

HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC.

A tax-exempt, non-profit corporation

Michael Wurmland, President

Tel. (310) 544-0814, Fax: (310) 377-0511.

PO Box 5161, Torrance, Ca. 90510, USA.

Email: hfr@helpforrefugees.com ; Website: <http://helpforrefugees.com>



Late Reverend Richard Wurmland with
wife, Sabina

April 2018

" If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."
(Galatians 5:25)

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 prisons.

From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmland

Walking in the Spirit

Some people live in expensive, nice homes yet, because of having to use a wheel-chair, they cannot walk inside their own house. Many of us are not acquainted with the street we live-on since, by travelling with a car, we leave or enter the house directly through the garage. The same, we might not know who lives next door. We hardly walk the neighborhood.

There are therefore many Christians who "live in the Spirit" but do not explore the huge and beautiful realm of the spirit, they could take their time and visit. The realm of the spirit has also "facilities to walk upon" and even "rules of traffic."

We can read in the book of the prophet Nahum, "The chariots shall rage in the streets, they shall jostle one against another in the broad ways..." (Nahum 2:4) When we walk "in the Spirit" Lord Jesus warned us that "the broad ways lead to destruction" and therefore should be avoided. It is written in the Gospel:

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat.

"Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. (Matthew 7:13-14)

On the broad ways there is hatred between nations, races, creeds, generations. People who walk the broad way hate each other. The prophet wrote: "The way of peace they know not; and there is no

judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace." (Isaiah 58:8)

In the Spirit, the narrow road is not a rushing freeway. On the broad way we hardly have a chance to know who else around us, would walk on it. The narrow way is where every traveler is easily identified. It is the "road" on which the Good Samaritan of the Parable encounters one left half-dead by thieves and he feels obliged to stop to help. Everyone passing on it cannot pretend not being aware of meeting intense human suffering. We are told that the Temple Priest and Levite when seeing the one robbed of his clothing, passed by on the other side. (Luke 10:30-37) The explanation is simple. It is not just lack of compassion. They could not stop because in other parts of the Gospel it is described how these money-changers cum thieves were conducting their business right in the Jerusalem Temple. (John 2:15) The Lord asks us to not avoid stopping but do "likewise" as the Samaritan and show mercy! King Solomon wrote: "Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better. The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth." (Ecclesiastes 7:3-4)

One of the greatest heroes of World War II, in protecting Jews from sure Nazi slaughter had been the Swedish envoy to Hungary, Raoul Wallenberg. He is documented to have saved, the lives of about one hundred thousand Jews. Yet shortly after the end of the war, the Soviet secret police kidnapped Wallenberg and he disappeared for ever and died in some Soviet prison camp. The US ambassador at the time in the Soviet Union, Averell Harriman, did little to try save Wallenberg out of the clutches of the Soviets. Curiously enough Harriman had been a great apologist of helping the Soviet government. Years later it was published how the Harriman family owned personal interests in Soviet mining concessions. The Soviets repeatedly told the Swedish government officials that Wallenberg had died shortly after having been kidnapped from the streets of Budapest. Yet in 1973, thus nearly 30 years later three Russian Jews who escaped from the Soviet Union and came to Israel, testified how they were imprisoned together with Wallenberg, in the Soviet far-north on the Wrangel Island. The Soviets carried there, experiments on political prisoners used as "guinea-pigs" and subjected them to intense radiation, intense hunger, infectious diseases, etc. Even then the politicians of the Free World did not stop to lose a meal intervening for freeing Wallenberg. Many politicians who could have helped Wallenberg, "passed by on the other side."

Here is a great reward in "walking in the Spirit" on the narrow road. In the Gospel of Mark, we are told about a blind man named Bartimaeus sitting on the road begging. (Mark 10:46-52) This blind man seized the opportunity, of Jesus passing by on same road, to shout louder and louder, "Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me." Some passing on same road, tried to shush him. Others encouraged him, telling him "Rise, (Jesus) calls thee!" After he was miraculously healed, Jesus said unto him, "Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole." The Gospel writer continues, "And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way." The healed blind man understood that going on, "his way" meant "following Jesus in the way." When "walking in the Spirit" we will witness miracles. Let us tell those around us "Jesus calls thee!" and be together with so many persecuted and suffering sisters and brethren of ours, true martyrs of the faith, who "follow Jesus in the way!"



The Communist Jilava Prison.
Entrance to the underground cells.
Richard



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
Wurmbrand when held in Jilava.

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 the local Romanian nonprofit Sabina Wurmbrand Christian Association.

"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!

