

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 Wurmband with wife, Sabina

July 2025

Announcement:

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

"Jonathan was knit with the soul of David and Jonathan loved him as his own soul." (I Samuel 18:1)

Late Reverend Richard Wurmband suffered 14 years in Romanian communist prisons. Mrs. Wurmband, Sabina, was imprisoned for nearly three years, also for her Christian testimony, in some of the same communist prisons.

From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmband
THE VALUE OF THE CHRISTIAN FRIENDSHIP

You and I are by nature insignificant. We dislike some of the shallowness of our work and amusements. All our thoughts are much too petty; however, our self can be enlarged. A friend is one soul in two bosoms. Friendship makes one live the beauty of two lives at once.

The church of Christ has been created by God as a fellowship of friends. It is written that after the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost "the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul." (Acts 4:32) Between Jonathan and David in the Old Testament was a friendship like that. He did not hesitate a moment in renouncing even the throne to the benefit of his friend.

This is one of the great things the real church of Christ has to offer: a tremendous opportunity for growth and enrichment with the saints all over the world. You can share in the most beautiful Christian lives. So many Christians are persecuted in many countries. For instance in Red China a large number of churches have been forcefully closed, many members persecuted in various ways countless arrested and tortured. Catholic bishop KONG, with hands tied behind his back, was made to ascent a platform and to listen to the charges brought against him. Some 4,000 Catholics were compelled to attend. The Reds pushed him before a microphone and asked him to

confess his crimes, asking forgiveness from the people. Mgr. KONG shouted loudly, "Long live Christ the King!" to which the Christians answered with the shout, "Long live our bishop!" He has since disappeared. There exists very little probability that he is still alive.

We remember the Protestant writer WATCHMAN NEE who died in prison. We possess a report that before his death he had his tongue cut off and his eyes gouged out.

Amid sufferings our persecuted brethren are steadfast in faith, while we who are sheltered from such terrible tempests are not. They love and believe, they look upon men as friends and have embraced them all in their heart. Their life is rich. Their sacrifice burns bright.

You can enlarge your own self by becoming one in heart and soul with such men. Enlarge your self, love the persecuted, show solidarity with them, and your life will become rich too. The Lord Jesus says, "Make to yourselves friends." (Luke 16:9) If you cannot go to prison in their place, sponsor the needs of one martyr's family. If you can't afford this, unite with friends or ask your church to do it.

You can help martyrs with a piece of bread, but they can help you by sharing their nameless joy, their being true to THE Truth, Christ the Lord. You too will have Jesus as friend, the Man of Sorrows who went singing toward Gethsemane, the place where he had to be arrested.

Why should yourself be contemptibly small, cramped? The Christians of the Underground church, the children of God of the whole world, the angels, yea, Jesus Christ Himself can be your friend. Your life will be that of the whole universe and of its Creator. Enter into the fellowship of friends which constitutes the Christian church. Jesus says, "Give to every man that asks of thee" (Luke 6:30). Therefore, enter into the true church, the fellowship of friends established by Jesus, and share the sufferings and joys of your brethren persecuted by the Communists.



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)

Heroes of the Faith and their Families, Helped with your Gifts

Some pictures of elderly Christians Imprisoned under Communism for the Faith.

Read their full testimonies in our past newsletters at <http://helpforrefugees.com> (third column!)

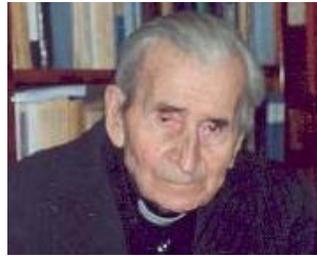


Late Reverend ANDERCAU

Vasile wrote:

“I became a minister in 1947. I was expelled from the church by the communists but continued my underground activity until 1953 when imprisoned. I actually spent 10 years in the communist prisons of the Romanian towns of Oradea, Pitesti (one of the most horrible tortures happened there) Dej and did undergo forced house-imprisonment in Valea Calmatui. I met while in prison Rev. Richard Wurmbrand who knows me personally.”

