

HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC.

A tax-exempt, non-profit corporation

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“And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God” (Revelation 7:2)

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

From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand

The Seal of the Living God

The seal that the world puts on the foreheads of its elect is success and popularity. These should be of no great value to the children of God.

INFILTRATION IN THE CHURCH

When arriving to the West from communist Romania, I warned that Communism would expand to new countries. It is "the red dragon" (Revelation 12:3) ready to devour the church. It will never be satiated until it has the whole world under its heel. This same demonic spirit works in all countries that fell under communist rule. In Cuba for instance, CASTRO attended the execution of a Christian by firing squad. As his hands were tied behind his back, CASTRO told him, "Kneel and beg for your life." The Christian shouted back, "I kneel for no man." A sharpshooter put first one bullet through one knee, then through the other. CASTRO exulted, "You see, we made you kneel." The man was finished slowly by putting bullets through the non-vital parts of the body, prolonging the agony." (JOHN MARTINO, "I was CASTRO's Prisoner.") The devil himself works through these anti-Christian dictators. We hear again the words the devil said to our Lord, "All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me." (Matthew 4:9)

This is not all. Social-democracy is Marxist, too. It uses other methods but its ultimate aims are the same: abolishing all religion and morality. At one point, the most popular politician in Italy was BERLINGUER, the leader at that time of the Communist Party, a Marxist-Leninist, which means a man committed to mass-murders in order to abolish all religion and all morality. (See Karl MARX in the "COMMUNIST MANIFESTO") He disguised himself as a democrat. LENIN, too, called himself a social-democrat until he came to power, then he began killing of millions of innocents. After World War Two when POLAND fell under the communist rule, the head of the government "religious department" was a staunch shrewd communist named Kakol. "DOCUMENTATION CATHOLIQUE", France, Nr. 1703, published the full text of a speech by KAKOL, intended to remain confidential. He delivered it before a select group of comrades, among whom there was a secret believer. KAKOL vowed that while the Communists cannot stop people from going to church, it is their policy to pick out "church leaders" who will cooperate with them so as to keep the church away from being aggressive against Communism. During the long dark night of hatred through which mankind passes, HITLER and STALIN were also popular. So are many phony religious leaders, who despise the church established by Christ and lure people by playing on their sentiments and excitement. The devil knows how to promote traitors. Axes could cut no wood if there were no pieces of wood to be used as handles.

Man can get excited about anything, but only jubilation in the truth counts. My mission to the Free World started by propagating a very unpopular cause. Daring to stand for the truth when it is not popular, is the seal of God. I knew politicians care little about martyrs dying for Christ in countries far away. What do they care about more than one billion men under Communist rule in communist China for instance, who are forcibly kept far from Christ, the only source of salvation? Who weeps at the thought that these may go to eternal damnation? Men are not often touched by tragedies that exist a world away.

I brought into the apathetic Free World the message that the Gospel must be preached in Communist countries like China or North Korea and also among the revolutionists in western countries. I had no illusions of success. I knew that on the whole, some Christians are not missionary minded. I saw published, that the average U.S.A. church member gives \$1.75 a year for missions, though one half of the population of the globe has not yet heard the Gospel. Each week a million people die without having known about Christ. The world's population increases at the rate of 47,000,000 each year. In this situation, the missionary endeavor of the universal church is decreasing, though we know the Lord's command, "Go and teach all nations." (Matthew 28:19) Love, like light, must always be traveling; man must spend it, give it away. The speed of light is the highest speed existing in the universe. "Light" that does not travel at its maximum speed, is not light. Christianity that does not do its utmost to win souls for Christ is not Christianity. What is the worth of a selfish faith which assures my going to heaven but does not stimulate me to seek the salvation of others?

It is the seal of God to do what He ordains with or without man's approval. A seal is an indelible mark. Sometimes natural catastrophes of great size shake the faith of many. The German writer GOETHE and the French philosopher VOLTAIRE lost their faith in a gracious God after the great Lisbon earthquake of 1755. They were in despair because reason has no answer to the

question, "Why do such tragedies occur?" Well, if reason does not know, let us ask the loving and faithful heart; it puts no question and needs no answer. In this state of heart, one no longer needs explanations.

