

HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC.

A tax-exempt, non-profit corporation

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December 2015

The Gospel of Matthew 5.13-16:

"YE ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH; YE ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD! "



Late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand with wife, Sabina

Late Rev. Richard Wurmbrand spent 14 years in the Romanian communist prisons for his Christian faith.

Mrs. Wurmbrand also was imprisoned nearly three years in same prisons.

From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand

"Ye are the salt of the earth" - says our Savior to His apostles.

And when does He say these words? After the Holy Ghost came on earth, when, as a result of Peter's sermon thousands of people had become Christians? On the contrary ! At the beginning of their walk with Jesus, when they were all ignorant regarding faith and knowledge.

At that time lived famous religious personalities, priests and people of a faultless morale. About neither of them Jesus says : "Ye are the salt of the earth". But He only says these words to the apostles, to some people who He knew will go through big falls. To these people Jesus will promise : "No one will take you from My hands". To them He now says : "Ye are the salt of the earth".

We are the salt of the earth. It is hard to believe, not only for others, but also for ourselves, especially when we look at us. We do not see in us neither "the salt of the earth", nor "the light of the world". It is true, our bodily eyes do not see these things, but God does. When people look at us you feel in their look a taste of distrust and despise, as if they were doubting: "You? You are the salt of the earth?" But the Lord, who sees realities that people do not always notice, confirms : "ye are the salt of the earth, ye are the light of the world".

When Jesus was 30 years old, He started teaching the crowds. His family thought that He had lost His mind. For the natural eyes - even the eyes of the Savior's family - He was only a

young man risking His life recklessly. This is how people wondered about Jesus, saying to each other : "this is the son of the carpenter Joseph!"

There lived then a greatest of all prophets : John the Baptist. One day, He saw Jesus walk by and he said : "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world". His spiritual eyes, opened for spiritual realities, were able to see what the natural eyes could not.

At the age of 33, our Savior ended His earthly life crucified as a wrong-doer, between two other wrong-doers. On the cross, from His mouth were heard the words : "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" He tells it Himself : He is forsaken by God. The people who were at the foot of the cross, looked at the reality seen with bodily eyes and drew the conclusion : "He saved others; Himself He cannot save". And they were right. Jesus remained nailed to the cross.

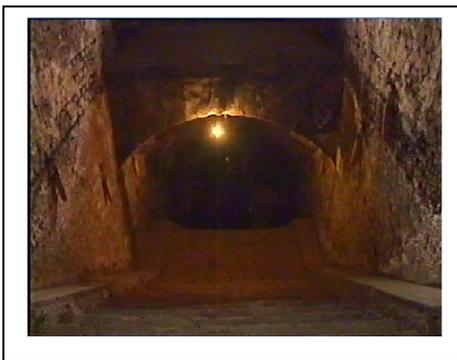
But there, at the foot of the cross, there was a Roman officer. His eyes suddenly opened for spiritual realities, and he says: "Truly, this was the Son of God". (Matthew, 27.54).

And if God tells us we are the salt of the earth, His words are truth more than anything seen by our eyes. We are the salt of the earth, even if the world does not know us. It is true that we have our moments of weakness. In those moments we are "the salt of the earth in weakness" or in disappointment. But we do not stop being the salt of the earth. We believed in Christ ! He expiated on the cross our sins. Through faith in His sacrifice we were considered pure by the Lord. Through Him we are what we are today : the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

Jonah was one of God's prophets. Jonah's way was not one of obedience, but, on the contrary : He doesn't agree with God's plans for himself and for others. He runs away from God. But God does not run away from Jonah. On the contrary, will look for him and bring him back with a strong hand. God seems to say: "Your running away was only a break; go on from where you left off".

Even if we ran away from God and rebelled against His plans, He did not push us aside. We were and we still are His children. We did not obtain this title by our actions or merits. We are in Christ through His grace. And through His grace we will remain until the end. We are the salt of the earth, the light of the world.

