

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



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"So, all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; **and from David until the carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generations;** and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ are fourteen generations. "

(Matthew 1:17)

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From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand

Doting upon the Unrighteous!

In a few generations a small group of Jews starting with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, created a powerful state under King David. David became one of the most glorious personalities of the Jews and also of the entire human history.

But it took also, only a few generations, for this state to lose everything, having all its population deported as slaves to Babylon.

Groups of refugees coming from Europe created by hard work the powerful United States of America. But what has been created can be destroyed, too.

There is a widespread misunderstanding about the Bible, to the effect that it is concerned only with religion, faith, salvation of souls and life beyond death. This is not altogether true, for the Bible throws light upon many other aspects of human life as well. One of the most important of these is politics. In the Bible one can learn how to constitute a nation, how to set righteous laws and rulers, how to free slaves, how to achieve social and national justice, how to behave toward those of another race.

Furthermore, the Bible teaches that a nation desiring to please God must base its external politics on moral principles and not on expediency or commercial interests. Right politics are an essential part of right religion.

In Ezekiel 23, Israel and Judah are criticized for seeking not only peaceful coexistence but even loving relations with Assyria, a heathen nation that oppressed many peoples. Therefore, said the Lord, "I have delivered Samaria into the hands of her lovers, into the hands of the Assyrians, upon whom she doted." (v. 9)

This is what is happening to America today. Let us not seek scapegoats, such as leftist elements in its history. God Himself can deliver America into the hands of the Communists, upon whom she has doted. Doting is one thing, loving another. Instead of doting upon the Communists and making all sorts of business compromises with them, we should have loved them with burning hearts and done our best to bring them to Christ. We have not done this in the past. We are not now doing it. Therefore, we have been given into their hands.

Stokely Carmichael, a so-called "activist," after receiving instructions from Fidel Castro in Cuba, declared to American newspapermen: "We use the tactic of partisans. We prepare groups of partisans in town . . . This will be a fight of life or death." According to Cuba-trained Carmichael, the revolutionary people will have to play the role of the Vietcong in our cities. Even if only one percent of those targeted by him, were on his side, he would have an army of 200,000 fanatics, who could produce terror, chaos, and massive destruction. Guy Newton, another "activist," inspired by the Chinese Communists, openly calls for the killing of white policemen. In the hills of Pinar Del Rio Province in Cuba, future guerillas and revolutionaries are trained, most of whom will be active on the American continent. These revolutionaries recruit their adherents from among the most unlikely people. Two hundred priests instigated by them, seized the cathedral in Santiago de Chile to protest "international money imperialism." The Tupamaros National Liberation Front, a pro-Peking Communist group in Uruguay, kidnaped a rich man to obtain their demands through blackmail. America is losing its friendship abroad. The clandestine Communist Bizim Radio, is broadcasting information in Turkish from East Germany on how to be anti-American. In France, the most recent pamphlet of the Revolutionary Action Group reads: "Violence must be the next step. The October revolution will be real, Not a charade." These revolutionary groups are not big. There are some 2000 Trotskyites in France, but each one can get ten friends into the streets to help build a barricade. (How many Christians are able to get ten friends to build up missionary work? Could you win ten friends for our missionary message? If not, you are less active in your righteous cause than the Communist in their evil one.) Who is behind all this suffering? God. He said, "I have delivered her into the hands of her lovers, into the hands of the Assyrians, upon whom she doted." Are not American businessmen, greedy for profitable business, doting upon communist countries?



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)

Helped with your Gifts!

Some pictures of Christians Imprisoned under Communism for the Faith

Read their full testimonies in our past newsletters at <http://helpforrefugees.com> (third column!)



**Pidchenco Vitalie
Ivanovich**

Suffered 4 years imprisonment for printing thousands of New Testaments. Read testimony in the 9/2017 Newsletter.



Andrietz Petru

Suffered nearly 3 years imprisonment in the former Soviet Union for printing New Testaments. Read testimony in the 9/2017 Newsletter.



Dubovic Vladimir Mihail

Suffered 10 years imprisonment in the former Soviet Union for spreading the Gospel. Read testimony in the 9/2017 Newsletter.



**Iakimchiuk Ivan
Grigore**

Suffered two years imprisonment in the former Soviet Union for praying loud in a church, asking for religious freedom. Read testimony in the 9/2017 Newsletter.

Christians Helped with your Gifts

**A Brief Testimony of the Life and Ministry
of Rodin Vladimir Pavlovich (deceased*)**

(sent by his surviving wife, Rodina Maria Ivanovna)



Rodin Vladimir Pavlovich was born in the village of Novo-Dmitrievka, Gorky Region. By the grace of the Lord, at the age of 30, Vladimir Pavlovich saw himself as a sinner in need of forgiveness of sins. The Lord touched his heart, freed him from sinful bonds and healed his soul. After a short time, Vladimir Pavlovich was baptized and became a member of the local church in Vyksa (in Russia, about 300 miles east of Moscow.)