SPORTS VERSUS THE MARTYRS

Nowadays many persons wear T-shirts displaying a personal-interest logo and picture, something akin to a seal. One knows if the person roots for a sports-team or other common activity. I attended many Christian congresses. I preached in many churches. Some clergymen, when they hear I am from ROMANIA, congratulate me: "You can be proud of the Olympics gold-medal-winner in gymnastics NADIA COMANEI. ROMANIA has the finest athlete in the world. We watched her on TV. When you think that she was only 15!" I asked them, if they also knew the name of some Romanian Christian martyr. None did. I asked them if they heard of the Gospel Christian Church minister Todor sentenced to 17 years of communist prison for underground Christian activities, of the Uniate bishops Iuliu Hossu (suffered 21 years of communist prison) or Vasile HOSSU who was sentenced to ten years of communist prison? In the first 6 months of prison he was incarcerated in a totally dark solitary cell in the prison of Oradea. It was so pitch-dark, he could not see his hands. Did Christians in the Free World hear of the Reformed Church deaconess Kisvaradi Magdalena, sentenced to 8 years of communist prison, the famous Christian poet of the Army of the Lord (Oastea Domnului) Traian Dorz who suffered over 10 years of communist prison for putting into verse the Psalms of David, the famous Christian songs composer Nicolae Moldoveanu (5 years of communist prison) the Lutheran pastor Milan HAIMOVICI, who suffered 7 years of communist prisons? One can recognize Christians who have the Seal of the Living God, since their main interest is their fellow Christians suffering persecution for the same faith. A Christian girl was asked, "Why does your Jesus keep silent? Why does your Jesus allow us to torture you and to destroy the church?" The girl answered, "Jesus remained silent when He was spat upon, flogged, crowned with thorns and crucified. He remains silent also when the members of the Church, His other body, are tortured and imprisoned. He gives us the privilege of being as He was on Good Friday." This is a real Christian answer. I would recommend that all clergy watch fewer sports on TV and spend more of their time reading about the lives of martyrs. Their sermons and their daily lives would improve. We need resemble the first 3,000 Christians converts hearing Apostle Peter's sermon on Pentecost. They all asked, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Peter answered, "Save yourselves from this untoward generation." (Acts 2:37-40)



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)

Orphans and Disadvantaged Children Helped with Your Gifts!



A gesture of thanks to our donors from the students!
Richard Wurmbrand High School signs read: “Thank you brother Michael.”

In November 2018, a mission donor, visited and brought help to the Richard Wurmbrand High School (<http://Wurmbrand.ro>) and to the Christian Agape Orphanage in Pascani, Romania, founded in 1993 by late Pastor Richard Wurmbrand and his wife Sabina, presently under the leadership of Christians, Carmen and her husband Dorin Gavrilă.

(<http://orphanageagaperomania.com>)

On the internet you may find that Romania is at the top of poverty in the European Union. Just the maintenance in an apartment block is \$100-\$150/month. Because Romania is part of the European

Union the price of food is at the European level. Therefore, we help orphanages with money so the orphans can eat properly. We also help disadvantaged children so they can attend this Evangelical high school. The Richard Wurmbrand Christian high school is located in Iasi, in the North-Eastern part of Romania, close to what used to be the border with the Soviet Union. Therefore, the communist influence is still strong in the city. A lot of the children come from poor villages around Iasi. The poverty rate in this area is 40%, being the highest in the country. The poor children statistics read as follows: 16% of children have parents working abroad, 24% are neglected children, 11% are abandoned children, 10% are institutionalized orphans. Some of the activities the children do to support themselves or their families: Beggars 41%; Salesmen 17%; Car-washers 3%; Thieves 2%; Traders 25%; Recyclers 5%; Domestic activities 7%. The Romanian educational system is disastrous. The smallest salaries in the educational system in the European Union are those of the Romanian teachers. A Romanian teacher earns in one year the amount of money a Danish teacher earns in a month or a Luxemburg teacher in 2 weeks. The average monthly salary of a Romanian teacher is about \$300 while prices of goods in stores are at the level of Western Europe! This Christian School was started in 1995 with the vision to bring the light of the Gospel into the spiritual darkness of the Romanian society. Please bring this to the knowledge of your own church members. Access our newsletter at above website <http://helpforrefugees.com>

Some pictures of Christians Imprisoned for the Faith, Helped with your Gifts!



