

HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC.

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We are a tax-exempt, non-profit corporation that helps 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.



Late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand with wife, Sabina

September 2026

" As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the Lord of Hosts, in the city of our God: God will establish it forever." (Psalm 48:8)

The late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand endured 14 years of Romanian communist imprisonment. For nearly three years, Mrs. Sabina Wurmbrand was also imprisoned for her Christian witness. She was kept in some of the same prisons as Richard (separately and at different times) and in the forced-labor camps at the Danube-Black Sea Canal.

From a Bible meditation by the Reverend Richard Wurmbrand:

God's Disappointment in Us, His Children!

Every one of us, during our lifetime, is bound to be bitterly disappointed. You trust a person who turns out to be unreliable. You count upon riches and such disappear. We grew up, we studied, obtained skills or a profession, only to find out how little appreciated is the work we do. Many times we might be replaced by a machine. Sometimes people of less knowledge are taking our place.

The Bible teaches we are not alone in being let down.

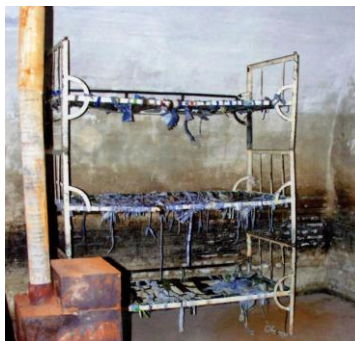
God even ends up disenchanted. We read in Isaiah 1:2 "Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the Lord hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against Me." Isaiah writes further, "My well-beloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill: and he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes." (Isaiah 5:1-2) In the Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard (Matthew 21:33-41) the owner of the vineyard having to deal with rebellious, even criminal workers, sent his own son to pacify them. He told himself, "They will reverence my son." Yet the Parable continues, When the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance." And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him.

Even if a man has sinned, has made mistakes, if he has a spark of faith in his heart and turns to the Lord, God will look on him with love. Our Lord discovers everything which is beautiful in us and He makes us beautiful by His love.

I have lived and seen this miraculous love shed abroad in the hearts of Christians. Together with many Christians I suffered 14 years in Romanian communist prisons. This heavy cross gave us the possibility of knowing a love which we had not known before. I was in the communist prison of Tirgul-Ocna, Romania. On my right was the Abbot of a Monastery, named Iscu. He had been so beaten and tortured that now he was dying in agony. On my left was a communist torturer, the one who was the cause of the death of the Abbot. It is not true that the Communists are anti-Christian or anti-Semites. They are simply "anti." It is a "religion of hatred." They are anti-everybody, even their own comrades. I have been in the same cell, as the Officer of the Secret Police who had interrogated me. His comrades had beaten him on the bottom of the feet. Now the murderer of the Priest was on the other side. He had been also so horribly tortured that he was dying too. The Abbot was quiet, so happy, confident that he was going to heaven. The murderer woke me up during the night and said, "Pray for me, what shall I do?". And I saw the priest, in agony, leaning on two others, going slowly, with great difficulty, to the one who had tortured him. He caressed him on his head and said, "You have been young. You have not known what you have done. I forgive you with all my heart, and Jesus is surely better than I. If I can forgive, Jesus can forgive even more than I. Only believe, only repent." The murderer received Our Lord. The Priest received his Confession and gave him Absolution, then he gave Holy Communion to his murderer. They kissed each other and they died on the same day, going hand in hand to heaven. The Psalm writer exclaims: **"As we have heard, so have we seen,"** thus no disappointment. Apostle John wrote: "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you." (1 John 1:3) When stoned to death, Saint Stephen "being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God." Stephen uttered his last words as to his tormentors, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge." (Acts 7:55-60) In our disappointments, like the Christians persecuted today we are encouraged to strive to enter into the city of our God, the Heavenly Kingdom.



The Communist Jilava Prison, entrance to the underground cells.



A cell in the Jilava prison: bunk-beds with no mattress that prisoners were obliged to sleep on. The stove was only for show, and never heated in cold winters.



A mugshot of the late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand while held in the Jilava prison.

"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. We also support: the Agape House - Pascani, Romania (an orphanage founded in 1993 by Pastor Richard Wurmbrand and his family), and also the Richard Wurmbrand College, a high school in Iasi, Romania (where children of disadvantaged Christian families are able to study).

UKRAINIAN CHRISTIANS HELPED WITH YOUR GIFTS



(Sister Duzhnikova Viktoriya with her husband Oleksandr)

Viktoriya and Oleksandr wrote: “On 2/24/2022 at 4 am we woke up to the shaking of the ground and loud explosions. It seemed as if the house was going to collapse. Since we lived about 16 miles from the border with Russia, it was very audible how Russian troops were firing cannons, multiple rocket launchers and other weapons across the territory of Ukraine, along the entire border line. It is impossible to convey the feeling of devastation, panic and disappointment that we felt in those morning hours. And then at 10 a.m., columns of Russian military equipment began to pass through our village. Incredible fear and despair gripped our hearts. Military equipment passed all day long, column after column, with breaks of several minutes between them. The ground hummed with tanks, self-propelled artillery mounts and armored personnel.

We have 3 of our own daughters and one adopted daughter. We gathered in our homes in total darkness for long prayers. Every morning we thanked God for having survived to the next day. Internet and communication disappeared. In many places Russian soldiers raped and killed women, girls and children.

