

HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC.

A tax-exempt, non-profit corporation

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We help orphans and elderly Christians (many in their eighties, even 90s) who had been imprisoned for their faith in present or former communist countries.

At this critical moment, we also help many Christian refugees from Ukraine!



Late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand with wife, Sabina

November 2024

Announcement:

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

"And he shall speak great words against the most High and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time. "
Daniel 7:25

Late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand suffered. 14 years in Romanian communist prisons. Mrs. Wurmbbrand, Sabina, 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From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand

THE HOLY SPIRIT CANNOT FAIL

When St. Peter was in prison, "prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him" (Acts 12:5). Now there are some bishops and fake theologians who undermine the faith of Christian prisoners.

The Marxist rulers in procommunist regimes, who belong to the devouring system, called by this prophet "the fourth beast," speak great words against the most High stating "God died." In order to prove their point, they quote as authorities the Anglican Bishop John Robinson, the fake-theological professor Thomas Altizer, and some German traitors to Christianity, who are allowed to remain leaders and teachers in the church, though they say that God is dead. Their misguided message comes from the 19th century German philosopher Nietzsche who as a heavy drug addict died in an insane asylum.

Tens of thousands of Christians have been imprisoned and tortured. I was imprisoned in communist Romania for more than 14 years. These bishops and fake theologians don't sympathize with those persecuted. They don't pity them. Just the quotations from the bishops are the worst poison.

They give to Marxists weapons wherewith they try to destroy the faith which they have striven to keep through decades of hunger, torture and humiliation.

They call themselves Christians but have essentially the same conception as Lenin who wrote "Every religious idea, every idea of God, even flirting with the idea of God is unutterable vileness" (Letter to Gorki). The modernists are the mouthpiece of the beast, while Communist rulers are its butchers.

Closure of churches, jailing and torturing of Christians must surely cause a wearing out of the saints, as Daniel prophesied. But, surprisingly, the persecuted underground churches in all communist countries like in communist China are the fastest growing churches. How is this possible?

According to the law of gravity, all objects are attracted towards the center of the earth. But flowers grow upwards, and planes rise to high altitudes, not that the law of gravity is false. It is because gravity is not the only law. Biological laws are at work in the case of the flower, laws of aerodynamics in the case of the airplane. There exist forces in nature which overcome the force of gravity.

Psychology tells you that the result of prolonged persecution, united with betrayal from the side of some church leaders who weaken the faith, can only be wearing out the saints. But this depressive force is not the only one. It is counteracted by the power of the Holy Spirit. It is counteracted by the Communion of the Saints.

No, these persecuted Christians are not wearied or worn out, neither by the tyrants nor by their accomplices of modernist fake-theology. They are strengthened by the knowledge that they are not alone in their fight.

But neither are the saints worn out in the free world. Here also the communion of saints is working. Christians, encouraged by the testimony of brethren in communist lands, take a stand. If the Communists, infiltrate the church, we Christians should infiltrate communist countries with smuggled-in Christian literature and Bibles. We have not been wearied by persecutors and torturers. We had not been wearied by traitors and crooks. We are not wearied by the hopelessly naive. You also should not allow the many troubles of your own lives to wear you out. You are not alone, but in a great communion of suffering and triumphing saints. Fourth beast, you fight in vain with the Bride of Christ! Yes, your oppression and deception wear out. The strength of God and that of the Communion of Saints shows itself more powerful than your tiring influence.



The Communist Jilava Prison.
Entrance to the underground cells.



Prison cell with bunkbeds 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)



Your gifts have allowed us to help financially, orphans housed in the Agape Orphanage in Pascani, Romania, an orphanage started in 1993 by late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand and his wife Sabina Wurmbrand; also the Richard Wurmbrand College (an established, accredited Evangelical school, 1-12 grades) in Iasi, Romania.

Apartment house destroyed through Russian bombing in Mariupol, Ukraine, where 40% of whole town has been close to obliterated.

Over six million refugees have escaped so far from Ukraine into different European countries.

Ukrainian Christian Refugees Helped with Your Gifts!





Sister Galina STRIZHACHUK wrote:

“On February 24, I (mother) and my three children Oksana (19 years old), Diana (15 years old), Karolina (8 years old) left the city of Odessa in connection with the aggressor's invasion of Ukraine. We left for western Ukraine with the hope of returning soon, but already on February 26, we felt that reconnaissance drones had been launched from the side of Belarus (they were flying over the place where we were in the Volyn region). We decided to leave for Poland - the road to customs took 48 hours, although it was 8.5 miles long. Every 5-10 minutes I drove forward. We were in an old car, me and my children. My husband remained in Odesa for the time being, as he had no opportunity to leave. 48 hours with almost no sleep, but with the hope of saving children's lives. We reached the border and just passed the control and drove a few miles - we had no strength left.

I simply stopped the car by the road and told the children that I would fall asleep for 15 minutes. They watched over my sleep. And then I heard a knock on the side window - a Polish policeman was knocking and saying something. When I woke up, I realized that he was asking if everything was fine with me, if I needed any help - I simply answered that I really wanted to sleep, and we were already moving on. He wished a good journey and drove off. We went further. We drove for eight hours to the place where we found temporary accommodation. Then we moved from place to place for almost a month. Then Ukrainians called us from Germany (who also came there from Odesa) and said that there is a small room where they can shelter us. That's how we set off in our old car to Germany. How did you get there? Angels were probably carrying the car - it definitely wouldn't have made it. Now we are in Germany all the time, helping Ukrainians, informing and serving them. At the moment, we are working, serving in the Church of the Word of Faith (Warsaw), involved in the project of intellectual space, which is held in the Life center.

