

HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC.

A tax-exempt, non-profit corporation

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Late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand with wife, Sabina

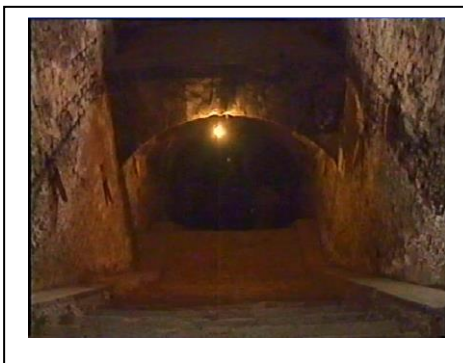
"And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown. So, the people of Nineveh believed God."
(Jonah 3:4-5)

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

**From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand:
The Power of Faith**

Prophet Jonah delivered a most unwelcome message of doom and gloom. Nineveh was facing utter destruction. They should have gone mad on this preacher. Yet, the opposite happened. They acknowledged the suffering of those around them by renouncing mirth and wellbeing through extensive fasting. They acknowledged the poverty of others by covering themselves with sackcloth and by sitting on a heap of ashes. They cried to God, as the text indicates, "mightily." Why? Because we are told: "they believed God." Because they believed God they acted with great urgency to save themselves! The Bible describes Moses performing when in Egypt certain miraculous feats. The leaders of Egypt of those times, the magicians around the king, the Pharaoh, were not impressed a bit. They could perform similar feats of magic. But God's miracles of destruction escalated and then "the magicians said unto Pharaoh, this is the finger of God!" (Exodus 8:19) We humans might not be sure and debate of this or that, yet it is sure: "we did not create this universe!" In the Book of Job, Elihu says to Job, "If (God) set his heart upon man, if He gather unto himself his spirit and his breath; All flesh shall perish together, and man shall turn again unto dust." Facing doom and gloom the most hardened atheist starts praying. Thinking like that, it comes easy, "to believe God."

If we read or hear the daily news we can feel how much hate surrounds us. We are doomed unless we believe God rather than human politics and doctrines of hate. We are doomed because we are more interested in our peace and wellbeing, instead of teaching our children, our youth about our fellow believers suffering persecution in so many other parts of the world. Our youth knows next to nothing how it is different in countries where believing in God is forbidden. I was invited to preach in a church. The pastor who had known I suffered through 14 years of communist prison tried to introduce me saying, "we cannot understand Pastor Wurmbrand. I never hungered a day in my life, how could I understand when he describes receiving only one slice of bread a week while in solitary confinement in a communist prison? I do not know what it means to suffer." Then impolitely, I interrupted, I stood up and asked:" how come you do not know what is hunger? How come you never fasted? How come you never inquired what happens to your fellow believers in so many countries where they do suffer tortures?" On another occasion, I was invited by a Lutheran bishop who heard of my story of suffering in communist Romania. The bishop told me: "We want to help the persecuted Christian, send them Bibles and Christian books and help financially the families whose relatives are in prison and so on and I think we could give \$50,000 from our funds in Minneapolis for this ministry." I asked him: "When do you think we could start?" At the time, \$50,000 was beyond my wildest dreams! The bishop replied: "You are refugees, you don't understand how a budget works. I don't have these \$50,000. The budget is already made for next year so we cannot allocate this sum next year to help the persecuted believers. Maybe we'll bring it up and approve it two years from now and give it to you three years from now." He was extremely honest and innocent and totally not prepared for our mindset and our urgency to help persecuted believers. Up to this point the discussion was extremely friendly and favorable. But I replied this bishop: "I know how you could give us the money now." "We can start it in one or two weeks." I spoke fluent English but with an accent. The Lutheran bishop became curious and asked himself how this guy just arrived from a communist country, Romania, would have any idea of coming up with \$50,000. I told him: "It's very easy. We write to all ministers in the diocese to give up 15% of their salary, but not for good. We are just borrowing from them and in three years' time when you approve the budget, we pay them back." The bishop quickly dismissed me and then sent a letter to all his pastors. He wrote: "Please do not invite pastor Wurmbrand to speak because he is irrational! He is crazy! Here is what he proposed: "he wants you to temporarily lend 15% of your salary for three years in order to help the suffering Christians in the communist world!" Those who believe God, ask with great urgency, like the first Christians, "Brethren, what shall we do? (Acts 2:37)



The Communist Jilava Prison.
Entrance to the underground cells.



