

HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC.

A tax-exempt, non-profit corporation

Michael Wurmland, President

Tel. (310) 544-0814

PO Box 5161, Torrance, Ca. 90510, USA.

Email: hfr@helpforrefugees.com; Website: <http://helpforrefugees.com>

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

November 2022

Announcement:

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

"But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." (Galatians 6:14).

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From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmland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 Way of the Cross

Even in religious matters we are tempted to expect others to admire our own achievements. All things were created by God, also that tree which would serve as a cross on which Christ, the Son of God, would be crucified. God adorned all trees gorgeously with branches and leaves and fruits. So were the trees out of which Roman soldiers made crosses. Those hanged on the crosses were symbols of ultimate humiliation and despise.

During Jesus' journeys through Palestine, He might have rested under the shadow of the very tree His cross was made of. He loved the cross through which, in a mysterious way, the peoples oppressed by torturers, and these torturers themselves even, will have the possibility of eternal salvation. Saint John Crysostom said about the cross of Christ, "It is the will of the Father, the honor of the Son, the joy of the Spirit, the jewel of angels, the assurance of the faithful, the glory of Apostles and so, of Apostle Paul. By this cross, we know the gravity of sin, and the greatness of God's love toward men." Saint Maxim the Confessor wrote: "The cross of Christ is the tool which helps us rule over sin." It is only in the cross, that we glory since only the cross of Christ can do this.

Out of thankfulness for His cross, knowing that we will be rewarded not for our works, but according to our works, we try to serve Him best in the task which He assigned to us.

Here are examples of Christians who chose like Apostle Paul, the humiliation of the cross. Inspiring is the courage shown in the (former) Soviet Union by the Ukrainian Christians Shevchenko, Timtshak, Solovieva, Alekseeva, Borushko, Zaborskii, and Krivoi who stood trial before the communist court in Odessa. Brother Krivoi had already spent ten years in prison for his faith. When the communist court convened and the accused were asked to stand, they fell to their knees instead and one of them began to pray aloud.

The president of the court asked our sister Alekseeva why she refused to have an attorney. Her reply was, "I have long since taken Jesus Christ as my defender." She quoted the verse from the Book of Job 16:19: "Even now my witness is in heaven, and my advocate is on high." Shevchenko also refused to have an attorney, saying "Me, a believer, an atheist cannot defend. God is my protector." Then Sister Solovieva became the accuser of the communists before world opinion, and she said to them, "I consider myself happy to sit on the bench of the accused, not as a thief or a murderer or somebody who meddled in someone else's business. I rejoice about this lot which I have for Christ's sake. . . . In my public speaking I told how Christ loved men, even unto death on the cross, so that everyone who believes in Him might have life everlasting. I spoke this, I declare it today and I will continue to declare it." Brother Krivoi said in his last word in the court, "Suffering as a Christian, I am ready to wear chains. I have been a believer for 40 years (10 of which were spent in Siberian prisons. N. Ed.) You will not re-educate me and you will not break me with threats."

Only the cross of Christ can raise such heroes. American Christians could learn from their Russian brethren who under communism bring children to secret worship services even though the law of the communist state forbids it. To the defense, to bring children to the church, God answered with His Commandment, - "forbid them not to come unto Me." (Matthew 19:14) In the 1960s, under Chief Justice Earl Warren, the US Supreme Court declared that the First Amendment forbids organized prayers, Bible reading or similar school-sponsored efforts to promote religion. What if American teachers and pupils would simply begin to pray in public schools not caring what Mr. Earl Warren thought. Under a communist regime, Christians would go to prison for this but here in America you would not be arrested. Should we risk nothing for our Christianity?



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!)



Nikitkov Alexander Valentinovich

AT first, he was imprisoned in was sentenced to 2 years a labor camp with strict regime of prison for Christian by the KGB, for distributing activities with children. Christian literature. Once freed Because he refused to for less than a year, he was become a KGB spy, the again imprisoned for 5 years communist secret police and held in Magadan, former put him in what they were Soviet Union, one of the coldest calling, “the isolator-cell.” Siberian prison camps. He Inside, he could barely wrote: “It is impossible to breathe and he thought he silence the one who received would die. **Read his salvation and forgiveness from testimony in our 3/2020 the hands of the Savior.” Read Newsletter. his testimony in our 3/2020 Newsletter.**



Choir conductor Victor Karpuk



Presbyter Didneak Grigore Vasilevici

A Ukrainian Christian who was imprisoned for underground Christian meetings and held one year in a jail in Crimea, at the time part of the Ukraine Soviet Republic and now a territory taken over by Russia. **Read his full testimony in our 4/2020 Newsletter.**



