

## HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC.

A tax-exempt, non-profit corporation

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Late Reverend Richard Wurmland with wife, Sabina

**July 2017**

“But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.”

(Luke 12:5)

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

### **From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmland: Why have Faith?**

In the Second Century CE, the Roman emperor Hadrian became known in history as one of the fiercest oppressors of the Jewish nation. He forbade Jews to speak Hebrew, to worship in the temple and he subjected the Jews throughout the entire Roman Empire, to the vilest persecutions and tortures. Many Jews resisted but there were also many who accepted to renounce their faith. Instead of Hebrew, they spoke Greek or Latin only and worshiped the pagan God Zeus. He changed the name of Israel to Palestine.

A noted Jewish rabbi, a personality named Rabbi Akiba, surprised everyone one day, as he appeared in the middle of the city square, dressed pompously in the attire of a Jewish rabbi, opened the Hebrew Book of the Law (the first five books of Moses in today's Old Testament in the Bible) and started reading out of it in public, in a loud voice.

Another rabbi who had compromised and renounced his Jewish religion so as not to be persecuted, approached him and whispered: "Akiba, you endanger yourself, your family. You are daring emperor Hadrian. You will pay with your life."

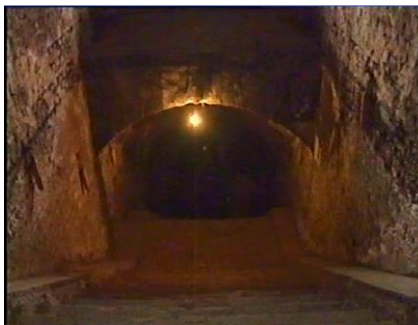
Akiba stopped his reading and said to his terrified questioner: "Listen to this story! There was this fox on the shore of a lake. The fox desired very much eat one of the small fishes swimming in the water. So, the fox tried to talk to this fish saying, 'My dear fish, I want only the best for you. You should be aware that inside the lake there are many-a-big-fish desiring to eat you up. They will catch you and swallow you up whole. I can be of help to you. Come out onto the dry land to save yourself.' The small fish thought a moment and then answered: 'Oh most shrewd fox, shouldn't I be grateful for the "care" you seem show me? It seems to me God placed me in this

element of water in the lake. If even where God destined me be, I am surrounded by so much danger, how much more dangerous for my life, were I to renounce the place God ordained for me?" "Thus, Rabbi Akiba continued:" If studying God's word is dangerous, how much more dangerous is to renounce God's Word, only to arrive to suffer in the fires of Hell!" In the end Rabbi Akiba died as a result of incredible tortures inflicted upon him by Emperor Hadrian.

I spent 14 years in a communist prison. My wife due to her Christian faith underwent also communist imprisonment for nearly three years. There were thousands and thousands of Christians in communist Romania suffering imprisonment for their faith, just like ourselves. Many of them I met while in prison. Others when we were freed. For instance, one brother of the Christian "underground" Army of the Lord (not recognized legally as a church by the communists) brother Terelai described his suffering before he died: "When arrested (under the communists), I was beaten, interrogated day and night, being charged with crimes I never committed. As to the faith I always remained a witness of the truth. I was taken out to forced labor from 4:30AM to 9:30PM. I was working close to the prison morgue. There I witnessed daily 3-5 corpses having their parts of their legs, heads or ribs cut off or broken (from tortures.) Most prisoners who died though, died of hunger. The icy cold finished all off, as there were no windows or doors during the heavy (Romanian) windy winters. The doors and windows were introduced and tightly shut though during summer (so as to torture us with stuffing heat.)"

The late minister Tertulian Langa recalled: "After being beaten with fists in the face to produce a confession of guilt, with my eyes covered by blinding glasses (using tin instead of glass-lenses) I was led into a basement room. With pants off, was sat down, arms tied by a thick rope around folded legs and knees, while a metal bar was passed under my knees. Abruptly the metal bar was raised in the air in between supports and I ended up head down. To avoid leaving marks, a wet cloth covered my bottom. Then painful blow after blow followed with some big wooden bat. To muffle the shouts of pain the torturers had stuffed old socks into my mouth. As I seemed to mumble some words instead of shouting in pain, my tormentors hoped to hear a confession. They quickly tore off the socks out of my bloodied mouth. In total consternation the torturers found out, I was only repeating again and again, 'Jesus!' It was the night before Good Friday. At my trial the communist prosecutor declared, 'there is nothing incriminating in his file. However how could he be imprisoned if not guilty. Therefore, I ask the maximum sentence of 20 years.'"

