

HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC.

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A tax-exempt, non-profit corporation

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We help orphans and elderly Christians (many in their eighties, even 90s) who had been imprisoned for their faith in present or former communist countries. At this critical moment, we also help needy Christian refugees from Ukraine! Where needed, content and pictures are dated.



May 2026

“The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all.” (Deuteronomy 29:29)

Late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand endured 14 years of Romanian communist imprisonment. Mrs. Wurmbrand was imprisoned nearly three years also for her Christian witness, in some of same prisons and in the forced-labor camps at the Danube-Black Sea Canal.

**From a Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand:
WHAT MEANS “TO BE BORN AGAIN?”**

Jesus' teaching that we must become like little children has been the subject of much thought and discussion both by theologians and by philosophers. Jesus said: “I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 18:3).

What exactly does Jesus mean? Does He mean that we have to become less complicated, more humble, more open, more trusting? What precisely are the characteristics of children which we are to imitate? To become like little children means to think as they do, and that is as true in theological matters as in any other. My grandson once said to me, “The Bible is meant for children. Only the Children of Israel came out of slavery in Egypt; the grown-ups stayed behind. Only the Children of God enter heaven. It will be a country without any grown-ups!” Little did he know how close he was to the truth!

The German philosopher, Karl Jaspers, commented: 'It is part of the very essence of man that he is a philosopher, and there is a wonderful confirmation of that in the questions that children ask. It is not unusual to hear, from their lips, profoundly philosophical statements.'

The psychologist Carl Jung went even further. He suggested that adults whose minds were troubled should play with toys, like children. He himself, he said, had found it to be a helpful spiritual exercise.

In the Bible it is written that 'a little child shall lead them' (Isa. 11:6). A child whose parents were divorced came across that verse and demanded, 'Then why don't they let us lead? We should never have invented pubs, casinos or nuclear war. If we were the leaders, there would be no spankings and no divorce.'

Jesus tells us that we must be born again, and that suggests that we must return to the innocence and trustfulness of childhood. But it must be a genuine return. We must not be people who put on childlikeness to order, but people who are childlike by nature, having spontaneous sense of dependency and an awareness that we need to be guided. Children have a great advantage; their minds are not compartmentalised. They do not make a distinction between the concrete and the abstract. They have no need to pretend. So their thoughts on theological matters are of special interest to us. It is said that the child is father to the man. Similarly, a child's intuitions about God may well help adults to embrace true theology.

In Revelation 3:20 Jesus states: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me." In front of Holman Hunt's well-known painting, 'Christ knocking at the door', a large group of visitors stood in admiration. One praised the colors; another noted the expression of Jesus' face; another called attention to the fact that the door had no outside knob, explaining that the heart can only be opened from the inside. Still another pointed out that the feet of Jesus were painted as turned away from the door; long accustomed to being rejected, He was prepared to depart. Only one, a child, asked the question that really mattered: 'Father, did they let Him in?'



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



Baptist minister John Clipa was involved in Bible smuggling activities. His church belonged to the denomination called in Romanian, "Christians Committed to the Gospel" (Plymouth Brethren or Brethren Church - NT.) He died, after having been interrogated and tortured with a beating-robot by the Romanian communist police. He died in his forties. He became part of a network-group of ministers, having as the main goal providing Bibles and Christian literature for the countries behind the communist Iron Curtain.

Clipa sent parcels with Bibles, New Testaments or other Christian books by train from Suceava railway station as it was close to the border with the Soviet Union. He was giving some money to the train conductor and instructed him: "when you will be over the border in the Soviet Ukraine, at 10.00 P.M., you will throw the parcel on that and that field." There in a field, where the train was passing through, at that very moment, a Ukrainian Christian brother was waiting to get the parcel and bring it to the churches in the Ukraine. Other times, he smuggled Christian literature into communist Poland.

The demand for Bibles was enormous. Christians would give away a month salary, a Christian family gave away their cow to obtain a Bible.

Clipa was eventually betrayed by one of the couriers through whom he tried to smuggle Bibles into the Soviet Union. The secret police made it a daily routine to arrest him early in the morning and return him back to his home at midnight. He was daily beaten and tortured. They wanted to have more names from him. The communist secret police tried to uncover the entire Bible-smuggling network. After he was arrested, his penal case was made public by the communists, with a propaganda article in the local newspaper. Clipa had seven children, the oldest was 14 and the youngest was two.

