

HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC.

A tax-exempt, non-profit corporation

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Late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand with
wife, Sabina

"Therefore (Lazarus') sisters sent unto Him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick. " (John 11:3)

Late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand spent 14 years in Romanian communist prisons. Mrs. Wurmbrand was imprisoned nearly three years also for her Christian faith in same prisons.

From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand: Trusting God in Prayer

Two Christian monks, one younger and the other advanced in age, planted at the same time an apple tree in their different monasteries. After four years, the younger monk visited his older mentor. The older man's apple tree had produced plenty of fruit and the younger monk complained how his tree had not yet given him one apple. The younger Christian confessed how he had prayed so intensely God make his tree fruitful. His repeated prayers were fulfilled to the letter, but brought no apples at all. Immediately after having planted the tree, the young monk went on his knees in his cloister cell praying, "God, please send quickly plenty of rain so my tree can grow." When he thought, the rain had lasted too long, he prayed the rain should stop and indeed the prayer was granted. The rain stopped immediately. Then he prayed for some sunshine which occurred. In winter, he prayed for less wind and plenty of snow and then in the spring for a quick melting of the snow. His prayers were fulfilled each and every time. He was disappointed when expecting fruit. He asked the older monk, "how did you pray?" The older monk explained he was tired after having planted the tree. Therefore, he kneeled by his bed and said just a short prayer, "Dear God, I planted an apple tree, please take care!"

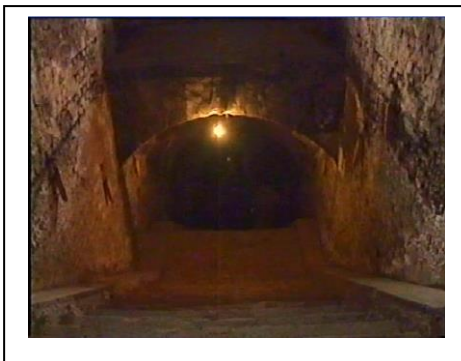
By simply focusing in prayer on our needs we submit totally to the will of Providence. Generally, it is indicated that you say prayers only mentioning your needs without asking for something,

without suggesting to God your imagined plan of what He should or should not do. God, knowing our needs, will do what He deems best.

There are many such prayers in the Bible. The mother of the Lord at the wedding in Cana says only this much: "They have no wine." (John 2:3) The sisters of Lazarus sent Jesus a brief information: "he whom thou lovest is sick. " The nobleman living in Capernaum said to Jesus, "Sir come down before my child dies!" (John 4:49) Jesus' disciples sailing through a life-threatening storm, awoke Jesus when asleep saying, "Master, Master we are perishing!" (Luke 8:24) The ten lepers who stood afar off, realizing that Jesus on his way to Jerusalem was passing close by, shouted only the few words, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" (Luke 17:13) The best example remains the blind man Bartimaeus. Begging by the roadside outside the city of Jericho, he heard many passing him by because among them was Jesus of Nazareth. While the crowd tried to shush him up, he cried twice out loud, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" (Mark 10:48)

Human mind is always in search of a rational, logical faith. Pretending to seek understanding, it tries explain or even question God's miracles. We have many prayers that are not prayers of need but selfish requests. Someone approached Jesus with a proposal, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." Jesus answered him, "Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?" (Luke 12:13-14) The mother of the Zebedee brothers tried to give Jesus a "script" as to what He should do, "Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom." Jesus answered, " You do not know what you asked." (Matthew 20:21-22) Apostle Philip not knowing how to feed a 5,000-people strong crowd started explaining, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little." (John 6:7)

Once we believe God is the creator of this universe what is the point in trying explain God's miracles, what is the point doubting any of the many miraculous stories in the Bible? If God created the universe of course He can make Jonah survive three days in the belly of a large fish, He can part the Red Sea, He can make Jesus resurrect from the dead and have Him ascend to the heavens. Simply trust the Lord with your pressing need.



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.

