

HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC.

A tax-exempt, non-profit corporation

Michael Wurmland, President

Tel. (310) 544-0814, Fax: (310) 377-0511.

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

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



Late Reverend Richard Wurmland with wife, Sabina

January 2018

" Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus."

(Acts 4:13)

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

From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmland

The 19 Joys That Make Christian Believers Be Radiant

I had the opportunity to meet a very rich person who explained to me how he became wealthy. He had been poor in his youth yet he came upon an inspiring idea. When in his early twenties looking for a job, he felt even being close to something of value, might somehow help him out of his poverty. He thought of needing "rubbing shoulders" with those wealthy. Thus he sought to be hired on purpose in a menial job of a liftboy inside a gold mine company. Eventually the owner of the company, riding the lift, entered one day in a longer conversation with him. The owner found him reliable for some discrete errands, he had him advance in the company. He arrived to marry the owner's daughter. When the owner died, he inherited the gold mine.

There is no way for a Christian to be close to the Savior and not be recognized as someone sharing in the joy of His resurrection. Nobody else in the mankind's history, has been able to defeat death. In the Gospel of Luke we are told how two disciples having to walk a distance of about 7 miles out of Jerusalem, met a fellow-traveler. They did not recognize this "stranger" who told them, "you walk and are sad." (Luke 24:17) Eventually, when reaching their destination, they had a revelation: this was the resurrected Jesus. They cancelled their further journey, returned on the spot to Jerusalem, to find the other disciples whom the Gospel describes being beyond belief, full of "joy and marvel!" (Luke 24:41) This happened exactly how Jesus had foretold: "your sorrow shall be turned into joy." (John 16:20)

Here are the 19 reasons to be recognized "YOU ARE WITH JESUS!"

- **Your name is for eternity inscribed in the Book of Life.** Jesus said: “Rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.” (Luke 10:20)
- **You own an incredible fortune!** “The kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.” (Matthew 13:44)
- **Your are in the presence of God.** “Thy presence (Lord) is fulness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.” (Psalms 16:11)
- **Fellowship with the risen Lord.** “Truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. These things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.” (1st Epistle of John 1:3-4)
- **Being saved!** King David wrote: “Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation!” (Psalms 51:12)
- **Being “in the spirit!”** “For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.” (Romans 14:17)
- **Having obtained God’s Word.** “Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart.” (Jeremiah 15:16)
- **Jesus speaks to us.** “These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.” (John 15:11)
- **Receiving what we ask in Jesus Name.** Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. (John 16:24)
- **We are citizens of the Heavenly Jerusalem where there will be no tears.** “Rejoice ye with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all ye that love her.” (Isaiah 66:10)
- **Obtaining a spiritual harvest!** “They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.” (Psalms 126:5)
- **Bringing peace!** “counsellors of peace (have) joy.” (Proverbs 12:20)
- **Judging righteously.** “It is joy to the just to do judgment.” (Proverbs 21:15)
- **We make heaven even rejoice.** “Joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.” (Luke 15:7)
- **Christians weep with those who weep and therefore can share in everyone's joy as well.** “Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.” (Romans 12:15)
- **Being in the communion of believers.** “I hope to come to you and speak face to face, that our joy may be full.” (2nd Epistle of John 1:12)
- **Being truthful.** “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.” (3rd Epistle of John 1:4)
- **Being strong when suffering for the faith.** “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations.” (James 1:2)
- **Jesus is ruling!** “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:2)

In this world of woe, those who walk with Jesus have the boldness be joyful. They know suffering and even death will not prevail. The Psalmist wrote: “I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. They looked unto Him, and were radiant: and their faces were not ashamed.” (Psalms 34: 3-4)



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 past 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 the Richard Wurmbrand College, a high school in Iasi, Romania where many children of disadvantaged families are able to study. See <http://helpforrefugees.com>. Anyone may use a "DONATE" button on site. Due to tax laws inside Romania and Eastern Europe, some help needs be sent through the local Romanian nonprofit Sabina Wurmbrand Christian Association.

"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)

Russian Christians Helped with Your Gifts!