Brother Cornel Silaghi described:" I was placed with several brethren from the entire country in the communist prisons in Timisoara, Arad, Gherla, Periprava, Grind in the Danube Delta. In our cells in the summer it was exceedingly hot (with closed windows) so we should not have air and extremely cold in winter when windows were on purpose left open or broken. Our food was brought piping hot so we could not touch it to our lips. They gave us 5 minutes to finish it and then they would take it away when not even started. Due to the quality of food which would not have been touched even by pigs, many were sick and they died because of that. In the Danube Delta, we were so hungry that many ate green (uncooked) corn, their abdomen swell and they died. Some people (due to hunger) cut and ate also uncooked weeds. Many left there their bones not to ever return to their families. Those who returned were again arrested like brother Traian Dorz (made 10 years of communist prisons. His main crime: he versified the Psalms of David, NT.) He composed there many poems." Faith means accepting the place God ordained for us.



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 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 where many children of disadvantaged families are able to study. See <http://helpforrefugees.com>. Anyone 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)

### **Helped with your Gifts, Student Becomes a Christian High School Teacher** Delia Ambrosie's Testimony



#### **I am grateful!**

"After graduating from university, I came back to the Richard Wurmbrand High School to be a language teacher. My first 12 years of education were spent in this school. What I am today is a result of the investment of my parents, of my church and of this Christian school. I am thankful because my parents did their best in providing me with a proper education. They planted in my heart Christian values and principles and the desire to know God. I am part of a numerous family – I have five sisters and a brother. For a long period of time we lived on my father's salary only. In spite of the rough financial difficulties, my parents made huge sacrifices to enroll me in the Richard Wurmbrand High School.

I remember times when we did not have the amount necessary to buy a bus ticket to get to the school. There were times when there was nothing for my mother to put on the table. The sandwich we got at school was the only meal we would eat during the entire day. Through all of this we saw God working in our lives, faithfully providing and helping us day by day. One day when we were out of any food in the house... we bowed down as a family, prayed and then a friend came knocking on the door with a bag of fresh fish. What a joy that was – to know that we, the children, would not go to school on empty stomachs!

Due to the close collaboration between this school and my church, I was moved to become a Christian and be baptized and dedicate my work in helping in the lives of our church youth. The Richard Wurmbrand High School became my second family.

Again, I am thankful to all my teachers who believed in me, invested in me and molded my character. These people went through rough times as well, but in spite of all that, they continued to love us and believe in the ministry of the school. I remember many a time my teachers had to help me with clothes, food and even money to be able to buy school supplies and to go on school trips. Seeing my teachers' daily sacrifice, their daily toil and undivided faithfulness, I felt the Lord leading me to become a teacher too. I teach now in a wonderful school, a school where students are seen through God's eyes and in His grace. As part of the team of teachers in the Richard Wurmbrand High School I feel honored to be able to invest myself in others, just as so many people had previously done same for me."

## **Disadvantaged Family Child, Now a Christian Teacher at The Richard Wurmbrand College in Iasi, Romania**



Cristian Lucaci,  
principal of the  
Richard  
Wurmbrand  
College  
and wife  
Rebeca, an  
English teacher  
in same high  
school

12<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation at the Richard Wurmbrand High School  
Ruben Schipor is Standing Third from Right

