

HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC.

A tax-exempt, non-profit corporation

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Late Reverend Richard Wurmband with
wife, Sabina

The Gospel of Matthew 5.3:

" Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "

Late Rev. Richard Wurmband spent 14 years in the Romanian communist prisons for his Christian faith. Mrs. Wurmband also was imprisoned nearly three years in same prisons.

From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmband

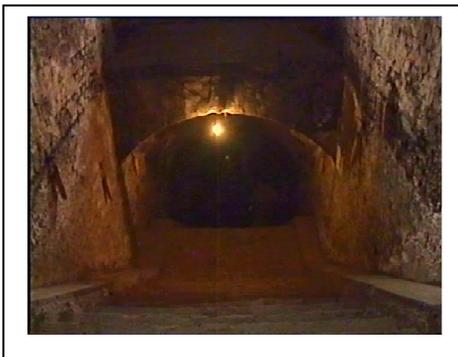
All Christians who strive to obtain entrance into the Kingdom of Heaven, do have in this verse a "key" by which to open its gates. The robber hanging on a cross, utterly deprived of his lifetime-of-crime spoils, received the promise from Lord Jesus, "**Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.**" Hanging on a cross, deprived of everything, he obtained EVERYTHING by uttering a few words: "**Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.**" (Luke 23.42-43) This robber seized on God's boundless generosity as described by Jesus: "Fear not, little flock; **for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.**" (Luke 12.32) Without an "I" to pretend owning things, ideas, the spirit of itself is the miracle!

The more dejected and poorer a beggar appears to us, the more we feel moved to give him from our wealth. The Beggar Lazarus in contrast to the rich man in the parable, was so naked that dogs could reach to him directly and lick his wounds. Here is another example of someone we know for sure to have made it into Paradise. The same way, God pours His boundless blessings only on those truly poor in spirit. Those wealthy in spirit can have the happiness of the fulfilled duty, of great achievements; but the complete happiness - the kingdom of heavens - belongs only to those poor in spirit. And not only poor, because this is also a relative term, but of an absolute poverty, as the Greek word "ptohos" in the New Testament indicates - the very extreme of poverty.

To be physically poor is a social reality to which you belong - by chance. But do you love this state of yours? If tomorrow you were to become rich as a result of a great inheritance, would you do what so many others did? Would you renounce your wealth in order to remain with "the sister poverty"? To be poor in spirit means to be able to say after every loss, Job's words : "Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither : the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord".(Job, 1.21). The one poor in spirit agrees with St.Paul's words : "And having food and raiment let us be therewith content". (Timothy I, 6.8). The description Paul gives to the one poor in spirit (Corinthians II, 6.10), when he says : "As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing, as poor, yet making many rich, as having nothing, and yet processing all things" is beautiful.

It is to know that man has reached a satisfying level of perfection only if he is noble enough to admit that he is low and wise enough to know he is insignificant. You start from being conscious of your sins and smallness. You renounce your self-justifying thoughts. You rely only on one request: trusting in a loving God who always remembers you. A Christian from the Middle Ages wrote : "If we are free of things, then God becomes our property." This was the attitude Jesus had when He was tempted in the desert. Happy are those who don't need belongings ! They are happier than these who possess them and keep them tight in their hands, as if they would be vital for life !

Giving away physical belongings is easier though than renouncing immaterial possessions: self-pride, theories, greed. If the one poor in spirit is a preacher, he will give up the intellectual and spiritual refinement that people can't reach, in which some preachers lock themselves. A missionary who spends 20 years in the jungle, leaving in this way the refined and intellectual city, will certainly become poorer in spirit, but he will be happy. Intellectual refinement is a trap for the soul. The riches of the vocabulary lead to confused thinking. People usually imagine that they understand a certain thing because they can give it a name, trying to define one by the other. This is nothing but sophistry. In this way, the thinking remains clouded just when you think of it as clearer and distinctive. A preacher poor in spirit will use simple words like Jesus. To be poor in spirit means not to eat from tree of the knowledge of good and evil, as Adam and Eve did, but prefer the less-knowing love for God and for our neighbor.



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 Jilava.

“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)

Your gifts have allowed us to help financially several orphanages including the Agape Orphanage in Pascani, Romania, an orphanage started by my parents, Richard and Sabina Wurmbrand; the Richard Wurmbrand College in Iasi, Romania and many elderly Christians (between 70-100 years old), who spent years within communist prisons in Eastern Europe because of their Christian witness. Some of them were held in common cells with my parents. The following pictures tell it all. Thank you for all your prayers and gifts. Michael Wurmbrand



Andrei and Timotei Baciu travel daily from their village situated 30 kilometers (over 18 miles) away from town, to attend high school classes at the Richard Wurmbrand College in Iasi, Romania. Though poor, their parents took a few orphan children into their home. To support their education and this extended family, both boys are working in construction. Deeply moved by the dedication of this family, in order to provide them with daily milk, a group of believers from the local Jesus The Victorious Church and the Richard Wurmbrand high school, bought for them the cow shown below.





