

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



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"Jesus said: Take ye away the stone . . ." (John 11.39)

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From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmband

THE SPIRITUALLY DEAD!

In a small town, the hearse driver was an unbeliever. The pastor of the church had tried repeatedly to convert him. The efforts did not succeed. One day, the car of the pastor was out of use. He had to take a burial service. So, he sat in the hearse near the driver. He made a new attempt to bring the driver to conversion. So, he told him. "Sir, would you, please, render me a service. The Bible contains a difficult verse which speaks about your profession. Help me to understand it. Our Lord Jesus says, 'Let the dead bury their dead.' Now, a dead hearse driver cannot drive a corpse to the cemetery. A dead grave digger cannot dig a grave. A dead pastor cannot deliver a funeral sermon. What is then the meaning of these words?" The driver laughed, "Have I not always told you, pastor, that the Bible is sheer nonsense? Take these words of Jesus only and you have the proof of it." The pastor said, "Before discarding it, let us consider it a little bit. When the coffin with the dead man whom we have behind us was taken out of the house, you heard his wife crying, 'George, don't leave me alone. Return!' The children also begged their father to stay with them. It was in vain. The dead did not answer because he was dead. The same happens with you. Since years, Christ, the angels, Christians call you to repentance and you don't answer, because you also are dead, dead spiritually. And a man who is dead spiritually buries a man who is bodily dead.

The words of our Lord have sense."

Every man who does not have Christ is dead spiritually. Bodily he may live in a nice home. Spiritually his abode is in a grave. Jesus would like to resurrect, him from there, as He resurrected Lazarus bodily, in times ago. Bodily resurrections have been very rare occasions. But the Lord wishes the spiritual resurrection of all those who are dead in sins and error. He asks us, the believers, to be His coworkers in this. He is the only one who can resurrect, but we are called to take away the stones from the graves. In different circumstances, the stones, that is, the causes which hinder the coming to eternal life of sinners are different. There are many modern preachers who proclaim a Prosperity Gospel, ignoring repentance from sin. These false preachers pretend that by "giving money to God, God gives you more money!" In the Bible we find exactly the opposite teaching. Elihu said to Job: "Look unto the heavens, and see; and behold the clouds which are higher than thou. If thou sinnest, what doest thou against him? or if thy transgressions be multiplied, what doest thou unto him? If thou be righteous, what givest thou him? or what receiveth he of thine hand? If thou be righteous, what givest thou him? or what receiveth he of thine hand? Thy wickedness may hurt a man as thou art; and thy righteousness may profit the son of man." (Job 35:5-8) Then there are atheists. They block people from being saved by placing the enormous stone of unbelief called "evolution." They claim that somehow, through billions of years the complex proteins existing in our bodies, the miracle of consciousness evolved from some muck found haphazardly on sea shores. They block faith by pretending man evolved from monkeys. Again, Elihu explains to Job: But none saith, Where is God my maker, who giveth songs in the night; Who teacheth us more than the beasts of the earth, and maketh us wiser than the fowls of heaven? (Job 35: 10-11)

There are left-indoctrinated Christians who praised the social achievements of Mao Tse Tung in China. Already in 1927, MAO wrote an article entitled REPORT ABOUT THE STUDY OF THE PEASANT MOVEMENT IN THE HUNAN PROVINCE. His words are "Revolutions are not made with white gloves. The enemies must not only be overthrown. They must be thrown on the earth and trodden under our feet. In every village we must create for a short time the atmosphere of terror (this "short time" lasted already over 90 years N. Ed.). It is necessary"—he writes—"that whosoever wore once this cap should crawl on the earth all the rest of his life. Never more shall he walk erect, never more be a man." Such are the things which our brethren and sisters and other innocents had and have to suffer in Red China. What a stone on the graves, where the spiritually dead lie! Jesus asks us weeping, "Take ye away the stone."



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)

Helped with your Gifts!

Some pictures of Christians Imprisoned under Communism for the Faith

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



Yurii Meshko
Suffered 2½ years hard-labor imprisonment for holding church-services in his home. Read his testimony in the 10/2017 Newsletter.



Petru Vasile URSUL
Suffered 2 years of hard labor communist prison in a stone-quarry. He wrote: “a life in which we walk with the Lord is beautiful.” Read his testimony in the 10/2017 Newsletter.



Nikolai RUSNAK
Suffered 3 years imprisonment in the former Soviet Union for distributing Christian hymns in churches. Read his testimony in the 10/2017 Newsletter.



Krivko Michail
Suffered 11½ years imprisonment in the former Soviet Union for asking Soviet government allow church be free. Read his testimony in the 11/2017 Newsletter.

