

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

December 2017

**"Remember that thou magnify (God's) work,
which men behold."**

(Job 36:24)

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From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmland

God Is Love

A pastor rode in a train, in a packed compartment. A teenager disturbed all the passengers by continually leaving and reentering the compartment. The pastor asked him, "Don't you see that there is no place for so much going to and fro? Why don't you stay in one place like everybody else?"

The teenager answered, "I am the prodigal son of the Bible. I heaped shame on my family by going to jail for theft. Today I was released. From jail I had written to mother asking her to intervene with father to forgive me. I told her that if he does, she, should tie a white handkerchief to the cherry tree in front of our house. Our train passes the house. If I see the handkerchief—I wrote—I will return and try to make restitution for my past evil. If not, no other way remains open for me than to rejoin the gang. Our train will soon approach the house, and I am nervous. I don't even have the courage to look through the window. What if there is no handkerchief on the tree?"

The pastor told the young man to sit inside the compartment. He would look out on his behalf and tell him. After a few minutes, the pastor, who had gotten the necessary explanations about the house, cried to the youngster, "Sorry, my friend, there is no white handkerchief on the tree—but instead the tree is full of big white sheets! So much does your father wait for you."

Our heavenly Father loves us even more. His plan of salvation is so simple. That's what I love about Jesus' teaching. Even a child may grasp such. "being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" writes Apostle Paul (Romans 5:1) Such peace of mind is beyond any understanding. It comes from knowing that God's love is continuing without end.

Praise God for this hope that does not deceive. We need praise God for not ever abandoning us. We should praise God for His righteousness and holiness. He always triumphs over evil. It is incredibly reassuring that being committed to righteousness, evil will be defeated. It is a privilege to be used by God to reveal Him to someone else. We need praise God for His perfection. "Shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct him?" (Job 40:2)

God's grace is without bounds. "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" writes again Apostle Paul (Romans 8:32) Indeed in the Parable of the Prodigal Son, God, the Father is quoted as saying, "all that I have is thine!" (Luke 15:31)

When God revealed himself to Moses, Moses wrote what God spoke to him: "this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain. And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? **And God said unto Moses, I Am That I Am:** and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, **I Am** hath sent me unto you. (Exodus 3:12-14)

"I Am" is beyond what we usually name "is" and "is not." In usual parlance, we define "brightness" as "is light," while "darkness" as "there is not" light. Yet, who calls one "is" and the other "is not" is our uninterrupted consciousness. Being in God's image, an "uninterrupted is!" We need have no doubts of God's existence as He is an existence beyond the human limited notions of whatever we think exists. Where do all our thoughts of goodness, forgiveness, spirituality, our very intelligence and higher knowledge, our best endeavors come from, if God did not exist? Even our ignorance is proof of God's existence. How can we ever hope to know more and better unless we have faith there is an all-knowing God? Because of the existence of an intelligent Creator humans may be sure that beyond the limits of knowledge, there is not just chaos but limitless knowledge. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." (James 1:17) This God named "I AM" is love! Christians keep themselves in the love of God. (Jude 1:17) Our very existence is a praise of God's works.



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 are the Agape Orphanage founded by late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand and the Richard Wurmbbrand 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.

"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!

Courageous Bible-Smugglers in Communist Romania



On the right, brother Silvestru Tcaciuc with one of the train-engine mechanics

A Bible-Smuggling Story That Can Be Told Only Now.

Brother Silvestru Tcaciuc age 85, described his activity as a Bible smuggler during the persecutions against Christians in communist Romania. He became a baptized Christian in his early twenties, after returning from serving in the army.

Two Christians brethren Vasile Rascol (sentenced later to 5 years of communist prison, now living in the US) and brother Constantin Caraman (suffered himself 7 years of communist prison for his Christian faith, deceased) contacted and asked him to be a conduit for thousands

of Russian Bibles to be smuggled into the Soviet Union. These Bibles were provided by the Christian missionary group started by the Wurmbbrand family in the United States and collaborating with similar missions in Germany, Switzerland and the Netherlands. Some of the larger quantities of Bibles were introduced surreptitiously into Romania with the help of a Christian captain commanding a regular ship-cruise on the Danube river, between Austria and Romania.

Brother Silvestru's cousin was a train engine conductor on regular scheduled trains from Romania into Soviet Union railway stations.

(Continue to next page.)

(Continued from previous page.)

This train conductor found in his turn five more engine mechanics ready to take Bibles secretly inside the Soviet Union.

The foreign brethren who provided the Bibles helped him with money to dig and build a reinforced concrete tunnel under his house where a corresponding large quantity of Bibles could be hidden.



Bible-Storage Tunnel Under Silvestru Tcaciuc's Home

He received not only Russian language Bibles but also Ukrainian, Romanian and even German-language Bibles which he could direct to the Baltic states of Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, at that time part of the Soviet Union. The train engines where the Bibles got stored had hidden compartments accessible to engine mechanics only. Once in a Soviet Union railway station, the train engine was parked on a dead-end line, till coupled with new coaches for the back-trip to Romania. This gave a timely opportunity for Russian Christians notified in advance. They would profit of this parking interval to unload the Bibles.

