

HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC.

A tax-exempt, non-profit corporation

Michael Wurmband, President

Tel. (310) 544-0814

PO Box 5161, Torrance, Ca. 90510, USA.

Email: hfr@helpforrefugees.com; Website: <http://helpforrefugees.com>

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

March 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!)

"Unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake."
(Philippians 1:29)

Late Reverend Richard Wurmband suffered 14 years in Romanian communist prisons. Mrs. Wurmband, Sabina, 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From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmband
God's Gifts

Thank God if you have received the gift of believing in Christ. A ship, in order to be safe in the harbor, must throw its anchor not in the ship, but outside it. A man to be sure of his salvation, must rely not on his own good character nor on rituals which he performs, but on something outside himself: the death of Christ endured for his sins. If you don't have the gift to believe in Him, ask it from God.

But don't stop at this first step. Many Christians sense that we can get from God more than faith; that there exists a second, deeper experience, and they seek for it. A second gift from God is in reserve for you: You can suffer for Christ's sake.

What does this gift look like?

In Chinese Prisons You Need Permission To Cough

In Red China's prisons, our brethren and sisters in faith have to sit motionless, leaning toward the wall, from five in the morning until nine o'clock at night, day after day, month after month, for years. Every day is for them like an enemy decided to torture them to death. They are not allowed to speak to the other inmates of the cell. They are forbidden to cough, to laugh, or to

weep. If a prisoner has to cough, he must say to the warden who continually spies on him "Bau-gau," which means "Please give me permission." It is "Bau-gau" for spitting, for scratching oneself, for killing vermin.

If all at once or someone in the cell goes mad and begins to sing, the rest have to sit motionless, while their fellow-prisoner is silenced through beatings. And how could they help him? They have chains on their hands and feet. ("Report from China" by Heinrich SCHMITZ, in German, STEYLER Publishing House).

In Hebrews 13:3 it is written, "Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them. " Try to sit six hours like this, motionless, on the floor (in prison, it is on the cold concrete), to see how your brethren fare!

They endure not only this physical suffering and food which has the taste of sawdust. They suffer from doubts, too. "Why did my Heavenly Father allow me to come here?" Our brethren bear all this for Christ's sake.

Vatican Praised Mao

Happily, they get no Christian books to read. How would the imprisoned Chinese Catholics feel if they were given the bulletin of the so-called Sacred Congregation for the Evangelization of the People? It reads, "Christian reflections are present in the thoughts of Chairman MAO." (Why not give to all mass-murderers their due titles and why not write about the "Führer" Hitler and the Italian Nazi "Duce" Mussolini?) "MAO's doctrine is a moral socialism of thought and conduct." (FIDES Agency) Thus a sacred congregation certifies that to induce hungry Christians to deny their faith by promising them a steak and to make men sleep in winter on concrete without a blanket and to subject them to unmentionable tortures which arise out of the thoughts of MAO are examples of moral conduct. The Pope is believed by Catholics to be the infallible teacher of fake-morals. Why does he not oblige the members of this congregation to sit for a whole year hungry and motionless? It might help them see the truth more clearly. Some top Protestant leaders do not do better, but to suffer for Christ's sake means to accept betrayal by fellow believers, to endure the indignity of knowing one's religious superiors flatter the torturers, to be led to doubt everything and believe in spite of doubts. It also means to love not only one's torturers but those who flatter them as well.

Have you received only the first gift from God—or both? If your life is easy, you can share the heavy cross of your Chinese brethren. You can weep with those who weep.



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!)



Baptist minister Ivan Belev, shown here with wife and his family of 7 children. After his church had been demolished by the communist authorities, he erected again and again (four times) a tarpaulin tent church. For these activities he was imprisoned by the KGB for two and a half years in the former Soviet Union.

(Read his full testimony in our online June 2016 Newsletter.)



Baptist Christian Vasile Tasca, wife Eugenia and their 6 children family. Brother Tasca was imprisoned for close to 4 years by the communist Soviet Government. He participated with his truck in the successful smuggling of over 10,000 Russian Bibles into the communist Soviet Union. **(Read his full testimony in our online July 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.



