

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 Wurmbbrand with wife, Sabina

July 2024

**Announcement:**

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

**"(God)... has made of one blood all nations of men."  
(Acts 17:26)**

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

From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand

**THE MOST BEAUTIFUL BLOOMING FLOWER**

Bible scholars say that the twelve tribes of Israel were taken captive by Assyria and Babylon, but only two of them ever returned to their land. The other ten tribes have allegedly disappeared without any trace.

This is not so. The Jewish history book belonging to the Apocrypha, I Maccabees contains a letter addressed by a Greek king to Onias, high priest of the Jews. It says, "We find in our old writings that Spartans and Jews are brothers, because both peoples descend from Abraham." (1<sup>st</sup> Mac. 12:21) The Romans are a branch of the Greek. All Latin people come from the Romans. They mixed with the other European nations.

It is easy to find traces of the Hebrew language in the European culture. The key word of the Greek New Testament "agape" ("love") is a distortion of the Hebrew word "ahavah". Many Gentiles of Europe were of Jewish descent, except that they had forgotten their calling. They had become idolaters. The Jewish high priest must have been very much grieved about it, but in this same chapter he writes to the Spartans beautiful words of love and tells "your honor and prosperity are our joy."

For us, too, the honor and prosperity of all Christians, yea, of all men, are our joy, because in Adam we are all brethren. We are all one family, and there are many terrible things which make us sorrowful about what is happening in it. We have to speak about them, but we do so with love, prompted by the best desires for all men, even for the worst adversaries of the church. Men are made to cooperate, just as hands and feet and eyes have to work together in one body. Cooperation can only be achieved through love, the most beautiful rose blooming in this world.

Jesus loves sinners. We love communist torturers. We also love traitors. We wish everyone's good. Led by this sentiment, in order to serve them, we tell them, "You are wrong." We don't forget the oppressors and their stooges either. Christ died for them, too. Hatred is unleashed. If Christian love could not cure it, the only remedy we know is to double the dose of love toward the Communists and do our utmost to bring them also to Christ.

An emperor of Japan who heard that one of his noblemen had a garden full of gorgeous orchids told him he wished to see them. At the appointed time, the emperor arrived at the house and was taken directly to the garden, but there were no flowers in it. The earth had been ploughed. The emperor said nothing. The nobleman then invited the emperor into the tearoom, and there on the table was one single orchid of indescribable splendor and fragrance. The host told the emperor, "I have kept the most beautiful flower for the best of kings. The others were not worthy to survive." Nothing but love should govern the relationship between Christians. One new commandment was given by the Lord Jesus: "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." (John 13:34)

Right in the beginning of the Bible we are told the story of Cain killing his brother Abel. Cain answered God, who asked about Abel, that he is not his brother's keeper. We sometimes give similar answers: 'Am I the keeper of Christians unknown to me who live and suffer in faraway lands?' Yes, we are their keepers, as Jesus is our keeper. The right way is not that of Cain, but that of the loving Abel.

At a party in my home Christians were discussing their friends. Some they considered good believers, others weak, still other unbelievers. An old missionary from India intervened: "Don't classify people. Our judgments might be wrong. As often as we speak, let us better propagate the love of Christ. This will gladden the strong believer, strengthen the weak one, and convert the unbeliever. So, our Christian love will have done something positive.



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.

Read their full testimonies in our past newsletters at <http://helpforrefugees.com> (third column!)



**TERELAI Petrica**

suffered 10 years of imprisonment for his Christian faith in former communist Romania. He wrote: “Most prisoners who died, died of hunger. The icy cold finished all off, as there were no windows or doors during the heavy (Romanian) windy winters.”

Read his testimony in our online 12/2015 Newsletter.



**LAZAR Dorina and family. She wrote:**

“I am one of four children. My father was sentenced to 10 years of communist prison for his faith in Jesus Christ and for his missionary activities. Being a good preacher, many gathered around him asking for “medicine” meaning the Word of God. My mother was a nun, thrown out of the monastery when closed by the communist Romanian government. Both a sister and I were forbidden finishing high school since we were children of Christians who were considered enemies of the communist government!”

Read her testimony in our online 12/2015 Newsletter.



**Minister BOTA Ioan wrote:**

“I was arrested and beaten by the Secret Police Major Ludovic Weiss till I lost consciousness at the communist secret police prison of Satu Mare, Romania.”

