

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 Christian refugees from Ukraine!

July 2022



Late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand with wife, Sabina

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From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand

THE HAVE-NOTS

The Bible is God's revelation. Revelation is a word of Latin origin which has two meanings. It discovers hidden things unknown before; but it also re-veils them, it puts them behind a veil. From the beginning, the words of our Lord were conveyed to us in Greek, another language than that spoken by Jesus. We have His words in the veil of a translation which can never convey the full sense of the original; and even the Hebrew of the Old Testament veils the thoughts of God, wrapping them in the poor language of man. The purpose of the Bible is to awaken in us the longing after the blessed state when there was no creation; when there was only God and we were all in Him; when there was no communication among men in words unfit to express the highest thoughts and we were one in Him as it will be again at the consummation of the ages.

Jesus spoke Aramaic, an ancient dialect of the Hebrew language. Neither in Aramaic nor in Hebrew does the direct verb "to have" exist. The somewhat equivalent to the expression "I have" is given by a paraphrased expression "there is by me" or for other persons "there is by (you, him, us, and so on)."

Announcement:

Free copies of the paperback books written by Pastor Richard Wurmbrand:

"Reaching Towards the Heights,"

"Tortured For Christ" and

"Was Karl Marx a Satanist?"

may be requested using the order form at the <https://helpforrefugees.com> internet site.

Jesus never pronounced this word "had." Jesus never said about any-thing that He has it. Therefore, He could keep perfect joy when they undressed Him to be scourged. They took away from Him clothes about which He had never said "I have them." He had never said: "I have a body." The body which. they tortured. was not His. He owned nothing. Jesus had yielded His body to His Father as a living sacrifice before they killed Him. He never said "I have a mother." As you cannot be separated from what you do not have, he did not feel death as a separation from her.

He taught His first disciples to think in the same manner. In the Book of Acts, 4:32, we read: "And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common."

A Christian, much persecuted in Communist China, Watchman Nee, in his book "The Release of the Spirit" wrote: "If we have to remember to pray, this shows that the "outer person" has not been broken; for if the Christian denied himself, such a Christian would stay in unceasing communion with God." Having nothing of our own, but being one with our compassionate Lord, we look with His eyes upon this troubled world. Misguided persons lose themselves in hair-splitting differences about doctrinal matters, which seem like trifles to us in comparison with the big spiritual contest. To believe you have something is an illusion. The contest is about who will be the owner of what we think we possess, God or some ill-intended dictator?

Everything belongs to God and we are the stewards of His possessions. He is free to take away at any time the material riches, health, a beloved child, a good name, a friend, fame. These things are only entrusted to us. If they are taken away or upon our death, we lose nothing. They are not ours. This constitutes one of the joys of the Christian life. All Christians are "have-nots." and have no desire to be considered "haves." Those who have, desperately worry about possible losses. This should not be possible for Christians. Our life should be one of full serenity.

This is the great secret of Christianity. Again, Jesus when speaking, never used the verb "I have." None of the Apostles, the first Christians ever used the expression, "I have." Christians who suffer and sacrifice for God's Word are God's slaves, out of love. Their persecutors cannot take anything from them and they own nothing. They are only stewards of God's possessions. These holy "HAVE-NOTS" rejoice even in jail and radiate from their joy to the so many who are unhappy because they are deluded into believing having much.



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 Wurmbbrand 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!)



Baptist minister Tevs Ivan Frantzevici

suffered 5 years communist imprisonment for organizing home-churches. He wrote: “During these 5 years of imprisonment I was repeatedly asked to collaborate with the Soviet Secret Police, the KGB. I refused. I was repeatedly threatened that I would no longer be released from prison and will never see my family again. I replied that the Lord’s Will is to be fulfilled at all times.” **Read his full testimony in our 10/2019 Newsletter.**



Pantyukhova Olga Gheorghievna

suffered 5 years of communist imprisonment and 3 years deportation in the far-North Siberia, to the village of Solnechnyi, Yakutsk Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, (over 4,000 miles away from her home) for multiplying on a mimeograph and spreading gospel flyers. **Read her full testimony in our 10/2019 Newsletter.**



Evangelist Pavlenco Alexandru Ivanovich

was accused of preaching the gospel, conducting divine services, and meeting with believers while children were present. He was sentenced to 2.5 years of prison under article 178-3 of the Soviet Penal Code, a sentence that could be extended (at the whim of the communist authorities.) **Read the full testimony in our 11/2019 Newsletter.**



Nagornai Anatolii Konstantinovich

was sentenced to 3 years of prison because of distributing the surreptitiously printed Christian literature of the “Khrestianin” (The Christian Publisher which issued an underground Baptist magazine forbidden under communist laws. It regularly featured pictures and information on Christians imprisoned for the faith. N. Ed.) **Read the full testimony in our 11/2019 Newsletter.**

Ukrainian Christian Refugees from the Present War Helped with your Gifts



Olexander VLAHOS family, members in the Happy Place church, escaped from Odessa.



Taras DUDNICHENKO family and mother-in-law, members in “Jesus Christ” church, escaped Kakhovka.



Poplavskiy Dennis, Oksana and 5 children of Persha church, escaped Odessa, Ukraine.

**The Testimony of a Christian Refugee Family with 9 Children,
from War-Torn Ukraine
Helped with your Gifts**



Valera and Luda Melnik
and their 9 children

I greet you brother Michael with the love of our Lord Jesus Christ. Peace be with you. My name is Valera, and my wife is Luda. God gave us 9 children and now we are expecting a 10th child.