House in which orphans lived, before being received in the Agape Orphanage



Orphans at the Agape Orphanage participating in farm labor gathering potatoes



The running expenses of the orphanage when started in 1993 by the late Rev. and Mrs. Wurmbrand, amounted to about \$25,000 per year. Due to many new requirements of the European Union and galloping inflation, the orphanage needs over \$120,000 per year to function properly. Due to shortage of funds, the orphanage must rely on local donations of food-packages, cans and containers. Some of its grown-up kids do work in the fields.

Please share this newsletter with all your Christian friends list, church lists or send us their addresses (with their permission) so we may send them this newsletter!

Christians helped with your gifts:



Buruiana Tudora
A Christian Testimony:

I am the wife of Buruiana Gheorghe who was imprisoned by the communists between 1961 and 1966 and I need thank you for all the good you do and good intentions you have in your heart. When my husband died I remained with 7 children. Since three were married I have 13 grandchildren.

I try to write down some of the suffering my husband went through in communist prisons. At first he was called by the communist secret police only to give a statement, just a pretext to arrest him right away and take him to the communist prison called Periprava (one of the worst. N.T.) He was very sick with his kidneys and so the guards tied him to the bed. He suffered hunger, freezing cold, being mocked for his faith, being humiliated and do forced labor. The communists confiscated our possessions: a horse and a buggy, an accordion, all clothing and so much more. The police promised to return such. Of course they lied.

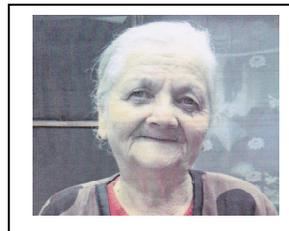
After he was released, he thanked God for coming out of these communist prisons alive. I pray to God to reward all your efforts since you have not forgotten us. With love and respect.

**Christian Testimonies of
Christians helped with your gifts:**



Moga Maria, 82 years old from the village of Deia, Suceava County, Romania.

My father was sentenced to 15 years of prison for his Christian faith as a member of the Army of the Lord Christian movement, but the communists turned it into a political sentence as "an enemy of the country" though my father never was into any politics whatsoever. The closest he ever came to politics was to ask God in his prayers to protect the country. When father was sentenced, the state confiscated our home. I was married and the communist secret police tried to dismiss us from our employment. My supervisor dared protect us as Christians and we did not lose the job. We thank God from all our heart for the constant care He had for us. We also thank you for your tending attention to our plight. May God reward you.



Szabo Margareta, 81 years old.

I was born Salagean Margareta on 8/10/1934 in Sarmasu, Mures County, Romania. When only 17, I was baptized and joined an evangelical church of which I remained a member to this day. I married Szabo Tiberiu and we had three children. For his religious activities, my husband was sentenced by the communist government to 12 years hard labor. Eventually my mother-in-law, through interminable efforts succeeded to reduce his sentence, so that he made only 5 years of communist prison. Coming out of prison, as a result of inhuman tortures at the hands of the communists, he contracted an aggressive arthritis he suffered of for 9 years. In the last 3 years of his life he became totally bedridden and died at the age of 46. I became a widow at the age of only 40 with three children and was myself also very sick due to a reaction to an expired medical injection. My daughter, 18, needed to obtain employment in order to support us all. Only God helped us in these trying times. God brought about into our lives caring people. I am now 81 living with my daughter. God be praised for everything.

Christians helped with your gifts:



DORZ Florica
A Christian Testimony:

Florica is the daughter of the most famous Christian poet of Romania and the recognized leader of the Christian movement named Army of the Lord. For his “crime” of versifying the Psalms of David and writing similar Christian poetry, her father **Traian Dorz**, was imprisoned by the communist government for close to 10 years.

Florica wrote:

I was born 9/9/1937. The persecution my father endured reflected upon his entire family. Being together with my two brothers and my mother, the first time I encountered the communist secret police was in the winter of 1947 when they came to arrest my father. I was only 10 years old and totally terrified. His long imprisonment saga occurred as follows:

December of 1947 till April of 1948 in the prisons of Oradea and Gherla;

May 1948 he spent the month again in prison;

During 1950 he was arrested and imprisoned for 9 months in the Beius prison where he was beaten mercilessly then he was moved to the prison of Oradea where he was subjected to exterminating hunger;

Again imprisoned from December (on Christmas Day) 1952 and sentenced to hard labor. He executed it till July 2nd, 1956.

He was imprisoned from March 1959 till June 1964;

In August 1982 he was arrested and imprisoned in the Satu Mare prison till January of 1983.

We had to suffer many house searches. These frequent house searches were intended to frighten us away from any Christian activity. The little time in between his imprisonment terms, he was subjected to a regime of house arrest where he was forced to work in the fields, so as not to allow him time to write his Christian poetry which was so much sought after by all Romanian Christians. For the last three years I had two knee operations and I cannot easily move. God alone and our prayers to Him helped us overcome such insurmountable difficulties.