

HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC.

A tax-exempt, non-profit corporation

Michael Wurmland, President

Tel. (310) 544-0814, Fax: (310) 377-0511.

PO Box 5161, Torrance, Ca. 90510, USA.

Email: hfr@helpforrefugees.com ; Website: <http://helpforrefugees.com>

January 2016

The Gospel of Matthew 25:45-46:

"Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."



Late Reverend Richard Wurmland with
wife, Sabina

Late Reverend Richard Wurmland spent 14 years in Romanian communist prisons for his Christian faith.

Mrs. Wurmland was imprisoned also for nearly three years in same prisons.

From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmland

The Last Judgment

Is it not true that every student would be eager to know beforehand which subject he will be examined upon? How grateful, if someone were to whisper it to him! This service Lord Jesus did for us. He told what criteria will count on Judgment Day.

At the entrance in the Kingdom of Heaven no one will be asked about his religious denomination. Different confessions are only scaffoldings which serve the building of the Kingdom. Heaven is for all God's children.

Many people think God will perform judgment on criteria of morale, honesty, purity, the faithfulness you had practiced in life. These are human opinions. People cannot decide the norms after which they will be judged on Judgment Day. The Judge will be Christ. He reveals a line of questioning we most likely might not have thought about. People who had done nothing wrong will be condemned because they left some good un-done: they left people starving, hungry, they left those without clothes naked, they left the ill uncared for.

Christ condemns a priest and a Levite (in the Parable of the Good Samaritan) for the simple fault of leaving a wounded man uncared for. But worse even, maybe you were among those who had hurt him! What will be your judgment? In the parable of Poor Lazarus, Christ condemns the rich man for the fact that he had forgotten to help a poor man. But what punishment awaits you, if another man went poor because of you?

In Deuteronomy, 23.3-4 is written : " An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter into the congregation of the Lord; even to their tenth generation ". But why? What crimes had they

done? No, they had done no harm, but they are still condemned because they left a good un-done... "Because they did not come before you with bread and water, on your coming out of Egypt".

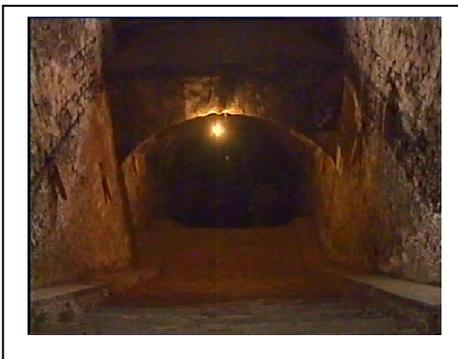
You did not give when you were able to give, you kept silent when you should have spoken, you let Jesus be mocked without answering back. These sins are enough to take you to hell. You will be condemned for the good you left un-done. Did you give all the good words, all the love you were capable of?

Jesus says in Luke, 14.12-14 : "When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call ...the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind ..." On Judgment Day, you will be asked about this. It is said that a rich man came to judgment and God asked him : "Did you love people?" He answered : "God, I gave a million dollars for charity". God asked him again : "I am not asking you how much money you gave, but if you loved?" The rich man answered again : "Lord, didn't I tell you that I gave a million?" He gave the same answer to the question when he was asked for a third time. And then God commanded an angel : "Give this man his million back and send him to hell, because I am asking him about love and he answers about money. We do not understand each other!"

The one who sacrifices in love for his neighbor, makes in this way three people to become rich: the poor man, himself, and Christ. You will be asked at the judgment if you have satisfied the need of your neighbors, the need to be happy; and if you would behave toward Christians in need as toward Christ Himself. You will also be asked if you concentrated all your strengths in the service of good.

The Bible tells us of the fire of Gehenna. Is there a sin so pleasant that would deserve that, for its sake, to stand the eternal punishment? Would you do it if you were to know that it will be followed by 20 years of jail? There is the fire of Gehenna, but you must not enter it. This eternal fire is not for men, but for the devil and his angels!

You deserve torment, because you did not love God, nor your neighbor. But you do not have to stand for it. Jesus died for it in your place. They tied His hands, then they nailed them. Whom did he harm? No one. He had blessed almost everyone with His hands. He would not have deserved such fate. But He suffered for it, because our hands had done unjust things; they had stolen, beaten, they had ruined lives, they had promoted evil deeds. His mouth was filled with vinegar for your bad words. We have caused stings to each other; that is why He was stung by the crown of thorns. He is the Lamb of God who lifts the sin of the world. Through His death was done the redemption for our sins. The belief in His sacrifice inspires us to ask like the first Christians: "Brethren what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37)



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.

A speech by Cristian Lucai, Director of the Richard Wurmbrand College at events held in the month of December 2015 at the Bucharest Athenaeum Hall and at the Maranata Church in Arad, Romania. These events, attended by over 1,800 Christians, commemorated 50 years since late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand and family escaped communist Romania.