God says : "ye are the salt of the earth" and even more than that: "YE ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!"



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.

Help For Refugees (EIN: 95-3064521) is listed in Publication 78, Cumulative List of Organizations described in Section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, a list of organizations eligible to receive tax-deductible charitable contributions. May be checked online at: <http://www.irs.gov/app/pub-78/>

“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



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30.10.2015

Filocalia Foundation – “Richard Wurmbrand” Christian School,
str. Smârdan nr. 13, Iași, 700399, registered as a non-profit
foundation, having the fiscal code 3204471, represented by Mr.
Adonican Dascalu, confirms by this document that we received
\$5,000 on October 30, 2015, from **Help for Refugees**, represented
by Michael Wurmbrand, PO Box 5161, Torrance, Ca, 90510 USA.
This donation was made to support the children from
disadvantaged families.

Filocalia Foundation,

Ec. Adonican Dascălu





Roxana Mahmute, now 14 (left inset) working in the Agape Orphanage laundry. Mother Lucia, deceased in a car accident. Above picture was taken when the accident occurred. Father disappeared!



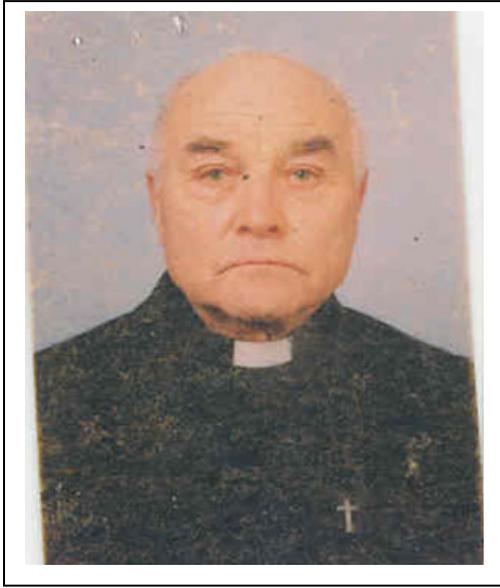
Orphans at the Agape Orphanage participating in farm labor.



Communist prison in Aiud, Romania where Reverend Bota (see below) was held.

The running expenses of the orphanage when started in 1993 by the late Rev. and Mrs. Wurmbrand, amounted to about \$25,000 per year. The European Union and galloping inflation, increased the orphanage running expenses to over \$120,000 per year. 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.

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



**Rev. Ariesan Grigore (87 years old)
A Christian Testimony:**

I was born in the Visuia village, Micesti de Cimpie burrough, Bistrita Nasaud county on 1/31/1928. Myself and 2 brothers became priests of the Uniate Church and were ordained in the underground church in between 1975-1978 (under Ceausescu's communist regime) by Bishop Ioan Dragomir.

In 1948 after the church was outlawed by the communist government all 12 of our bishops were arrested together with university professors but also rank and file believers. Out of our family 3 were arrested. Many of those arrested were kept in communist prisons as long as 15 years and came out in the general amnesty of 1964. Half of the bishops arrested died in prison while the others shortly thereafter. Once I came out of prison I was active in the underground church and celebrated till now as many as 12000 church services. All services celebrated were in the illegal, underground church. I was thrown out of many a layman's job under the accusation I am praying all the time. I worked at the Botanical Garden, at the Romanian railroad and an agriculture-chemical laboratory. We still help as much as we can our grandchildren. For everything, the Name of God be blessed.

Christians helped with your gifts:



Lazar Dorina and family. She is the daughter of Terelai Petrica (see below.)

She wrote: I am one of four children. My father was sentenced to 10 years of communist prison for his faith in Jesus Christ and for his missionary activities. Being a good preacher, many gathered around him asking for "medicine" meaning the Word of God. My father recounted how during his prison time in winter, 60-100 inmates were obliged to try and sleep on the bare cement floor of the cell. There was no heating. Many died frozen. My mother was a nun, thrown out of the monastery when closed by the communist government. Both myself and a sister were forbidden finishing high school since we were children of Christians who were considered "enemies of the communist government!"