Ruben's Testimony: "I remember distinctly the day when my father came home and told me I was supposed to move to a different school! It was a Christian school, with Christian teachers. Of course, one of our first questions was: "Why this name? Why Wurmbrand?" The answer unveiled a world I had not been aware of as a child. After reading two books, *The Pastor's wife* and *With God in Solitary Confinement*, Wurmbrand became a remarkable figure in terms of living out our faith and even more, in terms of understanding the Romanian communist history. From that moment on, the Richard Wurmbrand High School has been part of me and part of my family. All my other ten brothers and sisters studied or are still studying here. Because there was no possible way for my parents to afford the school, summer vacations were dedicated to renovating and helping around the school to pay for our tuition and education. So, I was not only taught how to think and view the world, but I was also taught how to paint and do repairs as I had to put a lot of time and energy with my brothers and sisters in redecorating and renovating the school building. There were hard and difficult times for us... there were so many days when we knew that we would not be able to pay the tuition. I remember how we passed on clothes and shoes from one another as siblings... sometimes shoes were so worn out that we could barely walk to school... I admire my parents for staying strong and doing the unimaginable to keep us in a Christian school.

I was in sixth grade when our Bible teacher came and talked to us about God and a university degree in theology. This is how the desire to be part of this school after I finish studying, became a dream in my mind. So, after graduating university, I was honored to come back into the school, this time as a teacher. What an honor to be able to teach other children about God and his boundless love towards us! I remember when I came back as a teacher I was nervous. I was not a student anymore... this time the roles changed. I was one of the people who carried the values and principles of the school into the classroom, to the students who were seated in the desks I once sat in. As I have a family of my own, I can see and feel now some of the sacrifices my parents had to make in order to provide for us. As a teacher, my wages are not high\*, but the thrill of being able to invest my life in other people, just as others have done for me, is so much more satisfying. I am so happy to plant God's word in the hearts and minds of children, who hardly know about God! I know that the seed my colleagues and I are planting will bear fruit!" (\*Romania is in the European Union (EU) yet a Romanian high school teacher has to work a whole year to earn what a teacher from Luxembourg EU, makes in two weeks.)

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

### **Christians helped with your gifts Nurse Sentenced to 3 Years of Communist Prison**



#### **Testimony of Jucova Valentina Nikolaevna**

“I was born in 1924 in Leningrad, Soviet Union (today's Saint Petersburg, Russia) I became a believer at the age of 20. I studied and during World-War II I became an Obstetrics Registered Nurse. My entire life I worked in the maternity sections of various hospitals. I led an “underground” Sunday School in the church, teaching children the Bible and many Christian songs.

IN 1967, while employed in a hospital in its maternity-section, a group of communist policemen appeared and arrested me. I was taken to a communist prison bearing the name "The Cross." I was interrogated during four months and ended up being sentenced to three years of prison for this "underground" Christian activities. The prison operated a cardboard factory. I met in prison a Christian sister from my own church. We prayed together, encouraged each other. At the same time, the brother in whose house we held the "underground" Christian meetings was arrested as well. In summer, the prisoners worked as farmers in the fields. Due to my training, I had to work as a prison nurse. When freed, after completing the sentence, I returned to my native town. Now (being 93 years old) I serve God in love and faithfulness.”

**Help for Refugees, 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 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/>**

### **Christians Helped with your Gifts**

#### **Former Christian Prisoner in the Soviet Union**



#### **Testimony of Simionova Lidia Vasilievna**

“I was born in 1934. I was blessed to come to the Lord in my early youth. During the Soviet Communist Era, we went through a difficult time of persecution. We Christians formed an association which published widely and spread surreptitiously detailed information regarding Christians who had been arrested and sentenced because of their Christian activities. The Soviet police was very much bothered by our Christian activities of publishing this news. In 1967, I was at home when the secret communist police came to arrest me. They searched the entire property, found a duplicator and confiscated it. I was sentenced to three years of prison for owning and using this duplicating device (a rather primitive mimeograph machine.) While imprisoned, I had the opportunity to talk daily about God to my fellow women-prisoners. Some of these women were from the Roma nation (Gypsies.) After the police interrogations were finished, I ended up being transferred to a prison-brick-factory, and then to some packing-material factory. We had to work at least 10 hours a day. The communist police constantly pressured us not to spread information about arrested Christians, something we valiantly refused. We were threatened again and again with extended prison sentences. We were also offered “freedom” should we agree to collaborate with the Soviet KGB. Again, we refused and decided to remain faithful to the Lord. Somehow God allowed me be freed after only one and a half years of prison. We thank God how at my age of 83, I am still alive and somewhat healthy. May God richly bless you!”

