

HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC.

A tax-exempt, non-profit corporation

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“The world hates me, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.” (John 7:7)

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From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand

Oppose Evil With No Compromise

The Book of Isaiah contains a remarkable compliment bestowed on the Persian emperor Cyrus, who is called "God's anointed" because he was chosen to free the Jewish people from Babylonian slavery. (Isaiah 45:1)

During his reign, a prisoner—king of a hostile nation—and his family were brought before him. Cyrus asked him, "What will you give me if I free you?" The prisoner replied, "Half my kingdom." "And if I free your children too?" "My whole kingdom." "What will you give for your wife?" "I offer myself as your slave." The answer pleased Cyrus, who freed them all without demanding any ransom. As the erstwhile prisoners traveled home, the King said to his wife, "Is not Cyrus a noble and even man?". His spouse answered, "I saw only you, the man ready to give himself for me."

Many of us have been battered by the whirlwinds of life. Some have been all but swept away by storms in which marriage partners, children, parents, or friends have unexpectedly become our foes. In such instances, families, churches and institutions are scattered in no time. Things dear to us crumble. Whirlwinds of passion that we never thought could exist in us--illegitimate love, irresistible lust for fame or money, temptations to gamble, drink, or use drugs, excesses of pride, wrath, or hatred have destroyed all that we considered secure in our material and spiritual life. Whirlwinds also ravage whole nations.

Likewise today, though there are many impressive persons, things and ideologies which tempt us, but only Jesus, who died on the cross can free us. Christians should look at Him only.

We are often admonished, "Don't get involved in the world. Speak only positive things. Don't attack governments and systems for the evil in them. Be preoccupied only with your duties toward God." These would-be advisers may have good arguments for their position, but we listen to Jesus. While He could have led the quiet life of a rabbi or of a physician, He chose to speak out against what was wicked in His time and even used a whip against what today we would call successful businessmen conducting their business in the very temple! Their successful trade was driven out by Jesus holding a whip shouting: **"make not my Father's house an house of merchandise!"**

A Christian's witness is not only for but also decidedly against. (Luke 9:5) Christians are not married to the policies and habits and customs of the world. Whenever they see injustice, they should speak up. By the same token, we do not agree with church leaders who have accommodated themselves to the godless regimes, accommodated themselves to immoral society trends, who do not say even at the risk of their lives that these are satanic, who do not warn people to shun atheistic teachings. For Christians to protest when they themselves are persecuted is not enough. They must target their opposition against the whole demonic system. a Christian who speaks out against sin, particularly atheism and Communism, quickly enlists the hatred of the world. He who is not anti-Communist is not truly Christian. The church has long since shaken off the dust of its feet for a testimony against Communism, which is intrinsically evil. What may appear good in it, is a trap—devils disguised as angels of light.

In 1815 the British general Wellington fought Napoleon. In those days there were no telegraphs or telephones. The news of the battle was therefore brought by ship to the English coast, from which it was transmitted to London by semaphore. It spelled out, "Wellington Defeated." Then a blanket of fog came down and wrap ed the signal from sight. London mourned. Later the fog lifted, revealing the complete message: **"Wellington defeated Napoleon!"**

Today it seems that the sad news everywhere is: "Christians defeated." but when the cloud passes, we will see that Christians defeated many *"isms"*, like communism, socialism, Marxism.



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)

Some pictures of Christians Imprisoned for the Faith, Helped with your Gifts!
Read their testimonies in our past newsletters at <http://helpforrefugees.com> (third column!)



KISVARADI Magdalena, a deaconess in the Reformed (Calvinist) church, suffered for her Christian witness 8 years of communist prison. Read her testimony in the 3/2016 Newsletter.



Elena STRATULAT, wife of a Romanian communist secret police officer. Both were converted witnessing a miracle and were imprisoned. Read her testimony in the 4/2016 Newsletter.