ПЕТРАКОВ Федор Ильич, 1903 г. рождения. Арестован 21.XII.1971г. /В тюрьме г.Кривой Рог
ВИБЕ Агон Арсенович, 1910 г. рождения. Арестован 11/III-1971 г. Осужден на 5 лет лагеря
ХАРИТОНОВ Матвей Петрович, 1890г. рождения. Арестован 27.II-1971г. Осужден на 5 лет лагеря с конокашней имуществ
КОПЕНКОВ Федор Еремеевич, 1909 г. рождения. Арестован 3.II.1971 г. Осужден на 3 года лагерей строгого режима.
БОРОНЦ Иван Андреевич, 1924 г. рождения. Арестован 3.XI.1971г. Осужден на 5 лет лагерей и 5 лет ссылки.
ЮРИНИН Александр Николаевич, 1914 г. рождения. Арестован 25/У-1971 г. Осужден на 3 года лагерей строгого режима.
ДАНЬЧЕНКО Николай Григорьевич, 1928г. рождения. Арестован 27.II-1971г. Осужден на 5 лет лагеря с конокашней имуществ
ОЛЕННИКОВ Федор Владимирович, 1903г. рожден. Арестован 29.У1-1971г. Осужден на 2 г.лагеря
КОБОРЕЗОВ Алексей Тимолеевич, 1933 г. рождения. Арестован 14.У-1971 г. Осужден на 5 лет лагеря строгого режима.
МИНЕНКО Даниил Иванович, 1934 г. рождения. Арестован 15-VI - 1971 г. Осужден на 3 г.лагеря строгого режима.
Ястребов Владимир Степанович, арестован 3.V-1971г. осужден на 3 года лагерей
ВИНОГРАДСКИЙ Даниил Михайлович, 1930 г.р. Арестован 16-VI-1971г. Осужден на 3 года лагерей строгого режима
АНДРЕШЕНКО Павел Павлович, 1928 г. рождения. Арестова 15.II.1971г. Осужден на 3 г.лагеря
МОШНИКОВ Николай Алексеевич, 1927 г. рождения. Арестован 24.УII-1971г. Осужден на 2,5 года принудительных работ.
ПОИУНОВ Федор Акимович, 1930 г. рождения. Арестован 14.II-1971г. Осужден на 5 лет лагеря строгого режима.
ДОМИНЕНКО Яков Юмич, 1929 г. рождения. Арестован 7.II.1971г. Осужден на 2,5 г.лагеря
ЗАНН Иван Филиппович, 1919 г. рождения. Арестован 16.II-1970 г. Осужден на 4 г.лагеря уси.режима и 4г.ссылки в конокашней имуществ
МУХИН Александр Семенович, 1931 г. рождения. Арестован 19.УII-1971 г. Осужден на 5 лет лагеря
СЛЕПОВ Владимир Арсенович, 1928 г. рождения. Арестован 27/II-1971г. Осужден на 2,5 г.лагеря
ГОРДИМОВИЧ Степан Васильевич, 1938 г. рождения. Арестован 27.II-1971 г. Осужден на 2,5 г.лагеря
БОЛДАКОВ Петр Васильевич, 1949 г. рождения. Арестован 5.УII.1971г. Осужден на 3 г.лагеря
РИЗОВИК Андрей Петрович, 1928 г. рождения. Арестован 20/II-1971 г. Осужден на 4 г.лагеря
ГОРЮБЕВ Борислав Петрович, 1931 г. рождения. Арестован 26.III-1971г. Осужден на 3 г.лагеря
Годик Владимир Павлович, 1938г. рождения. Арестован 17.I-1972г. Осужден на 3 г.лагеря усиленного режима.

One of the pages of the newsletter of the unregistered Baptists in the former Soviet Union, printed and circulated surreptitiously. In spite of terrible persecution from the KGB (Soviet secret police) these circulars appeared without major interruption from the late 1960s up until 1987. The magazine kept up publishing names and addresses of imprisoned Baptists. Their heavy communist prison sentences were indicated under each picture. It was calculated that if all the sentences of only Baptists believers, arrested for their Christian faith, in the former Soviet Union, had been added up, the total of these prison sentences would have amounted to more than 5,000 years of prison. The editors of this magazine titled "Bulletin", promised not to come for at least 6 months out of the secret home where these were printed and multiplied.

Circled above, the picture of brother Fedor Akimovich POIUNOV, now 80, one of the Christians we could locate and help (see his testimony on next page!) At time of arrest he was 30 years old and ended up being sentenced twice, making because of his Christian faith, 7 years of hard labor. We try and help hundreds of such persecuted believers. Most of them live at their old age on hardly more than US \$50 a month. Read next page on Pastor Kozorezov (red arrow.)



