

HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC.

A tax-exempt, non-profit corporation

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We help orphans and elderly Christians (many in their 80s, even 90s) who had been imprisoned for their faith in present or former communist countries.

At this critical moment, we help also many Christian refugees from Ukraine!



Late Reverend Richard Wurmland with wife, Sabina

March 2023

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 third column!)

**"He that hateth me hateth my Father also"
(John 15:23)**

Late Reverend Richard Wurmland spent 14 years in Romanian communist prisons. Mrs. Wurmland 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From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmland

THE DANGER OF LIBERAL THEOLOGY

Lenin, founder of modern international Communism, was a man who hated God. At the age of 16, upset by a stupid remark of a priest he overheard talking to his father, Lenin tore off the cross he wore around his neck. As it usually happens, an incident which was really a trifle created in him a complex of antipathy towards religion. He confounded one wrong utterance of a priest. with all the realities for which the notion "priest" stands: God, Bible, eternal life.

Then, Holbach became his favorite philosopher and he would later recommend strongly the wide dissemination of the writings of Holbach to the masses. He liked this philosopher who had written, "God is my personal enemy."

In a letter to the Russian writer Maxim Gorky, Lenin wrote, "Thousands of epidemics and natural catastrophes are to be preferred to the slightest notion of God," which means that he

preferred the plague and earthquakes to religion. This is how hatred can blind a person. Hate strangles reason.

When Lenin and afterwards Leninist parties, took over the government of different countries, they wished to express their hatred against God. They could not reach God in heaven, but God also has His abode with every man who loves Jesus and keeps His words. (John 14:23) These the Communists could reach and they shed their hatred over them. Communists hate God. Therefore, they persecute the church of God and try to destroy it from within. They make even church leaders to flatter the haters of God.

Karl Marx began as a Christian. His first book is a commentary on the Gospel of John. His official biographer, Riazanov, says it. Then he read two books written by liberal theologians, Bruno Bauer's "The Origin of Christianity" and Strauss' "The Life of Jesus." These books destroyed the faith of young Marx. Liberal theology is co-guilty of the millions of innocent victims made by the disciples of Karl Marx. They caused Marx to seek other ways than those of Christ and the poisonous communist doctrines of Marx and Lenin, destroyed the minds of entire populations in many big countries.

If a man. stood by a roadside and watched the whole population of China walk past him at the rate of one individual per second, more than 20 years would elapse before the last member of the procession went by. Strictest Leninism rules these people. Lenin has written, "Everything is moral that is necessary for the annihilation of the old exploiting order." According to Lenin, religion belongs in this category. It must be annihilated. But Christians in China trust death. A strange report comes from the province of Hunan. A preacher was hanged by the Communists, but they left too quickly. The brethren were able to cut him down, and he is still alive. He says that when the rope was around his neck and he was being hauled up over the branch of a tree, all he could think of was our Lord being raised up on the Cross.

Another report says that two Christians were led towards torture and death. "It's finished now," said one in a whisper. His brother answered, "No. That is not what Jesus said when He suffered. He said: 'It is accomplished.'" Their example inspires us.



The Communist Jilava Prison.
Entrance to the underground cells.



Prison cell with bunk-beds 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!)



Reverend Stefan Zetea *

During 27 different prolonged interrogations lasting many hours, he was repeatedly spit in the face, was beaten with rubber truncheons and called "a bandit." Since he did not accept to renounce the faith, he was placed in a solitary cell without food for three days. His faith testimony was characterized on the Romanian imprisonment warrant and sentencing document, as a "plotting against the (communist) government."

Read his daughter's full testimony in our online 11/2020 Newsletter.

*The mission helped the surviving daughter.

Reverend Augustin Mare

was imprisoned in communist Romania for 4 years. He was held and tortured in the most sinister prison camps and also at the Danube Canal, Christians held at the Danube Canal. described how the death of a person was considered of the importance of the death of a fly.

Read his daughter's testimony in our online 11/2020 Newsletter.

Reverend Gheorghe Marian

was imprisoned for more than 13 years. He worked gathering reeds in the Danube Delta, Periprava camp. This jail was called by former inmates, a true "death camp." After the fall of communism in Romania, the commander of this jail was convicted to 20 years imprisonment for crimes against humanity. **Read about Rev. Marian in our online 12/2020 Newsletter.**

Galya Shevchenko

wife of Baptist brother Sasha Shevchenko who, after suffering a 5 years jail sentence for his faith, was sent together with family into exile in Yakutia, in the village of Ust-Nera (the so named North Pole of Cold) the coldest place in the former Soviet Union. **Read her full testimony in our online 12/2020 Newsletter.**

Christian Refugees of the Ukrainian-War Helped with your Gifts!



