

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

September 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!)

"Be not righteous over much." (Ecclesiastes 7:16)

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 a published Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmband

### **FORGIVEN AND RESTORED THROUGH JESUS SACRIFICE**

Peter wept a few tears about his denial of Jesus. When he met the resurrected Lord, he did not even apologize. Judas' remorse was of an entirely different kind. He confessed to the priests that he had sold innocent blood.

Peter had not gone back to the servant girl, before whom he had denied he knew Jesus, to put things straight. Judas gave back the money he had received for betrayal. How few are those who make such restitution!

Contrary to all human logic, Peter received grace and became a prince among the apostles. Judas, after having done things much greater than weeping a little bit, remained without grace and committed suicide.

This is always the fate of those who are righteous over much, who overdo in repentance, who accumulate works of penitence instead of simply relying on the sacrifice of Christ, not only for forgiveness of sins, but also for repairing its effects.

In the Book of Leviticus, the Hebrew word used for sins among fellow men is called *asham*, but **the restitution** which a thief had to make to the owner is also called *asham*. Leviticus chapter 6, verses 1-5 King James Version reads: "And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, if a soul sin, and commit a trespass against the Lord, and lie unto his neighbour in that which was delivered him to keep, or in fellowship, or in a thing taken away by violence, or hath deceived his neighbour; or have found that which was lost, and lieth concerning it, and sweareth falsely; in any of all these that a man doeth, sinning therein: then it shall be, because he hath sinned, and is guilty, that he **shall restore** that which he took violently away, or the thing which he hath deceitfully gotten, or that which was delivered him to keep, or the lost thing which he found, or all that about which he hath sworn falsely; he shall even restore it in the principal, and shall add the fifth part more thereto, and give it unto him to whom it appertaineth, in the day of his trespass offering."

Jesus is called *asham* in the great prophecy of Isaiah 53, verse ten which reads:

"Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul **an offering for sin** (*ASHAM* in Hebrew) he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand." Jesus is not only the sacrifice for our sins, but also the One who makes restitution.

Jesus can give pearls for every tear we have caused someone to weep; He can give heavenly riches to those from whom we stole earthly treasures. Do not dig into your past too much - not even in order to repair it – if you cannot do it with an easy and confident heart. Do not make the way of holiness too difficult for yourself.

Judas proceeded like this and failed. Peter did not muse too long over his own sins and won. He shed tears of repentance, met the resurrected Lord, and saw that he had remained Jesus' friend, so the sin of the past was done with. It did not burden him anymore.



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. Where possible, we try to obtain in order to help, names and addresses of their surviving children. Read their full testimonies in our past newsletters at <http://helpforrefugees.com> (third column!)



Baptist minister **VADAN** Vasile, deceased, was imprisoned and terribly tortured in former communist Romania. The secret police wanted to find out from him the names of many communist party members who were converted and baptized secretly by night in the Mures river.

(Read his testimony in our online newsletter of August/2016.)



Minister Teodor **Miclea** was arrested together with other 18 ministers in former communist Romania and ended up making 5 years of prison. For a time, he was in the same prison camp with Reverend Richard Wurmbrand.

The communist secret police accused these Christians of holding secret baptisms and Bible study house-meetings.

(Read his testimony in our online August 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 Ivanova Yana** wrote:

“We are an international Christian family. I am from Ukraine. My husband is from Siberia.

We went to serve in Russia, namely in Pskov, we lived and served God.

When the war began, we went to Turkey. There were refugees from both Ukraine and Russia. We served them and they us. We were not given protection. We were forced to return back to Ukraine.

Our pastor from Russia, Konstantin Lupashtyan, moved to Romania and serves in a church where there are refugees from Ukraine and Russia. We went to Romania. Romania gave shelter to our family. We serve in a Christian Ukrainian church.”



**Sister Irina Sologub** wrote:

We left our hometown of Kramatorsk (Donetsk region) because the situation in the city was very tense. There were terrible shelling and the constant roar of sirens. We slept in the hallway, there was no light, no water. But the most terrible thing was the lack of possibility of receiving treatment for my daughter. There was no insulin in the city, and my daughter had diabetes. At that time, we could not get it anywhere. We were forced to leave Ukraine. We are now in Romania, in the city of Oradea. There we joined the Ukrainian church, where the pastor is Oleksandr Teniaev.

Although I work, life in Oradea is expensive. I am alone with my child. I have to pay the rent myself, maintain the child’s health, and provide her with proper dietary nutrition. I would be grateful for your help.



Church made of Christian Ukrainian refugees in Oradea, Romania



Eduard is 6 years old and Eldon nearly 3 months old.

We are a Christian family from Ukraine. Me, Valeria **Untila, 28**, and 2 small children. Their father left me. The second child was born prematurely here in Romania at 8 months. Thank God the baby is healthy, weighing 4.41 lbs. at birth. For the last 6 years before the war and 3 months after it started, we lived in Kyiv. It was very, very scary. The city was bombed from all sides! We will never forget this. The merciful Lord saved our lives. Then we left for my grandmother in the village. She lives near the Romanian border. The train rails and the bridge were bombed on the road in front of us. I then decided to come to Romania with the child, alone in my arms. At that time, I had 20 euros in my pocket with me. We traveled by free train. The Red Cross team helped us. In August, we have been living here for 3 years. I worked at 2 jobs and make baked goods and cakes to order. We were not officially registered. I went on maternity leave from work. I receive 297 ron (about US \$70) per month for my eldest son. I still do not get anything for the baby because I was told the first payments will start in December. I receive 2,600 run (about US \$600) per month from work, and that is it. 1500 Ron (about US \$340) goes to pay for the apartment and 500 Ron (about US \$115) to utilities. And we have 600 Ron (about US \$135) per month left to buy food. I work as a translator since I learned and know Romanian. There is a Ukrainian church that we visit but more often we go to the Romanian Geneva church. They helped us. Please help us if you have the opportunity! May the Lord bless you and your mission!

## 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:** 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	Мерфуревич	1958	Украина
410	Вольф	Андрей	Корнилевич	1958	Казахстан
411	Кураки	АЛЕКСЕЙ	ЯКОВЛЕВИЧ	1958	Россия
412	Леон	НИКОЛАЙ	ВИКТОРОВИЧ	1958	Казахстан
413	Романенко	Владимир	Николаевич	1958	Украина
414	Тиссен	Давид	Давидович	1958	Россия
415	ТУРКЕВИЧ	Василий	Тарасович	1959	Украина
416	Бычков	Степан	Павлович	1959	Украина
417	ДРИСВИННИКОВ	АЛЕКСАНДР	АЛЕКСАНДРОВИЧ	1959	Россия
418	СВЮРЦОВА	ЛЮБОВЬ	НИКОЛАЕВНА	1959	Россия
419	Варавин	Виталий	Федотович	1959	Россия
420	Дубицкий	СЕРГЕЙ	АДАМОВИЧ	1959	Россия
421	Лашенко	Борис	Владимирович	1959	Украина
422	Ткаченко	ИВАН	ИВАНОВИЧ	1959	Казахстан
423	МАРЧЕНКО	Станислав	Павлович	1960	Украина
424	Донченко	Александр	Максимович	1960	Украина
425	Озмязов	Вениамин	Александрович (Валерианов)	1960	Узбекистан
426	Савченко	Михаил	Михайлович	1960	Эстония
427	Федина (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 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 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.