“What do you want to be when you grow up?” is a question we all got when we were children. I believe there is a job, a calling that is most noble. Of all the careers our Lord, Jesus Christ could have picked from while on earth, He chose to be a teacher. A great honor and a great responsibility! As Apostle James wrote, “My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.” (James 3:1) ... Our Romanian educational system states in the Bill of Education, art 4, letter d, that the goal is “to shape a worldview, based on humanistic and scientific values.” ... Now there is no more Truth, only truths. There are no more principles, just preferences. The faith in Jesus Christ and his supernatural revelation have been banned from all fields of activities. If you talk about God you are labeled as being “bigot”, “retrograde”, and “narrow-minded”. The shame of pronouncing the name of Jesus Christ has replaced today any other form of indecency. This is the context in which our children grow up. This year we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Richard Wurmbrand Christian School. The idea of starting a Christian school in Iasi was born in the heart of a group Evangelical Christian teachers, who were motivated by the passion of another teacher, Mrs. Liliana Romaniuc. While under communism she had read a copy of the book “Tortured For Christ by Richard Wurmbrand. It was circulated underground, in greatest secrecy. Once communism was overthrown, she was inspired by this book to obtain the name of this prestigious Evangelical personality of Romania, a name also linked to the city of Iasi. This is how the idea came up to give pastor Richard Wurmbrand’s name to the school. He was connected to Iasi through the fact that his mentor was Isaac Feinstein, the pastor of the Messianic community in Iasi, who was killed together with some of his Jewish-Christian church members during the 1941 pogrom. ... After long hours of waiting and humiliating hearings the person at the Minister of Education who saw the name of the school decided to give the authorization to start the school against all opposition, since he had been in prison with Richard Wurmbrand. He was not a Christian, but he remembered what Richard did for others in prison. That is why from the very start, this name was a blessing for us. ... There were many obstacles: we were accused of brainwashing the children’s minds, of proselytizing, of trafficking children and lady teachers, of giving drugs to children on Thursdays and so on. ... All the accusations were proven false. ... Our school was denied the right to public funding, unlike other schools in Romania. ... That is why we appreciate the enormous efforts done by our brothers and sisters all over the world to support the school. We provide Christian education, meals and lodging not only for students from Iasi, but also for the poor children from the villages and counties around Iasi. God was faithful all the time. There were times when our teachers were eight months behind with the salaries. Sometimes, they would walk to school since they did not have money to buy a bus ticket and could not afford to buy new shoes. One of our students wrote: "My first questions when attending the school was 'Why Wurmbrand’s name?' The answer provided me with the story of the communist world we had recently come out of. After I had read Tortured for Christ and The Pastor’s Wife, Richard Wurmbrand became a model for me. Since that day, the school became part of me and my family. All my other ten brothers and sisters have studied here. Together with my parents and brothers we painted the entire school during the holidays so we would be able to support the school. My mother also worked in the kitchen and helped with the cleaning. When I was in the 6th grade, a teacher talked to us about God in a very appealing way. He captivated me with his knowledge of God and that is when I decided in my heart to serve God and go study theology. Towards the end of my undergraduate studies, I got a deep desire to come back as a teacher at the school that invested so much in my life. This honor was made to me four years ago when the headmaster invited me to teach in the school. Coming back to the school, this time as a teacher, I live the fulfillment of the vision of this school: to make disciples who in turn would make more disciples. Today, after twenty year since the school was founded, I am blessed to be part of the Wurmbrand **School** family and to carry on this vision. It is a great honor to speak in this generation about the Bible, about the Greatest News, about Jesus Christ and His sacrificial love!” This was Ruben’s testimony, just one of the 13 graduates who came back to teach in the school. ... Now, God blessed us and the school has 470 students and 50 teachers. ... That is why to be a teacher is the greatest calling ever. May God bless you!



Orphans Iuliana and Teo, at the Agape Orphanage participating in potato-harvest farm labor. (Inset: Teo trains kids at the Agape Orphanage to sing a new multi-language Christian song.)



Thousands of Christians were tortured inside this Communist prison of Gherla, Romania



Communist prison-cell in Gherla, Romania where Reverend Richard Wurmbrand, Reverend Coccanga (see below) and many other Christians suffered.

Your gifts have allowed us to help financially several orphanages including the Agape Orphanage in Pascani, Romania, an orphanage started by my parents, Richard and Sabina Wurmbrand; the Richard Wurmbrand College in Iasi, Romania and many elderly Christians (between 70-100 years old), who spent years within communist prisons in Eastern Europe because of their Christian witness. Some of them were held in common cells with my parents. Thank you for all your prayers and gifts. Michael Wurmbrand

Christians helped with your gifts:



The late Romanian Christian composer Nicolaie Moldoveanu (passed through 5 years of communist prison for his Christian faith) with wife, daughter Daniela and granddaughter Cristina.

Daniela, the daughter of brother Moldoveanu, whom we also have sent support to, wrote: "I was 5 years old only in 1959 when my father was arrested by the Romanian communist secret police. He had been arrested because he was a composer of Christian hymns that circulated and were sung in the underground churches throughout the entire country. It was a morning and my mother quickly placed some clothing inside a small luggage. My father asked the officers of the secret police to allow him make a prayer.