A picture from the funeral arrived in the hands of Pastor Richard Wurmbrand. He gave world-wide publicity to the family story of suffering. Some German brethren, read this testimony and decided to help the family during several years with food and clothes.



Clipa's wife, sister Clipa Teodora helped her husband throughout his Bible smuggling work. She was able for instance, to deliver 70 Russian New Testaments to a Russian believer in the Cernivtsi Gorod train station. (This town used to be inside the Soviet Union and nowadays is in Ukraine - NT.) Bibles were considered by the Communist really harmful and so dangerous, that foreign tourists at the border had to answer a standard question, "Do you have Bibles, drugs or guns?"

Florentin, the son of late John Clipa and siblings are now Christian youth missionaries in Romania.

ORPHANAGES HELPED WITH YOUR GIFTS

**THE “MICHAEL JOB CENTER” ORPHANAGE,
THE “LEARN FOR LIFE” SCHOOL
IN COIMBATORE, INDIA WERE STARTED
BY LATE PASTOR RICHARD WURMBRAND,
DR. MARY JOB, INDIA AND THE HANS BRAUN FAMILY, GERMANY**



Sandya is the sister of Sanjay and Hemadan. Their father had died from an electric shock. Their mother became a day laborer at a stone quarry and was no longer able to care for the children. A compassionate pastor brought the children to the orphanage and asked for them to be taken in. Sandya (8 years old) and Sanjay (6 years old) started the “Learn for Life” school, while Hemadan (4 years old) entered kindergarten. These three are just one example among many orphans who, left entirely alone without parents, live on the streets and survive by scavenging for food in the trash.



This is Mandala (7 years old). She lived in the slums of Delhi and survived by begging. She had no parents and was constantly pushed around. Dr. Job—a gynecologist working in the area—brought the girl to the “Michael Job Center” orphanage. She is now able to attend also the “Learn for Life” school.



REGISTRATION DAY IN THE “LEARN FOR LIFE” SCHOOL.
The orphanage and the school are a blessing for these impoverished children.

LETTERS FROM ORPHAN CHILDREN AT THE AGAPE CHILDREN FOUNDATION, PASCANI, ROMANIA

Am venit la Agape acum 7 ani pentru ca tatal meu deoarece era mare probabilmente in familie. La Agape ma simt ca intr-o familie si elaturii de mine sunt si fratei mele Monica, Serban si Lia cu care ma inteleg foarte bine.

Eu doresc sa invat bine ca sa intru la un liceu bun si sa fac si facultate ca sa devin profesor sau inginer.

Alex (13 ani)

Florin

11 ani

Am venit la Agape acum 2 ani mama ma parasit, am venit cu fratele meu Ionel. Urman sa fiu predicator.

Anu oprim in casa Agape" deoarece, in urma cu 8 ani mama mea a avut un accident de masina fiind pe drumul de la serviciu, iar in urma acestui accident a decedat. Mama era coratata cu un dobor, dar acesta nu era datat nici biologice si nici cu oca oportunitate sa mi creasca, am crescut in casa de o familie foarte buna care alina de afurugiu pentru intrudiere, mama fiind cea care aducea banii in casa.

Mai am un cu de lucru si dupa dorec sa dau la medicina, urmandu-i in urmasii si un copil nou nscut, sa fiu cel mai bun doctor din tara.

Mai brava si am avut ocazia sa ajung in aceasta casa" si am avut ocazia de a fi un copil bun pentru drumul pe care mi l-au aratat, la invatarea mea ad alba matura, atat pe plan spiritual, in drumul catre Adversari, cat si in algeria reala, la liceu si in cele din urma la facultate. Florin

Alex (13) wrote: "I was admitted at Agape 7 years ago... At Agape I feel like in a family. Together with me they also brought my three siblings, Monica, Serban and Lia with whom I get along very well.

I want to study well in order to enter a good high school, so I enter a college in order to become a professor or an engineer."

Florin (11) wrote: "I came to Agape 2 years ago because mother abandoned us. I came together with my brother, Ionel.

I want to arrive to become a preacher."

Roxana wrote: "I arrived in the Agape home 8 years ago when my mother returning from work, had a car accident and died. She was not married to my biological father and the husband had no means to raise me as he lived off a small pension. I still have one high school year after which I want to start medical study so as to fulfill my mother's dream, which was, I should become the best doctor in the entire town.