Mikhail Pshenitsyn,
5 years in Soviet Jails
See 2/2017 Newsletter



Petru Rumatchik (died Jan. 2019)
18 years in Soviet Jails
See below: (page 5)



Liubovoi Uhina
3 years in Soviet Jails
See 1/2017 Newsletter



Stephen Ghermaniuk
7½ years in Soviet Jails
See 1/2017 Newsletter

Shining Examples of Christian Faith
Spent 18 years in the
Soviet communist prisons for his Christian faith.
Brother Petru RUMATCHIK, died January 2019, at age 88
In December 2016, he wrote:



“Dear brother Michael:

Please receive these greetings from your brother in the Lord Petru Rumatchik, who was imprisoned for the Lord's work in the former Soviet Union.

“I thank my Heavenly Father for His Son Jesus Christ, for his great grace and mercy shown to me. I am 86 years old. Through His mercy indeed I am able to enjoy both a good physical and mental health. I live in the city of Dedovsk and worship in a Baptist church here. I live looking forward to the coming of the Lord. **At this moment, we are building a prayer-house. We plan opening this prayer-house in this coming month of January.** We invite you to be present also to these festivities as I met your mother and father (Sabina and Richard Wurmbrand, when visiting Moscow in 1993.) We spent in their presence beautiful

moments of joy. God called me since my youth to follow Him. He passed me though through great trials in communist Siberian detention camps. I was imprisoned for as long as 18 years. I was sentenced and resented 6 times (Especially during the government of Yuri Andropov in the former Soviet Union, the persecution of Christians was fierce. Many Christian leaders were resented to different terms of prison shortly before finishing their previous term of imprisonment - NT.) Those persecuting the church, forbade me continue to evangelize or even believe in God. I refused categorically and avoided any collaboration with the communist authorities. Then they threatened me, I will die in an underground prison cell. My life though was in the hand of my Heavenly Father who loved me. Therefore, the wishes of my persecutors were not fulfilled even when I suffered a lot in underground cells and stockades. Thanks be to God, He was my Protector and rewarded me with many days and a long life. My encouragement was the verse of Psalm 91:16, "With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation." I finally came out of the Soviet communist prisons on February 6, 1987. All these 18 years were spent in prison camps in the Ural Mountains, in the Far North of Russia and in Siberia, in most difficult climate conditions. My greatest blessings in all this time was the Lord who was my Savior, my Helper and my Defender. God is the joy of my life. May God, bless you!”

HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC. has extended for the past 40 years, financial support to Christian refugees from communist countries, orphans and Christians who had been imprisoned for their faith in present and former communist countries. Also helped are the Agape Orphanage in Pascani, Romania and the Richard Wurmbrand College, an Evangelical and accredited high school in Iasi, Romania, where many children of disadvantaged families are able to study. See <http://helpforrefugees.com>.

Anyone may use a “DONATE” button on site.

Christians Helped with Your Gifts

KGB Officer Impressed with Christian Lady!



Sister Liuba Ivashenko Goman with husband Vitaly. Sign reads: "Love the Lord!"