For the last 40 years, HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC. has extended financial support to Christian refugees from communist countries, orphans and Christians who had been imprisoned for their faith in present and former communist countries. Also helped is the Richard Wurmbrand College, a high school in Iasi where many children of disadvantaged families are able to study. See <http://helpforrefugees.com>. Foreigners may use a "DONATE" button on site. "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)

Christians helped with your gifts

Baptist minister endured 13 years of communist prison



Sister SKORNIAKOV, Nina Stepanovna, 89

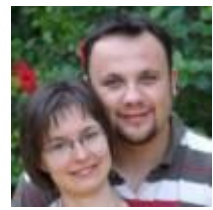
She writes: Dear sisters and brethren: I greet you with the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. I just turned 89. God be given thanks. I realize,



and understand that eternity is getting close. My long sought after meeting with the Lord Jesus whom I followed from my youth when 18 only, is nigh. I married Iacovo Georgi Skorniakov in 1951 and together with him we served God until he was called home in the year 2008. We had a very difficult life, full of trials and persecutions. It was however a beautiful life since we walked in faith. In 1961 inside the Soviet Union all churches were controlled and supervised by the communist government. This (very persecution) produced a spiritual revival! An (underground) leadership of these churches appeared. Many (underground) workers, ministers, elders, youth workers were suddenly arrested by the communist secret police, (the KGB.)

On September 1st 1966, my husband was arrested. He was sentenced to five years of prison and completed his sentence in a Soviet republic at that time, the Kazakhstan. As soon as he finished this sentence he became a church minister. He was arrested by the Soviet authorities eventually a second time in 1976. He got arrested in the city of Rostov-na-Donu and transported a very long distance to the city of Dzhambul, again in Kazakhstan. This very difficult trip was made in a prison-carriage and lasted 42 days. He arrived so sick and famished in Dzhambul that he had to be placed in the prison hospital. He was again sentenced to five years in a maximum-security jail. When about to end the prison term, the communist authorities proposed him to collaborate with the communist police as an informer. My husband Iacovo refused such a collaboration with the KGB. Therefore, when his second prison-term expired, he was not freed but was resented to 3 more years of prison. He was sentenced to an extermination camp from which few ever came back alive. Yet he did return in 1984 even from that camp by God's grace only! He implicated himself fully into God's work till he was called home in 2008. I am still around and wait for the time of my departure to heaven. I thank you all for being close to us Christians, in our difficult moments of persecutions and suffering under communism. God, Bless you!

Children Coming from Disadvantaged Christian Families Helped with Your Gifts The Richard Wurmbrand College in Iasi, Romania



Cristian Lucaci,
principal of the
Richard
Wurmbrand
College
and wife
Rebeca, an
English teacher
in same high
school

The Christian family Scurtu from the Victoria village in northern Romania have 13 children. Three of the children are students in the Richard Wurmbrand College. Father is seriously handicapped due to an accident.

The Richard Wurmbrand Christian school is located in Iasi, in the North-Eastern part of Romania, close to what used to be the border with the Soviet Union. Therefore, the communist influence is still strong in the city. A lot of the children come from poor villages around Iasi. The poverty rate in this area is 40%, being the highest in the country. The poor children statistics read as follows: 16% of children have parents working abroad, 24% are neglected children, 11% are abandoned children, 10% are institutionalized orphans. Some of the activities the children do to support themselves or their families: Beggars 41%; Salesmen 17%; Car-washers 3%; Thieves 2%; Traders 25%; Recyclers 5%; Domestic activities 7%. The Romanian educational system is disastrous. The smallest salaries in the educational system in the European Union are those of the Romanian teachers. A Romanian teacher earns in one

year the amount of money a Danish teacher earns in a month or a Luxemburg teacher in 2 weeks. The average monthly salary of a Romanian teacher is about \$300 while prices of goods in stores are at the level of Western Europe! This Christian School was started in 1995 with the vision to bring the light of the Gospel into the spiritual darkness of the Romanian society. The spiritual darkness can be seen from the fact that recently one million pilgrims came to Iasi to worship the bones of a local saint.



Some Romanian villages families still rely for their water on common wells. Pails of water for each household are carried by hand.

Due to tax laws inside Romania and Eastern Europe, some help needs be sent through the local Romanian nonprofit Sabina Wurmbbrand Christian Association. The financial support is distributed in turn as financial aid to Richard Wurmbbrand High School, the Agape Orphanage or most of it to many Christians in Eastern Europe, most of them now 70 years old to well into their 90s. Everyone endured many years of communist prison.

