

HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC.

Michael Wurmbrand, Director

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 needy Christian refugees from Ukraine! Where needed, content and pictures are dated.



July 2026

“And it came to pass, that, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, one of his disciples said unto Him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.”

(Luke 11:1).

Late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand endured 14 years of Romanian communist imprisonment.

Mrs. Wurmbrand was imprisoned nearly three years also for her Christian witness, in some of same prisons and in the forced-labor camps at the Danube-Black Sea Canal.

From a Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand THE THREE RIGHT PRAYER REQUESTS

Like little children learning to talk, people learn to pray by praying, not by reading a book on the subject. Is "prayer time" a religious illusion? A man making his way across the desert became terribly thirsty. At a certain moment, he passed by an oasis with palm trees, a fountain, and a woman drawing water, but he was no fool. He had read about seductive mirages that appear in the Sahara. So, he passed by this pleasant place without stopping. Why should he waste time investigating what he thought as a mere illusion? He was found dead of thirst not far.

Many doubt that prayer has any practical value. Some think one gets what one wants by going after it or by speaking to others about his wants, not by appealing to an unseen or perhaps nonexistent God. The history of human thought is a cemetery full of stupidities once considered certainties. For instance: Daniel Webster, Senate speech, 1848 on the acquisition of California: "I have never heard of anything, and I cannot conceive of anything more ridiculous, more absurd, and more affrontive to all sober judgment than the cry that we are profiting by the acquisition of New Mexico and California. I hold that they are not worth a dollar!" Could the negation of prayer fall into the same category of humans being blind to its power? Curiously, the Bible speaks about a rare and exquisite virtue: to hope against hope. (Romans 4:18) In prayer, as in other matters, it

is not necessary to understand everything. God has hidden from us many truths. Saint Paul wrote "If anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know." (Corinthians 8,2) Prayer is greatly valued by those who practice it. One of the church fathers, Tertullian, wrote: "Prayer is the one thing that can conquer God." Scientist Isaac Newton says about prayer: "I can take my telescope and look millions and millions of miles into space, but I can lay my telescope aside, go into my room, shut the door, and get down on my knees in earnest prayer, and I see more of Heaven and see more of God than I can assisted by all the telescopes and material agencies on earth." Furthermore, he said, "All my discoveries have been made in answer to prayer." The Lord's Prayer teaches us how to genuinely pray. Let us pay close attention to it. Imagine an angel were to appear and grant you, your three foremost wishes. Though we often repeat the Lord's Prayer, how many of us would express honestly to such a wish-granting angel their top wishes:

- the hallowing of God's Name;
- the coming of His Kingdom;
- and the fulfilling of God's Will?

Saying just the words of "Our Father" and just in this order, though they don't express faithfully our state of mind in the moment of prayer, will teach us the right priorities. Repeating this prayer again and again, our thoughts will become orderly and we will get the right state of heart. Elihu advises the suffering Job of the Bible, "Remember that thou magnify God's work" Starting with praising God's Name we stop being impressed by man's achievements. We realize we are sinners. We can end up repeating with Job when becoming aware of God's absolute supremacy, needing God's undeserved mercy, "I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not... Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes." (Job, Chapter 42)

An artist wanted to paint an illustration of the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15, 11-32.) This son returned to his rich father, whom he had forsaken willfully, after wasting his inheritance. The painter hired as a model a vagrant in rags. This poorly dressed homeless would show how the son returned from many days of suffering hunger, having been a menial watcher of pigs. The next day, the hired beggar after receiving some money as an advance, came to the studio with a haircut and in decent clothes. The painter promptly dismissed him. He no longer had value as a model. Grace is only for sinners. When we ask in prayer for God's Kingdom to come, we understand Lord Jesus' words "My kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36) and further Him saying "God is spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." We raise above our wishes for the material world. Finally, accepting God's Will, we realize how we are part of God's miraculous creation. Start saying the Lord's Prayer with the belief that God exists and that He rewards those who seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6)



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)



Elena with two of her sisters, in a make-shift house built by some local Christians, before being taken into the Agape* Children Home.

A letter from a former child who grew up in the Agape* Home

*Agape is a home in Romania for needy children, founded in 1993 by Pastor Richard Wurmbrand.

"My name is Elena D., I am 24 years old and I was institutionalized at the Christian Children's Foundation "Agape" in Pașcani at the age of 8. Looking back, I realize that my arrival at Agape was the moment that completely changed my life and gave me the chance for a future that I probably wouldn't have had otherwise. Until the age of 8, I grew up in an extremely difficult environment. I lived with my parents and five siblings in a very poor house, consisting of only two rooms. One of the rooms was used for storing various things, and in the other we all slept. Unfortunately, material deprivation was only part of the problems we faced. Both of my parents frequently consumed alcohol, and this generated violent arguments, aggression and a permanent climate of fear. Not infrequently, my siblings and I had to run away from home at night and seek refuge with our neighbors to feel safe. I still remember the feeling of fear I had when I heard fights starting and didn't know what was going to happen. We often went to bed hungry, not knowing if we would have anything to eat the next day. My childhood was marked by insecurity, deprivation and responsibilities that should not have weighed on a child's shoulders. Many times, my older brother and I would go look for our mother in the village bars to bring her home. We were only 6 or 7 years old, but we were put in situations and responsibilities that no child should have to experience. In addition, I was taking care of two of my younger siblings, who were still very young at the time. Instead of enjoying my childhood, I was forced to mature much too early.