TERELAI PETRICA
He wrote before his death: "When arrested (under the communists), I was beaten, interrogated day →

and night, being charged with crimes I never committed. As to the faith I always remained a witness of the truth. I was taken out to forced labor from 4:30AM to 21:30. I was working close to the prison morgue. There I witnessed daily 3-5 corpses having their parts of their legs, heads or ribs cut off or broken (from tortures.) Most prisoners who died though, died of hunger. The icy cold finished all off, as there were no windows or doors during the heavy (Romanian) windy winters. The doors and windows were introduced and tightly shut though during summer (so as to torture us with stuffing heat.). "

Christians helped with your gifts:

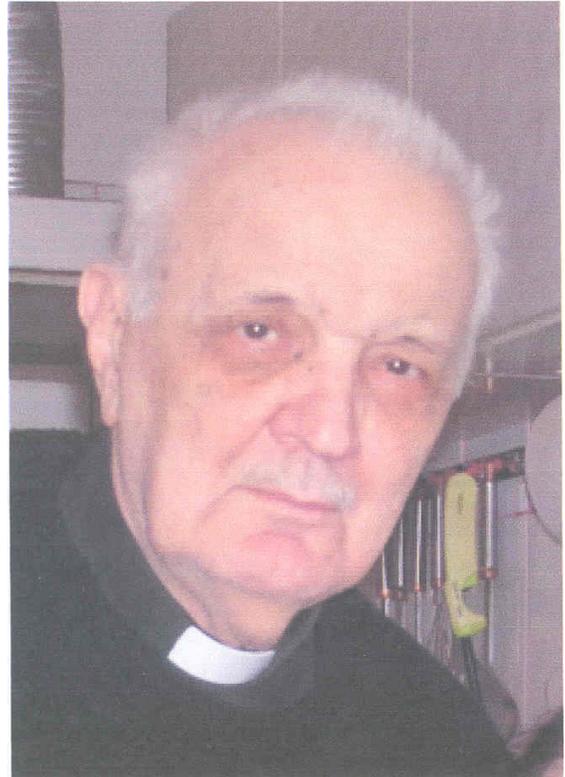


Reverend Ioan Bota (95 years old)

A Christian Testimony:

I am born 1/16/1920 in the Rona de Jos village, Maramures county in a family of 4 boys, 4 girls, father named Mihai, mother Maricuta Nan. I had a very difficult youth and childhood as I earned my living from the age of 12 as a porter and carrying earth and wood. Through the intervention of an uncle-lawyer I was able to be eventually schooled as a teacher and enter an officers school. I fought in WWII and after returning from being a prisoner in the Soviet Union I entered and finished the theological Academy in Blaj in 1948. The same year I was arrested and beaten by the Secret Police Major Ludovic Weiss till I lost consciousness at the communist secret police prison of Satu Mare. I was judged, sentenced and then transferred to the Aiud prison. (Ludovic Weiss was a communist secret police officer / judge who sentenced late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand to 20 years of communist prison! Aiud: one of the worst communist prisons, see picture above. NT)

Christians helped with your gifts:



PR. NISTOR CHISBORA

Reverend Nistor Chisbora (89 years old)

He was born in a family with 10 children. Communists left them poor as they confiscated their possessions. When he finished high school, he wanted to become a minister but since the communist government did not allow him to, he had some foresight and studied and became an agricultural engineer by finishing the university in Timisoara in 1952. While at the university he was arrested for one year. He was lucky because of the need in Romania at the time for agricultural engineers and being young. His father in law though was a minister who made 10 years of communist prison. He had a brother who was a minister leading a fruitful underground activity. Through his brother, once the communist regime was over in Romania, he studied, became a minister. He prays for those who think of the martyred church.