

HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC.

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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.



August 2026

"We returned all of us to the wall, every one unto his work." (Nehemiah 4:15)

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:
CHRISTIANS ARE CREATED IN THE LIKENESS OF GOD!

After many years of being slaves in Babylon, around year 440 BC, some Jewish people returned to their fatherland, Israel. They tried to rebuild the city of Jerusalem while interrupted again and again through many inimical conspiracies. They profited however of every moment of respite, to restart their reconstruction work.

This attitude should be today the right mindset of every Christian. The Lord calls on us to work so long there is light. While witnessing, our enemies try to discourage us. Many a personality uses the media to show disdain for the Christian faith. This has happened throughout the history of Christianity. The first Apostles were beaten up by the authorities of the time and asked to keep silent. Closer to our times, the communist leader Lenin declared, "religion is opium for the people." Yet, all of the enemies of Christianity, the most hardened atheists, forget their denial of God when confronted with real life threats. In their moments of facing death, all of a sudden God-deniers start praying exclaiming "Oh God!"

I spoke to a missionary who had gone to take contact with a never-visited-before tribe. Besides distributing food, the missionary thought to endear himself to these savages by taking their picture with a modern camera. When he showed the photo to one of the four persons he photographed, the man exclaimed he could recognize only three in a group of four. He asked who

is this fourth? It was him but since this savage never before had a mirror in front of him, he had no idea what he looked like! So are the enemies of Christianity. They find faults, mock Christians but they lack the mirror to see their own sinful nature. The mirror is the Bible. The Bible teaches us we are created in the likeness of God. The enemies of Christianity not having the mirror of the Bible, try to compare themselves with whatever they happen to see around them, so they think they look like evolutionary worms or at best like monkeys!

The cruelty of atheism is unimaginable. When someone does not believe in God there are no borders in the empire of evil. We heard many times these henchmen of communism exclaiming, “no one can punish us for our evil deeds.” or “we are God!” Even worse, “we are Satan!”

The enemies of Nehemiah were organized like today’s communist regimes. When the enemies of Nehemiah tried to distract him and lure him into a trap to kill him, undisturbed, Nehemiah answered: “I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you?”

In the Gospel of John 14:6 we read that Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." Like the Jews of old were given The Promised Land of Israel, we Christians were entrusted through faith the spiritual truth, the way to the Heavenly Jerusalem, the knowledge of eternal life. The enemies of Nehemiah were mentioned by him in his book in passing. Their mischievous plans amounted to naught. Like Nehemiah we need answer to all enemies of Christianity, “our spiritual work cannot cease!” Once on a TV show, I had the opportunity to ask Mrs. Madelyn Murray O’Hair, founder of the worldwide known organization “American Atheist” one question. I asked, “I traveled all over the world and saw many Christian hospitals, nursing homes, orphanages. Would you be able to name anywhere in the world one Atheistic charity work?” Though always loud and outspoken, Mrs. O’Hair remained silent, lost for words for many minutes to the point that the moderator, Alan Burke asked me to take over the show. In the end Mrs. O’Hair fell victim to her own hateful teachings being murdered by a fellow atheist.

The Gospel states that if Jesus disciples were silent, God would make marvels, so even stones would speak. The atheistic, communist government in the former Soviet Union tried to make a movie mocking Christianity. The film shows some communist propagandist giving a Bible to a drunkard to read it out loud to a gathered crowd on a Moscow street. The drunkard being pushed to read, started reading and the more he read his voice became stronger and assured. He was more and more sober. To the wonder of the gathered crowd and of the movie making crew, he kneeled at once and shouted, “Oh God, forgive this poor sinner!” Many in the crowd imitated him and fell as well on their knees. Behold the power of faith! Let us all again and again return to the building of God’s Kingdom.”



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.

“Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.” (Apostle James Epistle 1:27)

HELP FOR REFUGEES supports Christians who had been imprisoned for their faith in present and former communist countries and if contacts are available, their descendant families. Helped are orphanages in Europe and in South America. For instance, the Agape House in Pascani, Romania, an orphanage founded in 1993 by Pastor Richard Wurmbrand and his family. Also helped is the Richard Wurmbrand College, a high school in Iasi, Romania, where children of Christian disadvantaged families are able to study.



IRINA PÂRVAN is a Christian belonging to the active Christian movement in Romania, The Army of the Lord. For her Christian witness she was imprisoned for more than three and a half years by the former Romanian communist government. Read her testimony on the next page.

IRINA PÂRVAN (see picture on previous page) gave her Christian testimony: "I was born in Romania and am 86 years old. My family were active Christian members of the Army of the Lord.