Vladimir Pavlovich, from the first steps of his following Christ, was a fiery preacher of the gospel truth to perishing people. Through the ministry of Vladimir Pavlovich, the Lord often supported, encouraged, inspired and abundantly instructed the children of God in the importance of strengthening their faith, as well as the value of trusting in the mercy and grace of our Lord.

Such a bold ministry of believers represented (and still represents at the moment) a serious threat to the enemy of human souls, therefore, the enemy threw all his strength to steal, kill and destroy. Police officers came to church services many times in order to disperse the meeting and impose monetary fines on the preachers of the local church in Vyksa.

Countless times Vladimir Pavlovich was fined for preaching the gospel, he was also repeatedly detained with his brothers and arrested for 15 days, each time the guards could hear the singing of hymns “You know the way, even though I don’t know it”, “If I had the whole universe ” etc. How many flattering offers have been heard from ruling people about the possibility of career growth or material well-being, had Rodin agreed to renounce worship and service to our Lord. When flattery and promises did not achieve their goal, outright threats and slander were launched. Thanks to our Lord, Vladimir Pavlovich was firm in his trust in the Lord and was able, by the grace of God, to withstand the threats of the enemy.

January 17, 1972 the believers of the local church in Vyksa rejoiced and asked for blessings on the coming new year, but the peaceful service was disrupted by the arrival of the KGB (Soviet Secret Police) and once again the authorities arrested the brothers of the church in Vyksa, including Vladimir Pavlovich's Rodin. This arrest was not for 15 days, but ended up being for a longer period ...

February 18, 1972 V.P. Rodin was charged under Article 142, part 2 of the Soviet Criminal Code "Violation of the laws on the separation of church from state and school from church" with the wording for illegal religious activity and sentenced to 3 years in prison. By the grace of God and through the prayers of the Vyksa church, Vladimir Pavlovich steadfastly and humbly accepted this test of faith in his life.

After the sentencing Rodin V.P. was sent under escort to the prison in the city of Gorky (currently Nizhny Novgorod) at the address of Gorky -28a / ya UZ62 / 5. After arriving at the prison compound, Vladimir Pavlovich was assigned to a team of workers for the manufacture of boxes from iron bars. This work was very hard because the work was carried out on a conveyor line, which required every minute exertion of physical and moral strength for 12 hours a day. Only by the grace of God and the prayers of believing friends of the church of Vyksa, as well as through the prayers of believers of other churches of the Soviet Union, Vladimir Pavlovich found the strength to cope with this hard and exhausting work. There were situations when some of the prisoners were exhausted and could not bear the given load, but by the grace of God he did not lose heart and did not grumble at his fate, realizing that he was suffering for the name of the Lord, which is very high and valuable in the eyes of our Lord.

Exhausting hard work did not become the cause of despondency and murmur, but on the contrary, Vladimir Pavlovich did not miss the opportunity to support and encourage not only his brothers, but also those who were nearby in prison dungeons. Hard work on the production line led to a slight deformation of the fingers, but the soul and spirit of Vladimir Pavlovich were not damaged or deformed, but, on the contrary, were strengthened in hope for the mercy and grace of our Lord.

At the end of his sentence, Vladimir Pavlovich was released and returned to the local church in Vyksa, where he served our Lord for many years as an evangelist, ready to see the need of his neighbor, to support the weakened, to convince the doubters and raise the fallen. The years spent in prison, the difficulties that Vladimir Pavlovich had to face, did not engender fear and murmur in his heart. Repeatedly believers and close relatives saw him going to the meeting with a small knapsack, where there was a sweatshirt (warm jacket) and clothes, because any meeting could end with him being hauled to a courtroom and then to prison. A similar example of willingness to accept suffering for the name of the Lord and sincere faith in the Lord inspired and strengthened many believers in glorifying the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Rodina Maria Ivanovna*

Vladimir Pavlovich, having served as a good example, at the age of 64 departed for eternity to our Lord.

*The mission continues helping the surviving spouse!

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Two Years of Communist Imprisonment for House-Church Meetings



“Greetings dear brothers and sisters! By the will of our Lord Jesus Christ: God has honored me not only to believe, but to suffer for Him.

In 1963 the Lord visited our family with joy, my wife and I received baptisms by faith. We started a new life. At that time, we were not allowed to congregate in the house of worship, and the faithful often gathered in homes. There was also a desire in our heart to have worship services, so we offered our home for such services. We were repeatedly fined for this.

