

## HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC.

A tax-exempt, non-profit corporation

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Late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand with wife, Sabina

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“Set aside a tribute for the LORD from what belongs to the soldiers who went into battle: **one out of every five hundred...**” (Numbers 31:28)

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From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmbbrand

### Our Modest God

In the fourth book of Moses, chapter 31, we are told how God gave the Jews a great victory over the Midianite people. God told them to give to the Temple a five-hundredth part of the spoil. God is modest - He asks little. Apostle Paul wrote to the believers in Corinth: “base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to naught things that are!” (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:28) God allows the world to be ruled by monster-dictators and keeps for Himself a little flock. The wicked triumph and Christians pass through sufferings. If you ask, “Why this modesty of God?”, the answer would be “it is a very immodest thing to question the Creator. Don't ask whys, but take your modest place near your modest God.” Every friend and supporter of our Christian work does just a little bit, but the modest God appreciates the little, and the work is not in vain. We might have not achieved spectacular results, because we belong to a modest God. When the Son of God became incarnate, He chose as His place of birth, a stable, as His way of life, sorrow; as His manner of death, crucifixion. He chose as disciples twelve despised men. When the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me. (Matthew 18:1-5) Thus, “to be converted” means to humble oneself at the level of the demands and possibilities of a little child, being in total dependence of parents. We

need be conscious of man's total dependence on God's mercy. For, Elihu explains to the suffering Job, "if (God) set his heart upon man, if he gathers unto himself his spirit and his breath, all flesh shall perish together, and man shall turn again unto dust." (Job 34, 24-25)

The mighty prophet Elijah, was destined to be raptured miraculously straight up to heavens. He had though a shattering moment of weakness, an instance of total fright, of begging to die. When asked by God, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" he could do nothing more but answer from the cave he was hiding in, "I alone am left; and they seek to take my life." In that most humiliating moment for this prophet, God's modesty was revealed: "the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire **a still small voice**" and the Bible continues: "Elijah heard it!" (1st Kings 19:11-12) He knew God is modest!

Lord Jesus was able to feed miraculously at one time four thousand persons. (Mark 8:1-13) Big throngs were following Him. Yet, Jesus promised be present even if two or three gather in His name.

A Christian prisoner in Cuba was asked to sign a statement containing accusations against brethren which would have led to their arrest. He said, "The chain keeps me from signing this". The communist officer replied, "But you are not in chains". "I am", said the Christian; "I am bound by the chains of witnesses who throughout the centuries gave their lives for Christ. I am a small link in this chain. I will not break it." The 14<sup>th</sup> Century church writer THOMAS AQUINAS after having called martyrdom the greatest proof of perfect love, adds: "Words pronounced by the martyrs before authorities are not human words, the simple expression of a human conviction, but words pronounced by the Holy Spirit through those confessing Jesus. Learn from the martyrs. You too are a link in this chain. Remain faithful!"

Some give all for Christ, their liberty, honor and life. Some fulfill their duty and give their tithe to the church or spread a Gospel tract. God is modest. Let us hear His still voice. He asked for only one-five-hundredth of the spoil. A day has 1,440 minutes. Give a five-hundredth or nearly three minutes, of prayer on behalf of your suffering brethren and sisters who underwent persecution for the faith. The modest God is thankful for your most modest contribution.



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 is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.” (Apostle James Epistle 1:27)

### Disadvantaged Children and Orphans Helped with Your Gifts!



In November 2018, a mission donor, visited and brought help to the Agape Orphanage in Pascani, Romania. **Below\* some background description of children in this orphanage** founded in 1993 by late Pastor Richard Wurmbrand and his wife Sabina, presently under the leadership of Christians, Carmen (shown left in picture) and her husband Dorin Gavrilă.

<http://www.orphanageagaperomania.com>

### Short Description of Five Children in the Orphanage \*Minor children may not be specifically identified.

#### - Serban P.

He was born in a Romanian city named Targu-Frumos (in English: The Beautiful Farmers-Market.) Parents had 5 children. Due to violence in the family, social services brought 4 of the children for care in the Agape orphanage. Parents did not show any interest in ever visiting these children. Serban is 10 years old and successfully attends 3rd grade. The other siblings are: two sisters, Monica, 13 and Bianca, 8 and a brother Alex, 12 years old. Serban is very friendly and openly professes his love for Jesus.

#### - Maria D.

Maria is now 12. She entered Agape when two only, together with her sister Elena, now 15 and brother Vasile, now 17 years old. She was born in a family of 11 children, most of them taken by social services away from the family and placed in different children-care institutions, similar to Agape. The alcohol-addicted, dysfunctional parents were living off the children who were pushed to be street beggars. Maria studies very well in 4th grade and asked the Agape leadership to bring all her siblings together into this orphanage.