I will name each of them and how old they are: Anya-18 years old; Faith-16; Andrey-14; Alexey-10; Maria-8; Lydia-6; Pavel-5; Mikhail-3; Julia-1.5.

I am 52 years old, I worked as a driver, in recent years I worked in a boiler room as a stoker, and at the age of 50 I was laid off. My wife and I were members of a Baptist church, I am a deacon. The church belonged to the brotherhood of the Baptist Council of Churches. Church address: Kiev City, Ukraine, Glushkova street 43a, Pastor of the church: Antonyuk Evgeny Vladimirovich.

Before the war, we lived in Kiev. On the first day of the war, we went to a village 70 km from Kyiv and ended up in the epicenter of hostilities. A few miles from us, they began to shell Borodyanka, and on the other hand, Ivankov was shelled. At less than 20 miles away – in Gostomel, Bucha and Irpin, explosions were very well heard. The windows in the house were shaking, combat helicopters and fighter planes flew over our house. Columns of Russian vehicles passed through our village. We lived for three weeks without electricity, without communication - the phones did not work, and we went to the neighbors for water - there was little water, we did not wash every day. We often heard shots at night, like at 2-3 am - you wake up from the explosions and you can't sleep anymore.

So, my wife and I didn't sleep for several nights, and my wife was already pregnant with our 10th child. It was hard to stay further there. After praying, we decided to urgently leave the village. We left Ukraine through Chernobyl to Belarus, then to Poland and to Germany. The Baptist-Mennonite church in the city of Warburg gave us temporary housing in the basement of the church. Now we have been allocated an old house in Roden and the state pays money for food through the Sparkasse bank (a savings bank, N. Ed.)

We inform you that we received 695 Euros and from our entire large family we thank the Lord Jesus Christ and you and your organization, all brothers and sisters who donated for the Ukrainians. May the Lord bless you and your families. **Our greetings with 2nd Corinthians 9:12: "For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God"**

Testimony of Another Christian Refugee Family from Ukraine Helped With Your Gifts



“Michael, thank you very much! The money has arrived! Good afternoon, my name is Anna Kabova. My husband Andrey and I will soon be 40 years old; we have been members of the church in Pukhova for almost 20 years already. We have three daughters - 12, 9 and 8 years old. Before the war, I was responsible for holding children's summer camps, and then vacation camps, at various times I was responsible for the Sunday school in a subsidiary church in the village, for several years I organized night prayers in Pukhov ... Husband Andrey worked either in a taxi or as a car mechanic at a service station. I worked in the field of photography when I had the opportunity. On February 24, when the war began, we were in Buchan. My husband did not believe to the last that Russia would attack and in every possible way resisted any talk about the war, so we were completely unprepared. In the morning at 5:55 my husband's friend called with the words: "Get up, it's started." We heard explosions a couple of minutes later.

We took the three children of our friends, who do not have a car, our three children, three cats, and went to the country home in the village. At 11 o'clock, Russian troops entered Bucha and the parents of these children went down to the basements for two weeks ... On February 26, they managed to escape to us under the shelling of Porhuna. For another week we all lived together in our dacha (country home) - 9 children and 4 adults ... they baked bread, two loaves a day, cut it into 13 pieces - one each. All the money we had spent on food was calculated, so that we all had enough to live for a month ...

It was quiet for several days, but when the Russians entered Borodyanka, fighting began, terrible explosions and artillery strikes were visible, at extremely low altitudes planes flew over own home, there were air battles, explosions in the sky, rockets flew ... two such days and the Russians were already in Makarov. And Makarov and Borodyanka - through the forest, only little over 20 miles distance. The Russians began to jam communications. We prayed that the Lord would show us how to proceed. I was very worried about these children, their parents are not present, there is no connection with them and with us, what to do - the responsibility is on me ... I prayed that the Lord would show and indicate what to do. On one of the days, when we went for bread, we learned that Borodyanka was razed to the ground, that we had to evacuate. I didn't find any documents in the bustle, two children and I left, practically without extra clothes – except what we had on ... 5 minutes after our departure, a rocket was fired next to the house we had arrived at ... We were taken out by stretcher behind a car with the wounded. We got to the Ternopil region, where we were settled by friends at the church. 13 people on the floor in one room. But it was quiet, there was food... In the evening, the family Porkhunyi decided to move on, we were at a loss. With us are other people's children without documents, their parents are in hiding in basements and it is not known whether they will be able to get out alive ... The children are worried that we should not leave them, the little girls simply did not let me go physically, they held me even at night by the hair ... In the morning, - just to cross the border, I thought in horror what to do next ... Stay there - we are without money, practically, go somewhere - our children and strangers without documents ... we decided to go, in the morning, and when we left The Lord wonderfully provided for everything! The parents of the children, who are with us, got in touch and gave us the go-ahead for their being with us, we were able to print these documents. The owner of the gas station where we refueled, when he saw how we were driving, gave money for gasoline so that we could cross the border and get to our destination ... The Lord sent finances for food, miraculously led us across the border and we arrived in Poland, in a separate house where we lived with our own and other people's children for a week. The Lord also blessed the parents of these children - they left Bucha with backpacks, one with a laptop, documents, and the other with a cat. They got to Poland. The Lord sent them housing, as well as to us, they are now together, and we are finally ourselves, our family. It was a very difficult time, but the Lord sends His help all the time, He leads Himself, glory and praise to Him!”

Ukrainian Christian Refugees Helped with your Gifts

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	Бьчюк	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	Лященко	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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