It was very difficult to keep the literature, because of the repeated searches by the Soviet police in our house. None of us knew when the search would come. It was very annoying when precious books and magazines were seized. Even the handwritten manuscripts that mentioned the word “God” were taken away.

In this difficult hour, there was only one thought: to remain faithful to the Lord.

This is how we raised our children as well. Because they did not join the communist youth organizations (The Pioneers) they too were persecuted. One day, our daughter was confined in a class and was told she would not be released, until she wore the communist red tie. She refused bravely, some higher-up adult intervened and she was eventually released.

We were often warned that we would pay dearly for our religious activity, but the Lord paid a higher price for us, and we were ready for everything for Him. And so it happened, on February 9, 1983, a search by the communist police was again carried out. After the search, an arrest warrant was issued and I was handcuffed as a villain, as a criminal and hauled out of the house. They took out two boxes of dishes, so that the neighbors could see that something was being taken away.

I was kept imprisoned for three months during which I was subjected to interminable interrogations. Then there was a court trial which lasted three days. Believers were not allowed into the courtroom and the communist youth organization (Komsomol) members filled the court-hall. Myself and others were sentenced to two years of prison. A close neighbor, after many years, confessed that he had betrayed me and asked for forgiveness.

I loved very much to testify about the Lord on the street, at work, everywhere. Now I had the opportunity to testify about the Lord in prison. God gave me the strength to preach to my persecutors and to those who were imprisoned with me. Many were surprised, but there were those who genuinely listened to the truth and turned to the Lord. There were many difficult moments, death itself seemed near, but the Lord kept me and blessed me. He granted me live to this day. I see very badly and do not leave the house for health reasons. Considering back the way I lived, I can only say - how wonderful is my Lord. With love, Pavlov Alexey Ivanovich, 84 years old.”

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Deme Maria

Though not Sentenced she Volunteered to Suffer Communist Imprisonment for the Faith!



Though not imprisoned or under a prison sentence, Ms. Deme requested with tears in her eyes to be deported together with the wife of late Reverend Visky Ferencz. Pastor Visky had been sentenced to 22 years of communist prison for organizing a prayer-group called “Betania” as part of the Hungarian-language Reformed Church in communist Romania. His wife Julianna and his seven children, were deported and banished by the Romanian Communist authorities, to live two years in a straw-hut, in a “no-man’s land” part of the country, where closest human settlement was some 12 miles away, on foot! *

This helper, a saint in her own right, though not persecuted or arrested, went into banishment with the entire family, while the father was in prison, as a sacrifice with no hope of recognition, remuneration, etc.

A Romanian communist secret police officer told her, “you are nothing less than crazy, since you ask for nothing less than death.” Her preferred Romanian song was, “Salvation we received as a gift, we have nothing to pay; through Jesus crucified, we have nothing to pay.” Once freed from there, the “family,” thus 9 persons were taken into Michael and Mrs. Sabina Wurmbrand’s two very tiny attic rooms in Bucharest and for several weeks, 11 persons lived in these two rooms and shared whatever food there was.

*Read this story of their harsh persecution in communist Romania, in our May 2016 Newsletter. See third column link at <https://helpforrefugees.com>

409	Власенко	Валентин	Мефодьевич	1958	Украина
410	Вольф	Андрей	Корнеевич	1958	Казахстан
411	Куркин	АЛЕКСЕЙ	ЯКОВЛЕВИЧ	1958	Россия
412	Левин	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	ДРИСВЯННИКОВ	АЛЕКСАНДР	АЛЕКСАНДРОВИЧ	1959	Россия
418	СКВОРЦОВА	ЛЮБОВЬ	НИКОЛАЕВНА	1959	Россия
419	Варовин	Виталий	Федотович	1959	Россия
420	Дубицкий	СЕРГЕЙ	АДАМОВИЧ	1959	Россия
421	Лашенко	Борис	Владимирович	1959	Украина
422	Тягаченко	ИВАН	ИВАНОВИЧ	1959	Казахстан
423	МАРЧЕНКО	Станислав	Павлович	1960	Украина
424	Донченко	Александр	Максимович	1960	Украина
425	Смаков	Венедикт	Александрович (Валерианов)	1960	Узбекистан
426	Савченко	Михаил	Михайлович	1960	Эстония
427	Федрева (ШВЕЦОВА)	ДИНА	ВЛАДИМИРОВНА	1961	Австрия
428	ШВЕЦОВА	АННА	ВЛАДИМИРОВНА	1962	Австрия
429	Богородице	Александр	Валерьевич	1962	Эстония
430	Миников	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:** <https://helpforrefugees.com>

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