Christian Helped with Your Gifts, 7 Years Prison for his Faith!
 Brother Fedor Akimovich POIUNOV writes:

Beloved sisters and brethren laboring together in the Gospel field, greetings! I thank the Lord who inspired you to undertake such work. The communist persecution of believers inside the former

Soviet Union intensified in the 1960s, especially in my city (named) Omsk, Russia.

The majority of the churches did not accept the new communist laws governing all Christian denominations. These laws were drafted specifically to liquidate once and for all Christian believers. A delegation from the Central Leadership of the Baptist Denomination in Moscow, came to our church in Omsk, urging us to accept the communist government authority as expressed in these laws. We tried arguing with them, proving how these laws interfered with our faith. We explained we cannot subject ourselves to such atheistic laws. The church ended up split. Most believers, ministers, elders who opposed these communist laws were arrested and sentenced to long prison terms. We sent in 1966 representatives to the Central Committee of the Communist Party in Moscow (intending our opposition to be peaceful. A distance from Omsk of 1,700 miles or 35 hours by train.) We forwarded complaints and petitions regarding the persecution of our churches. What followed, was an even more intensified persecution of all believers on the part of the communist authorities. First arrested were our minister Kozorezov (see in previous page, red arrow) and two believers-sisters. Then they arrested the ministers Nicolai Romanovich and Peter Popov. In November 1967 myself ended up arrested as well. The prison conditions were atrocious. We lacked any proper food. I completed the first prison-term having been sentenced at first to a two years of prison-time and when I had served this prison-term I was again arrested and sentenced to five additional years of communist jail. The communist authorities tried to urge me to a compromise. Thus after 3½ years I was offered freedom if I accepted these communist anti-Christian laws. I did not yield and therefore I continued being kept in prison.

I thank the Lord for sustaining us during all this time we were in the communist jails. We witnessed His (Protecting) Hand on us. God Bless!

Your brother Poiunov Fedor (now 80 years old) living in the city of Omsk, Russia.”

Christian Helped with Your Gifts



The Smetaniuks

Brother Petru Vasile SMETANIUK writes: “I was called to the ministry and was ordained as a pastor in the year 1962. Few Christians at the time dared openly lead a church. Many were scared that if true to their Christian calling, they would be arrested and sentenced to heavy years of communist prison. I accepted this calling and immersed myself fully in God’s work. Due to my uncompromising stand, I ended up being arrested in August 1971 and sentenced to three years of communist prison. My prison time was difficult being subjected to hard labor. I did forced labor in a foundry. Food was sparse. This prison held over 1,200 inmates. I also worked in the prison mess. Prisoners asked for food and I had none to give. I ended up being personally threatened. The communist authorities asked me to compromise my faith and collaborate with them by betraying other believers. Somehow I kept a Bible but it was discovered upon a thorough search and the communist authorities punished me drastically. For six months, I could not receive any menial food-packages from my family. Once freed from the communist prisons, I restarted ministering to underground church meetings. This is a short description of the difficult life of believers in the communist Soviet system. Am now residing in the Chernivtsi County, Ukraine. My thanks to God. We never lacked His protection. God bless you with His peace.”

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/> (To find, enter the EIN!)

Christian Helped with Your Gifts

Two Sisters, Each Got 3 Years of Communist Prison



Sidorova Vera Panteleevna writes: “I was born in 1948 and my sister Sidorova Nadejda Panteleevna in 1951. Our parents were Baptist believers, members in an unregistered church in Novokuznetsk, the former Soviet Union. The church had to remain unregistered since the communist laws regarding churches were enacted on purpose to control totally religious life and destroy eventually the faith. The officially “registered” denominations were under the supervision of a so-called “Commissioner for All Religious Cults.” Pastors had to report regularly to this communist, atheist commissioner. He needed approve who preached, who was supposed to be ordained, baptized or had some church activity. Unless this commissioner gave such approval, whatever the members of the church decided, was of no importance. The communist commissioner of cults forbade any religious education of children. The communist state considered such education of youngster very dangerous for the atheistic government and therefore many believers ended up imprisoned for activities with children. Together with my sister we were active in an underground printing shop. We issued the forbidden religious publication Khristianin (The Christian.) In it, were also published names, addresses, sentences and even pictures of many imprisoned believers. Also printed were tens of thousands of New Testaments. Several Christian workers, us included, ended up arrested by the KGB in 1980. While interrogated, we were offered many times to be let free if we betrayed coworkers and collaborated with the KGB. Since we refused categorically to be traitors like Judas, our sentence was the maximum term of three years prison. We were incarcerated in the city of Sverdlovsk, Siberia, Russia. At the end of the three-years prison sentence we continued our Christian activities and were not caught again. We live together as we have no other family. May God bless you richly.”

