

HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC.

A tax-exempt, non-profit corporation

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The Gospel of John, 6:41

“The Jews then murmured at Him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven.”



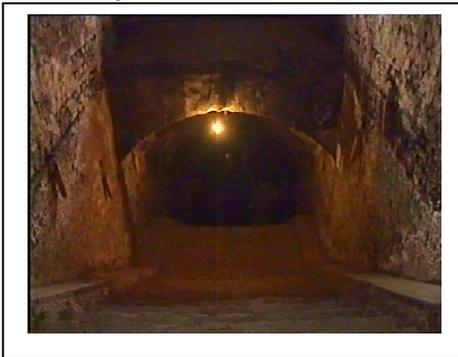
Late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand with wife, Sabina

Late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand spent 14 years in Romanian communist Prisons.

Mrs. Wurmbrand was imprisoned nearly three years also for the Christian faith in same prisons.

From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand: The Bread Which Came Down From Heaven

At first when meeting Jesus, the Jews of his time were wondering, “What is it about Him? Something does not seem right.” These were some unexpressed thoughts. In the Gospel text above, we read how Jesus’ contemporaries started murmuring against Him but then in the end we read how they shouted loudly, “away with Him, crucify Him!”. These are the three stages of the human heart sinking into its evil ways. More and more around us some theologians do not bother much more than questioning if the words of Jesus as shown in the gospels are right. Then there are even denominations that murmur against the established teaching of the Bible. If it continues then very soon we will have those who will shout out loud again, “away with Him, crucify Him!” We should not allow to leave the slightest corner of unbelief in our hearts.



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.

Look how clever the devil is! When approaching the first woman, Eve he did not deny outright the word of God. He just inserted some doubt about it. “Truly has God said that you should not eat from this tree?” he asked. Since there is so much questioning and so much doubt about the essential truth of Christianity I need speak from our experience, the experience of those who suffered persecution for the word of God.

Is Jesus the bread of life or not? My message is not from books on philosophy or made out of fingered explanations. It comes from the bitter experience of persecution.

At the end of World War II, more than one million Soviet communist army troops entered Romania. With the help of our churches we Romanian Christians tried to evangelize these Russians by surreptitiously printing Russian Gospels and distributing such among them at great personal risk. I speak Russian. I had a Soviet Russian officer before me once. When I spoke to him about God and Jesus he listened to me attentively and said in the end: “That is what I thought too. I also believe in Him.”

I asked him, “How did you arrive to believe?” He replied, “During our autumn season, I looked up the dry bark of some trees and said to myself, ‘Come next spring these same trees will be blooming, be full of leaves, flowers, birds and then of fruit. Where there is death now, there will be life. There needs be Someone who brings life after death. I did not know Him but instinctively loved Him. Though we behave badly, though our communist regime denies His existence, He continues to give us air, sunshine, crops. I thought this same God is able to change black hearts and make them white, He can reward evil with good.’ Thus this uneducated Russian communist obtained the “Bread of Life” and he was overjoyed when I told him the One he thought must exist, was indeed God’s revelation, our Lord Jesus Christ.

When I asked another Soviet communist officer if he believes in God, he strongly repudiated such beliefs. He replied quickly, “there is no God.” Then I asked him, “is it not true that during the battle, on the front, you prayed?” Ashamed he lowered his head and replied, “yes, we all prayed, even the staunchest communists among us.” There are some who think they are Christians but in truth they are not. In the same way there are people who think of themselves as Atheists but deep in their heart they are not. Saint Augustine wrote, “the human soul naturally is drawn to being Christian.”

In communist prisons many a time famous university professors, important politicians had stayed imprisoned with uneducated Christians, with simple Christian farmers. Many times such personalities who had been already imprisoned for as long as 15 years, used to approach such an uneducated Christian begging, “please teach me also some verse from the Bible. I have been imprisoned so long; I thought of all the math I learned, of all the chemical formulae, of all the principles of physics. I thought of all the political events. I see how everyday you are refreshed, encouraged with a few words you remember from the Bible. I saw how daily you are inspired with new thoughts about the same simple verse.” Thus these people in their suffering, in their terrible hunger, they discovered how Jesus is the Bread of Life! The Parable of the Prodigal Son (The Gospel of Luke 15:11-32) describes how the son who abandoned his father ended up as a caretaker of pigs. It explains further how this son arrived to be so hungry that he would have loved to eat the husks that the swine ate. To be convinced how Jesus is indeed the Bread Which Came Down From Heaven we need not do much more than look around us, just read the news. We can see how much hate is spewed out around us, how little substance is in all the political theories and promises thrown at us, how much we have been left “hungry” for genuine love and compassion, for true faith, for hope.