Baptist believer Matveichuk Raisa

She wrote how when imprisoned being only a minor teenager, for writing Bible verses on small pieces of paper, the KGB officer during her interrogation, said: "Your mother does not stop crying. Just confess you renounce God and you may go home immediately ...otherwise you will be sentenced to 10 years of prison." But she continues, "inside me, my Savior's gentle voice was repeating, 'Fear not, for I am with you;'" **Read her full testimony in our 4/2020 Newsletter.**

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



ZAKHLYSTNYY Konstyantyn with wife **Kutsenko Olha** and 1 year-old daughter **Vasilisa**. They were members of the Baptist church in **Mohyliv-Podilskyii, Ukraine**.

Konstyantyn is an oil-rigs engineer. They sought refuge in the village of **Otaci, Republic of Moldova** and Christians at the **Richard Wurmbrand High School** were able to bring them by car to **Iasi, Romania**.

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.



Pastor Yukhimov Vasiliy (shown in the picture with wife Natasha and their three children) described how his church named” The Great Commission Church” in Snihurivka, by the main city of Kherson, close to Mykolaiv, Ukraine, was destroyed by Russian bombs.



In same bombardment, many church members lost their homes. The Russians confiscated their cellphones so they could not publish pictures. Because they had to escape mostly on foot through the wild countryside, it took them at least six days to reach the Romanian border. Nearly entire church membership took refuge into Romania, in the city of Iasi. Picture below: Some refugees, grateful for the help received at the Richard Wurmbrand Highschool, Iasi.



Confirmare



Nume și prenume/ Ім'я та прізвище: Моисиченко Елена / Moiseenko Elena

Seriă și numărul de pe pașaport/ Серійний номер і номер паспорту: 02 22 28 184

Localitatea/Micro: с. Снігурівка, Миколаївська обл.

ВісERICA: Церква Велика Реформи

Membrii familiei/ Члени сім'ї: 0

Descrie situația/ Опишіть, будь ласка, ситуацію: З України неможливо вийти, єбраз дуже важко покинути свою землю під крилами

Confirmation of Received Help. Refugee Moisechenko Elena member in the Great Commission Church in Snihurivka, Ukraine wrote:

“A war broke out in my country, Ukraine, and I was forced to leave my city and my country.”

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



Mykola PIDHIRNYI with wife Oksana, mother-in-law Halyna, daughter Darina and son Timofii, from Kamianka-Dniprovs'ka, Ukraine.

Mykola wrote: “On February 24, at 4 in the morning, I was in Poland, not asleep, as I read social networks and found out that the war had begun.

My family was in Ukraine, those were difficult and terrible days, it was hard to believe what was happening. On March 9th, the wife and children packed their things and joined the evacuation convoy, leaving their relatives, their beloved dog and cat, work, house and all property, taking only a backpack. These were the most terrible 80 miles and 9 hours of our life. Everyone was exhausted, but thank God everyone was alive.

There was a panic in the country, everyone was fleeing somewhere. Usually, the road to Poland took about 18 hours, my family traveled 3 days. On March 11, we met at the Polish border and the soul became calmer, we were together.

Then we had to decide where to live, how and for what. Poland was overflowing with Ukrainians. We were offered to leave for Germany and although we did not know anyone there, we had no choice and we left. We went to the small German town of Harsefeld, where we were received as close friends and taken care of. We did not know what would happen next, how to get on our feet in a foreign country, not knowing the language, not having a job, it was not known how long Germany would take care of us and whether we could stay there. One day we were offered help with moving to Canada, I knew a little English, so Canada was a good option, and there were more opportunities there.

A long period of preparation for the move began. Thanks to God and good Canadians, after two and a half months we arrived in Canada. And although we only knew each other online, our new Canadian friends became a new family for us, they helped us get settled. So, it is very difficult to build a life from the beginning, master a new profession, look for a house, equip it, get used to new schools and society, but we hope in God for His support. This was our road to the country in which we want to build our life, not easy, but full of God's blessings and good people whom we will always remember.”

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 believer** 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	ДРИСВЯННИКОВ	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 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>**

Help for Refugees, Inc.
PO Box 5161, Torrance, Ca. 90510, USA.
Email: hfr@helpforrefugees.com,
Gifts are US tax-deductible. Help for Refugees is listed in Publication 78, Cumulative List of Nonprofit Organizations described in Section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Service. For IRS nonprofit status you may use this link: <https://apps.irs.gov/app/eos/allSearch> and enter EIN: 953064521.