Though only a small kid, I remember like today how in his prayer, he asked God to take care of his family, his wife and his little daughter. In the cramped quarters we were living in, seven families stayed together all using one kitchen and one bathroom. One Christian brother, a German who was present, dared shout as a protest so all could hear the first verse of Isaiah Chapter 57:

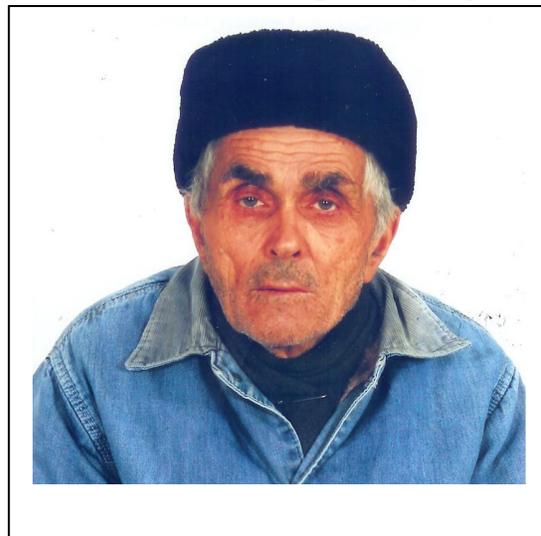
'The righteous perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart: and merciful men are taken away, none considering that the righteous is taken away from the evil to come.'

It was a lot harder for my father in a communist prison since he was a diabetic and had to wear prosthetics for a broken arm. When freed after 5 years, the prison commandant said to my father: 'watch out and stop composing Christian songs or we will imprison you again.' To this my father replied, 'if so, it is simpler you should keep me here and do not release me at all since I cannot stop praising God through my songs.'

Many Christians freed in the 1964 general amnesty given so communist Romania could obtain generous American loans, were rearrested years later, after the loans were obtained by the communist dictator Ceausescu.

Myself, as I grew up, I had to live through many arbitrary police house searches, was followed together with my parents 24/7, was arrested many times for brief periods and subjected to grueling interrogatories about underground meetings as a means of pressure. Because of these persecutions I was not allowed to study in any universities. Through all these trials, I could witness God's care for me and yes, spiritual blessings obtained through such sufferings."

Christians helped with your gifts:



Brother Dumitrascu Gheorghe was sentenced for his faith to 4 years of prisons in communist Romania in 1957. He was rearrested and underwent in 1984 a new communist prison sentencing for his Christian witness in Timisoara, Romania.

From Reverend Richard Wurmbrand's
Testimony in front of a US Senate Committee
May 1966

There was a brigade in Romania which was only for priests, bishops, pastors, rabbis, and laymen—whoever was in prison for his faith. One day a political officer came to inspect that brigade. Everybody stood at attention, and at random he called out a young Uniate priest (whose name was Coceanga) and asked him, "What have you been in your civilian life?"

And he replied, "Sir, what I have been in my civilian life, I will be forever. I am a priest of God."

"Aha, a priest! And do you still love Christ?"

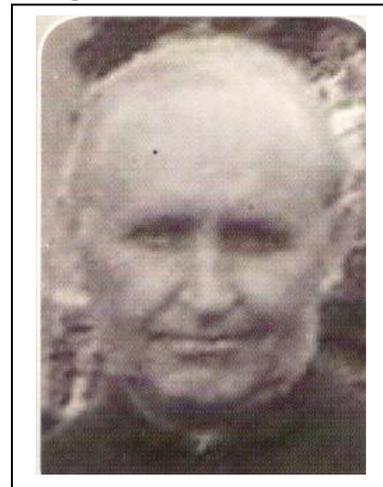
The priest was silent for a few seconds—seconds as long as eternity, because he knew that his eternal destiny would be decided in those seconds. The Lord said, "Whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 10:32, 33).

And then after a little meditation, his face began to shine—I have seen so many shining faces—and with a very humble but very decided voice he said, "Captain, when I became a priest, I knew that during Church history thousands had been killed for their faith. And as often as I ascended to the altar dressed in those beautiful, ornate robes, surrounded by the respect and love of the congregation, I promised to God that if ever I had to suffer, if ever I wore the uniform of the prisoner, I would still love Christ."

"Captain," he went on to say, "I so pity you. We have the truth, and you have whips. We have love, and you have iron bars on prison cells. Violence and hatred is a very poor argument against truth and love. If you were to hang all the professors of mathematics, if all the mathematicians were hanged, how much would four plus four be then? It would still be eight. And eight plus eight would still be sixteen.

"You can't change the truth by hanging those who speak the truth. If all the Christians were hanged, it would still remain so that there is a God, and He is love. And there is a Savior; His name is Jesus Christ, and by confessing Him a man can be saved. And there exists a Holy Spirit, and a host of angels around the earth. And there exists a beautiful paradise—you can't change the truth."

I wish there was a way to convey the tone with which he said those words. We, the others, were ashamed because we believed in Christ, we hoped in Christ, but this man loved Christ as Juliet loved Romeo and as the bride loves the bridegroom.



Late Reverend Gheorghe Coceanga
Spent 5 years in Romanian communist prisons (1959-1964) for his Christian faith. Read above his testimony!