

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 needy Christian refugees from Ukraine!**

December 2025



Late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand with wife, Sabina

**Announcement:**

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

**"Jesus said: Take ye away the stone." (John 11:39)**

Late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand suffered 14 years in Romanian communist prisons. Mrs. Wurmbrand, 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 Wurmbrand  
SPIRITUAL RESURRECTION**

In a small town, the hearse driver was an unbeliever. The minister of the church had tried repeatedly to bring him to God without success.

One day the car of the pastor was being repaired, and on that day he had to conduct a burial service. So he sat in the hearse next to the driver. He made a new attempt to bring the driver to conversion.

"Sir, would you please do me a favor?" the pastor asked. "The Bible contains a difficult verse which speaks about your profession. Help me to understand it. Our Lord Jesus said, 'Let the dead bury their dead.' Now, a dead hearse driver cannot drive a corpse to the cemetery. A dead grave digger cannot dig a grave. A dead pastor cannot deliver a funeral sermon. What is then the meaning of these words?"

The driver laughed. "Have I not always told you, pastor, that the Bible is sheer nonsense? Take these words of Jesus only and you have the proof of it."

The pastor replied, "Before discarding it, let us consider it a little bit. When the coffin with the dead man whom we have behind us, was taken out of the house, you heard his wife crying, 'George, don't leave me alone! Return!' The children also begged their father to stay with them. It was in vain. The dead did not answer because he was dead.

"The same happens with you. For years Christ, the angels, Christians have called you to repentance and you have not answered, because you also are dead - spiritually. So a man who is dead spiritually buries a man who is bodily dead. The words of our Lord do make sense."

"Every man who does not have Christ is dead spiritually. Bodily he may live in a nice home. Spiritually his abode is in a grave. Jesus would like to resurrect him from there, as He resurrected Lazarus bodily long ago. Bodily resurrections have been rare, but the Lord wishes spiritual resurrection of all who are dead in sins and error. He asks us, the believers, to be His co-workers in this. He is the only One who can raise the dead, but we are called to take away the stones from the graves."



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, addresses of their surviving children. Read their full testimonies in our past newsletters, as indicated below!**



**POZDNIAKOV Nicolae** Petrovici wrote: „I served as a deacon in a Moscow Baptist underground church. In 1981 I was sentenced to two years of hard labor. I completed this sentence in the most extreme harsh climate of the Siberian Far East, the former Soviet Republic of Buryatia. I was threatened to be shot. The work and prison conditions were so harsh that 15-20 persons died every month.



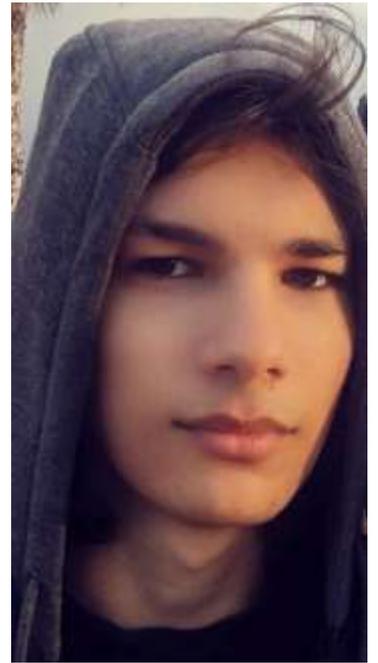
**Petru PRUTEANU** writes: “I was born in 1948 and spent because of my Christian beliefs, five full years in the communist Soviet prisons and prison camps. The way I was tortured by the communist authorities is painful to describe. They asked I collaborate with the KGB and betray the active Christian brethren. When I refused, I was threatened with homosexual rape.

“During one month, they carried me by prison-wagon through eight different prisons. I was beaten innumerable times. Every time I answered my torturers: "Being a Christian I am ready to receive anything as coming from God." So that I as a Christian underground leader should not have any influence upon other local imprisoned Christians, I was transported to a prison over 800 miles away from home. In this way, it was next to impossible to receive any family visit.”

**(Read these testimonies in our online newsletters of 12/2016 and 1/2017 at: <https://helpforrefugees!>**



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



Sister Zorina **KLIUCHKO** writes: “I lived in Ukraine for the first three years of the war with my son and husband. We lived in the frontline territory (Sumshchyna) - where the word "life" ceases to mean something calm. Every day turned into a struggle, and every night - into a test of fear. We slept in the hallways, in the bathroom or in the basement, hugging each other, because explosions and shelling rang out without stopping. Rockets, drones, constant strikes - all this became our daily reality.