Goman Liuba writes: "I was born in 1961 in the region of Cherkasy, Ukraine, in a family of Baptist Christians. My father was a pastor in the church and moved to Kiev in 1968. We became members of the Kiev city church, located on Pukhov Street. I was actively involved in the life of the church and was asked to participate in the distribution and transportation of Christian literature. After a while, I was proposed to take part in the activity of the underground "Krestianin" (The Christian) Publishing House. We distributed this unauthorized, underground magazine all over the Soviet Union. For instance we spread it even in today's Republic of Moldova (at that time part of the Soviet Union.) When distributing it in a village called Obreja, myself and an entire group involved in the printing of the New Testament in Moldovan, with Cyrillic characters, ended up arrested by the KGB. For the investigation we were transferred to a prison in Kishinev. All investigators were local KGB officers. I was the youngest and the investigators were hoping to find out from me all the information. They ended up very disappointed as I was refusing to answer all their questions. One woman-officer asked me, "What are you thinking?" I answered how I remembered a childhood story, of two friends entering a forest. A bear appeared, so the stronger of the two, quickly climbed up a tree. The other stretched down on the ground, feigning to be dead. The bear approached the "dead" man, sniffed, appearing to whisper something in his ear. Once bear gone, the tree climber jumped down and asked his friend, "What did the beast whisper?" The bear told me, "to never befriend a coward" was the answer. Amazingly, the officer ended up admiring my steadfastness and courage in faith, in not betraying the other Christian coworkers. Without commenting further, the lady-officer left me speechless, showing herself having great courage by opening a drawer, taking out a Bible and handing it over for me to read. She repeated this surreptitious support at every interrogation session. A hidden agent of the Lord! I still ended up being sentenced by the Supreme Court of the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic to 2 ½ years of prison. I have served my sentence in the women's prison of Rusca. My father, Ivashenko Iakov, and a brother lived in Soviet Moldavia. I was released in 1987 during Mikhail Gorbachev's rule. I thank God for the path he has led me upon, during all this time of persecution. God has blessed me a lot, now we have a large family of 9 children and many grandchildren. I also wish the blessing of the Lord be upon you!"

409	Власенко	Валентин	Мефодьевич	1958	Украина
410	Вольф	Андрей	Корнеевич	1958	Казахстан
411	Куркин	АЛЕКСЕЙ	ЯКОВЛЕВИЧ	1958	Россия
412	Левин	НИКОЛАЙ	ВИКТОРОВИЧ	1958	Казахстан
413	Романов	Владимир	Николаевич	1958	Украина
414	Тиссен	Давид	Давидович	1958	Россия
415	ТУРКЕВИЧ	Василий	Тарасович	1959	Украина
416	Бычков	Степан	Павлович	1959	Украина
417	ДМИСВЯННИКОВ	АЛЕКСАНДР	АЛЕКСАНДРОВИЧ	1959	Россия
418	СКВОРЦОВА	ЛЮБОВЬ	НИКОЛАЙВНА	1959	Россия
419	Варовин	Виталий	Федотович	1959	Россия
420	Дубицкий	СЕРГЕЙ	АДАМОВИЧ	1959	Россия
421	Лашенко	Борис	Владимирович	1959	Украина
422	Ташенко	ИВАН	ИВАНОВИЧ	1959	Казахстан
423	МАРЧЕНКО	Станислав	Половин	1960	Украина
424	Донченко	Александр	Максимович	1960	Украина
425	Смаков	Венедикт	Александрович (Валерианов)	1960	Узбекистан
426	Савченко	Михаил	Михайлович	1960	Эстония
427	Федеева (ШВЕЦОВА)	ДИНА	ВЛАДИМИРОВНА	1961	Австрия
428	ШВЕЦОВА	АННА	ВЛАДИМИРОВНА	1962	Австрия
429	Богородице	Александр	Валерьевич	1962	Эстония
430	Миников	Павел	Дмитриевич	1962	Эстония

Christians Helped with your Gifts!

Above, a sample of a list, our mission was able to compile, of over 480 elderly Baptist Christians who suffered for their 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 fourth column shows year of birth and the 5th, present country they live in (like Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, etc.) We try obtain exact addresses, so we may be able to send encouraging help to those still alive. We were able to send help to about 70 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 at:

<http://helpforrefugees.com>.

Help for Refugees, Inc. PO Box 5161, Torrance, Ca. 90510, USA. Email: hfr@helpforrefugees.com, website: <http://helpforrefugees.com> (EIN: 95-3064521) is listed in Publication 78, Cumulative List of Nonprofit Organizations described in Section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Service.

Gifts to Help for Refugees are tax-deductible.