Christian Helped with Your Gifts Disadvantaged Child Became a Teacher



Andrea, now 29, writes: “I work as an elementary school teacher at Richard Wurmbrand College, a Christian Elementary-, Middle- and High-School in Iasi, Romania. This is the same school where I had also studied for 8 years.

I come from a big family – there are 11 of us, 7 boys and 4 girls. When growing up, it was difficult for my parents provide for us. At the end of 4th grade, one of my friends challenged me to try to enroll for the entrance exam at the Richard Wurmbrand College. By God’s grace I passed the exam and what followed was one of the most wonderful periods of my life. The years I spent studying went by quickly, almost too quickly, but looking back I have dear memories of teachers investing in me. I am what I am today because of the people who modelled character for me – my teachers helped me develop and gain trust in myself and in God. They were fully aware I came from a big family and our financial possibilities were limited to say the least, but I never felt discriminated or set aside because of our poor financial status. There were times when I knew my family could not afford to pay the school fee and we felt blessed when the headmaster allowed us to come help with the summer cleaning and redecorating. This way, we could pay in work what we could not afford to pay with money.

More than that, when my youngest sister enrolled in the school, we were helped by wonderful people whom we do not know, people we never met offering to sponsor us throughout school. What a lesson in Christian generosity! At the end of my studies, the same friend who had challenged me to enroll in the school, encouraged me to apply for a job as a teacher at the Richard Wurmbrand College. Thank you all donors!”

Orphans Helped with Your Gifts

Six years ago, sisters Elena and Diana V. arrived, at the request of the local Social Assistance Office, in the Christian Agape Orphanage, in the city of Pascani, Romania. Both girls were discovered in utter poverty, dwelling with a grandmother who was on her deathbed. Their mother had them as a result of a brief relation. Father disappeared. Mother was found insane, a pyromaniac even, trying to burn down their house, putting again and again her clothing on fire. She was feeding herself and the girls by rummaging through local garbage bins. At first, when arriving at Agape, the girls were withdrawn, scared, full of lice.

Now, 14 and 15 years old, they study hard, have excellent grades and displayed a particular talent in drawing and painting. They are a great joy to all the Agape Christian workers. The Agape Orphanage was founded by late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand and his wife Sabina on their last trip to Romania in 1993.



Elena, 8 years old in 2011, when received in the Agape Orphanage



Elena's sister, Diana at 9

FUNDAȚIA CREȘTINĂ PENTRU COPII



AGAPE

Placeti str. Dragoș - Voda nr. 23 jud. Iași ROMANIA 705200 Cco fiscal 9619867
 Cont: RO11BANCB013601587189001 Tel: 0040 232 705670 / 701129 fax: 0040 232 705077
www.orphansinstitute.com e-mail: agape.pascani@yahoo.com
 The Orphanage The Kindergarten

CONFIRMARE

Fundația Creștină pentru Copii "AGAPE" din Pașcani str. Dragoș-Vodă nr. 23, jud. Iași, ROMANIA confirmă prin prezenta că a primit din partea **Asociației Creștine Sabina Wurmbrand**, în data de 29.09.2017 suma de 4.000,00 lei (patrumii lei), conform contractului de donație.

Fundația Creștină pentru Copii "AGAPE" din Pașcani str. Dragoș-Vodă nr. 23, jud. Iași, ROMANIA confirmă prin prezenta că a primit din partea **Asociației Creștine Sabina Wurmbrand**, în data de 29.09.2017 suma de 4.000,00 lei (patrumii lei), conform contractului de donație.

Banii se vor folosi în scopul susținerii și educației copiilor orfani ocrotiți în Centrul de Plasament al fundației AGAPE. Vă mulțumim.

Copy of two of the receipts for a total of US \$2,000 (different dates.)