We had no possibility of escaping. During the shelling, we simply fell to the floor, because there was nowhere to run or hide. Everyone just layed down with my wife covering our youngest daughter with herself. Once we tried to hide in the cellar, where vegetables and canned goods were stored, but it took us a long time to get down, instead of a few seconds. We were worried that if we were hit, we

would simply be covered with debris from the house and we would not be able to get out, so we decided not to hide there anymore. At night, we practically didn't sleep.

We were in the same situation for 13 long days and nights. Russians were killing civilians and children. There were shot-up and burned cars with dead people inside on the side of the roads.

On March 9th there was an agreement between Russia and Ukraine allowing foreign students and other foreigners to evacuate to the western side. Ukrainian authorities also provided several buses to evacuate women and children. Many people profited of the agreement to evacuate their own families.

We took several cars trying to run away. We left everything. Home, work, things. Since there was not much space in the car, we took the most necessary things, documents, some money (about 3,000 hryvnias - \$67.00 US), all we had, medicines and left, not knowing whether we would return.

We drove by shot-up cars and burned-out Russian equipment on both sides of all roads. Cars were constantly breaking down. We crossed 1600 Kilometers (nearly 1,000 miles) across Ukraine. It took 12 days. Our adopted daughter was 16 when the war started, lived with us during the war. She has been disabled since childhood. She has heart problems. It was especially difficult for her. She was short of breath and fainted. Children, especially sick and incurable ones, need a lot of attention. We stopped by some Baptist churches. We arrived on 3/18/22 in the Romanian city of Voronet and we were stuck there for 12 days. The Christians had created a camp for people fleeing from all over Ukraine.

On 3/30/22 we left for Oradea, Romania where we are to this day.

In Ukraine, I (**Oleksandr**) worked as a stone artist, my wife was a school teacher, and later a deputy director for educational work. Here I work in a private school as an unskilled worker, and my wife now works as a cleaner at the Siemens plant in Oradea.

We left everything in Ukraine. We only brought the most necessary things: documents, all our money (about 3,000 hryvnias) and medicines. Our parents and extended family remained behind. Many Ukrainians have nowhere to go. People have no money. Renting housing in safer areas is very expensive. It's especially hard for pensioners who are no longer needed by anyone. That's why they remain. The war is escalating even more. Neighboring villages have already been destroyed. Our village is still standing, some people still live there. None of our relatives died, but a lot of young people from our village were killed by the Russians. For my wife it's unbearably painful because they were her students.

When the war began, our daughters were aged 7 to 17. Of course, the war has left an imprint on the emotional state of our children. Our youngest child is afraid of the dark, never stays alone in her room at night, and is always very nervous when someone closes the door in the room. She often remembers her toys and constantly asks if they will wait for her. She has a dream - to have a bicycle. Unfortunately, in these 5 years we have not been able to buy one for her, but God is good. We often

talk about the war, what is happening in Ukraine, and speak directly with our relatives. The older children worry they may never see their childhood home again.

Our children have grown up quickly. They started working from almost the very beginning of their stay in Romania. We have the minimum practical necessary things for life and existence: food, clothes, a place to live. My wife and I earn the minimum wage in Romania. At the moment I earn ~2480 lei in salary, plus 800 lei goes to the food card. My wife also receives 300 lei per month for the child. We pay 200 euros for an apartment (1000 lei). Thank God, there are believers who do not charge us much. But the utilities are about the same. In the summer it is less, but in winter it can be more than 300 euros (1500-1600 lei) for heating, water, maintenance of the apartment building and garbage collection. We pay an average of 120 lei for electricity and we buy gas in cylinders for 135 lei every two months for cooking.

Every member of our family has dental problems, but there is no extra money for this. Before the war, many of my teeth were pulled to be replaced with dentures, but it didn't happen in time. At 51 years old, I have only 12 teeth (no canines). At the prices of dental clinics in Oradea, I need to have five teeth treated and have dentures made on the top and bottom. It costs at least 7,500 lei (about \$1,700). We don't have that kind of money and haven't had it in years.

Children, especially sick and incurable ones, need a lot of attention. Our adopted daughter has been disabled with heart problems since childhood. She was often short of breath and fainted. It was especially difficult for her. At the beginning of the war, she was studying in college. When she turned 19, she returned to Ukraine to take college exams and stayed there. Now she has a lifelong disability group and a meager state disability pension. Now she faces the question of leaving Sumy, Ukraine again. Recently the city has been shelled daily. There isn't a day without people being killed. She's considering leaving for a safer place in Ukraine or maybe returning to us in Oradea.

We arrived at the Ukrainian church in Oradea several weeks after it was founded. I began to serve at our church, first as a preacher, and now as a deacon. Our whole family is involved in the ministries. Our oldest daughter participates in the worship service, Sunday school, and also sometimes as a translator from English and Romanian.

Our 2nd daughter is already married and serves with her husband in another church in the worship service, Sunday school and youth ministry. One daughter has not yet accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior. Our youngest participates in the childrens choir's praises whenever possible.

Regardless of whether any readers of this letter will help us, I thank the Lord infinitely for them and I thank these people (***Help For Refugees and your donors***), for carrying out this ministry. May the Lord bless you, fill you with His grace and surround you with immeasurable love. Regardless of the level of your relationship with God, the level of success in your ministries, whether you are healthy or not, in joy or in difficult experiences, in abundance or in need, as my wife says, "always hold on to Jesus Christ." My wife couldn't write this whole message to you because she is very distraught and tears do not allow her to write. She read this letter and completely agrees."

A message from Michael Wurmbrand:

April 16, 2022 (**please see the 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.)

Thank You for Your Generous Gifts!

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, **is only a sample** 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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and enter our EIN: 953064521