Christians Helped with your Gifts

Reverend Zetea Stefan (now deceased*)

Was Imprisoned for his Faith in Former Communist Romania



Priest Zetea Stefan

“ Octavia Maria Zetea, daughter of Reverend Zetea Stefan wrote: My father was born 1913, his mother being a widow with 6 children. He became a minister in 1938, married my mother Elvira the following year. We were five siblings (3 boys and 2 girls.) **He raised us in the faith.**

The new communist regime chased us all out of the parochial home in 1948. In 1951 father was arrested, his faith testimony being characterized on the imprisonment warrant and sentencing document, as a "plotting against the (communist) government. "

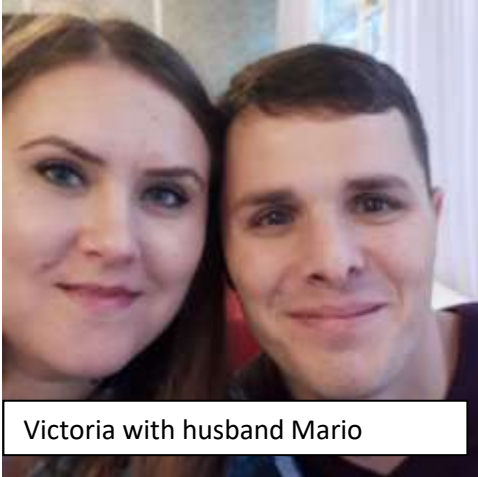
During 27 different prolonged interrogations lasting many hours, he was repeatedly spit in the face, was beaten with rubber truncheons and called "a bandit." Since he did not accept to renounce the faith, he was placed in a solitary cell without food for three days. We his children, were not allowed to complete our school-studies.

When he was set free after about two years, from the Gherla prison (same prison Reverend Richard Wurmbrand was held in also), he continued unafraid his intensive Christian activity in the underground church. She thanks us for our help and asks God reward us!

*The mission helped the surviving daughter!

Christians Helped with Your Gifts

Richard Wurmbrand Highschool In Iasi, Romania Graduates are Thankful



Victoria with husband Mario

“My name is Victoria Ribca and I am 27 years old. I was born in the Republic of Moldova, where I spent the first 15 years of my life, in a modest family.

I heard about the Richard Wurmbrand Christian School from the pastor of the church my family and I attended. He told us it was a very good school, both academically and in terms of environment. I immediately had a great wish to get to study there and the pastor told me he would help me with enrollment.

I come from a modest family. Our material and financial means did not allow me to finish my studies, not even the compulsory ones. Both my parents wished that I finish my studies so you can imagine that we were daydreaming of me going to a Christian school in Iasi, Romania.

The way the Lord worked things out for me to actually become a student at Richard Wurmbrand Christian School was miraculous. When I arrived at the school, I was shocked by the way the teachers related to me. They were kind, communicative, always interested in my wellbeing and in my development not only in terms of academics, but as a human being. I dare say they were so interested in me and believed so much in me that who I am today was defined by my formative years there. It was thanks to these faithful teachers that I was able to evolve, to grow spiritually and academically. It is through the lives and testimonies of these teachers that I came to understand what it means to be a child of God.

When I think of the school, I always thank the Lord for Mr. Principal Cristian Lucaci, Mrs. Rebeca Lucaci (English teacher) Mrs. Liliana Romaniuc, who was the founder of the school and all the other teachers who truly did more than what was required of them. They went the extra mile, or shall I say, extra miles, for me and other students.

After graduating high school, I went on to study business administration in Timisoara. That is also the place that I took my MA from, also in business administration. Over the high school and university years my life was influenced by Richard Wurmbrand’s books, who was an example for me that if I believe, God has a plan for each and every human being, even for me. I met a boy who later became my husband. My husband Mario, was in prison for 15 years, out of which 10 I stood by him. He was released, knew the Lord in prison and now we both honor the Lord together. We live in Austria temporarily and seek to do God’s will in our lives.

I thank God for my school, the Richard Wurmbrand Christian School, for each and every staff member there, who helped and guided and formed me. I thank them for every meal, piece of advice, hug, prayer and for the investment which made me who I am today.

Respectfully,

Victoria Ribca “

Christians Helped with Your Gifts

Richard Wurmbrand Highschool In Iasi, Romania Graduates are Thankful



“My name is Anca Polosan and I am 27 years old. I come from Bicajel-Chei a village in Neamt county, Romania. I dearly remember the most wonderful period of time in my life, my childhood. I was in eighth grade when I first heard about Richard Wurmbrand Christian School. The school choir and Mrs. Liliana Romaniuc who was the school principal and Mr. Cristian Lucaci made a visit to our church. At the end of the service, I got a school flyer which gave me information about enrolment.