Read his full testimony in our online 12/2015 Newsletter.

## Testimonies of Ukrainian Christian Families, Helped with your Gifts!



**Sister MARKHEVA Olena wrote:** “During this armed conflict in Ukraine, rocket attacks on our city and military aggression by Russia, we were forced to flee due to the difficult psychological state of my daughter and my physical state. At the moment, my daughter and I live in the city of Krakow, Poland, and my son and husband stayed in Ukraine because they are conscripts. In Ukraine, I was in charge particularly in the musical ministry (adults, children), training of ministers, conducting, participating in evangelistic services and so on. Presently I am a guitar teacher at the Ukrainian Baptist Theological Seminary in Lviv, Poland and in other local churches. For many years, I served as the conductor of the music service at the Gethsemane Church. After moving to Poland, my state of health became significantly more complicated. In August 2022 my daughter and I got very sick and I was also in the hospital for 10 days and for this period of time I was scheduled for additional examinations. I registered at the labor office as an unemployed person and I have not been able to find a job in accordance with my physical capabilities at the moment. I also take care of my minor daughter. We will be grateful for your prayers for us and any help. Thank God, thank you for the opportunity to receive help in a difficult time for us. May God bless you!

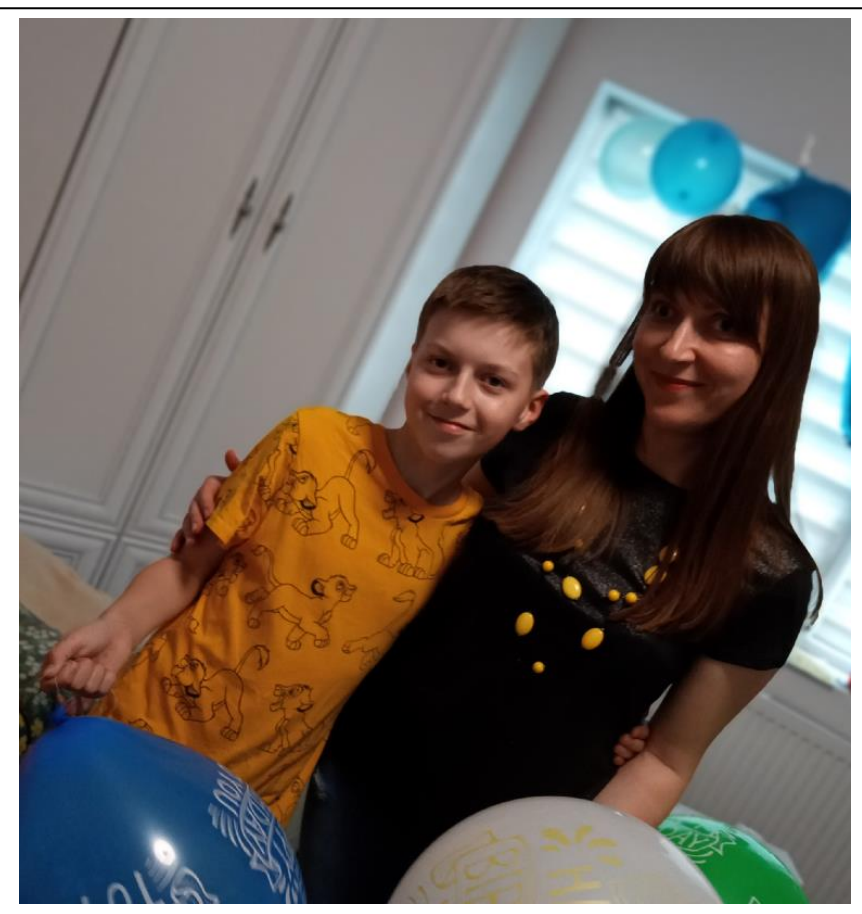


**Apartment house destroyed through Russian bombing in Mariupol, Ukraine, where 40% of whole town has been close to obliterated.**