“I am **LAZURKO** Ivan, deacon, preacher in the Immanuel church in Chernivtsi, Ukraine. On the night of February 26-27, 2022 at 4 a.m., myself, my wife and 2 children Livia, 4 months old, and Amanda, 5 years old, left for the Romanian border after my wife cried for several days and asked us to leave (I didn't want to because I thought I had to serve there, but I listened to my wife). At that time, my wife's mother Lyudmila, 69, came with us. My wife's father died a long time ago. Lyudmila, came to us in Chernivtsi from Irpin (Kyiv region). Thank God we insisted so much and she listened to us. Only a few days later her house was completely burned down from gunfire. (Two dead people and trenches were found in the yard). Together with her, about twelve other people took refuge into our home. When we all fled Ukraine and arrived in Bistrita (Romania), we met with several local ministers of the church and thought about how to start serving the Ukrainian refugees with help and the gospel. I am fluent in both Ukrainian and Romanian. Although I was born and lived all my life in Ukraine, I also have Romanian citizenship since childhood (due to parents), my wife and children do not have them. But because I have Romanian citizenship, I could not benefit from any Romanian government refugees-help. We live in a rented apartment. I listened to many sermons by Richard Wurmbrand and his testimony, Because my ancestors were also persecuted for their faith in God. - Richard had joy from God even in the most difficult circumstances of life. I encouraged many Ukrainian refugees with these testimonies.



Sister **CHERK** Anita wrote: " I am disabled having chronic kidney disease. I need hemodialysis 3 times a week. My February 24th, 2022 day started when I woke up at 8:00 am hearing my brother addressing my mother: ‘Mom, the war has started, we have packed our things, and we are leaving from here. I just stopped by to say hello and goodbye.’ There was shelling in Kramatorsk, which is over 40 miles from our city and where I was due to have dialysis. My friends there said that there was shelling in the morning, but it seemed to be quiet at the moment. We decided to go there for a last time hemodialysis procedure. Mom remained behind to pack things. When we returned home after dialysis, a curfew had already been imposed, so we fled our home in our car at 6 a.m. on February 25. The first stop was in Vinnytsia, where a lady welcomed us to spend the night. I heard sirens that blared all night. And then we drove to the Polish border. We found a 10-miles-line of cars moving very slowly. Dad at the wheel, did not sleep all night. At 7 a.m. I was awakened from sleep by a loud sound of an explosion that happened behind, and a wave from it that pushed our car. People panicked, some ran out of their cars to the sides of the road and some people even left their places in the line, but we kept our place. In the afternoon, volunteers arrived to distribute food. In the evening, the news began to broadcast that Putin could launch a nuclear attack on Ukraine. Everyone was asked to turn off their headlights. It was very scary. In total, we remained stuck in this line of cars for 2 days. But, we did cross the Polish border. Next day we crossed the borders of Lithuania and Latvia and arrived after 5 days in Estonia,



Your gifts have allowed us to send help to the AGAPE ORPHANAGE in Pascani, Romania, founded in 1993 by late pastor Richard Wurmbbrand and his wife Sabina.

We also help the RICHARD WURMBRAND COLLEGE (an established, accredited Evangelical school (1-12 grades) in Iasi, Romania.



Nicoleta (now 12) is one of the 7 children in a Romanian destitute family. Several years ago, three children from this family came to Agape, due to the miserable living conditions having an alcoholic mother and an often disappearing father. With God's help, the three are now serious, decent and faithful young people: Vasile works in Brussels, Belgium, Elena is a student, and Maria is a student also in the 10th grade.

Meantime, their mother gave birth to four more children, whom she did not take care of at all, and in the end, she left and disappeared as well. Elena, their sister, when she found her siblings in a terrible situation, begged us from the bottom of her heart to take them to Agape as well.

Nicoleta came to Agape at the age of 6. Before coming to Agape, she took care of her younger siblings, the 2-year-old twins and Anuta, who was not yet a year old. She stayed home alone with them for a long time. They slept in the cold and had very little food.

Now, at Agape, Nicoleta no longer has to worry about her siblings. Yet, she still takes care of them and helps them as much as she can with their lessons. She is a good girl, obedient, but also full of energy. She is not very good at studying, although she really wants to study well. She loves to sing and has learned to play the mandolin.

Andrei (9 years old) is the younger brother of Georgiana and Ionela. Ionela has a serious kidney disease. These children were brought to Agape by social services because their mother sent them to the streets to beg or steal, and she had abandoned them lately.

Andrei is a handsome and very intelligent boy. He also sings beautifully and knows the lyrics of songs very well. He is also learning to play the piano and mandolin. In church he recites the lyrics by heart and sings with great pathos.

Unfortunately, some of the kids are nervous and rebellious. Life on the streets is necessarily still reflected in their behavior.



**BREAKFAST
IN THE AGAPE ORPHANAGE**

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 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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