#### - Stefan C.

Stefan is only four. He was taken into Agape in September 2017 together with his sister Maria, 9 and brother Sebastian, 6 years old. The children were seriously physically abused by parents and grandparents. Due to most violent beatings, Sebastian had a cranium injury while Stefan had a broken nose. Social services found another older brother dead! Alcoholic father disappeared while mother and grandparents had major psychiatric problems. Children were found hungry, lacking clothing and very sick. The children are now well taken care-of inside the Christian Agape orphanage. No family member tried ever visit them.

#### - Ionela V.

Ionela was raised in an alcoholic family of beggars where, though small, she caught bad habits. She arrived at the orphanage with a sister and a brother. The orphanage Christians worked hard to teach these children nice language and loving behavior. Ionela attends the Agape kindergarten.

#### - Diana V.

Diana is 12 while her sister Ela is 11. They came to the orphanage about 7 years ago. Father was a beggar while mother is confined in a psychiatric institution. Diana is in fifth grade and has shown a superior learning memory. She insists wanting to become a doctor when she will be grown up.

**Helped with Your Gifts!  
Disadvantaged Children at the Richard Wurmbrand High Schools, Iasi Romania**



Children in the Richard Wurmbrand College, Iasi, Romania (an accredited high school with grades from kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade) hold lettered signs reading, **“We thank you brother Michael”**

**We convey through this picture thanks for the help, given by you our donors in the past year, to this missionary work!**

**Disadvantaged Children Helped with Your Gifts!  
Graduated student at the Richard Wurmbrand High School,  
A Testimony to God’s Blessings in His Life!**

My name is Oliver Ancuta, I’m 29 years old, and graduated from the Richard Wurmbrand Christian School in 2008. I was enrolled there from 3<sup>rd</sup> grade to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. I can honestly say that I spent some of the best years of my life at the Richard Wurmbrand Christian School. The Richard Wurmbrand High School proved to be my second family.

In 2014, I moved to the United Kingdom with a strong wish to follow my dream of becoming an architect. I applied to five different universities, and after being accepted to all of them, I chose the one I considered to be best ranked amongst the five. In 2017 I graduated with a BSc (Hons) Architecture degree. After graduating, I got married, and we have a beautiful two years old daughter.



I started to work as an architect and after managing to set a deal for an important contract, I decided to start my own construction practice in Bristol, England. Together with my wife we also direct a Care Assistant and Nurse recruitment practice so far, still at its beginning.

Most of what I am today, is the hard work and commitment of the Christian tutors I had in the Richard Wurmbrand Christian School. They shaped my character and filled the financial holes that my family could not afford. They understood my problems at the time and knew how to deal with them. Their help, understanding and professionalism enabled me to follow the right path and helped me improve. I will be forever indebted to them, and my greatest desire is that one day, my children would be fortunate enough to be part of the same Christian school. Should I ever move back to Romania, I would do everything I can, to secure them a place within this Christian “family” that I cherish and love with all my heart.

**Dangerous Bandit Learns Pray "Our Father"**  
**A Testimony by the late Reverend Matei Boila\***

"In 1957, I passed in communist Romania through the Jilava transit prison, being inside the underground cells numbers 9-12, cells that communicated from one to the other. In these cells were crammed 240 prisoners all hungry, cold, beaten and sometimes deprived even of air (the guards for long periods were not opening any windows or doors.) Among us was mixed a group of prisoners called the Salcia group (in Romanian, "Salcie" means willow-tree) as they were coming from a prison camp of same name. These prisoners were not religious or political prisoners but common-law criminals, thieves, murderers.



Late Reverend Matei Boila who suffered 9 years in communist prisons, died 3 years ago. Here with his wife.

In that forced labor camp Salcia, these criminals, prisoners themselves, were given the possibility to "redeem" themselves in the eye of the communists by torturing in their turn special religious and political prisoners who were placed on purpose in that forced labor camp (to really be killed in this fashion.) Eventually, after the communists used them, they denounced such abuses and pretended they had not taken place on their order. Now this criminal group were those who made our life even more miserable by informing on us religious prisoners about our common prayers, meditations or short sermons and even when we tried to fill our time with innocuous stories, lessons, etc. They used a brutal, swearing, threatening language, so strange to us.