Iulia VISKY, wife of Reformed Pastor Ferenczi Visky, sentenced to 22 years of communist prison. Iulia was deported with 7 children. Read the testimony of this family in the 5/2016 Newsletter.



Constantin TUDOSE a minister of the evangelical Army of the Lord movement inside the Orthodox church, was sentenced to 12 years of communist prison. Read testimony in the 6/2016 Newsletter.

Christians Helped with your Gifts

2½ Years of Communist Prison for Organizing Sunday Schools

Galina Iatziuk wrote: "Peace, dear brothers and sisters!

Iatziuc Vasilii Ivanovici was born on December 16, 1943, in a family of evangelical Christians. Together with his parents, the family attended a Soviet government registered church. After serving in the army, he repented and received the Lord Jesus in his life, then in 1966 he received the baptism in the church in the city of Lutsk, Soviet Union (today in northwestern Ukraine.)



In 1967 he married me, a sister from same church, born Galina Babachiuk. After the arrest in 1973 by the KGB of Rosiuk A.M, the minister of the church, Vasile Ivanovich was elected as the presbyter of the church. He headed the regional council of Volyn region, Soviet Union, now Ukraine and was surreptitiously appointed to arrange the

underground Sundayschool education of the children in all the regional unregistered Baptist churches. In November 1981, he was arrested and sentenced to 2.5 years in a general-regime prison based on Article 183-3 of the Criminal Code of the Soviet Union (disobedience to the authorities, organization and leadership of religious assemblies and meetings prohibited by the authorities.) He spent his term in the corrective labor colony in a village of the Cerkassy region. He left at home 4 minor children. In prison, he faced poorly cooked food, ugly attitude on the part of the authorities, etc. Vasilii Ivanovich remembered how, following the mercy of the Lord, while he spent his term in prison, he met with the deputy rector of a monastery, who was also sentenced to prison for religious activities. No one ever came to visit this Orthodox priest. He had an old mother, no one cared for. Vasilii Ivanovich added, "I was at peace about my family, my children, because the church, cared for them, and assured all they needed."

After finishing his prison-term, he was released in May of 1984 and immediately began to serve the Lord with great zeal. He served in the church until 2016 when he died. * In the last two years of Brother Vasile Ivanovich, he was no longer able to serve in the church."

* (For many Christians we have helped in the past now deceased, we continue where possible, helping a surviving spouse or a child.)

Christians Helped with Your Gifts

Six Years of Communist Jail for Reciting Christian Poems



Jeltonojko Georgy, wife Vera and two daughters

Vera Nikiticina Jeltonojko wrote: “Brother Vasile and brother Michael, I salute you with the peace of the Lord!

I received a third letter from you. I did not answer your second letter even because I did not know what to answer. Everything is written in the heavenly Book of Life. But as you insisted of myself to describe what happened, I will write a little. Georgy grew up and was educated in a non-Christian, non-Godfearing family, though as he said, he never denied the existence of God. During the war he received a trauma. Some weapon broke his right hand. He remained an invalid.

In 1957 he repented and became the child of God. Then he was baptized. In 1971 he was convicted for the first time. He was sentenced to 3 years in prison for proclaiming the news of the Gospel of

Christ. He was released in 1974, and the following year, in 1975 we were married. Two girls were born to us. He loved the Lord very much, and he was fearless. He did not love those who feared to suffer for Christ. He used to say: "These are the first candidates for the fire and

brimstone punishment as written in Revelation 21: 8.”

He knew by heart many poems he liked to recite in churches. He was often called to the KGB headquarters. He went to these police interrogations as “celebrating some holiday.” In 1982 the communist secret police searched our home. Not only Bibles and Gospels were taken, but all spiritual literature, even everything that was written by the hand. The KGB never returned anything.

My husband was arrested prior to this last house search, He was again sentenced to 3 years of prison. I do not remember under which Soviet Code he was condemned: some charge of defaming the Soviet state and violating the laws regarding religious worship. During these 3 years we were not allowed even a single visit. I did not see him during these three years. He was also punished in prison for many "transgressions": he continued to preach the Gospel to detainees and other prisoners with evil intentions denounced him. He was often sent to a punishing severe-regime solitary cell. None of my letters were given to him.

