorghe A.

confirm primirea sumei de

4000 Lei (200 \$)din

partea Asociației Creștine Sabina Wurmbrand, pentru care vă
mulțumesc.

Data 12-12-16

Semnătura

**Acknowledgment of help
sent by Pastor NICHITA Gheorghe**
**Read this Baptist minister testimony having been
imprisoned in a communist labor camp for four years.**
(This issue of the Help for Refugees Newsletter, page 4)

Я, нижеподписавшийся

Subsemnatul (a).....Наприенко Валентин

подтверждаю получение денег в сумме

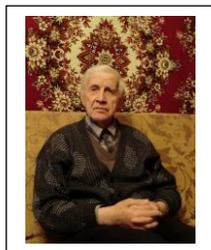
confirm primirea sumei de

200 \$

от Христианской Ассоциации Сабина Вурмбранд, за что
расписываюсь и сердечно благодарю.

**Acknowledgment of help sent by Valentin Naprienko
5.5 Years in Siberian communist imprisonment!**

**Christians helped with your gifts
Three Years Imprisonment for Teaching
Sunday School**



Brother BOGDANOV Iurii Nicolae

He writes: "I was born in Moscow in 1940. In the 1970s period I was in charge of the children Christian education. Our activities were really illegal. Such were carried out in secret in the homes of believers. Even during allowed church services police appeared unexpectedly. We were intimidated and fined for the slightest deviation of our permits (for instance: holding the service longer than scheduled - NT.) I was arrested while at my job in 1969. A thorough house search followed. I was imprisoned in the very famous for its tortures, Butyrka prison. The interrogations lasted four months. I was proposed to become a KGB collaborator, informing on the underground Christian activities. Of course, I flatly refused. As a result, I was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment. I finished my sentence in the town of Klinty, Breansk Region. There were several believers imprisoned with me and we had the opportunity to gather and share the faith. The authorities caught on regarding our Christian meetings and dispersed all believers out of that prison. I was sent to a difficult work around an oven, manufacturing bricks. Thanks be to God for His care and blessings for my being."

Christians helped with your gifts



SMIRNOV Nicolae Vasile

He was born in Dedovsk, a suburb town of Moscow, Russia in a family of Baptist believers. His father was a deacon of the church. His father, together with all church-serving personnel were arrested in 1961 and sentenced to five-year deportation into Siberia. His parents' home was taken away by the communist state and an additional sentence of 3 years was slapped on his father.

In 1974 only 3 month after having been married he was arrested as well, charged with evangelizing the youth. Presently he has 10 children and 21 grandchildren. His eight sons are all active in the local Baptist churches. He thanks God for His care for him and prays even his grandchildren should become active in the church.

**Christians helped with your gifts
Three Years Imprisonment
and 5 Years in Hiding
in Communist Russia, for
Printing the Word of God**



Brother BORINSKII Filip Vasile

He writes: "I was born in the village of Sangerei Noi in the north of the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic (a former region of the Soviet Union now the Republic of Moldova.) My parents were Baptist believers. I was converted early in life, promising the Lord to serve Him during my entire life. In the period of the Soviet Union there was an underground Baptist publishing endeavor, issuing a publication circulating secretly among believers. It was titled "Chrestianin" (The Christian.) We were able to print surreptitiously tens of thousands of New Testaments. Because of this underground activity, I was arrested in 1979 and sentenced to three years of prison. After completing this sentence and being freed, I married in 1982 and continued being active in this underground Christian literature effort. Therefore, a new investigation was opened by the KGB. I ran away from home and lived in hiding for five years. I returned home only in 1987 when all believers were freed from former Soviet prison-camps. I thank God for having given me the possibility to serve in His great work. I had difficulties, heavy trials and I thank God for these as well. Due to my wife being Russian, we moved from the Republic of Moldova to Russia and I am active as a minister in a church in the Breansk region. We were blessed with 12 children and 23 grandchildren."