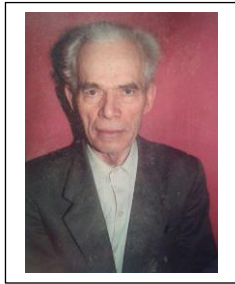
Prison cell with bunk-beds with no mattress, prisoners were obliged to sleep on. Stove for show only, never heated in cold winters.



Mug shot of Late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand when held in Jilava.

For the last 40 years, HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC. has extended 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 is the Richard Wurmbrand College, a high school in Iasi where many children of disadvantaged families are able to study. See <http://helpforrefugees.com>. Foreigners may use a "DONATE" button on site. "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." (Apostle James Epistle 1:27)

**Christians helped with your gifts
87- Years-Old Minister Endured 8 Years of Communist Prison**



Brother IVASHENCO Iacov Efrimovici

Ivashenko wrote: "I greet you wishing you the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. I used to be not only a member of the communist youth organization, the so called Soviet Union Komsomol but even the acting secretary of this (atheistic) organization! I was born in 1930 and lost my father when only nine. Due to difficult living conditions, I needed leave home and go to a larger city when 16.

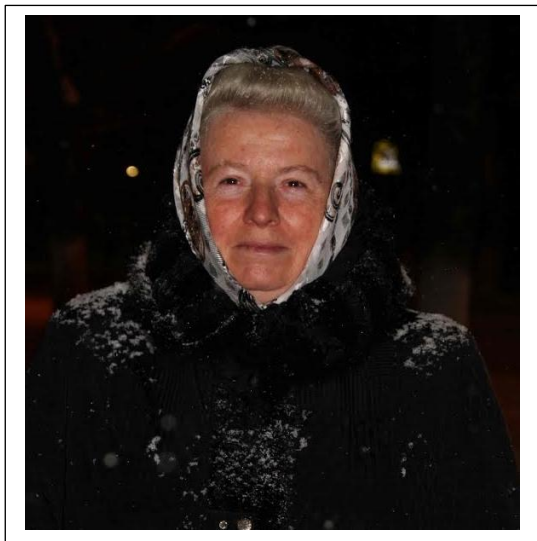
I stayed as a renter with an elderly Christian believer. Since it was available in the house, I started reading the New Testament. As a result, when 18, I became a believer and was baptized in the year 1948. As a member of the church I was active at first in the choir. Eventually (I studied more) and was ordained as a Baptist minister. Under the Soviet communist regime, the church was illegal. When the authorities tried to control the church, I resisted. Though I was proposed by the authorities to be a KGB (Soviet Secret Police) collaborator I refused and therefore was interrogated repeatedly. I raised the Bible that was in my hand in front of the entire congregation and declared, "This is God's Word. We will try our utmost to serve the Lord!"

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Official ministers sanctioned by the authorities like the senior pastor in the Kharkiv Region and another one from Vinnytsia (government plants actually – NT) asked me to quit the church or subject myself to the control of the communist authorities. I praise the Lord for the strength he gave me and to my church members exactly as God assures us in the Psalm 91:9-16: "Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. With long life, will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation." The official senior pastor denounced me to the authorities. Thus, I passed through the "school of suffering."

The KGB tried even poison me. The poisoner himself ended up confessing to me of his attempts at that. I tried my whole life to live in a way I will not incur God's wrath and be worthy of serving Him. I wait impatiently to be together with the Lord. I take to heart our Lord's Word: "He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour." (John 12:25-26) I was imprisoned by the communists (for my Christian faith) during 8 years. Dear friends, I sincerely think, what good could we have done in life without benefiting from God's mercy. Like the Lord said: "we have done that which was our duty to do." (Luke 17:10) My greeting and wish for blessing is for all who love God.

**Christians helped with your gifts
Communists imprisoned six Christians for printing the New Testament**



Natalia DUDENKOVA'S TESTIMONY

She wrote: "Forasmuch as there is none like unto thee, O Lord; thou art great, and thy name is great in might." (Jeremiah 10:6)

In the month of October 1985, we printed the New Testament in Romanian with the Cyrillic alphabet used at the time in the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic (now the Republic of Moldova.) This secret printing took place in a village named Obreja Veche. Our people in the Moldavian Republic could finally read the New Testament in their own language.

We worked with great joy and we were very close to finish it but on the 17th of October 1985, myself and 6 other Christians were arrested. These were Andrei Borinski, Zinaida Tarasova, two sisters Ianusevskie Ana and Elena, Liubovy Ivashenko, also a sister named Natalia Shevchenko. During our interrogation by the KGB the interrogating officer kept repeating, "(You need understand) you are finished, (it is over!)" We answered him with great courage, "God's work can never be stopped!"

