

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 Wurmland with wife, Sabina

October 2022

Announcement:

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

"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.

"At midnight there was a cry made 'Behold, the bridegroom cometh,' go ye out to meet him"
(Matthew 25:6).

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 communist prisons.

From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmland

THE LIGHT SHINETH IN DARKNESS

The earth turns around on its axis. Midnight is the moment when a part of the earth is the farthest away from the sun. Spiritual midnight is the period of the greatest departure of men from God. We are approaching this midnight and its terrific events.

But midnight is not received with the same feelings by the children of God as by the world. At midnight, the firstborn of the Egyptians died, but the chosen people got their freedom. The Lord has said "The night comes when no man can work" (John 9:4). But as often as a thing is declared impossible in the Bible, this does not refer to the faithful. About them, Jesus declared, "all things are possible to him that believes" (Mark 9:23).

The holy people can work even near midnight. It was at midnight that Samson took the gates of the city of Gaza (Judges 16:3). At midnight, Ruth received from Boaz the promise, "I will do to you all that you require" (3:11). At midnight, Paul and Silas won for the Lord the jailer of Philippi (Acts 16:25).

At midnight, the people of God do their greatest exploits. Therefore, the psalmist says "At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto Thee" (Psalm 119:62).

I was able to meet during three days one of the leaders of the unregistered Baptists, part of the underground church in the Soviet Union. These courageous Christians meet stealthily, conduct baptisms during the night in secret places and oppose the suppression of Christianity by the communist authorities. I told our brother "Some in the West contest even the existence of the Underground Church. What would be your comment?" He answered, "You could as well say that after the ascension of our Lord there was no Christian church in Palestine. If you would have asked anyone in Palestine, including the apostles, if there is a Christian church, they would have answered you that they have never heard about such an organization. They called themselves the believers, the saints, and the disciples. The name Christian has been given to them after decades, by the heathen. Then the disciples accepted what was first meant to be a nickname. The same it is with us. We never called ourselves Underground Church. Communists called us the Underground Church. Under this charge they imprisoned innumerable brethren. Then we, remembering the beautiful time of the church of the catacombs, accepted the name."

I asked the brother if their conscience does not tell them that they have to be submissive to the authorities. His answer was amazing: "If we are wrong, the whole Baptist religion is wrong. I read an article in our secret magazine "The Herald of Salvation." It tells about Thomas Helwys, a pastor of the first ever Baptist church on English soil. He went to prison because he had said that the King has no power over the immortal souls of his subjects, to make laws and ordinances for them and to put spiritual rulers over them. I read about a letter smuggled out of prison in England in 1620 by a Baptist, John Murton. The letter was written in milk, just as we do now. The jailers would not observe. Our families would know how to make the letters readable. He wrote, 'the magistrate can only compel the body, not the mind and the conscience.' If we are wrong, John Bunyan has been a fool. He preferred to sit twelve years in prison, rather than worship in a manner decided by somebody else. And with him it was only the case of complying with another form of Christian religion, whereas we would have to comply with atheistic rulers."

We don't care about the fact that midnight is approaching. Only ordinary men cannot work during a spiritual night, but "All things are possible to him that believeth." He can work even when he personally passes through the dark night of the soul, even when he is on his death bed. We are not afraid of the darkness in the world. We work. The bridegroom comes soon. We cannot meet Him empty handed.



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!)



Church Elder Sigarev Mikhail

from Labinsk, former Soviet Union, was arrested for his underground church activities and sentenced to three different terms, for a total of 10½ years imprisonment. He left behind 7 children. Because he repeatedly to become a KGB informant, the communist authorities searched to take away the children but his elderly mother travelled and hid the children away in different localities during all his years of imprisonment. **Read his testimony in our 1/2020 Newsletter.**

Romaniuk Vladimir Nikolaevich

was sentenced to 2½ years of prison for transporting underground church activities and distributing about 3504 different Christian tracts. He served the sentence in Kopychintsy, in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic of the former Soviet Union. He had 4 children. Though repeatedly threatened with new imprisonment, he refused to become a KGB spy. **Read his full testimony in our 1/2020 Newsletter.**

Gotman Margarita

Described about her family of 8 children when her father executed 4 different prison terms for his underground Christian activities. “It was freezing cold as it was difficult to find fuel. We slept in our day clothing. In the evenings we often gathered in the kitchen and sang Christian songs.” She also was imprisoned for 1½ years. **Read her full testimony in our 2/2020 Newsletter.**

Presbyter Mikhail Alexandrovich Goryanin

At the age of 34, having a serious heart illness he was sentenced for his Christian underground church ministry to three years in prison camps. He refused to work on Sundays. Therefore, he was put in a punishment cell and ended up being one of the last Christians freed in the Gorbachev reforms, in the former Soviet Union. **Read his full testimony in our 2/2020 Newsletter.**

Christian Refugees from the Present Russian-Ukrainian War Helped with your Gifts! A few samples of pictures and receipts.

