

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 Wurmbbrand with wife, Sabina

April 2023

Announcement:

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

"Zacharias praised God." (Luke 1:64)

Late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand spent 14 years in Romanian communist prisons. Mrs. Wurmbbrand 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From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand

TRUE PROPHETS

Zacharias and Elisabeth, the parents of John the Baptist, were well stricken in years when the child was born to them. He was a normal child. But the father had an illumination telling him that his son shall be a prophet of the Highest.

Zacharias knew what this meant. Prophets are predestined to a dramatic life. They finish as a rule by being slain, either physically or by slander. The tragedy of their life consists in the fact that they know too early what is right. Now, every Christian acknowledges that the Biblical prophets have been right, but their own generation rejected them.

The prophet's life cannot be otherwise than thorny. He never compromises truth to make a friend, never withholds a blow at error lest it make an enemy. In firm assurance of speaking for God, he pursues his course unhindered by a weak desire for temporary advantage. He is ever outspoken and straightforward, believing that in the end his message will weld the believers into a God-conscious body characterized by aggressivity against the devil and the world.

Therefore, prophets have friends, but also innumerable, influential enemies. Zacharias knew that this will be the fate of his son, but he praised God. He might have lived until very old age to know that his son has been beheaded by king Herod for having fulfilled his prophetic duty.

To this day also, God's prophets have powerful enemies. Lenin has said "Marxism is materialism. As such, it is ruthless toward religion." Marx had written "Man is for man the supreme being."

Now, men are different and think differently. Which type of man is for man the supreme being? Surely for Marx and Lenin, the Marxist communist was the supreme being. When Marx was still young, he made a poem. Here, a quote:

"My will is to build to myself a throne,
Its peak should be cold and gigantic.
Its bulwark should be superhuman fright.
And dark pain should be its marshal."

FREDERICK ENGELS, the co-founder of modern Socialism, wrote about him after their first meeting "He rages unceasingly, with his evil fist clinched, as if ten thousands of devils would have got him." This devil-possessed type of man, who wishes to build for himself a throne based on dark pain imposed upon others, is the god of Marxism. He wants to replace the God of love, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Christian church clashes with this false god.

The word "prophet" comes from "pro-phemi" in Greek, which means "to speak for." Prophets speak for God. In the name of the one and only God, John the Baptist will condemn the king's sin. Zacharias will have praised God for giving him not a usual son, but one predestined to be a man of sorrows.

The Christian martyr Otto Wiebe, before his death in a Soviet communist prison wrote: "It is a great joy for me to suffer for my Savior. This is not something unexpected, but has been a conscious choice from early youth" Defending the faith, Wiebe left behind his wife and 8 children. You also praise God not only for joys, but also for impending pains. See even in them the mercy of God expressed in a manner unintelligible for our limited reason. Christians know they will suffer, but, like Zacharias, they praise God.



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!)



Bogdanov Iurii Nicolae

was arrested and imprisoned for interrogations in the much-dreaded Butyrka Prison in Moscow, in the former Soviet Union. The cruel interrogation sessions lasted for 4 months. He was asked to collaborate with the KGB. He refused and then was imprisoned for 3 years. He wrote to us: “The mercy of God was great upon me. He gave me the strength to go through it all. During these 3 years, His hand has guided and cared for me in all circumstances.” **Read his testimony in our online 12/2020 Newsletter.**

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



Anatolii Koplik

was imprisoned for his faith for 7 years in a region around Lake Baikal, former Soviet Union (winter temperatures drop below -58^o F.) He was also held in a psychiatric prison-asylum. The “KGB-doctors” diagnosis: “**A schizophrenic showing the following symptoms: Baptist beliefs.**”

His Christian father was also imprisoned for 3 years for the faith. **Read his testimony in our online 1/2021 Newsletter.**



Oleg Popov

was a famous Russian Christian poet and song composer. He involved himself in the surreptitious transport of Christian literature, like Bibles and spiritual song collections. He was sentenced to three years of imprisonment in Tyumen, former Soviet Union. His wife Tatiana was left with four children, the youngest, 3 months old. **Read his wife’s testimony in our online 2/2021 Newsletter.**

Sister Vira Krasnopolskaya wrote:

“We lived well before the war and happily, serving God and people. That it does not happen now, we are grateful to God, because we are alive.