Once on a TV show, I had the opportunity to ask Mrs. Madelyn Murray O’Hair, founder of the worldwide known organization “American Atheist” one question. I asked, “I traveled all over the world and saw many Christian hospitals, nursing homes, orphanages. Would you be able to name anywhere in the world one Atheistic charity work?” Though always loud and outspoken, Mrs. O’Hair remained silent, lost for words for many minutes to the point that the moderator, Alan Burke asked me to take over the show. If we doubt Jesus is the Bread Which Came Down From Heaven, humanity will remain spiritually hungry and in the end even physically hungry. Apostle John wrote: “Grace and Truth came by Jesus Christ!” Let no one doubt it, murmur against it or try do away with this belief!

“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)



The Briceag family, our mission has helped, lives with 8 children all in one room. At right, brother Traian Chilau. The children attend a local Evangelical church. Below: Poor Roma (Gypsy) huts in a Romanian village.



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 (an established Evangelical high school, 1-12 grades) 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, late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand and his wife Sabina. Thank you for all your prayers and gifts. Michael Wurmbrand



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10.03.2016

Fundația Filocalia – Colegiul „Richard Wurmbrand”, sediul în str. Smârdan nr. 13, Iași, 700399, fiind înregistrată ca fundație non-profit, având codul fiscal 3204471, reprezentată prin domnul Adonican Dascălu, confirm prin prezentul document că am primit 20.000 lei (contravaloarea a 5.000 de dolari) de la **Asociația Creștină Sabina Wurmbrand**, reprezentată de domnul Mihai Wurmbrand. Această donație a fost făcută pentru a sprijini educația copiilor din familii dezavantajate.

Filocalia Foundation – “Richard Wurmbrand” Christian School, str. Smârdan nr. 13, Iași, 700399, registered as a non-profit foundation, having the fiscal code 3204471, represented by Mr. Adonican Dascalu, confirms by this document that we received \$5,000 (20,000 lei) on March 10, 2016, from **Asociația Crestina Sabina Wurmbrand**, represented by Michael Wurmbrand. This donation was made to support the children from disadvantaged families.

Fundația „Filocalia”,

Ec. Adonican Dascălu



FUNDAȚIA CREȘTINĂ PENTRU COPII



AGAPE

Pașcani str. Dragoș – Vodă nr 23 jud Iași ROMANIA 705200 Cod fiscal 9819867
 Cont RO 06 RNCB 0176010587180003 Tel. 0040-232-765674 : 761129 tel/fax 0040-232-765597
 www.orphanageagaperomania.com e-mail : agape.pascani@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 d-lui **Mihai Wurmbrand, PO Box 5161 Torrance, CA 90510 USA**, în data de 15.03.2016 suma de 5000 \$ (cinci mii dolari)

Banii se vor folosi în scopul susținerii copiilor orfani ocrotiți în Căminul AGAPE. Vă mulțumim.

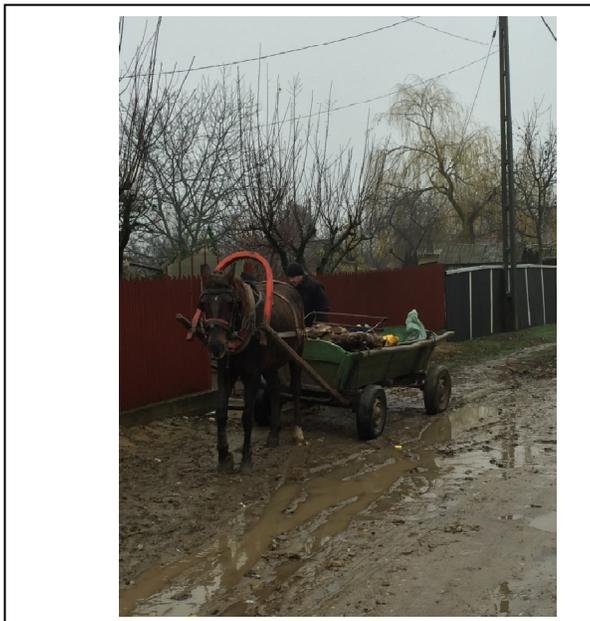
The Christian Foundation for Children Agape from Pascani, Dragos-Voda street, number 23, Iasi,Romanian is confirming trough this document, that it received the sum of 5000\$ in 15.03.2016. That sum is representing a donation for the endowed establishment's needs, from Mihai Wurmbrand, PO Box 5161 Torrance, CA 90510 USA.

