

HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC.

A tax-exempt, non-profit corporation

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Late Reverend Richard Wurmland with wife, Sabina

“There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. (Gospel of John 3:1-2)”

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**From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmland:  
Our Belief in God's Miracles**

Why so many have a hard time believing in miracles? There are ministers even, claiming to be rationalists, having a hard time to express their belief in the many miracles described in the Bible.

This is because we humans do not perceive our own existence, our consciousness, our senses and mind as a most unique miracle, something without compare. Life is outside the simple-minded chain of cause and effect. Our very existence is a "sign" of the "power" of the "work" of God. Lord Jesus tries to convince his unbelieving, Jewish priests of his time, that they are a miracle, "ye are Gods" (John 10:34) and that there is the miracle of the resurrection from the dead because God is a God of the living and not of the dead (Luke 20:38.) When one is bathed in a powerful, blinding light, how hard it would be for him distinguishing a lit candle. Apostle John writes about this "true light that lighteth every man that comes into the world (John 1:9.)" Being an ongoing miracle ourselves we seek denying this dazzling light and trying to hide in the darkness of unbelief.

Our body, our consciousness, the mind, its five senses are not "the usual." We all are nothing short of walking miracles. Those who do not believe in God's miracles resemble the insane man of the story, who when looking in a mirror: could see his body but was wondering where is his head.

Something happening outside of our natural understanding of cause and effect we call a miracle. Whatever surrounds us and we humans claim to understand but also what surrounds us and cannot

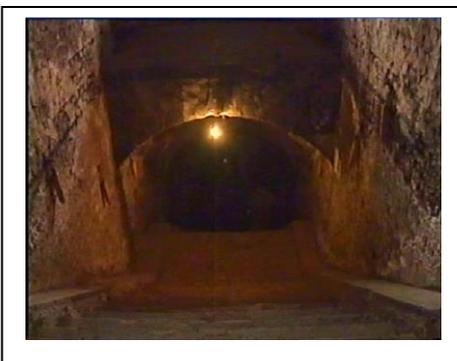
understand, both are fully understandable to our Creator, to God. For our all-powerful Father everything comes naturally. For us what is nature is what we understand and subjectively, we name what we do not understand as being outside-nature. For those trusting God's providence, all comes naturally. From the point of view of the physicist, all that is happening in biology seems like a wonder. From the point of view of a stone, a plant growing from under and around it, is a miracle. The same way, from the point of view of a living tree, our human psyche full of ideas, of desires, is a miracle. Infants not having judgement powers are known to bring naively all objects to their mouth, as if such were edible. Being totally dazzled by the light of our consciousness, we humans mimic the mindless behavior of Apostle Peter witnessing the Miracle of the Transfiguration. When on a mountain, blinded suddenly by the Lord's shining face, Peter thought he would be able to preserve the miraculous moment in stone, by proposing the building of three huts. Rightly so, Luke, the Gospel writer adds: "not knowing what he said (Luke 9:33.)"

The very appearance on this earth of the Son of God, our Lord Jesus, was a miracle. The best proof is how entire humanity was so impressed, that it decided to split its history into an era before Christ (BC) and an era after His birth (CE.) Why should we doubt the miraculous works of Jesus, His power? Our mortal mind would like to occupy this earth; we would like to preserve moments of consciousness forever. The disbelief in God's miracles comes from such dense, primitive thinking, believing we should be in charge of life, of a country. Man, in his pride becomes stupid and indeed starts not knowing what he talks about. The Bible though writes: "The earth is the LORD's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein (Psalm 24:1.) "Psalm 103:15 reads: "As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth."

No, we humans on earth, between birth and death cannot take a grand-stand. There is no alternative but having faith in our Creator and His unbound powers. People who do not believe in the miraculous power of God, think in the usual stupid way. Like primitive animals they mark a territory, they oppress like in communist dictatorships their fellow human.