Three years of Communist Prison for Teaching Sunday School



Mrs. Krivtsova with one of her grandchildren

"My name is Krivtsova Natalia Pavlovna. I am born in 1952 and live in the Province of Ossetia, in the southern part of Russia. I became a Christian only when already a mature person and God blessed me to serve Him with love and faithfulness to the present. During the Soviet period, I suffered intense persecution. The Soviet Union was an atheistic country where faith in God was practically forbidden. On paper, the Soviet Constitution allowed every Soviet citizen to confess any faith inside any denomination. In reality, the situation was quite different. The day-to-day policy of the Soviet state was to destroy any trace of faith. (One of the Soviet Union leaders, Nikita Khrushchev, a repressive, atheist dictator, had announced that the goal of the Soviet state was for Christianity to be uprooted and should even one Christian still remain around in communist Soviet Union, by 1980 such Christian person will be displayed as some old museum piece on TV. N.T) All students in secondary schools and higher education institutions had to study during several years an extensive course named "Scientific Atheism." Christian students of course could not pass this course because one had to declare publicly that they do not believe in God. Virtually the doors of the higher education institutions were closed to all confessing Christians. It was typical and standard throughout all communist countries. In my youth I was involved in the local church in its Sunday-School-children-education. We could do this, only in a

surreptitious way inside underground church gathering. There were many wolves in sheep skins (KGB police informants) who were gathering information about everything that was going on inside these secret church gatherings. These people attended the church regularly, although many of them were well known by faithful members of the church for what they were doing and what was their purpose. The KGB gathered a voluminous file with information on my secret activities inside the underground church. I was arrested in 1983 and charged with a standard article of the Criminal Code of the Soviet Law: Article 227 (2): The name of the "crime" I committed supposedly was: "Organizing a religious education of children." This was an activity forbidden by the communist Soviet government. I was sentenced to 3 years of prison. I suffered imprisonment for the entire three years and was released only in 1986. A year later, the Soviet Union disbanded as a communist country and a great number of political detainees were released. I personally know of more than 250 people convicted for their Christian witness, released at the time. (Regarding Christians imprisoned in the Soviet Union belonging to one denomination, Baptists: It was documented, that had imprisonment sentences decreed by the communist state to such witnessing Christians been added up, the number would amount to more than 5,000 years of imprisonment! N.T.) I thank you for the work you do and let the Lord reward you and bless you fully!"

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/> (To find, enter the EIN!)

Christians Helped with Your Gifts

Graduate of the Richard Wurmbrand College, Iasi, Romania, became a Registered Nurse



Ancutza at Richard Wurmbrand High School (RWCS) 2nd from right. Now a registered nurse!

Sister STICEA Ancutza writes: “I was coming from the country side – from a modest family with an even more modest income. My parents wanted me be part of the Wurmbrand school so I accepted without knowing what they really meant. I went to the Richard Wurmbrand High School and attended it for four years. My first time, I arrived a little before the opening festivity, met my new classmates and then all the different things that left an imprint on my heart began. We were all asked to stand because at this school everything is done under the power of prayer – we begin the school year with prayer, we begin each day with prayer, we finish with prayer and we praise God for all his goodness. I was coming from a secular school and a secular background and I could clearly see that at RWCS the value of a person is in his or her character. Over the years we studied different character traits meant to shape us and to make us inherit something of what the teachers there instill in their students. These character traits helped me set up a value system for my life and guiding principles that help me navigate through all the problems and challenges in life! I had the chance to discover myself in this school. Performance? Yes! At RWCS this is done and encouraged because the teachers always see beyond their subject of study and encourage students to develop and pursue their passions. I was always challenged to outdo myself and to become the person God wants me to be where He decides me to be. I was encouraged to do everything in love, not out of duty and thus, at the end of the four years of high school I knew that a career in the medical field would suit me and would honor God. So, I chose to study to become a nurse. In a system as corrupt and destroyed by the former communist regime, as the Romanian medical system, I know God placed me here to be a light, to bring healing, to comfort and to bring hope! These are the things I constantly heard while in high school – we are trained and shaped to bring light, we are the salt of the earth, we are the ones who can bring a change in a corrupt and decadent world! While studying at university, I also got married. In 2017 I graduated and started looking for a job.

The years I spent at RWCS were intense training and shaping years for me. I have countless memories and blessings I am so fond of – my classmates, my teachers, the friendships and all the countless supporting Christians worldwide who helped me be who I am today. “

Due to new tax laws inside many countries in 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 in Eastern Europe, most of them now 70 to 90 years old. We help the families of those who endured for their faith, many years of communist prison.



Christians Helped with Your Gifts

Sentenced to 9 Years of Communist Prison for His Faith!