The KGB did not stop pursuing him even after his release. He was already ready for being sentenced to another prison term but the Lord did not allow it. Due to the fall of the Soviet Union, all prison doors were opened and Christians were freed.

Wonderful and divine are the works of the Lord. My husband went to the Lord on October 16, 2016. * That day, our church celebrated the 40th anniversary of the release of the first prisoners, including my husband. Because of his physical condition, we could no longer go to the church and that very evening the Lord took him to Him.

This is a little testimony about his life.

With much love, your sister in the Lord, Vera Nikiticina.”

* (For many Christians we have helped in the past now deceased, we continue where possible, helping a surviving spouse or a child.)

Christians Helped with Your Gifts

Four Years of Communist Prison and 3½ Years of Deportation for His Christian Witness



“Peace, dear brothers and sisters! Krugovich Alexandru Vasilevici writes. I was born October 27, 1946. My mother was already a member of a church. She repented and was baptized in 1945, and my father became a believer afterward, either in 1953 or 1954 (I do not remember exactly the year.) After finishing the 7th grade, I entered a technical intermediate school and graduated in 1964. At the same time, my soul sought God and on January 15, 1965 I repented, and on June 13 of same year I received the holy baptism through faith, and for the rest of my life, I entrusted myself to Christ, my Lord and Savior.

On November 24, 1965, I was called to military service in a construction battalion. In 1972, I married a sister in faith named Gorojankina Tamara. After the military service I became involved in the life of the local church and I decided to serve the Lord. In

April 1975 I was ordained to the ministry of an evangelist. My work and ministry in and outside the local church was certainly observed by the communist authorities who at that time fought against the Christian religion. After several repeated warnings to stop the illegal religious activity I was arrested on January 25, 1984, and sentenced at first to four years of a general regime prison in the city of Lugansk, Soviet Union, now in eastern Ukraine, where I came as a missionary. The arrest took place near the bus station. I was accompanied by a local brother, who was surreptitiously watched when he went to find out the bus schedule. As soon as he returned, officers in civilian clothes approached and arrested me.

A month before my arrest, I met in secret my wife, then 8 months pregnant, and also our 11 years old daughter. I asked my daughter if she understood what was going on and she said yes, she understood that I could be arrested for the underground church activities I was involved in. A great tear rolled on her cheek and she answered – “daddy, be faithful until death, do not give up on Jesus. “ I did not forget this, her expressed desire even to this day. After the arrest, interrogations took place and after almost three months, there was a trial and I was sentenced under a Soviet Code article imposing a 5 years prison-camp, 5 years deportation and confiscation of all personal property. The prosecutor, pretending to take into consideration “the five young children I had,” asked the court for 4 years of prison and only 3.5 years of deportation. Even there the Lord helped me to remain faithful to Him.

Due to my unique professional skills in fixing electric motors, the camp authorities offered me additional food rations and a change away from the dangerous prison work of being exposed to health endangering chemicals, so long I attended and participated in communist political indoctrination meetings. The Lord reminded me His word in Psalm 141:4: **“Incline not my heart to any evil thing, to practise wicked works with men that work iniquity: and let me not eat of their dainties.”** Following my refusal of participating in such meetings, I was transferred to the cruel general work. I did not think I would remain alive, since even on my first day at work I ended up burned by caustic solvents, the fingernails on all my fingers almost fell, as having been hit with a hammer. When my wife on a prison visit saw my hands, she immediately informed the underground council of the Baptist prisoners' relatives, and they began to intercede for me. Three months later, the prison commander called and told me that many believers protested to the government and he offered to return me to my previous job, in which I worked until my release. God does not give us trials over our powers. I do not remember how many searches were in our home, confiscating any spiritual literature. My younger son Michael, who was born while I was in hiding and then in prison, met me for the first time during a prison-visit. At first, he did not want recognize me as his father, then he became accustomed, as a sad song goes, “the young become familiar with their father, only from a picture on the wall.” Now he is a presbyter, he and his wife have 9 children. I am very grateful to the Lord and the church and to all the believers for the fact that our family has not been forgotten in prayer and has not remained without support. So, the Lord helped me to remain faithful to Him, and on October 6, 1987, I was released because of the amnesty (upon the fall of the Soviet Union.) I came out of prison only 11 days short of executing my entire sentence.

