

HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC.

A tax-exempt, non-profit corporation

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Late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand with
wife, Sabina

The Gospel of John, 3:16:

" Jesus said : "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life". "

Late Rev. Richard Wurmbrand spent 14 years in the Romanian communist prisons for his Christian faith. Mrs. Wurmbrand also was imprisoned nearly three years in same prisons.

From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand

In this one verse in John, 3.16 is contained the entire Gospel. The thought in John, 3.16 is, in fact, the main subject of all the Christian preaching. This verse has been preached and written about for 2000 years. "Such sweet message is never enough told !"

GOD

Just like no one will believe someone who would say that he saw a watch making itself, no one will believe the world created itself, either. Once, on board a ship, a man was having fun telling anti-religious jokes. A traveler asked him : "Do you believe in God?" - "No", was the answer. "Then you are the man I have read about". "You read about Me? Where?" - "Yes! In the Bible. It is written there that the fool says in his heart, there is no God" (Psalm 14:1.)

Did different types of atoms go inside the brain randomly and created a new concept called "God?" There is God. How is He? The limited cannot comprehend the unlimited. A God Who could be understood by the simple human mind wouldn't be God. A Middle Ages Christian mystic, Meister Eckhart wrote - " The absolute, the most general notion is called Divinity".

"For God so loved the world ..." - says Jesus. Jesus lifts the veil off Divinity's face and shows us that It is love".

There are no words in the human language for what God is and feels. Therefore, the symbol of God is what is highest in man: it is love! Eskimos who were once preached to about this text, stopped the preacher during the sermon, telling him : "Enough ! It is too much for one day. We cannot comprehend so much divine love at once". God loves the brutal world. Luther writes : "It is untrue that God hates sinners ... If the Lord would have hated sinners, He wouldn't have sent His Son for them."

The Lord loves the world, yes, this world full of sins. God loves us, good or bad. The Church Father St. Augustine writes : "Incomprehensible and unforgettable is God's love. This is because ... He loved us before the creation of the world, so that, together with His only Son, we will also be God's children." Apostle Paul writes: "But God commanded His love for us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans, 5.8).

What kind of a world did God love ? A fair world ? A good world ? No, but an evil one ! - A world which loves Him ? No, but a world which was at war with Him. In Galatians, 2.20, St. Paul draws the conclusion regarding himself : "The Son of God loved me".

He gave

And if God loved, He gave. Love is measured by what it gives. Love consists of giving. His gifts are signs of His love for us. Anyone who loves, gives. Gives people what they ask for. Gives bread to the hungry one, water to the thirsty one, clothes to the naked, care to the sick, comfort to the sad, and, in prisons, the knowledge of truth to the ignorant.

His only begotten Son

In nature you cannot see God in His perfection, because in nature He doesn't reveal the peak of His love that is: His grace for the guilty. In nature, everything happens according to laws. If a ship's captain was wrong in his calculations, his ship will go toward the rocks. The rocks will not move. No angel will come to save the ship. It will sink and many people will die. There is no mercy here. If lightning strikes you when you are under a tall tree, which attracts it, you will die. The laws of nature do not want to know that you are a family father , or a pious man. But in nature there is an element, the human spirit, which changes things. It puts a lighthouse on the shore so that the lost ship will not hit the rocks. It puts a lightning rod on tall houses. It finds the antidote to poisons. You can see the Lord in His perfection only in the spiritual world. Here, He sacrifices His Only Son, in order for those who broke divine, human and natural laws to be saved from being destroyed.

God would sooner give His Son away than the sinner who takes refuge in Him. When what I am makes me desperate, I look at what the Lord is in Christ and I am hopeful. The first thing I am hopeful about is that God loves me. He loves me so much that He gave His Son for me. And who is the object of such love? The world. If we bow in admiration before the Heavenly Father Who sacrifices His Son for us, we must also give.