Larysa Mashura-45 years old-Marharyta's mother-in-law; Marharyta Demydchuk – 27 years old; Marharyta's children: Oleksii – age 13 and Alivtina – a little over 1 year old; Mother of Marharyta: Irina – age 51. All members of a Baptist Christian Center in Harkiv, Ukraine.

Marharyta was on maternity leave for Alivtina. Before the war she worked in a building material warehouse (salary about \$175 / month). Irina (Marharyta's mother) worked as a maid in a kindergarten (salary \$175/month). Larysa (Marharyta's mother-in-law) was a tailor (salary same as above.) Maharyta's husband drove them to the border of Romania and Ukraine. From there, they were picked up by volunteers and brought to Iasi. All their money was about \$100.

Apartment house destroyed through Russian bombing in Mariupol, Ukraine, where 40% of whole town has been close to obliterated. Over 7 million refugees have escaped Ukraine in the last 6 months.



Examples of Christian Refugee Families from War-Torn Ukraine, Helped with your Gifts.



“Two weeks after the start of the war, we were forced to leave our home, car and everything we had... After 4 days, we reached Poland, where we stayed for 10 days, from where we were sent to Italy. We have been provided housing until March 31, 2023, and after that date we will be evicted. We feed ourselves, the church and friends help as much as possible, but this is not enough. In addition, 3 children go to school, so we need finances to support them. It is very difficult to find work here, but we try, looking for at least small part-time jobs. Fighting is going on around our hometown - Konstantinivka, so we have nowhere to go back.

Please help our family! Thank you for your service! May God richly bless!!”!

Examples of Christian Refugee Families from War-Torn Ukraine, Helped with your Gifts



“Good day. In connection with the armed conflict in Ukraine and military aggression by Russia, we were forced to flee from the war, due to the difficult psychological state of my daughter and my physical state, as well as rocket attacks on our city. 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 a minister of the church, in particular musical ministry (adults, children), training of ministers, conducting, participating in evangelistic

services and projects in the church, inter-church and concert events at the city level, as well as a guitar teacher at the music department of the Ukrainian Baptist Theological Seminary in Lviv, a guitar teacher in various music studios at churches in Lviv. For many years, I served as the pastor of the music ministry at the Gethsemane church. After moving to Poland, my state of health became significantly more complicated. In August my daughter and I got very sick and I was also in the hospital for 10 days. For this period of time, I was scheduled for additional examinations. Registered at the labor office as an unemployed person, I have not been able to find a job in accordance with my physical capabilities at the moment, and I also take care of my minor daughter. We will be grateful for your prayers for us and any help. May God bless you Sincerely, Olena Markhev.”



An email from **Olena Hetman**: “Greetings, we moved to Poland on March 17, 2022, due to my mother's constant nervous stress due to the war, constant worries in the city. I became a member of the Word of Faith church in Warsaw, took part in the organization of a cultural intellectual space in the city of Warsaw, where we united the scientific community for educators, holding meetings with them and evangelizing non-believers to scientists. Today I was forced to leave my job in Odesa, Ukraine, for almost 14 years I worked in a scientific environment, taught at the universities of Odesa and worked for one and a half years in state administration bodies. Because of the war, we had to leave everything and start from scratch in Poland. I will be grateful for help, today I am the only one who can provide for our family, my mother is sick and needs help. I am open to service and to what God will lead further.” .

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 4 million have escaped the current war and another 3 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, nearly 1 million Ukrainians have sought refuge 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 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 reliable 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 3 adults and 12 children. Most of these refugees entertain the illusion of taking refuge out of their native country and their lodging and work, for a short 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 this newsletter a few receipts of scores more, documenting what I wrote above. Again, thanks and God Bless. **Michael Wurmbbrand**

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	ДРИСВЯНИКОВ	АЛЕКСАНДР	АЛЕКСАНДРОВИЧ	1959	Россия
418	СКВОРЦОВА	ЛЮБОВЬ	НИКОЛАЕВНА	1959	Россия
419	Варавин	Виталий	Федотович	1959	Россия
420	Дубицкий	СЕРГЕЙ	АДАМОВИЧ	1959	Россия
421	Лашенко	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, a **sample only** of a long 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 most likely 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 of 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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Email: hfr@helpforrefugees.com,
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