

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!

November 2025



Announcement:

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

"Now therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the terrible God, who keepeth covenant and mercy, let not all the trouble seem little before Thee... " (Nehemiah 9:32)

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

**A Bible meditation by late Pastor Richard Wurmland
A PRAYER WHEN IN TROUBLE**

I was asked to speak in a church about my imprisonment during 14 years by the communists in Romania. I told them the story of a doctor of early Christian times who was unjustly imprisoned by the emperor. After some years, his family were allowed to visit him, and at first, they were appalled. His clothes were rags, his food a slice of bread and a cup of water every day. Then his wife looked at him more closely. "How is it you look so well?" she asked. "You have the air of one who has just come from a wedding." The doctor smilingly replied that he had found a remedy for all troubles, "a tea good against all suffering and sorrow. It contains seven herbs, and I shall number them for you.

"The first is contentedness: be satisfied with what you have. I may shiver in my rags as I gnaw on a crust, but how much worse off I should be if the emperor had thrown me naked into a dungeon with nothing at all to eat.

"The second herb is common sense. Whether I rejoice or worry, I shall still be in prison, so why distress myself?

"The third is remembrance of past sins: count them, and on the assumption that every sin deserves a day in prison, reckon how many lives you would spend behind bars—you have been let off lightly.

"The fourth is the thought of the sorrows Christ bore gladly for us. If the only man who ever could choose his fate on earth chose pain, what great value he must have seen in it. So, we observe that, borne with serenity and joy, suffering redeems.

"The fifth herb is the knowledge that suffering has been given to us by God as from a father, not to harm us, but to cleanse and sanctify us. The suffering through which we pass is intended to purify us, prepare us for heaven.

"The sixth is the knowledge that no suffering can harm a Christian life. If the pleasures of the flesh are all, then pain and prison bring an end to a man's aim in living; but if the core of life is truth, no prison cell can change it. Prison cannot stop me from loving; iron bars cannot exclude faith. If these ideals make up my life, I can be serene anywhere.

"The last herb in the recipe is hope. The wheel of life may put the emperor's physician in prison, but it goes on turning. It may eventually bring me back to the palace, and even return me to the throne."

I paused for a moment. The crowded church was still. "I have drunk barrels of this tea since then," I said, "and I can recommend it to you all. It has proved good.

In a moment of great distress, while surrounded by many enemies, Nehemiah tells us what God is like: Great, Mighty and Terrible. These are hard to comprehend impressive words. What is God like?

A man who had been blind from birth once asked someone to give him a glass of milk and queried, "What does milk look like?" The other man answered, "Milk is a white liquid". The blind man asked, "But what do you mean by white?" The other man answered, "White is the color of a swan". The blind man asked, "What is a swan?" The other replied, "A swan is a bird with a bent neck". The blind man asked again, "What does bent mean?" The other man said, "I will bend my elbow and you will touch it, and then you will know what bent means". The blind man touched the bent elbow of the other man and said, "Now I know what milk looks like!" Even in the Bible, only words can be used to tell about God. These might seem ridiculous to you, as it seems ridiculous for a blind man to know the appearance of milk from a bent elbow. But we are all very limited and by nature blind to the all-comprehensive, omniscient, omnipotent God. A man came to a Christian and complained about a great sorrow. The Christian recited the creed: "I believe in one God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible". The man in pain answered, "It is enough. Now I am comforted."

Nehemiah continues defining God: "God Keeps His Promises and is merciful!"

In our trials let us pray like Nehemiah, trusting God's promises and mercy!



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 Wurmbbrand 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!)



Because he refused to be a KGB informer, Vladimir **TIMCHUK**, a Baptist choir director suffered three and-a-half years imprisonment in frozen Siberia, in the former Soviet Union.

(Read his testimony in our online newsletter of 12/2016.)



Vladimir Serghei **KOROP**

Because his family conducted Baptist church meetings in his home, the former Soviet authorities threatened him continuously to level the home with a bulldozer and taking away his 8 children into a state-run foster-children home.

He was arrested and sentenced to two years of Soviet labor camp imprisonment.->

Arrested together with him were the ministers of the house-church, brethren Golosciapov Pavel Dorofeevici (2.5 years of Soviet prison) and Picalov Victor Anatolivici (3 years of communist imprisonment.) They were threatened they will die in prison. He replied: "You can turn us into dust, yet you will have to deal not with us but with the Living God."