So, after talking with my parents, I made the decision to go study at

this great school. I remember dearly the atmosphere in the school. I received boarding in the school dormitory. The days I spent at Wurmbrand school were great – with great teachers and wonderful classmates. My form teacher was also a very special lady. She was also my Romanian teacher and I appreciated the fact that she took time and invested in us even outside of school. We often were invited in her home or we took walks in parks together to talk about our problems, our challenges and our trials from school or from our families. Looking back, I can say that all that time and energy invested in me made me the person I am today.

It was at Wurmbrand school that I learned to take pleasure in learning and reading. My teachers taught me to combine pleasure and hard work, to invest in time with my classmates and invest in myself. The friendships I have from that period of time in my life remind me of beautiful people inside out. Also, it was during this time that I was encouraged to establish a set of values and principles to guide me in life. I am so thankful for mature Christian teachers who understood the importance of investing in people and they knew the importance of persistence combined with love and determination.

After school, I went on to study Psychology and early child education and then I was offered a position in Italy as a child assistant. I spent a year in Italy and around three years in the UK doing whatever work I could find. You see, I come from a very poor family and life at Wurmbrand school taught me to be hardworking and never give up on an opportunity to improve myself and to be independent. So, because I could not find work in Romania, I made the decision to try abroad. I worked throughout my university years as a babysitter and then went abroad to work with children with different issues. Now I am back home, getting ready for the wedding.

In conclusion, the years I spent at the Richard Wurmbrand Christian school were the best of my life. I am about to get married now and I am thankful that the Lord had me wait for a godly man, Eduard Cristofor with whom I want to continue serving the Lord. “

Christians Helped with Your Gifts Suffered Four Years Imprisonment for his Faith



Augusta Cecilia, the daughter of Reverend Augustin MARE wrote: My father was born in 1928, in Tiream, the Satu Mare County, Romania. He married when 28 and had (before being imprisoned) two children. Two children were born after he was freed from prison. After he became a minister, he was arrested and imprisoned by the communist secret police for four years. He was held and tortured in the most sinister prison camps, at the Danube Canal, also the Sighet, Jilava and Aiud prisons. When he was freed, he was health-wise a completely destroyed person. (N. Ed. The tortures in above named prisons went beyond most gruesome imagination. Christians held in the Danube Canal, where wife of Reverend Richard Wurmbrand, Sabina, was also imprisoned, described how the death of a person was considered of the importance of the death of a fly. At one time the head guard hit someone with a shovel so brutally that he broke his hand. The (communist) commanding officer at the “Five Ridges” Colony at this Canal Prison Camp would force detainees to stretch on the ground and he would dance on their body similarly to the dancing of a bear, as he was way more than 200 lbs. The dead were thrown naked into shallow graves, as due to the freeze the other prisoners could not dig deep. In the spring, dogs were uncovering the graves and eating up these corpses. This was the communist inferno.) My mother was dismissed from her work place and could never get a job. He was told his children would not be allowed to study. It was indeed so. We survived only by divine grace. After the fall of communism in Romania, he became a bishop. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your help.

409	Власенко	Валентин	Медведевич	1958	Украина
410	Вольф	Андрей	Корнеевич	1958	Казакстан
411	Курбан	АЛЕКСЕЙ	ЯКОВЛЕВИЧ	1958	Россия
412	Левин	НИКОЛАЙ	ВИКТОРОВИЧ	1958	Казакстан
413	Романюк	Владимир	Николаевич	1958	Украина
414	Тиссен	Давид	Давидович	1958	Россия
415	ТУРКЕВИЧ	Василий	Тарасович	1958	Украина
416	Барнов	Степан	Павлович	1959	Украина
417	ДРИСВЯННИКОВ	АЛЕКСАНДР	АЛЕКСАНДРОВИЧ	1959	Россия
418	СКВОРЦОВА	ЛЮБОВЬ	НИКОЛАЕВНА	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	Казакстан
423	МАРЧЕНКО	Станислав	Поллович	1960	Украина
424	Донченко	Александр	Максимович	1960	Украина
425	Озмекко	Венедикт	Александрович (Валериано)	1960	Узбекистан
426	Савченко	Михаил	Михайлович	1960	Эстония
427	Федеева (ШВЕЦОВА)	ДИНА	ВЛАДИМИРОВНА	1961	Алания
428	ШВЕЦОВА	АННА	ВЛАДИМИРОВНА	1962	Алания
429	Богодимова	Александр	Валерьевич	1962	Эстония
430	Миньков	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 obtain 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:** <https://helpforrefugees.com>

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