(Read his testimony in our online September 2016 Newsletter.)



Late Reverend Racovitan Teodor wrote:

“The church was closed by the former communist Romanian police.

The police threw me out of my house, together with my 4 children. I was arrested and placed under much pressure and tortures to renege my faith and then was sentenced to 6 years of prison.

I was taken to the Jilava prison (in the same time period late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand was imprisoned in this prison as well), where the terror and tortures were beyond description, then to the Ocnele Mari where I was daily beaten.

I was tortured in many ways (one of the tortures was to push me against a wall with a whole taken out door.)

In 1955 I was transferred to the Caransebes prison, the authorities thinking I was about to die.”

(Read his testimony in our online September 2016 Newsletter.)



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.



Sister **EDZITA EPRIKIAN** wrote:

”Greetings, my name is Edita. My sister in Christ Olesya Nefedova, with whom we serve together in the local church in Oradea, Romania (I lead the children's ministry) gave me your contact.

We are a large family from the Cherkasy region, Smila-city, Ukraine. We have three daughters. Irina (13), Yeva (11) and Miia (5). We currently live, work, study in Oradea. We serve in the Ukrainian church.

We do not receive any outside funding except for the child allowance of 876 Ron (about US \$195 / month.)

The first months after the Russian invasion started, we hid behind the house, then we moved and began to live longer trying not to fear of what was going to happen

After a large mass bombing of the entire infrastructure and energy sector in our city, there was a period of isolation, there were interruptions with the light. Since everything in the house is on electricity and the winter period began (water, heating and electric wiring) it was difficult for us. It was very cold, my husband's work also decreased.

My husband Kamalian Nodar (43) is a car mechanic, his work also depended on the light, the children were small. Due to frequent bombings of the city and the region, we felt unsafe. So we decided to run away to Romania, to the city of Oradea. We had a very old car at that time and decided to drive it. There was already a Ukrainian church formed in Oradea and I had some acquaintances here, so I chose this city and this country.

Currently, my husband works in construction, and the children go to school and kindergarten. We rent an apartment. I worked in a sewing workshop for a year and a half, but now it has closed and I have not had a job for several months. I am looking for a job. Since my profession is related to the arts-field, it is difficult to work here without knowing the language.



Ukrainian sister **Liudmila POKORA** wrote:

“ Good afternoon! Sister Alesya from the church where we serve together told us about your mission. Can you help our family?

We are a Christian family from Ukraine, from the city of Kiliya, Odessa region. My husband Anatolii is 53. We have five children, Anna (20 years old) Iaroslav (18), Yulana (11), Oleg (9) and Avenir (4).

When the war began, the first thing the Russians bombed was the "Snake Island", which is not far from us. The explosions could be heard clearly, and everything "flew" right over our city. The children were very scared. We decided to go down to the basement every time we heard the siren.

One of our boys started stuttering after that. We treated him in Ukraine for several months and then decided to leave with all the children to a neighboring country so that Oleg's speech would not get even worse.

The war did not stop. Friends found us an apartment in the city of Oradea, Romania because there were already many believing Ukrainians there and we asked them to find us a church where services would be held in our language ministry.

Now we are here until the war ends. We have a ministry in the church among Ukrainians.

The older children study remotely in Ukraine, the younger ones go to a Romanian school and we take the youngest to kindergarten.

We work with my husband and receive almost 900 RON (about \$200 monthly) for the children. But it is still difficult financially, there are a lot of living expenses. If you can help us, we will be very grateful to you and the Lord!”

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	ДРИСВЯНИКОВ	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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Gifts are US tax-deductible. Help for Refugees is listed in Publication 78, Cumulative List of Nonprofit Organizations described in Section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Service. For IRS nonprofit status you may use this link:

<https://apps.irs.gov/app/eos/allSearch>

and enter EIN: 953064521.