## Christians helped with your gifts

### 7 Years in Communist Prison for Spreading the Gospel!



### Testimony of Brother Paiunov Feodor

“Beloved brethren and sisters working in the ‘Gospel-Spreading Fields,’ Greetings! I thank God for the inspiration He gave you in this work. Persecutions of Christians started in our town of Omsk, Russia, formerly in the Soviet Union, in the early 1960s. A significant number of Christians resisted the new Atheistic laws designed specially to liquidate all the believers. So, called Baptist "leaders" of the Soviet Baptist Union arrived in our town of Omsk and argued with us to subject ourselves to these new communist rules. We tried to convince these "leaders" that the new laws estranged us from the Lord and therefore we cannot obey such laws. Many sisters and brethren who did not accept these new communist rules were arrested and sentenced. In 1966, we formed a delegation and presented ourselves in Moscow to the Central Communist Party Headquarters. There, we presented detailed documents complaining of the persecutions to which we were being subjected. Thereafter the persecution increased (rather than decrease) in intensity. First our minister Alexei Kozorezo and two sisters in our church got arrested. Later the ministers Savcenko, Nicolae Romanovici and Petru Popov were imprisoned as well. I was myself was arrested in November 1967. Prison conditions were cruel. We underwent great hunger. First, I was sentenced to two years of deprivation of liberty. Then at the end of the two years, I was sentenced to another five years for the same trumped-up charges regarding my Christian activities. It was proposed to me to accept my guilt (admitting to illegal Christian activities) and I would be freed in exchange. I did not accept that and so, I had to serve all the five years of prison. I am thankful to God for His support during all these persecutions and imprisonment. We felt His hand over us. From your brother Paiunov Feodor: God Bless!”


CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION SABINA WURMBRAND  
A romanian charitable organization  
Bucharest, sector 6, O.P.74, C.P.12

Received from: Help for Refugees., under the leadership of Mr. Michael Wurmbrand  
Amount of donation: \$5000  
Date: June 23, 2017  
Purpose: Humanitarian help

Please keep this receipt as a record of your gift to this non-profit Christian charitable organization.

“...and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus.” (St. John 12:21)  
“Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an/hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? (St. Matthew 25:37-39)

Director  
Silvia Reiss



Sabina Wurmbrand Christian Association is an approved non-profit association through the Sector VI Court decision dated 12/11/2015, file 31699/303/15, officially shown in the Associations and Foundations Register, position #188.


CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION SABINA WURMBRAND  
A romanian charitable organization  
Bucharest, sector 6, O.P.74, C.P.12

Received from: Help for Refugees., under the leadership of Mr. Michael Wurmbrand  
Amount of donation: \$4000  
Date: June 26, 2017  
Purpose: Humanitarian help

Please keep this receipt as a record of your gift to this non-profit Christian charitable organization.

“...and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus.” (St. John 12:21)  
“Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an/hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? (St. Matthew 25:37-39)


Director  
Silvia Reiss



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**Help sent to elderly Christians who passed through communist prisons for their faith. Due to tax laws inside Romania and Eastern Europe, some help needs be sent through the local Romanian nonprofit Sabina Wurmbrand Christian Association. Above \$9,000 is being distributed individually in smaller sums.**

FUNDAȚIA CREȘTINĂ PENTRU COPII



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www.orphanageagaperomania.com e-mail : agape.pașcani@yahoo.com


The Orphanage The Kindergarten

**CONFIRMARE**

Fundația Creștină pentru Copii “AGAPE” din Pașcani str. Dragoș-Vodă nr. 23, jud. Iași, ROMANIA confirmă prin prezenta că a primit din partea Asociației Creștine Sabina Wurmbrand, în data de 08.05.2017 suma de 12.600,00 lei ( douăsprezece mii șasesute lei), conform contractului de donație.

Banii se vor folosi în scopul susținerii și educației copiilor orfani ocrotiți în Centrul de Plasament al fundației AGAPE. Vă mulțumim.

Director,  
Dorin Gavril



One of the Agape Orphanage Receipts (5/2017 for \$3,000)