God blessed me and my wife Tamara, with five children - 2 sons and 3 daughters. All children have families, all children are faithful, altogether we have 37 grandchildren. After having been released, to this day I work in ministering with God's guidance and blessing. Life is coming to an end and I am glad that everything, from my youth, belongs to my Lord. We thank God for all His heavenly and earthly blessings.”

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 3 Years of Hard Labor Communist Prison



“Myself, Omilianciuk Nikolai Ivanovich, was born on the 3rd of May 1957 in the region of Volyn, Soviet Union, now in the north-western Ukraine. I live currently in the town of Kivertsi, Volyn region, Ukraine. On September 13, 1983, we were arrested during the trial of our brother Pilipciuc Bronislav, who was ordained in the Baptist church as a deacon. I was sentenced to three years of prison. For a year I was placed in a stone mine, where I had to break and transport granite. One year later I was transferred to a prison in northern Russia, the city of Perm. I worked at felling trees in the woods. During this three-year period, God took care of me. Work in the stone mine was very dangerous. During the work in the forest, we were in extreme conditions, the winter was very cold and we were summarily dressed. During the summer, from May to September, there were billions of mosquitoes that stung us during the day and night nonstop. We received no protection whatsoever. Another danger was from cut trees falling to the ground. You could be crushed by these big and heavy trees. I remained alive only by God's mercy. I was released from prison in 1986. Thanks be to God and all the Christians around the world who prayed for me and for all those who were in Soviet prisons for their faith in God. May God bless you fully!”

Christians Helped with Your Gifts

409	Власенко	Валентин	Мефодьевич	1958	Украина
410	Вольф	Андрей	Корнеевич	1958	Казакстан
411	Кудрин	АЛЕКСЕЙ	ЯКОВЛЕВИЧ	1958	Россия
412	Левен	НИКОЛАЙ	ВИКТОРОВИЧ	1958	Казакстан
413	Романюк	Владимир	Николаевич	1958	Украина
414	Тигген	Давид	Давидович	1958	Россия
415	ТУРКЕВИЧ	Василий	Тарасович	1958	Украина
416	Барчук	Степан	Павлович	1959	Украина
417	ДРИСВЯНИКОВ	АЛЕКСАНДР	АЛЕКСАНДРОВИЧ	1959	Россия
418	СКОРЦОВА	ЛЮБОВЬ	НИКОЛАЕВНА	1959	Россия
419	Варовин	Виталий	Федотович	1959	Россия
420	Дубицкий	СЕРГЕЙ	АДАМОВИЧ	1959	Россия
421	Лещенко	Борис	Владимирович	1959	Украина
422	Ташенко	ИВАН	ИВАНОВИЧ	1959	Казакстан
423	МАРЧЕНКО	Станиславо	Павлович	1960	Украина
424	Донченко	Александр	Максимович	1960	Украина
425	Опалко	Венедикт	Александрович (Валерианов)	1960	Узбекистан
426	Сарченко	Михаил	Михайлович	1960	Эстония
427	Федерва (ШВЕЦОВА)	ДИНА	ВЛАДИМИРОВНА	1961	Алания
428	ШВЕЦОВА	АННА	ВЛАДИМИРОВНА	1962	Алания
429	Богородилов	Александр	Валерьевич	1962	Эстония
430	Миников	Павел	Дмитриевич	1962	Эстония

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 100 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> (3rd column.)
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.