Another Bible-smuggling avenue was found separately. One of the Pentecostal Christians, (brother Lacatus, living now in Germany) was operating at the time an excavator engaged in the building of a dam in a place named Stinca Costesti.

This was a joint construction project between Romania and the Soviet Union. In order to carry the gravel (available only on the Romanian side) the excavator moved several times a day to and fro between the Romanian territory and the Russian end of the construction site. With nearly each trip it was possible inside the excavator "house" hide and transport 200-300 Bibles.

These Bibles were delivered to a Russian high-ranking communist official on the other side. This official, an actual secretary of the local Soviet communist party organization collaborated secretly in this Bible-smuggling work. The smuggling of Bibles inside the Soviet Union was financially profitable even for nonbelievers as the Russian Christians were ready to pay a month's salary for possessing one Bible.

This work could continue uninterrupted for nearly 4 years until a brother in the city of Radauti, Romania was caught by the communist secret police and when badly tortured, gave away some of the Bible-smuggling network. Three days before being arrested in 1985, brother Tcaciuc had a dream in which a voice warned him of a difficult upcoming trial he will go through but he was assured to end up safely out of it. When arrested he was taken to a room where those tortured were hanged up head down and beaten or obliged to walk on a wooden-plank with needles sticking out of it. His cousin, brother Petrica Ovadiuc was tortured inside a beating robot-box and died shortly thereafter as a result.

Silvestru though, was freed suddenly a few days later.

(Continued to next page!)



A Very-Able Bible-Smuggler: Handicapped Christian Nicolae Barsan

(Continued from previous page.)

This is what transpired politically: that very year the communist government of Romania renegotiated some clause of the Preferred Nation Status on trading with the US. As a condition, the dictator Ceausescu had to promise freeing any imprisoned Evangelical Christians. Brother Tcaciuc concludes, "I was well conscious of the great risks involved (in the Bible-smuggling effort) but I was ready to pay for spreading God's Word. I thank God He used me also for spreading His Word inside these communist countries."

Several Romanian Christian brethren: Ioan Constantin, Nicolae Barsan, Gheorghe Scripcaru, Mitica Jugaru and Leonte Haralambie collaborated for years in smuggling Bibles into the Soviet Union. They subjected their families to great risks as well. One of the above had 11 children.

The ways the Bibles could be transported during several years without raising the suspicions of the communist authorities, were very original. One of them, brother Barsan was handicapped and thus obliged using a wheelchair. He could transport in some handbags over and over about 15-20 Bibles without raising suspicions. Every time he was travelling by train, even the local police helped him get inside the coach without suspecting what he was carrying inside his bags. Barsan was happy to make use in this way of this handicap. Thus he undertook very many trips.

Brother Leonte was a beekeeper. The Bibles were stored and transported inside beehives. Unfortunately after several successful trips, when stopped for a routine control by the local communist police, due to the bumpy state of the village roads, the top-cover of one of the beehives had been dislodged so the police could see the Bibles hidden inside it.

(Continued to next page.)

(Continued from previous page.)

All Christians in this network (about 10) were rounded up by the communist police as a result, threatened with beatings and tortures, actually beaten and subjected to long periods of deprivation of food and drink. Several foreign Christians had been involved in these Bible-smuggling activities. The German and Dutch citizens asked their embassies intervene with the Romanian communist government and thus the communist authorities had to free these local Christians. The smuggling car was confiscated by the communist authorities. Some Christians lost their places of work. Some of the minor communist police were well conscious their superiors were abusing these Christians and apologized for their colleagues arresting and forcefully interrogating them.

(Interviews were obtained by brother Florentin Clipa. See the story of his family Christian witness in communist Romania in the Help For Refugees Newsletter of November 2016 at <http://helpforrefugees.com>)



Florentin Clipa (left) and his widowed mother (right) together with German Bible-Smugglers, brothers Johann and Michael Holtzman. Clipa's father, a Bible-smuggler, was also tortured under communism in Romania.

Asociația Obștească Samariteanul Milostiv
Republica Moldova
Orașul Chișinău
Str. Poștei 84

Am primit de la Help for Refugees, reprezentată de domnul Mihai Wurmbrand
Donația în sumă de: 3000 USD
Data: 07 noiembrie 2017
Scop: Ajutor umanitar

Vă rugăm să păstrați această chitanță ca o dovadă a darului dvs. către această asociație creștină caritabilă

"...I-au rugat și au zis: "Domnul, am vrea să vedem pe Isus." (Ioan 12:21)

"Atunci cei neprihăniți li vor răspunde: "Doamne, când Te-am văzut noi flămând și Ți-am dat să mănânci? Sau fiindu-Ți sete și Ți-am dat de băut? Când Te-am văzut noi străin și Te-am primit? Sau gol și Te-am îmbrăcat? Când Te-am văzut noi bolnav sau în temniță și am venit la Tine?" (Matei 25:37-39)

One of the receipts for \$3,000 sent to the "Merciful Samaritan Public Association" in the Republic of Moldova. Funds are destined for elderly Christians imprisoned for their faith during communism.

Director: Tașca Vasile

Semnătura:

L.Ș.



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!)