(Editor Note: **The Army of the Lord** is an active Christian movement. In former communist Romania, for no other "crimes" than public prayers, thousands of its members were arrested, interrogated, imprisoned, for as long as 10 years. Most imprisoned Christians lost their homes and their jobs. In prisons the Christians suffered hunger, freezing cold, being mocked for their faith, being humiliated and do forced labor. The most famous Christian poet of Romania, Traian Dorz was imprisoned for more than 9 years for rewriting the Bible Psalms of David in rhyming verses. Many children of believers were interrogated also by the communist secret police trying to force them to betray their parents' Christian activities of giving out Bibles and participating in meetings.)

"I was arrested, separated from my parents and interrogated for a day and a night by the former communist Romanian secret police when only 9 years old. My underground Christian activities consisted in having recited some Christian poems and sung Christian hymns in home meetings.

At the age of 19, only one month after my wedding, I was again arrested in a communist trial and sentenced to 5 years of prison. I was accused of religious propaganda and conspiracy against the social order because a large number of Christians used the wedding celebration as a Christian meeting. The communist security police officer who interrogated me threatened, saying: "I will send you to the hardest prisons, let's see if your God will save you." This secret police officer died a few months later, crushed by a truck.

I served 3 years and 7 months in prisons in the cities of Timisoara, Arad, Jilava, Tg. Mureș, Miercurea-Ciuc. Upon entering the Jilava prison, when the prison gates opened and closed with a sinister sound, I felt that I was entering hell. I felt a demonic force that foreshadowed my end. There were 4 beds in the cell, one on top of the other. Being the youngest, I was made to occupy the top bed, where I could not even sit down, but only crawl into bed. The windows were boarded up, there was no light, and water was flowing on the walls of the cell. It was damp.

My transportation to the prison of Miercurea Ciuc was carried in an open truck. In the truck were transported six other prisoners who were nuns taken from closed Orthodox monasteries. I arrived in Miercurea Ciuc frozen stiff with cold, so much so that I could no longer move. I was carried upstairs and taken to the prison cell.

I was freed later from prison because I was sick and in an advanced state of physical and mental degradation. My body was skeletal, with a few tufts of hair on my head.

Upon returning home, my husband and parents did not recognize me. Because they had not heard from me, they thought I was dead. When I entered the yard, my husband and parents fell to their knees and, crying, raised their hands to heaven and thanked the Lord for my deliverance.

My husband passed away in 2015. Now at the age of 86, despite serious health problems, I am faithful and dedicated to the Lord.

Ukrainian Christians helped with your gifts



Sister Mariana **GLUSHKO** wrote: “My husband’s name is Sergii. On January 4, 2022, we left Ukraine due to the increasing tension in the country and constant warnings about the possible outbreak of war. We left with three small children. At that time, they were Martin, 11 years old, Adrian, 7 years old, and the youngest, Viktoriia, was only 4 years old. We took only a few suitcases with winter clothes with us, expecting to stay with friends for 2 months and return home in March.

On February 24, our lives changed forever. The news of a full-scale invasion came as a real shock to us. We could not believe that this was really happening. It seemed that everything would be over in a few days and we would soon return home. But the days passed, the war only intensified, and along with hope came fear, despair, and the pain of realizing that we did not know whether we would ever see our home again.

At the time of the war, we were in Norway. From there we moved to Portugal, where we lived for two years, and in 2024 we began a new stage of life in Spain. We were starting life from scratch. Everything we had was left in Ukraine. We arrived with only a few suitcases of winter clothes, and everything else — household items, children's things — had to be gradually bought anew. In addition to our home, we lost a huge part of our lives. For the first time in many years, we found ourselves faced with the need to look for work to provide for our family. Our many years of experience were related to missionary and social work, not to the commercial sphere. We had to practically start everything from scratch, learning to live in a new country, a new language, and a new professional reality. We often felt very lonely. We looked for support, but did not always find it among local people. When we accidentally heard Ukrainian in a store or on the street, we approached strangers with a simple question: “Are you from Ukraine? How are you? How are your relatives?” Each such meeting became a small support for the heart. The hardest part was explaining to the children that our home is now in another country. Every night we pray together for Ukraine, for our defenders, and ask God to stop the war. Our children pray that God will return all the fathers home to their children.

Today, we are gradually accepting our new reality. We are very grateful to God that our children can grow up in safety. They go to school and step by step build a new life. Financially, our situation is still very difficult. We have not yet been able to find a stable job that could provide for our family. We have applied for many vacancies, but due to our basic level of Spanish and lack of local work experience, we are constantly rejected. Often, employers say that they are not ready to train new employees.”

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. Some of the younger generation might have a little knowledge of English. 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 of some Ukrainian Christian refugees.

(*Update: As of May 2026 more than 210,000 refugees from Ukraine have obtained refugee status in Romania.)

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	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
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 obtain 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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