A Christian Ukrainian refugee, helped by this mission while in Ukraine and now helped to arrive with a large family in Canada. He wrote: “Dear Brother Michael: At your request, I send a brief testimony of my life and persecution for the name of Christ. My name: Tkach Vasily Ivanovich; Year of birth 1946; Year of baptism 1970; Married since 1970, wife Maria, three children, all believers; Baptist, member of the MSC ECB church (The unregistered Evangelical church which opposed the dictatorship of the communists in the former Soviet Union – N. Ed.) In 1984 I was arrested, sentenced to 3 years and 6 months of general regime. Released in 1987 in August. During this entire prison term, I was kept under the special attention



of the KGB (the communist secret police, N. Ed.) During this prison term, the authorities published three newspaper articles unmasking me as a “Christian believer dangerous to the Soviet State.” I lost the right to all personal family visits. I had to suffer four times a special harsh punishment – being detained in a solitary cell. During this prison term, I worked at a logging site in the Soviet Far-North taiga (a swampy forest of firtrees in the high northern latitudes of Russia, N. Ed.) I have been familiar with the book Tortured for Christ (written by your father) for a long time. I sympathize with your family, who suffered persecution for the Lord Jesus Christ. Vasily

Apartment house destroyed through Russian bombing in Mariupol, Ukraine, where 40% of whole town has been close to obliterated. Over 7 million refugees have escaped Ukraine in the last 6 months.



Name and surname: MATIICHAK TETIANA – 32 years

Series and no. from the passport:

FG 818154

Place of origin: Mogilev, Podolsky, Ukraine

Church: Mogilev Podolsky Baptist Church

Family members: Bobh Lidia – 65 years, the mother of Tetiana; Karina – 10 years old – 3th grade.

Describes the situation: Tetiana worked as a teacher for children with disabilities, for a salary of 300 Euros / month. Tetiana’s husband recently died of Covid. Tetiana remained alone to support her family, including her mother.



Tetiana and her family left Ukraine on foot, until they reached the border Otaci village, at the border with Moldova, where they have been taken by one of our volunteers and brought to our home. They left for Germany, to Munich to try to make a new life there.

I received the amount of **800 lei** from the "Richard Wurmbrand" College.

Scripătura



Localitatea/Micro: Snikurivka, Ukraine

Biserica: Церква Great Commission Church

Membrii familiei/ Chleny sim'yi: 1

Describe situația/ Опишіть, будь ласка, ситуацію:
Almost from the first days of the war I lived in a bomb shelter. I was very afraid of explosions, I constantly had problems with pressure. I lived without water and light.

Refugee **Galina Bondarenko** member in the Great Commission Church in Snikurivka, Ukraine wrote:

“Almost from the first days of the war, I lived in a bomb shelter. I was very afraid of explosions. I constantly had problems with pressure. I lived without water and light.”

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



ZHURAKOVSKIY IVAN, Series and no. from the passport: IH 123163, Place of origin: Odessa, Ukraine. Church: Sven Evangelical, Pavel Lugovoi pastor. Family members: Ivan – the father, 32 years – he is editor and radio announcer at the Christian radio "Viața Nouă"/"New Life"; Nataliia – the mother, 30 years, she is on parental leave and taking care of her children; Emiliia – daughter, 9 years old; Darina – daughter, 4 years and 5 months; Elisei – son, 1 year and 4 months.

Describes the situation: Very close to their house, buildings were bombed, many people were killed on the street; their children were very scared. The family started a new life, here in Iasi, where Ivan broadcasts live to Ukraine, because although they fled, he made time to pack some of the necessary equipment for broadcasting the radio. When the family fled Odessa, they did not have time to take too much with them, so this money will be used for clothes, food and hygiene items. They all live in a rented apartment, where the rent is 300 €.

The five members family of Zaritska Katherina wrote:

“Our family left Ukraine because hostilities began in our town (Snikurivka.) We left our home on March 24th. We lost jobs. Our children cannot go to school anymore.”

Describe situația/ Опишіть, будь ласка, ситуацію:

Our family left Ukraine because hostilities began in our town. March 24 we left our home. We lost jobs. Our children cant go to school any more.



At the children's center Victoria, managed by the Richard Wurmbrand College, Iasi, Romania, the children are cared for and fed. They also have volunteers to play with and forget about the war and the fact that they will not live in Ukraine for a long time to come.

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 10,000/24 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	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	Лашенко	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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