I am happy to arrive into this home. I am grateful to all who showed me the way to choose the true faith and to select a college."

Ukrainian Christian Refugees

Helped with your Gifts

April 16, 2022 (see update below*)

Dear contributors:

My gratitude to all who donated generously toward helping so many refugees from Ukraine, a true flood of displaced individuals. More than four million have escaped the current war and another three million are expected to come out. If one reads the daily news, one will be convinced easily these are not exaggerated figures. These are persons who flee from extensive bombing and continuing total destructions of whole towns.

It happens that my birth country, Romania, and the Republic of Moldova (also a Romanian language country) have together the longest common border with Ukraine. At the same time, Romania is one of the poorest countries in the European Union and Moldova is economically worse. Between Romania and Moldova so far, one million Ukrainians have sought asylum already. **Refugees come at times at the rate of 10,000 every 24 hours.*** Most of these refugees are women with 3 to 8 children. Fortunately, many other countries in Europe and North America are accepting to resettle these refugees if they can arrive there. Many churches outside Romania, have sent transportation means, like buses and even chartered flights. These refugees speak Ukrainian and Russian. Here and there, the communality of the Romanian language is of help, since some closer to the border localities like the university town of Czernowitz (name in German, Cernauti in Romanian) where my mother was born, used to be part of Romania before WWII. Some of the younger generation might have a little knowledge of English. Through many dependable contacts of many years in Romania, we concentrated on helping with local Romanian currency of US \$200 to \$2,000 per family of **Christian believers-refugees**. Many came out with hardly more than the shirt on their back. There were miles-long lines at the border. Through the local Christians who deserve all praise, we provide pocket money given in hand for food and believers' lodging for a few days, until there is a partial resolution as to near-future plans of settling some places somehow or moving-on further to other countries. \$2,000 seems to be a large sum for an elderly couple who could escape but most couples come out with larger groups of 10 to 15 children and grandchildren. Just as one example, we paid for a Victoria village home, \$6,000 for a one-month lodging and food for three adults and twelve children. Most of these refugees entertain the illusion of taking refuge out of their native country and their lodging and work, for a brief time but the way the news comes out on this prolonged war, I doubt this will be the case. I believe these refugees will remain refugees for many years to come. We publish in these newsletters a few testimonies and some receipts of scores more, documenting what I wrote above.

*(Update: Refugees still pour-in most days in 2024 at the rate of 8,000-10,000 and more than 6,000 daily at start of 2025.)

Michael Wurmbrand

409	Власенко	Валентин	Мефодьевич	1958	Украина
410	Вольф	Андрей	Корнеевич	1958	Казахстан
411	Куркин	АЛЕКСЕЙ	ЯКОВЛЕВИЧ	1958	Россия
412	Левен	НИКОЛАЙ	ВИКТОРОВИЧ	1958	Казахстан
413	Романюк	Владимир	Николаевич	1958	Украина
414	Тиссен	Давид	Давидович	1958	Россия
415	ТУРКЕВИЧ	Василий	Тарасович	1959	Украина
416	Бычков	Степан	Павлович	1959	Украина
417	ДРИСВЯННИКОВ	АЛЕКСАНДР	АЛЕКСАНДРОВИЧ	1959	Россия
418	СКВОРЦОВА	ЛЮБОВЬ	НИКОЛАЕВНА	1959	Россия
419	Варавин	Виталий	Федотович	1959	Россия
420	Дубицкий	СЕРГЕЙ	АДАМОВИЧ	1959	Россия
421	Ляшенко	Борис	Владимирович	1959	Украина
422	Ткаченко	ИВАН	ИВАНОВИЧ	1959	Казахстан
423	МАРЧЕНКО	Станислав	Павлович	1960	Украина
424	Донченко	Александр	Максимович	1960	Украина
425	Отмаков	Венямин	Александрович (Валерианов)	1960	Узбекистан
426	Савченко	Михаил	Михайлович	1960	Эстония
427	Фадеева (ШВЕЦОВА)	ДИНА	ВЛАДИМИРОВНА	1961	Алания
428	ШВЕЦОВА	АННА	ВЛАДИМИРОВНА	1962	Алания
429	Богодимов	Александр	Валерьевич	1962	Эстония
430	Миняков	Павел	Дмитриевич	1962	Эстония

Above, a **sample only** of a lengthy 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 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 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 speaking 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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