Brother BALOGH Bela (deceased) wrote: "On June 17, 1958, a communist policeman was knocking as loud as possible at our door. At the time I had three children, my wife being in the last days of pregnancy with the fourth. Due to the house-search, the wife had a shock that led to the delay of her giving birth. She gave birth to our son Barnabas two months after the deadline. During the house-search, my photos, my writings and the personal Bible were confiscated, although it was clear that they could not accuse me of anything. I was interrogated in the city of Cluj. When fingerprinted, I was able to read surreptitiously the state security officer's report. I had been declared an enemy of the people. They had asked questions about my work, whoever I knew, work colleagues, friends, brothers in faith. I answered honestly and openly - we are walking in the light and we have nothing to hide. I was threatened - various methods of torture were described. I tried to convince the interrogating officer of their inutility. One thing horrified me: the daily walk. On the walls of our cell we found bullet traces, at head-level. It was clear that some prisoners had been shot here in the back of their neck. As in the case of my arrest, the prosecutor at the trial also stated a lie: "State security organs have discovered a secret organization. I was sentenced to nine years of correctional prison and forbidden for five years to exercise common rights. I did not accept my sentence and I filed a useless appeal.

(Continued from left column)

Their purpose was to exterminate once and for all - religion and all faiths. Throughout the trial, I was living verse 46 of Matthew 27: "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" My wife was present at the trial. I was able whisper to her "BUEK" (in Hungarian being an acronym meaning: "entrust your life again in the hand of Christ!" Editor's Note)

In the Gherla prison I was assigned to cell no. 54. The Spirit of God placed me in a constant state of prayer in this cell. I considered that the period I spent in this communist prison was one of gathering spiritual treasures. One of the guards had the habit during his eight-hours watch, of making all prisoners lie on stretched on the cold cement floor. The same guard, as a way to torture inmates under his guard, would forcefully pull out with great satisfaction a prisoner's nose hair. Most guards addressed us as "bandits." Still I felt the almost palpable fulfillment of God's promises in my life. I can say without exaggerating that I have experienced even more wonderful things than God had promised me. Hallelujah! We were hungry and yet we survived. What a grace! During the construction of the dam, I found a bunch of grapes still having two grains on it. Exceptionally, I remember the name of the detainee next to me - Colgiac Florea - with whom I shared this delicacy. There were a lot of informers of the secret police among us. Though I was not sure of some, by instinct we knew who they were.

I consider it a miracle, God allowed me stay faithful. For this I remain grateful to the Lord. The Spirit of the Lord united all detainees, regardless of religion and nationality, into a deep, genuine brotherhood. It was like the pouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. I surprised myself when the officer who arrested me came to personally let me know there was a general amnesty and I will be freed. (Communist Romania obtained in 1964 huge loans from the United States on condition they would free political prisoners- Editor's Note.) I thanked this arresting officer for the spiritual experiences I had during my six years of imprisonment!

I read some place how a Christian martyr in communist Red China when being tortured by being sewed inside a yak-skin (a sort of bovine from Tibet, NT) spoke the following words: "Jesus, if I could ask for my life back, I would do it a hundred times, so as to be able to sacrifice it again to Your service." I take this as an example and I praise my Lord for the work of His grace in my life!

Christians Helped with Your Gifts

Student at the Richard Wurmbbrand College, Iasi, Romania, Now A Dentist!



Dr. Denisse STOICA with her husband, Enciu, and their three boys – Levi, Beni and Ionatan

Sister Stoica writes: " More than 12 years passed since I graduated from Richard Wurmbbrand High School. I spent eight of my pre-university years in this great school: the Richard Wurmbbrand College (RCWS has classes from kindergarten to 12th grade.) I learnt a lot of things while at RWCS – both theoretical and practical things. Academically speaking, I have learned a lot, but what sticks in my mind the most are the memories of extracurricular activities which asked of my classmates and I to get out of our comfort zone and to accept the challenge of being servants to those in dire conditions.

I remember dearly all our missionary trips to the younger students in the villages around Iasi, the ministry to the deaf, the ministry to sick children. I feel blessed to have been raised in a protected environment, where relationships were clean and mattered more than performances and scores. Yes, the latter were also important and our teachers held a high academic standard, but they never lost sight of nurturing and shaping our souls. If I were to choose one word to define the time spent at RWCS, it would be friendship. Above all academic training and development of various life skills, what I cherish most over the years is the friendship among classmates, the friendship with our teachers and most importantly, the friendship with my God! I strongly believe He used the people at RWCS and the circumstances there to shape me and to show me God is love and desires we Christians be His children.

I took a lot of important and defintory decisions during the time I spent at RWCS. I thank God for the people who were next to me in a critical period of my life – the teen years – for guiding me, loving me and knowing how to speak to me so as to determine change in me. I realize now it was God's hand at work through people who chose to put themselves in His service.

I finished dental school, worked for several years as a dentist and am now a mother of three boys whom I feel blessed to have in my life. My husband used to work in the Information Technology (IT) field. He is now involved in the Richard Wurmbbrand High School as an IT teacher. We are blessed to be able to give back and invest our lives in the lives of other teens who need a strong, biblical framework to shape their minds and character.

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/> (To find, enter the EIN!)