“We were left without light, without water, without heat. Without medicine and food. Roads were blocked, bridges were blown up, cities around were destroyed. Part of our property was damaged. But the worst thing is to see fear in your son's eyes and try to be a support for him, when you yourself are trembling from powerlessness inside. These three years have become the most difficult years of our lives.

“On December 3, 2024, I was forced to leave Ukraine with my son. He was almost 17 years old. The situation became critically dangerous. A missile hit his school. He studied at home — in the dark, with sirens wailing.

“Then military enlistment officers began coming to schools and hospitals, collecting documents for boys his age for military registration. I lived in constant fear for his life and future. A lawyer advised us to take the child out immediately — but even he could not guarantee that we would go unimpeded.

“I took out **Artem, my son**, literally a month before his 17th birthday so that he would not be registered for military registration. If he had been registered, we might not have been let go abroad. Every minute of that time was a fight for a chance to save his life. My husband could not be allowed to leave the country. The road to the border was one of the most terrible days of my life. We rode the bus to the sirens, understanding that at any moment there could be shelling. We had almost no money. Everything we had earned over the years was left at home. My husband worked in garages, repairing cars, and one day there was a missile - all the garages were destroyed, everything he had earned over the years was gone. I had to borrow money from friends and withdraw the last of my credit card to pay for the trip. When we crossed the border - the tears rolled down by themselves due to years of total exhaustion.” *Continued on next page!*

“From Poland we arrived in Warsaw and sat at the airport for another 15 hours, exhausted, without energy, hungry, not even having extra money to buy at least something in a cafe. All we had was two suitcases and each other. We arrived in Madrid around seven in the evening. For us, it was the first flight in our lives and the first time abroad. We didn’t know the language, the rules, or where to go. We couldn’t even leave the airport on our own we were completely disoriented. We were met by my friend from Ukraine, who was a refugee herself and knew well how difficult this journey could be. She came to the airport specifically to take us through the terminal and help us get to the refugee hotel.

“But there were no places there. We arrived around 9:30 p.m. and sat on our suitcases, hungry, exhausted, scared, not knowing where we would spend the night. We were just praying for a small miracle that we wouldn’t be left on the streets. It wasn’t until around midnight that we were told that a room might be available. And it took another hour and a half to get through the registration process. It was well after midnight that we finally got into a small room. Exhausted to the point of exhaustion, scared, hungry, but grateful that we weren’t left on the streets. We lived in a hotel in Madrid for three months, after which we were transferred to Murcia. Here we were given a small room in an apartment with people from other cultures and countries. They are kind, sincere, but living in a cramped environment, without privacy, without silence, and without the ability to have our own space is a difficult daily challenge. We’ve been living here for eight months now, and it’s very draining mentally. For us, it’s a small but stable place where we can feel a bit of security. Adaptation took an incredible amount of effort. We didn’t speak the language, and because of that, my son couldn’t go to school. I also couldn’t work, because without knowing the language it’s practically impossible.

“I’m a manicurist, but due to serious back problems (protrusions, hernias) it’s difficult to work fully. I dream of getting trained, learning a new profession, but without knowing the language and without minimal stability it’s almost impossible.

“At the moment I work out every day with my son — we learn the language so that he can study, and I can work and provide for us. I’m doing everything I can to learn the language and be ready for employment. Even if I can’t learn a new profession, I’m ready, despite the pain in my back, to work as a manicurist to somehow support us and stabilize our lives. Ahead are back treatment, education, adaptation, finding a job, renting a place to live, and building a new life for my son and I. Every day is a struggle and a small step towards feeling at least a little bit of security and stability.

*‘I want to sincerely thank you for the help you provided. Although we do not know each other personally, your kind heart and generosity have been a great blessing to me. You have become a reminder to me that God works through people who are open to Him and ready to serve others.*

*May the Lord reward you many times over for every good deed.*

*"He who does good to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward him for his good deeds" (Proverbs 19:17).*

*These words especially reflect what you have done - your mercy does not go unnoticed by God.*

*I pray that the Lord strengthens you, expands the work of your hands and fills your life with peace and joy."*

## 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	Куркин	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	Федюка (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>**

### Help for Refugees, Inc.

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<https://apps.irs.gov/app/eos/allSearch>

and enter EIN: 953064521.