**Over eight million refugees have escaped so far from Ukraine into different European countries.**



### **Testimonies of Ukrainian Christian Families, Helped with your Gifts!**



**Sister KRIUCHKOVA Tetiana wrote:** “I am a single mother from Ukraine. I am raising by myself a son who is 10 years old. To explain, my son and I lived in Ukraine, in Druzhkovka, Donetsk region. For us the war began in 2014, when these regions ended up in the Russian combat area! For 8 years we lived with a constant feeling of restlessness. (These regions were forcefully separated from Ukraine in 2014. N. Ed) In February 2022, everything our country did not expect, a full war, happened. What a terrible step Russia took to invade and bomb us. My son and I were awakened by explosions at four o'clock in the morning. It was scary! The sounds of shells cannot be confused with other terrifying noises. We had the feeling we had experienced that before (in 2014! N. Ed.) One needs to collect in great hurry the most necessary things! So my son and I, also a pet cat, ended up

in Romania. We were transported here by volunteers. Our pastor and other good people helped us. My son and I live now in the town of Oradea, we walk to church, we serve, we try to live a simple life. Being relocated for more than one year it is impossible to name our state being an ordinary life. Humans are supposed to adapt, but it is difficult to get used to our situation.”



Parents: Serhii with wife Liudmila. Sons: Serhii age 25 and Olexander-16; Daughters: Sofia-12; Adopted Daughters: Victoria-13 and Violeta-6.

**Brother Krasnokutskyi wrote:** “On 5/20/2023 we left (before the Russian-Ukrainian borders were closed, N. Ed) the city called Tokmak in the Russian-occupied territory of the Zaporozhye region with the whole family, including my mother. Since we contracted in advance our date of departure with some bus carrying our luggage, we had time to collect at least some things. Part of the family, two sons, a daughter, my mother and myself as the driver, followed the carrier in an old Opel. My wife and two adopted children traveled inside the carrier minibus. The whole journey took three days, as we slept little and tried hard arrive to the destination in Estonia as quickly as possible. There, our friends, with whom we were in the same church, were waiting for us. Before starting this trip, we prayed a lot and it worked. God kept us not only on the road, but also continues to help us in Estonia. All obstacles which arose on the road and after the trip were quickly resolved.

We left the city of Melitopol, drove along the Azov coast, through the bombed city of Mariupol in order to reach the border post of Novoazovsk. To our surprise, we passed the full inspection in three hours and we were allowed to enter Russian territory. Further through the city of Rostov we drove on the toll road

toward Moscow through Voronezh and drove non-stop until night time. Stopped somewhere to refuel and decided to sleep for a couple of hours. Then we got ready for the road again. From time to time we stopped at gas stations or parking lots to relax and rest. We also bought food there to eat in a hurry.

At about 6 o'clock in the evening, we drove through Moscow and headed for Volokolamsk and longer (still in Russia) to Rzhev. That night we spent the night in some roadside hotel. We rented a room for three people, but we stayed in there six persons. Two sons slept in the car, and myself, as the driver, used the bed together with my wife and daughter. What a relief when we could finally take a warm shower.

We woke up at half past six in the morning and started preparing for departure. At seven in the morning we travelled to the border post in the village of Ubolenka, Pskov region. On the spot, there were problems with the older son, because when he turned 25, he did not exchange his passport for a Russian one. They also did not want to let my wife and two adopted children pass. The main issue was that all the documents were in Ukrainian, and the border guards needed them translated into Russian. But even this problem was solved. And just like that we crossed the border with Latvia. Now we all could breathe more freely. But we were facing another 6 hours of travel.

We arrived in the Estonian town of Pärnu at half past six in the morning on May 23 where our friends met us. On the first day we rested, and already on the second day, we went to the police to register as refugees and file documents for a temporary residence permit. On May 25, we were accommodated in the village of Vysku in a hostel and provided with free meals. Now we are waiting for a temporary residence permit be issued to us. Now there are only seven of us left, my mother, at her request, was travelled to Poland to live with my sister. At the moment, my eldest son Sergey (he is 26 years old) and my wife Ludmila Krasnokutskyi have registered with the Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund, and we are waiting for notification from the police department and the border guard about where and when it will be possible to pick up our ID passports, since we have already been approved for a residence permit in Estonia. Without ID passports, authorities in Estonia don't want to allow us to be hired in any job and we are not allowed to sign any housing lease.”



## 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 February 2024:** Refugees still pour-in most days at the rate of 8,000-10,000!) Michael Wurmbrand

409	Власенко	Валентин	Медфодьевич	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	ДРИСВЯНИКОВ	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

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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and enter EIN: 953064521.