The money will be used in the aim of supporting the orphan children protected in Agape orphanage. We thank you!

Director,
Dorin Gavril



Sample Receipts for Support Sent by Help For Refugees to Christian Works started by the Wurmbrand Family in Romania



Andrei (left) attends the 8th grade of the Richard Wurmbrand High School in Iasi, Romania. He comes from a village in an area declared as the poorest in Europe. A family working in the school agreed to provide food for him while in school. He helps around the school with cleaning and in the kitchen. His parents wanted him in the Richard Wurmbrand Christian School because no one graduates from this village school. Every Sunday he attends a small church and studies the Word of God. Left, a picture from his village.

**Christians helped with your gifts
The miraculous story
of the Romanian family Stratulat**



Elena STRATULAT

Gheorghe Stratulat, her husband was a Communist Police Lieutenant who became a Christian after having been a fierce persecutor of believers.

Stratulat completed a police school then worked in the police (Militia) in Hunedoara. Because he showed a lot of diligence and enthusiasm, especially in persecuting local Christians, he was promoted and became a Lieutenant in the militia with functions in the secret police (Securitate.) At this time, toward the end of 1978, their 5th child, a daughter was born who was deaf-dumb and paralyzed. After consulting a number of doctors, some Christian medical assistant, of her own initiative came to Stratulat's police office and said to him, "I know a doctor who can heal your daughter." He took out paper and pen to write down the address but the lady said this doctor does not have an address here on earth, he is my God. So he got very upset, thinking she was making fun of him and took out his truncheon to hit her, and shouted to her, "let's see if your God will save you from my God," pointing to Ceausescu's (Romanian communist dictator) picture on the wall. He though fainted the very moment he raised his truncheon and woke up seeing this nurse putting water on his face, trying to revive him. He threw the lady out of his office and came home and asked his wife, "what do you know about God." His wife was thinking he wants to revenge on this nurse somehow and begged him to forget the incident. His wife said, "You persecuted so many Christians already, don't you see we are in trouble with this child? Please leave her alone and don't pursue the matter." →

It was close to Christmas, the wife had to go on an errand and the officer remained alone home with 5 children. Since it was Christmas, as the national custom happens even under communism, as a witness, Christians were singing carols in the street under his windows and he invited them into his home. They answered, "we cannot come because you will for sure beat us up." He promised them he will not beat them up but they did not trust him. One of them somehow had an acquaintance with his wife and said, "if she is home he will not beat us up in front of her," so they came into his apartment not knowing wife was not home. The officer showed them the child and asked if their God can heal this child? One of the Christians stated, "He can, but you need be healed first" and they witnessed to him. Right then immediately he threw out of the house all the alcohol drinking bottles. When wife returned she was sure, he will buy them back but to her surprise for a few days he did not.

He went out with his child on the balcony and prayed to God, expressing his doubt God exists, to heal his child. But in his words, "he gave a chance to God to reveal Himself by healing the child."

He had done once very secretly what he considered a good deed to a Christian minister named Dugulescu. Because of overt Christian activities, the communist secret police in Hunedoara, planned to kill Dugulescu in a car accident and this officer, Stratulat, was present there when the car had just been launched to hit him, but having a sudden moment of empathy seeing his family happening to be there, he in full knowledge of the plan, knocked Dugulescu out of the way of the car and thwarted the attempt on his life.

He went secretly to visit this evangelist, who got scared thinking he was about to be arrested, receiving such a visit but he explained to him how he looks for God and asked God, of whom he doubted he exists, to heal his daughter. What else should he do? The evangelist advised him to patiently wait for God's guidance. Three months passed from the above prayer on his balcony and one morning hearing a noise in this paralyzed child's room, he went and took her out of the bed and instead of her holding to the bed, she started to walk. The officer fainted of surprise and joy. When the daughter was healed, in 1979, Ana-Mihaela was only 3 1/2 years old. The husband, hearing a noise was first to run into the room and fainted. Mrs. Stratulat rushed to the room and first saw her husband on the floor and could not understand what had happened, only to see surprisingly the very gaunt, thin, until a moment before paralyzed, deaf and dumb daughter walking through the room repeating, "Ta-ta, Tata (Daddy)." It took two more years for the daughter to talk fluently. The entire block was alerted and came to visit at 6AM. **Continued on next page!**