Changing our usual life is not easy. But I am with the children, they inspire and give me strength to serve and do good. And how much pain and moving, sleeping in a car, malnutrition, it's hard to believe that they've gone through it. And we move forward.”

Sister Dina LUKACHIUK wrote: “One morning, when I woke up, an acquaintance called me and said that the war had started, I couldn't believe it. How to exist and what to do, alone in the city with a 1.5-year-old son. Also, the acquaintance said that there are very long queues in stores and that you can't buy anything, because the shelves are empty. And you can't withdraw money from an ATM because there isn't enough cash. There are traffic jams on the roads, everyone is leaving the city to reach their relatives wherever they can. And what should I do? I was even afraid to look out the windows, not to go outside. Not knowing where the rocket would fall now, it was very scary. My husband, who was in Poland (fortunately) at the time, told me to take the most necessary things and leave for Poland. I found out when the bus to Warsaw would be, put my son in the stroller, took my suitcase and hurried to the bus. The bus station was full of people, everyone was crowding, shouting, wanting to get on the bus, but the driver took only women with children. We somehow squeezed into the bus, drove to the border for a long time, stood in line all night, but thank God we passed the border. Now we have three children. I am not working, as I have to be with the children. Only God knows how our life will turn out.”





“My name is Tetyana Yakovenko, I am 65. Our parents lived and died here in Ukraine, our children were born and grew up here. I have been in the field of education for almost 40 years, my husband Viktor, has worked in railway transport for over 50 years. We enjoyed life and were simply happy! That was until February 24, 2022.

And then - shelling, devastation, tears, pain, suffering... How could this happen?". After 10 days of the full-scale invasion of the Russian army on Ukrainian land, our city was occupied by the enemy. Life in the city suddenly changed - round-the-clock automatic gun rounds, shell explosions, helicopters and airplanes circled over the city incessantly. There was no electricity, gas, water, or communication in the city. Pharmacies and shops were smashed and looted by the enemy, the district hospital and residential buildings were damaged by the explosion. The blood of the defenders of the city was shed, including our acquaintances and friends. One enemy shell hit our summer kitchen. Only a few minutes saved my life, because I was in this kitchen and had just left when the explosion rang out. The building of the kitchen and our house was damaged, part of the roof was demolished, the panes in the windows were blown out. We hid from the shelling in a neighbor's basement, where we stayed for more than two weeks. It was very cold there (3-5 degrees), humid, dark, without any conditions for normal existence. We had little water and food, we saved. A candle was lit for a short time. Children were afraid to even talk out loud, I was crying all the time. And we all prayed. We prayed as hard as we could, the words came straight from the heart. Very difficult memories, painful. Viktor says that he still feels the icy touch of the barrel of an enemy machine gun on his back when Russian soldiers took him out of our home yard. We could not continue to live like this and began to look for ways to leave the occupied territory. By the will of fate, with few suitcases, covering a long and long way, we escaped from the war and got to Estonia in the city of Tallinn. Now I understand that fate did not bring us here. I am sure that it was God's will.

For the first six months, my family and I lived in Tallinn on an ordinary ship that was adapted for the temporary accommodation of Ukrainian refugees.

During these six months, my man had two heart attacks, and in January underwent a major heart operation. His health has deteriorated and he is scheduled for another operation - on his eyes. I was diagnosed with cancer, with metastases. I passed the first course of chemotherapy and radiation, but the complex treatment is still ongoing. Until then, the time spent on the ship was over and we were forced to rent a small apartment. There is always a shortage of funds. It seems like it will never end.

My husband and I were invited to a service at the "Salt of the Earth" evangelical Christian church. I was impressed by everything: the friendliness and goodwill of all the brothers and sisters present, the warmth and care of Pastor Pavel and his wife Natalia Duchenko, simplicity and trust in communication. I felt that it was the Lord who showed us the way to this Church and entered my heart.

After all, the Lord Himself knows when we need his word, his support. Since then, my husband and I come to the "Salt of the Earth" church every Wednesday and Sunday, read the word of the Lord at home and in the church chat, glorify and thank Him for every moment of our life. From Pastor Pavel, we learned about assistance to Ukrainian refugees from Help For Refugees project. Pastor Paul, aware of our predicament, advised us to write you a letter asking you to give us the help that we really need, especially in this difficult time. The composition of our family in Estonia: Daughter - Alina Yuriivna; Son - Anatoly Yuriyovych,; The eldest son - Ihor Viktorovych, is in Ukraine, in the city of Zaporizhzhia. My husband and I are pensioners, our daughter is a student, and our son does not work due to his health.”

With much respect and blessings to you
Tatyana Yakovenko, Tallinn, Estonia.

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 four million have escaped the current war and another three 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, one million Ukrainians have sought asylum already. **Refugees come at times at the rate of 10,000 every 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 closer to the 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 dependable 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 three adults and twelve children. Most of these refugees entertain the illusion of taking refuge out of their native country and their lodging and work, for a brief 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 these newsletters a few testimonies and some receipts of scores more, documenting what I wrote above.

*(**Update February 2024:** Refugees still pour-in most days at the rate of 8,000-10,000!) Michael Wurmbrand

409	Власенко	Валентин	Медфодьевич	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

Above, a **sample only** of a lengthy 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 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 obtaining 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 speaking 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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