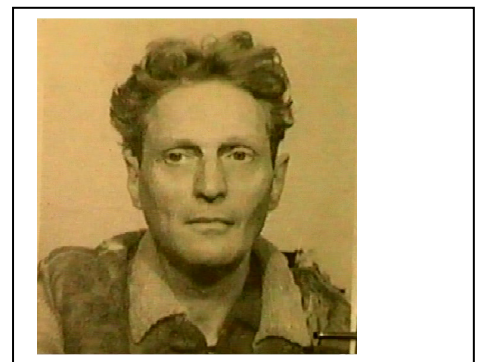
We must try to have a love similar to God's love for us. We must give away everything and not what costs us nothing. King David is quoted in the Bible as having said: "neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing." (Samuel II, 24.24). We must also be ready to give what is most precious to us. Do we value our time most ? Then, let's give much of it to doing charity work. Do we value wealth? Let us give from it to those in need!



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.

“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)

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. The following pictures tell it all. Thank you for all your prayers and gifts. Michael Wurmbrand

Fundatia *Filocalia* – Colegiul *Richard Wurmbrand*
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Confirmation

Filocalia Foundation – Colegiul *Richard Wurmbrand*, located on 13 Smârdan Street, Iasi, 700 399, registered as a foundation J. 14/12.02.1992, fiscal code 3204471, represented by Mr. Donel Dascalu confirms by this document that we received \$3,000 (converted in 11,655 lei) on June, 10 2015 from Help For Refugees, Inc., Michael Wurmbrand, Director, PO Box 5161 Torrance, Ca. 90510, USA. This donation is to support the children coming from disadvantaged families.

BENEFICIARY

Filocalia Foundation – Colegiul *Richard Wurmbrand*

DIRECTOR,

Ec. Donel Dascalu



One of the receipts acknowledging our support sent to the Richard Wurmbrand High School in Iasi.



Gypsy (now called Roma) orphans in the city Curtea De Arges, Romania have been helped financially through brother Vasile Giulea (in the picture above upper right) of the Reaching Mankind For Christ and the Richard Wurmbrand Foundation ministries. (richardwurmbrandfoundation.com)



There are about 1/2 million gypsies (now called Roma) living in Romania. (stock photo)



Orphans at the Agape Orphanage participating in farm labor gathering potatoes



House in which orphans lived, before being received in the Agape Orphanage

The running expenses of the orphanage when started in 1993 by Rev. and Mrs. Wurmbrand, amounted to about \$25,000 per year. Due to many new requirements of the European Union and galloping inflation, the orphanage needs over \$120,000 per year to function properly. Due to shortage of funds, the orphanage must rely on local donations of food-packages, cans and containers. Some of its grown-up kids do work in the fields.

Please share this newsletter with all your Christian friends list, church lists or send us their addresses (with their permission) so we may send them this newsletter!

Christians helped with your gifts:



Lidia Vasiu
A Christian Testimony:

I am the daughter of Gheorghe Chis who was arrested by the communist secret police with many other brethren in 1959. He was part of the Army Of The Lord religious movement. He suffered an inhumane treatment on the hands of the communist guards in the prisons of Gherla, and the Danube River Delta.

Mother remained home with five children and our family ended up being harassed nonstop by the secret police so as to intimidate us and prevent us from undertaking any religious activities. One of my brothers had to move to another town in order to finish high school.

Together with so many others, my father came out of prison in 1964 (when the communist Romanian government got loans from the United States, NT.)

He had serious problems obtaining work. One of the top directors of the enterprise named Comrade Kun, who was a high ranking communist, asked derisively my father: "Have you decided to abandon your stupid behavior?" My father answered, "My stupid behavior I abandoned indeed long time back (when I became a Christian.)" "No", said Kun, " I referred exactly to your Christian beliefs. Have you decided to abandon your belief in God?" My father answered him, "Whatever it takes I will never abandon my belief in God."