Eventually in the beginning of 1986, for this "crime" of having tried to publish the Word of God inside the former Soviet Union, I was sentenced to three years of hard-labor. The presence of our Lord Jesus was giving us great inner strength. On August 31 1987, the territory of Moldova suffered a massive 7.2 earthquake. All prison inmates were frightened, were in panic and unbelievers remained in wonder how we Christians could be so quiet.

Moreover while serving our prison term, we got the good news that others had continued our work and the New Testament could be printed completely and multiplied arriving in the hands of believers. Our God is great. Not only our Moldovan population but many other native populations in the former Soviet Union received the secretly printed Word of God in their own mother tongue. This is a proof of our God's glory in that all people of many languages arrive to praise Him. We thank God's church, to all the brethren and sisters who prayed for us and intervened with the Soviet repressive communist authorities on our behalf. We thank God for His help in our trials. I was imprisoned two months short of two years of my 3-years sentence due to a general amnesty given in August of 1987 when the communist regime started coming apart in the former Soviet Union." (Help for Refugees supports financially Mrs. Dudenkova and other such Christians who were sentenced to long years of prison for their faith. Web address: <http://helpforrefugees.com>)

Due to tax laws inside Romania and Eastern Europe, some help needs be sent through the local Romanian nonprofit Sabina Wurmbbrand Christian Association. The financial support is distributed in turn as financial aid to Richard Wurmbbrand High School, the Agape Orphanage or most of it to many Christians and their families, all of them now 70 years old to well into their 90s. Everyone endured many years of communist prison.

Orphans helped with your gifts

Look from what dilapidated buildings and surroundings they come!



1990: Orphans Immediately After the Fall of Communism

Help for Refugees, 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 Organizations described in Section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, a list of organizations eligible to receive tax-deductible charitable contributions. May be checked online at: <http://www.irs.gov/app/pub-78/>

Orphans Helped with Your Gifts!

Orphans Taken-In by the Agape Christian Orphanage



Some Children Singing Christian Songs for Visitors

The Agape Orphanage was started by late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand and his wife Sabina in 1993 on their last trip to Romania. At the time, Romania had close to 200,000 orphans within a population of 20 million inhabitants. The United States with a population of 345 million, has less than 130,000 orphans. The orphanage operations costs are now 10 times the running budget of 1993 (about \$12,000/month.)

**Christians helped with your gifts
Baptist Minister Kuzmichi Made Over
11 Years of Communist Prison!
His Wife Was Five Years in Hiding.**



Liubovi and Victor Kuzmichi

From the city of Derhachi, Ukraine, sister Kuzmichi writes: "Brother Michael, I wish you peace! I am amazed of God's grace towards myself. I am not worthy of God's attention to my life. I spent five years in hiding. When found, I was imprisoned for 20 days only (due to a general amnesty decree appearing upon the fall of the communist regime in the former Soviet Union – NT.) My husband though spent over 11 years in communist prisons. He went to be with the Lord while I am still alive here. God has not abandoned me and the Heavenly Father has shown His love towards me.

It was amazing to me when I found out God has His believers following His miraculous ways in the Country of Romania even (she was sent financial help through the Sabina Wurmbrand Christian Association in Romania - NT.)

I enclose a DVD of course in the Russian language, with my late husband's testimony. On this DVD, you will find what many believers described about my husband's life of faith. It contains pictures. God should richly bless you. I greet all of you with the Bible verse found in 2nd John, 1:3: "Grace be with you, mercy, *and* peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love."

**Christians helped with your gifts
Printing the Word of God in Secret**



Sister PRUTEANU Maria's Testimony

She writes: "Grace and peace from our God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ! How could we ever be able thank God sufficiently for all joy we have through you before God.

The One who provides the sower with his seed and nourishing bread will give and multiply the seed of righteousness. In this way, you will be enriched through our thanks to God. Your gifts do not only cover the needs of the saints but are as well an occasion to give thanks to God. The saints in this way arrive to praise God and pray for you according to the 2nd Epistle to the Corinthians, chapter 9, verses 9-15.

Dear brother Wurmbrand, I want to thank you from all my heart. I received what you sent (US \$150) a sacrifice pleasant to God. It is written that the Kingdom of God resembles a master who went out in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. So, Lord Jesus met me in my youth. At first, He entrusted me with less significant work but then with more important work in His Kingdom (she was instrumental in surreptitiously printing and distributing large quantities of Christian literature forbidden by the communist regime inside the former Soviet Union - NT.)

I quote from Psalm 16: "I have set the Lord always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore, my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope."

In short about myself: I am 61 years old and a second degree invalid. I was born the oldest in a family of six children from Christian Baptist parents and was baptized when 19."