Orphans helped with your gifts

Look from what dilapidated buildings and surroundings they come!



1990: Romanian Orphans Immediately After the Fall of Communism

Help for Refugees, PO Box 5161, Torrance, Ca. 90510, USA. Email: hfr@helpforrefugees.com, website: <http://helpforrefugees.com> (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/>

Orphans Helped with Your Gifts!

Orphans Taken-In by the Agape Christian Orphanage



Some Children Singing Christian Songs for Visitors

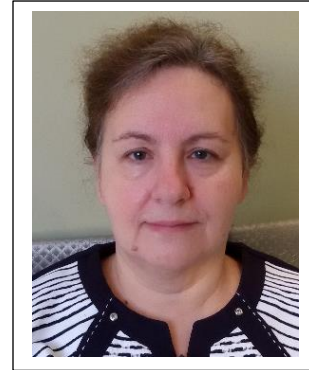
The Agape Orphanage was started by late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand and his wife Sabina in 1993 on their last trip to Romania. At the time, Romania had close to 200,000 orphans within a population of 20 million inhabitants. The United States with a population of 345 million, has less than 130,000 orphans. The orphanage operations costs are now 10 times the running budget of 1993 (around \$12,000/month.)

**Christians helped with your gifts
An active minister at the age of 92!**



Eugen Blajut writes: In 1948, when the communists took over our country, Romania, I was a 1st year student in Mathematics. After the first year, during the summer recess, I was arrested in the village of Halaucesti and was transported to the Bacau prison. I was then transported farther to the prison of Galati and from there to a prison named Balta Alba and three other prisons. I apologize if due to my advanced age I cannot remember the names of all these prisons. In Galati I was sentenced by a communist military tribunal for the crime of plotting against the state. This “plotting against the communist state” accusation was referring to my Christian witnessing. I was sentenced to four years of communist prison under the accusation I was making religious propaganda at the university and spreading Christian flyers. These were simple discussions about the Christian faith, I entertained with fellow students. I was sentenced on the 16th of January, 1950 to a four-years prison term (sentence number 695.) Four years later I was freed and I decided to continue to live in the Romanian province called Transylvania. I continued (secretly) my theological studies, was ordained and moved to the province of Moldova to be able to minister (in an underground capacity.) Again, I apologize having forgotten details of so many of my activities I was involved in (under communism.) From all my heart, I wish you God's blessing upon all your Christian work.

**Christians helped with your gifts
Imprisoned at the age of 23 for her
Christian activities**



Sister IUDINTEVA Olga's Testimony

She writes: “I greet you with the peace and love of our Lord Jesus. I was born in the city of Moscow in 1963. My father Victor Kryuchkov disappeared one day in 1959. We could not find him anymore. My mother had to raise me by herself. I am a member of the (underground) church since 1978. The communist persecutions against myself started in 1981. I was arrested by force one day and brought to some (KGB) office. Two men asked me to stop attending church and intervene for our brethren and sisters who had been imprisoned for religious activities. Provided I assent, I was promised to be able to attend any institution of higher learning of my choice. I did not cave in and as a result I was promptly dismissed from my work place, at the age of 19 remaining without work. I took advantage of this lack of employment to implicate myself even more in Christian work, gathering materials, testimonies, names and pictures about the Christians who had been imprisoned and their families. I participated in the underground printing of a bulletin containing all such information. Together with another Christian sister, Andrushenko Lyudmila, we were arrested in 1986 by the Soviet authorities. We were interrogated during six months and then sentenced each to two years of prison. The trial took place in a large auditorium, full of students, and communist state employees. We were subjected to being publicly condemned and mocked by all these present. During the prison terms, such mockery and ill treatment continued from prison authorities but also from fellow prisoners. Unexpectedly, when Mikhail Gorbachev became president of the Soviet Union, a decree was issued and all religious prisoners were freed. Coming out of prison, I was able to marry but continued to not being able to be employed because of administrative, political chicanery. (Due to the prison term) I could not prove residence in my own home town. We live presently with my family in a Moscow suburb, have four children. We are happy and wish you happiness. May God richly bless you!”