Love, hope, faith do not come naturally through some sort of evolution, out of food, out of metal or stone. These virtues are miracles. Best proof is that there are no atheistic works of charity, there are no atheistic orphanages, atheistic hospitals, atheistic nursing homes, while there are countless Christian works of charity. An unbelieving minister resembles a thief becoming a police officer. Who would need such policemen?

The text of the Gospel cited above speaks also of the miracle of miracles that allows us humans to believe in miracles: a Christian's heart and soul being born again. This miracle occurs again and again in all believing Christians and therefore they become believers of God's miracles.



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>.

“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 and their families helped with your gifts**  
Brother Zambrian Melian, 90 years old,  
Spent 8 years in communist prisons.



Brother Zambrian writes: “Being a follower of my Lord Jesus, I did not accept in face of communist adversity, to renounce my faith. Therefore, when in the (Romanian) army under communism, I was sentenced in the year 1952 to 8 years of prison. I did slave labor at the Danube River Canal prison camp and in other communist prisons. My trial took place together with other young Christians in the city of Cluj. Among us was also sentenced brother Varadi Joseph. He later wrote several books about Christians imprisoned for their faith under communism and included in one of these books "The Communist Persecution" (available in Romanian only) a recital about my sufferings on pages 204-205.

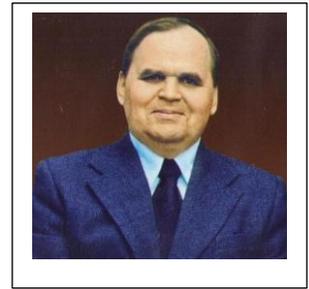
I live as a farmer in the country, my wife seriously sick and paralyzed. Though we live a tragic life, we nourish a holy hope brought by the Holy Spirit in our soul: those who conquered sin after a life-long struggle, when passing into eternity will receive a never-to-wither crown from the blessed hands of our Savior. He made possible our salvation through faith in His sacrifice.”

**Christians and their families helped with your gifts**  
Brother Zaharia Oselsky,  
Spent 4 years in communist prisons.



He writes: “I am born in 1941, a widower with 6 children and 13 grandchildren. Also 2 great-grandchildren. My wife died, after a long illness, on March 19, 2016. I was born in a family of believers and am grateful to God for holding me strong in faith. Last 6 years I had the opportunity to visit as a Christian missionary small foreign groups residing in Siberia or Northern Russia, minorities who never heard the gospel. In 1969 I was arrested and sentenced in a Soviet communist court for my faith in Jesus to three years in prison. While imprisoned the authorities prolonged my sentence by one more year. Once freed I still was under the supervision of the local authorities for another 6 months. The prison I was in, was in a locality called Kyzyl, at the border with Mongolia. The climate was extreme. The prison authorities kept a very tight watch on me so as to prevent me from witnessing my faith. After being freed I moved to what at the time was called the Soviet Socialist Republic of Moldova (now Republic of Moldova.) Here I am involved since many years in the distribution of Christian literature.”

## Christians and their families helped with your gifts



Vera Horeva, MD. Her husband an underground Baptist minister under communism, **spent 12 and 1/2 years in communist Soviet prisons.**

She writes to us: "I remember your parents (late Reverend Richard and Sabina Wurmbrand) visiting our church (in 1993) in Kishinev. His sermons reminded me of our own life-time of persecutions. I am 82. I live alone. In the summer, I work to raise vegetables on the land around my house. My three sons live far because my husband insisted they should be dedicated to the Lord's work. The oldest son Ion (John) is a minister in Biisko, Siberia.

My husband passed away in 2012. He was imprisoned 12.5 years and 7 years he spent in hiding being searched for by the communist authorities. He, being an invalid, could reside without working in different towns (so he could carry underground Christian work.)