(Read his testimony in our online newsletter of 12/2016.)



Apartment house destroyed through Russian bombing in Mariupol, Ukraine. Over six million refugees have fled so far from Ukraine to different European countries.



The Agape Foster-Home family in Pascani, Romania, June 2025. The home originally named an orphanage was founded by Pastor Richard Wurmbrand and his wife Sabina. In front row the directors of the foster-home, Carmen and Dorin Gavril. Pictures to the right show Andrei (9 years old) and Steven (10 years old.)

Sister Carmen writes: “Andrei came to Agape at the age of 3. He was sent by the social services together with his other two foster-siblings because practically their parents abandoned them. The children actually lived for a while with their bedridden grandmother, whom they, as young as they were, had to take care of. Andrei, a handsome and very intelligent boy sings beautifully. In church he recites the lyrics by heart.

“Steven came to Agape, also when only 3 because the Child Protection Directorate took him and his other two brothers from their natural family. Steven is talented in music and plays the piano and other instruments. We hope that, with God's help and with both our and your prayers, all children in the orphanage will have a blessed future.

“The foundation of the Agape education is the Christian faith and biblical principles of life, so there is no day without prayer, thanksgiving and Bible study.

“The children all go to church every Sunday, where those up to 14 years old also participate in Sunday school for their age group. Every Saturday, the older children go to choir rehearsals and Bible study, and the younger ones prepare Bible verses, which they recite by heart on Sundays at church.

“We often have meetings with the children where we organize various competitions, discuss a biblical text, talk about an event or tell a story. We are happy because we always see the positive influence of Christian education. The children are calmer, more empathetic and generally better.”



“My name is **RODIONOVA** Irina! I am 56 years old. Single mother of two children, daughter Alena born 1986 and son Daniil born 2009. Lived in the city of Luhansk! Dad and Mom died in a car accident in 1997. I lived in a big house! I was a private entrepreneur of my store! In 2014, the first Ukrainian war began. Rockets began to fly and exploded. Fragments hit people and people died. I was forced to run away from the war with my children! When we left the city, we saw many dead people with torn legs, arms, and dead children. A lot of blood - it was very scary! We left Luhansk with volunteers and arrived in Kryvyi Rih! My children and I were placed in a student dormitory! Psychologists worked with us and helped us as much as they could: with food and medicine! Two days later only, my neighbors informed me that the house had been bombed and the store looted. In one of the photos, you can see the ruins of where my house used to be.

“We lived in a hostel for 8 years, and I received an allowance of 1,000 hryvnias (less than US \$24!) I immediately got a job as a cleaner and rented an apartment, it was very difficult. In 2022, the second war began for us. Russia launched a full-scale invasion. I was forced to flee to the city of Lviv again, and then I came to Spain with

volunteers. We turned to the ASEM social organization (a European-Asian cultural body) for help. We were settled in some Spanish hotel, lived there for three months and were moved to a social house for Ukrainians, where five people lived in one apartment. Help was allocated in the form of food and pocket money of 50 euros (about US \$58) per month! So we lived there for two years. Then the program ended on October 22, 2024. After that, me and the children began to rent just one room in an apartment for 170 euros (less than US \$200) plus utilities!

“I live together with my son. The eldest daughter is in another country. I found a job in a restaurant washing dishes! The contract was for three months and then I was left without a job! We have nowhere to return, other than to stay and live in Spain.

“While living here, I met a woman named also Irina. She brought me to the Christian Church! After that, I began to visit home groups, go to church and reconciled with the Lord! When I became a part of the church, it became easier for me, I felt the Lord's help on my life path! Before that, as I lived, I did not feel or see any help or support from God. Thank you that I met such people who help me to know God!”

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 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	Кураев	АЛЕКСЕЙ	ЯКОВЛЕВИЧ	1958	Россия
412	Леон	НИКОЛАЙ	ВИКТОРОВИЧ	1958	Казахстан
413	Романен	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	Ляшенко	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 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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<https://apps.irs.gov/app/eos/allSearch>

and enter EIN: 953064521.