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Eventually he started going weekly to church. Being an officer, he was called by his superiors and they started investigating him. When summoned he took the healed daughter with him. His superiors in the secret police were all aware for about 3 years of this child's problems. He recounted to them how a known medical specialist who had been consulted in the capital city in Bucharest, had told his wife, "Lady, how to make an operation I know, but to give new hands and legs to this child I, for sure am not able." Her ever healing was hopeless. Stratulat's answer, when interrogated was, "If this great cardiologist did not know how to heal my daughter but Jesus Christ did, so I have to turn my allegiance to him."

Wife did not become a Christian for another year. He became a Christian in 1979. They were both baptized in 1980. Elena Stratulat wrote: "When he became a Christian, in spite of this I laughed of him. I started buying cognac and alcoholic drinks. I did not want him to go to church and (leave the comfortable life of an employed police officer.) Once pensioned by the police, my husband was an even more eager Christian and practically "lived" inside the church. At first I became a Christian only because I loved my husband. Even for a year after my baptism, I was reluctant to join my husband in Christian meetings and in singing. What happened further was that I had a relatively easy operation done, shortly after the birth of this girl, Ana-Mihaela. A month after the operation the sutures broke. The operation had to be redone, even without anesthetics. I sang during the whole operation mostly in my own mind. There were Christians praying outside as well. During the healing after the second operation I felt the Lord really loved me and my attitude changed. My husband was not a good husband before he became a Christian. But he changed into a wonderful husband after he converted. Therefore many times he repeated, though we had been married for 30 years, that we had been married (happily) for only 20."

The communist secret police pensioned him as a first measure. Subsequently they were arrested repeatedly. One time the 4th grade child complained in school his parents want to convert him to Christianity. As a result they were both taken at the police and beaten separately of each other for 2 days. (During Romanian communist dictator Ceausescu's last years, 1984-1989, because he tried hard to sell Romanian products abroad, so as to pay Romania's enormous foreign currency debts, Christians were not kept in prison and sentenced to long prison terms →

but were often arrested and frightened through prolonged beatings. To a large extent this course of action followed the publishing of Richard Wurmbrand's worldwide bestseller Tortured for Christ, a book which had unmasked communist repression of Christians. Everywhere Romanian communist "salesmen" appeared, they were asked about such imprisonment of Christians and therefore they were embarrassed. - NT) Eventually one day at 2AM officers of the secret police came with a lorry emptied the house in Hunedoara and all (children included) were given forced housing (arrested) in a small settlement called Poiana Marului by a large city called Caransebes. This was some kind of a half-way prison camp, unknown to the population at large in Romania, full of common law criminals, where, for a time, they received no other income but a daily food ration. One of the criminals in fact, recognizing him as a former police officer, asked him, "why are you here?" He, wanting to give a testimony, answered, also because of a crime, "I killed my old sinful nature!" The communists, wanting to kill him, staged an explosion where he was working around a boiler. Fortunately because that very moment he turned around, only his left hand was badly burned and bruised. Eventually it healed. One other prisoner asked him how did he know so many Christian songs and why he was singing? It turned out to be a Christian and through him, many other Christians around Caransebes came to know this family was there and they visited and the Stratulats surreptitiously left the camp and visited underground Christian meetings. Again they were persecuted, arrested, beaten, etc. Communist Secret Communist police officer Stratulat's Christian conversion-news spread like wildfire through the entire communist Romania. After the anticommunist revolution of Dec. 1989, Stratulat traveled the entire country witnessing in many churches. Dugulescu meantime had moved to Timisoara. Family Stratulat moved, with their seven children, into the province of Moldova, to his birth village of Cirja. His parents became Christians and so her entire family. Through Stratulat's missionary activity thousands were blessed and repented. The healed daughter, Anna-Mihaela, was baptized in 1997. She married a Christian, is over 40 years old and lives presently with 2 children in northern Europe. During Stratulat's meetings she was present in most church meetings. After Stratulat died in 2001, life was financially very difficult. During a whole summer all their children could eat were grapes, bread and onions. One of the children asked, "even now for this do we need be thankful to the Lord?" Mrs. Stratulat answered: "even if we eat only bread, we receive so many other blessings!" We continue helping sister Stratulat.