I describe two periods in my life of exceeding difficulty:

1. In 1962 while residing in Kishinev my son John was born. In 1963 my second son. By law I should have had the right to stay home two and a half months. However, (the communist authorities) obliged me to go to work or I was threatened with a three years' prison sentence. I had to work and my husband was in prison, so my two children were taken away to other Christian homes. I was moved by the government constantly from job to job since the authorities feared, myself being a children doctor, would proselytize whole families. Then I was compelled by the state to work in a STD clinic where Christians were constantly badmouthed, myself being given as an example by the communists. The communist claimed Christians make human sacrifices. I was named an enemy of the state. A fellow nurse said publicly, if she had a gun she would shoot me. When my third son was born, immediately afterward my husband got arrested again. What to do with our son while I had to go to work? Sometime a lady-Christian from Leningrad (now Saint Petersburg) sister Pasha, came all the way to Kishinev to be of help. When she quit, I had to lock my small children unattended in the house, while at work. What a great joy for our entire family when my husband first returned from a Soviet prison in 1968.

2. A second difficult time period for us were the years 1982-1984. In 1980 my husband was sentenced for the third time and this time he received 5 years of prison. He was sent to Omsk in Siberia. My husband was told by a secret policeman he would be freed if he renounces his faith or he will be never freed. Myself was dismissed from work. Was retained by the police many times and threatened to be imprisoned for good. The church was meeting underground in the garden of a family called Nicoara. As a result, the house and garden were confiscated by the authorities. He lost his property. In prison my husband passed through moments of terror. He was imprisoned in a stockade for 137 days and nights where the floor was made out of a triangular iron grill. On top of that he was very thinly dressed and it was impossible to lay down on such an uncomfortable cold metal floor. When his 5 years sentence was over I travelled to Omsk, Siberia to see him freed only to find out he had been sentenced to two more years of prison being sent to a prison in Ulan Uda in the Asian Buriat Region at the border with Mongolia. He was sure he would die. Yet, after he was freed from prison, he served God from 1986 to 2012 when he died."

She thanks us for all help (we had been in contact for many years since the 1970s helping brother Horev and his family.) Mrs. Horeva closes with the Bible verse: "For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God."

(2nd Corinthians 9:12.)

## Christians and their families helped with your gifts

Due to tax laws inside Romania, some help needs be sent through the local Romanian nonprofit Sabina Wurmbrand Christian Association. Below, one of the receipts for financial support distributed in turn as financial aid to Richard Wurmbrand High School, the Agape Orphanage or to many Christians and their families, most of them now 70 to well into their nineties. Everyone endured many years of communist prison.



Fundatia Filocalia, CF: 3204471  
Strada Smardan nr 13, Iasi, Cod 700399  
Telefon: 0746 3824711  
Email: filocalia@iasi.rdsmail.ro

10.10.2016

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 24.000 lei (contravaloarea a 6.000 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 \$6,000 (24,000 lei) on October 10, 2016, from Asociația Creștină Sabina Wurmbrand, represented by Michael Wurmbrand. This donation was made to support the education of children from disadvantaged families.

Fundația „Filocalia”,

Ec. Adonican Dascălu



Help for Refugees, P.O. Box 5161,  
Torrance, Ca. 90510, USA. Email:  
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/>



Baklajansky Vladimir with family of  
11 living children and grandchildren  
He writes: “By profession I am a welder. The Soviet communist  
authorities imprisoned me in 1984 for my Christian faith. At  
the trial, which took place in the town of Tiraspol, I was  
sentenced for being the acting youth minister together with  
Cara Ivan, the deacon of our Baptist church for propagating a  
Christian education among our children. The trial took three  
days. Every day of this trial, the shrewd communist police  
allowed us to return at night to our families in the hope our  
wives and family would convince us to renounce our faith. I was  
27 years old and we had three small children. I did not  
renounce to witness our faith. We were sentenced to two and a  
half years of prison. We the prisoners in the penitentiary  
Branesti I was held in, worked in a calcar (calcium carbonate)  
construction-material mine. While returning every night by  
3AM on the long way back to the camp in the prison van, the  
freezing cold of about -17 F was hardly bearable. Police dogs  
were ready to attack us at the slightest sign of insubordination.  
My feet were so frozen that I prayed to God no to die frozen. At  
that moment, fellow prisoners asked me stretch along on their  
knees so they warm me up and I warm them up. I thanked God  
I was not going to die. I taught other prisoners one of our local  
Christian song that goes, " The world goads us to a godless life  
of worldly pleasures yet here on earth where all is vanity, what  
greater happiness is there other than believing in Jesus?"