Before arriving at Agape, I was placed in an emergency reception center. Although I had food and clothes there, I did not find the sense of security I needed. The older children intimidated and assaulted the younger ones, and the atmosphere was tense and unsafe.

After my experiences at home, I needed a place where I could feel protected, and that center failed to provide this. When I arrived at Agape, I was scared, distrustful, and did not understand what was going to happen to me and my siblings. However, from the first days I noticed something different. We were greeted with warmth, patience, and affection. For the first time, I felt like I was in a place where people truly cared about me. It was the first time I felt what safety, stability, and a sense of belonging to a family meant.

Although many people associate life in an orphanage with negative experiences, for me Agape was completely different. It wasn't just a place where I received food, clothes and a bed to sleep in. It became my family. Here I found people who invested in me not only financially, but also emotionally. They offered me love, patience, encouragement and support at every stage of my development. At Agape I learned what respect for others means, responsibility and the importance of moral values. I was taught not to stay stuck in my past, but to accept it and use it as motivation to build a better future. I learned to think about the future, set goals and work towards them.

One of the most valuable things I received at Agape was the formation of my character. I was raised with high values, I was taught to see the bright side of things even in difficult situations and to look for solutions instead of focusing on problems. I learned to be grateful, perseverant, disciplined and to help those around me whenever I have the opportunity. In addition to all this, Agape also offered me a framework in which I could discover the importance of faith, hope and spiritual values. Without imposing certain beliefs on me, the people here encouraged me to reflect on principles that helped me find meaning, balance and strength in difficult times. For me, my relationship with God became a source of support and an important landmark in the way I look at life, people and the challenges I encounter.

The impact that Agape has had on my life can also be seen in the choices I have made over time. This is where my desire to help, in turn, children and people in vulnerable situations was born. This desire led me to pursue university studies in the field of Social Work, and later to continue with a master's program in Counseling in Social Work.

Also, this year, with the support offered by Agape, I had the opportunity to participate as a volunteer in a project carried out in Africa, where I worked for a month with children from disadvantaged backgrounds. I consider this experience to be a direct consequence of the values I learned at Agape and the example set by the people who contributed to my formation.

One aspect that means a lot to me is that, in the years that followed, Agape not only supported me and the siblings who originally came with me, but also welcomed other siblings of mine who were born after my institutionalization. The fact that they were welcomed, cared for, and loved to the same extent that I was is one of the most beautiful proofs of the dedication and compassion of the people at Agape. Thanks to them, my siblings have the chance to have a childhood different from the one I experienced in my early years. Today, as an adult, I look back with gratitude on my journey and realize how different my life would have been without Agape. Here, I not only received shelter and access to education, but the chance to develop myself, discover my potential, and build a life based on healthy values.

The people who were part of this foundation taught me to trust myself, to take responsibility for my own future, and not to let the past define my identity. For me, Agape was more than just the place I grew up in. It was the environment that shaped me, supported me, and provided me with opportunities that I otherwise wouldn't have had. If I had to describe in one sentence the impact this institution has had on my life, I would say that Agape not only changes the conditions in which children grow up, but also the way they come to view their future and the place they can have in society.”

Ukrainian Christians helped with your gifts



“Good afternoon, my name is Edita **EPRIKIAN** and we are a family from Ukraine. I am asking you to help. We have been living in Oradea, Romania for three and a half years, our children (3 daughters) go to a Romanian school, my husband works as a builder, I just started working in a store. (I hadn't worked for a long time before that). I sincerely ask you to help us pay for utilities. This year the prices for utilities have almost doubled and we have a debt of about 5,000 lei (\$1,150.00) we are not able to pay such a large amount, because our salary is enough for food and the most necessary means of living. Food prices have also increased a lot, but they are not raising salaries. We have no other income besides my husband's salary and child support of 870 lei (\$202.00) for three.

We came to Oradea from the city of Smila, Cherkasy region, three and a half years ago because of the war. In Oradea, we are members of the Ukrainian Baptist Church BCUO, I serve as a teacher in a Sunday school, my eldest daughter serves in a praise group and plays the guitar, our family believes in our Lord Jesus Christ.” **Received a message of thanks to our donors:**

“Thank you so much, we didn't even have money for bread today (we have to wait for our salary at the end of the month) and here is such a wonderful miracle. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

Ukrainian Christian Refugees

Helped with your Gifts

April 16, 2022 (see update below)

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 places 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: Refugees still pour-in most days in 2024 at the rate of 8,000-10,000 and more than 6,000 daily at start of 2025.)

Michael Wurmbrand

409	Власенко	Валентин	Мефодьевич	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	Отмаков	Венямин	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
430	Миняков	Павел	Дмитриевич	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 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:

<https://helpforrefugees.com>

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