One day Kun was the one demoted by his own communist comrades, while my father could finally obtain employment.

My father was a man who loved the Lord, a man whose straightforward convictions and life were an example for us all. He continued to be persecuted by the communists till his death in 1984 and even afterwards the communists made our life so miserable following all our activities.

I thank you for all the effort you undertake out of your love for God, on behalf of those who suffered for their faith under communism,

Christians helped with your gifts:



Tamasila Trandafir
A Christian Testimony:

I am the son of Tamasila Damian, who was arrested in 1958 by the (communist) secret police for being a member of the Army of the Lord and attending its meetings.

During 1958-1964 It was difficult for us, we were persecuted, our goods were seized, even our own home in which we were allowed to stay with rent. Even after father came out of jail, there were supervision, interrogations, fines and we were told not to have any religious convictions.

We thank the good Lord who allowed us to be victorious in everything to arrive to live today. God bless your thoughts thinking of us.

Preda Ioan
Biographical note by
His daughter in law:



My father Preda Ioan (now deceased) was arrested (by the communist regime) in October 1958 together with 9 other believers. They were imprisoned in Timisoara, at the Jilava prison and the prisons of Gherla, Aiud and Botosani. He was sentenced to 7 years of jail but ended up completing only 3 ½ years before being pardoned (in a general amnesty decreed when loans were obtained by the communist government from the US. NT) My father like all the others were members of the Army of the Lord. All the Bibles and other Christian literature was confiscated. They were accused of religious propaganda. While father was arrested, we were 7 children left behind.

Christians helped with your gifts:



Iftimoaie Anica
A Christian Testimony:

I am the oldest daughter from 8 children of Mihai Neculai. God worked in our family since my father while fighting in the Second World War on the front he passed through difficult times and one day he became a Christian. God, to whom he prayed, saved him. He became upon his return a member of the Army of the Lord. ... He collaborated with a very gifted itinerant preacher Ioan Marini.

Together with several other brethren in Pechea, my father was arrested (by the Communists) in 1959. It was August 17. He went to work and did not return home anymore. The Secret Police undertook a house search accusing us of hiding weapons. I was the oldest of eight children and the youngest was one year and eight months. We went through very difficult times as only my mother and I could work in the collective. →

The Communists seized all we had: 3 sheep and one goat, a sewing machine. A Christian brother bought it back from the Communists for 1200 lei so he gave it back to us. God should reward him. From February to December, mother worked in a state nursery, working 10-12 hours a day, walking 4 km, I worked 3 days a week in the collective farm and the other days in some tailoring with the sewing machine so that we have some food to buy for all the 8 children. There also was a sister bringing us some milk and some fruits, etc. God reward her too.

I knew nothing of my father for about one and a half years. After his sentence he asked us to send him a 10 Lbs. food package. How could we send such when we hardly had what to eat ourselves! I remember how in 1961 mother was very sick and in a hospital in Galati (legs and hands were swollen). I was home alone with the other 7 children and between tears was singing for them lullabies mentioning the parents who were not home. All mother had to eat some days was one onion. We eight children all we had to eat were 4 eggs. We sent once to my father some lamb meat we got as a present for us as children. We petitioned the Communist government to release our father because we are 8 needy children. I ended up being interrogated by the communist secret police and they wondered how could I write and answer like this being just a child. In one year 5 of the children were sick at the same time. In 1963 God gave me in marriage a wonderful husband who felt close to us and in 1964 my father in an unforgettable moment returned home. Presently I have 5 children, two girls and 3 boys. We bothered to raise them as believers. As this is the world's greatest treasure. I raised my kids knowing what I went through and advised them to stay faithful. Now that all these sufferings passed, I saw how God's hand sustained us and He deserves thanks. Pains and suffering passed and so did our years and we wait for His rewards. God should bless you since you thought about those who suffered. With appreciation!

Iftimoaie Anica