Shortly before I was supposed to be freed, I was called to the  
communist prison officials. They shouted at me: " What Jesus  
Christ? Why do you continue making Christian propaganda in  
this prison? We are going to revise your sentence to open a new  
penal case against you and we will try keep you here for the  
rest of your life." I answered with our Lord's words, "God is a  
Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and  
in truth" and I continued: "I love God and will follow Him as  
long as necessary." They tied a ribbon around my neck trying  
to choke me. Seeing my steadfastness and lack of fright, as  
unbelievable as it seems, they started apologizing and  
congratulated me even, convinced that I follow God's word.”

**Christians and their families helped with your gifts**  
**A Christian Martyr of Romania**  
**Testimony of John Clipa's son**

“My name is Florentin Clipa, originally from Romania, from the north-east of the country, in the city of Suceava. I was born in a Christian family. In this way, I had the privilege to learn from an early age about the unchanging truths of the Bible. When four-years-old only, my father, a minister in his local church and involved in Bible smuggling activities died, after having been interrogated and tortured with a beating-robot by the Romanian communist police. He died in his forties and of course it wasn't normal.



My father was involved in the ministry preaching in the local church which he founded in the early 1960's and also teaching kids at Sunday school. In the second half of 1960's, he started to smuggle Bibles. 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. The Bibles were coming from various sources in the Free World, one of these sources being the missionary work of the late Pastor Richard Wurmbrand. My father 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. 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?” The demand for Bibles was enormous. Christians would give away a month salary, a Christian family gave away their cow to obtain a Bible.

My father 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. My father did not betray it. At the same time, the communist secret police came to our house and searched for Bibles and Christian literature. Right after he was arrested, his penal case was made public by the communists, with a propaganda article in the local newspaper. During this time my father started to be interrogated and bad procedures were applied to him. He had to stay for months in hospitals but his condition didn't get better but worse and after a while, he died in November 1980.

It was a real difficult moment for my mother and for all my brothers and sisters. We were seven children, the oldest was 14 and the youngest was two. Just before his death, my mother had to retire from her job as she started having serious health problems. Having a very small pension, mother was in a terrible difficult situation. Some of her „friends” told her: „If your husband is dead now and you have only a small pension your best bet is to give your children to an orphanage”. But my mother thought: “If these children are God's gift for me, how can I give them away to a state communist orphanage? If I will give them to the orphanage, who is going to teach them to read the Bible and pray?” So, right after my father's death, she came to us and said: “From now on, you don't have an earthly father, but we will kneel together and will ask God, the heavenly Father to take care for us, to be our Father.” So, we prayed together that evening making such a request.

A picture from the funeral of my father arrived in the hands of Pastor Richard Wurmbrand. He gave world-wide publicity to our family story of suffering. Some German brethren, read this testimony and decided to help us during several years with food and clothes. They were God's open hand to us. We want to thank God for the legacy my father left behind him and for having a faithful and loving mother who kept us together and raised us to serve the Lord Jesus Christ. Also, we are in wonder how God used pastor Wurmbrand to support the families of the martyrs from the Communist world in those times.”

Florentin Clipa and siblings are Christian youth missionaries in Romania. Readers may find out more of their ministry at <http://charis.ro>. Pray for this family.