Among them was a tall, massive man, named Geo Ilescu, well capable of terrorizing anyone around him. Being so big, he himself being hungry in this prison, was nervously chewing even during his sleep. One day he came to me saying, "Mr. Boila, please listen to me for a few minutes." I could hardly believe my ears, hearing him talk in this way instead of his usual language full of swearing and obscenities. I was of course afraid that this was his sarcastic way to approach me but I answered, "I will listen to you Geo with greatest love." - "To start with," he continued, "I need to tell you my background." - "I know it well, don't bother." - "Allow me please," he insisted, " as it is necessary for you to know it exactly, in order to answer me correctly. I am a thief, a burglar, a murderer even. I stole, I raped, I killed. I never did anything well intentioned in my whole life. May I ask - am I allowed to pray to God like I see all of you (the religious prisoners) regularly doing it?" - I was deeply shaken and with tears in my eyes I answered him, " Geo, if we would not be sinners just like you, sinners who kneeled in repentance before God, acknowledging our sins, how could we have the right to pray?" I never saw a happier man than Geo at that moment. - "Please teach me to pray." I taught him Our Father and amazingly he regularly after saying his prayer was supporting better the hunger. He was no more chewing during his sleep. Two years later, his sincerity (in this conversation) was proven. I was sick of pleurisy, close to death due to the intense hunger we were subjected to. Geo, meantime was part of the kitchen staff. He risked this "privileged" position to provide me secretly with extra food, the only thing that kept me alive. May God reward him."

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



**Disadvantaged Children Helped with Your Gifts!**  
**Testimony of Anca Gavril (Profiri)**  
 a Past Student of the  
 Richard Wurmbrand  
 Christian High School

Anca writes: I was a student for all 12 years of school in the Richard Wurmbrand College, in Iasi, Romania. For many, this school was like a second family. For me, it was my actual family “at-large.” Though my family lived in the village Corni, located more than 60 miles from the school in Iasi, all my four brothers and one sister had the privilege to study in this wonderful school. More than that, my parents worked as school administrators.

Even from an early age, I was taught in school to treat all that I do with responsibility and never stop learning. I remember I loved reading and finding out new information when I was a student and my teachers always encouraged my creativity and ingenuity. In 2008, I graduated from this Richard Wurmbrand Christian School as the valedictorian of that promotion. In 2015, I also graduated from the University of Architecture in Iasi, Romania, as a valedictorian as well. I am a Freelance Graphic Designer for various companies in the USA and in Europe.

The years I spent in school were my years of character training and shaping. They were also the years that shaped my beliefs and grounded my faith in the Lord. I am now married and I am thankful that together with my husband we can serve the Lord both in our professional lives and in the church where we go.

I look back with love and I cherish the memories I made at the Richard Wurmbrand Christian School. It is a school where God’s word is always proclaimed, students are loved and taken care of, and parents and teachers have a close relationship. I can honestly say it is the school that shapes generations of Romanians to impact and change our society. I am thankful and blessed to have studied there.

*For the past 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, Romania where many children of disadvantaged families are able to study. See <http://helpforrefugees.com>. Anyone may use a “DONATE” button on site. Due to tax laws in all Eastern Europe or Russia, some help needs be sent through local nonprofits in Romania and in the Republic of Moldova. **Help for Refugees, Inc. PO Box 5161, Torrance, Ca. 90510, USA. Email: [hfr@helpforrefugees.com](mailto: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.***

400	Власенко	Валентин	Медовяник	1958	Украина
410	Вольф	Андрей	Корнеевич	1958	Казакстан
411	Нурман	АЛЕКСЕЙ	ЯКОВЛЕВИЧ	1958	Россия
412	Левен	НИКОЛАЙ	ВИКТОРОВИЧ	1958	Казакстан
413	Романко	Владимир	Николаевич	1958	Украина
414	Тигсен	Давид	Давидович	1958	Россия
415	ТУРКЕВИЧ	Василий	Тарасович	1959	Украина
416	Бычнев	Степан	Павлович	1959	Украина
417	ДРИСВЯННИКОВ	АЛЕКСАНДР	АЛЕКСАНДРОВИЧ	1959	Россия
418	СВЮРЦОВА	ЛЮБОВЬ	НИКОЛАЕВНА	1959	Россия
419	Варовин	Виталий	Федотович	1959	Россия
420	Дубицкий	СЕРГЕЙ	АДАМОВИЧ	1959	Россия
421	Лашенко	Борис	Владимирович	1959	Украина
422	Тяченко	ИВАН	ИВАНОВИЧ	1959	Казакстан
423	МАРЧЕНКО	Станислав	Павлович	1960	Украина
424	Донченко	Александр	Максимович	1960	Украина
425	Омзков	Венедикт	Александрович (Валерианов)	1960	Узбекистан
426	Сарвико	Михаил	Михайлович	1960	Эстония
427	Фадеева (ШВЕЦОВА)	ДИНА	ВЛАДИМИРОВНА	1961	Алания
428	ШВЕЦОВА	АННА	ВЛАДИМИРОВНА	1962	Алания
429	Богодушко	Александр	Валериевич	1962	Эстония
430	Минков	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 5<sup>th</sup>, 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>.