“We left for Poland on March 8th with our daughter. Husband and son were already in Poland. My daughter and I were in Bucha when the war started. I have already told the testimony of how Jesus led us out of Bucha. May the Lord bless you. In Poland, we serve in the church and we hope that one day we will return home to Ukraine.”



Raisa Matviychuk

Was a teenager when imprisoned for the faith in former communist Soviet Union. Her crime? She organized the writing of Bible verses to be distributed on small pieces of paper or writing whole psalms by hand in notebooks.

Read her full testimony in our online 2/2021 Newsletter.

Apartment house destroyed through Russian bombing in Mariupol, Ukraine, where 40% of whole town has been close to obliterated.

Over 8 million refugees have escaped so far from Ukraine into different European countries.



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



Christian believer Nastasia Havriliuk sent new pictures with her five children. Her message from Poland: “Good day! This is a short history of what the war did. From the very beginning, it brought tears, fear, pain and loss. Children were afraid, often cried in panic. They hid in cold basements from shelling. Their uncle died from an explosion. After one of the rockets exploded nearby and the explosion blew out the windows, we realized that we had to flee. We left everything we had and became refugees. It was a difficult road. We stopped and spent nights in some churches. Volunteers helped us and we were able to arrive in Poland in three days. At first, we lived in a refugee center. Then I was able to apply for child support and with this money we rented a one-room apartment. One of the children is ill and needs treatment. Due to the lack of knowledge of the language and lack of funds, it is difficult to obtain treatment. But often God gives people who understood that it is very difficult to do all this in a foreign country and without relatives. God does not leave us. If you can help, we will be very grateful!”
She wrote again: “I received money. It was a great support for me. I can't work, I must be with the children.”

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



Baptist Maryna Doroshenko wrote: “Due to hostilities in the Kherson region, our family was forced to leave their home. We lost our home, our job, our car. We were occupied on the first day of the war, because of heavy shelling, we were sitting in the basement. The children slept with their shoes on because they didn't know when the shelling would start. Because of the constant danger, we decided to leave. We drove in a small car, and there were 2 families with us. On the way, our car broke down and we had to leave the car. Not far from the place where our car broke down, there was a church that sheltered us for 2 days. Then the volunteers from Donetsk took us and we drove at night through the forests, because there was a curfew, we were not allowed at the checkpoints, but still by morning we were already in western Ukraine. From there we went to Poland. But here too, it is difficult for us. They don't want to pay my husband for his work, 6 of us live in a small room.

Poland is a very expensive country, we do not have insurance, medicine is expensive, there is not enough money for treatment. There are no acquaintances, friends. But no matter what, we have nowhere to turn but we do not lose heart.”



Sister Shmatko Anastasia wrote: “Now we are in Poland. At first, our family was not together. When the war in Ukraine began, we learned that an evacuation train to Poland had arrived. My husband told me to go with my daughter. We went alone, took very few things with us. The road was very, very difficult. We drove for 48 hours. There were a lot of people in the carriage. There was no way to lie down to sleep. Since the beginning of the war, I have not slept for 5 days. That is why I came to Poland very exhausted, I thought I would just collapse. But the volunteers welcomed us very well. They fed and helped with housing for the first time.

It was very difficult to be here alone, without a husband. I really wanted to go home. But I could not risk it because of the child. But six months later, we found out that my husband can come to my place. He has health problems, he made a certificate that allows him to leave Ukraine. The man has cirrhosis of the liver, hepatitis B, and hepatitis D. He also has problems with his back, he has several protrusions, he is on pain-killing injections every day, he cannot work now. So I have to be with him for a while. He will soon undergo a full examination. A family took us in to live. But the apartment is small, 2 rooms. 7 people live with us. God will lead further.”

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 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 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 Wurmbbrand**

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	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
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 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 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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