

HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC.

A tax-exempt, non-profit corporation

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Late Reverend Richard Wurmland with wife, Sabina

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Gospel of Matthew 5:16

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

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From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmland: We need honor persecuted Christians

A communist Soviet writer named Shamarov published in 1968 in the Soviet Publishing House called Znanie ("Knowledge") a study-book on the Russian Christian underground Church entitled "No Way To Muzzle Them!" How are these Christians described after 50 years of intense persecution? Millions of Christians under communism had been jailed, tortured, deported and a large number killed. Except for a few large city show-churches, 90% of the churches had been closed or torn down. Christians were even imprisoned in asylums, declared lunatics, were forcefully injected with drugs. After such intense persecution one would expect the church should have disappeared.

The communist Shamarov wrote: "The preachers, the active bearers of religion in all its forms - those in (traditional) churches or (smaller) denominations, do not laugh and do not make jokes. They act. They work day and night. They preach everywhere, in bus- or street-car-stations or in hospital wards. They seek new members for their religious gatherings. They seek everywhere. (For instance) right on the street they approach one if they see some person with a sad, bitter face. They approach a youngster who had passed through some personal problem or tragedy!" Dear western Christian, did you see often in the Free World a priest or preacher standing up in a bus station or stopping men on the street, studying their countenance to find out if accessible to the Gospel-message and thus starting a conversation? Which western minister is willing to

learn that from the persecuted church? To imitate the boldness of these Christians we would have to do it both day and night. It is an engrained habit to rest after one works. But the writer continues "underground ministers seem to rest only after they arrive in heaven." In the underground church it is not only the ministers who are active. Thus the communist book continues: "Faith with no deeds to empower its goals is dead! That's what many denominational preachers, prophets suggest to those in their flock. (They teach) that the only way to please God and praise Him is to attract new converts into their congregations. Such fishers of men strive to win all around them." Did your minister in your church teach you to win souls for Christ? Would you not learn soul-winning from such persecuted Christians who risked jail or even be deprived of their children to spread the Word of God? Have you won youth around you for Christ?

Listen how the persecuted Christian are described as doing it. The communist Shamarov writes: "Quietly they approach this boy or girl to comfort them, to show their empathy, pour soothing oil on their soul, even propose to help them financially." These persecuted Christians earn very little. Yet they find resources to help needy people. When meeting unknown people on the street, do we, free Christians, show such empathy in feelings and deeds to the unknown, even we believe they had been created in God's image? This communist publishing house explains how persecuted Christians in the underground church would not miss such an occasion. The communist author continues: "When newcomers appear in their church they are surrounded by the general attention of everyone.... they are offered the best seats, their questions are answered, they are taught the faith-alphabet." Who sat near you in the church last Sunday? Did you pay attention to the one next to you in your pew? Were you sure he is not a newcomer or that he does not need help? The communist book states, "Christians urge those faithful to become nurses. For instance one Christian sister was hired in a TB hospital. She informed her church about patients who have no family, who are rarely visited if at all. Christians visit such persons." The communist author accuses the Christians "as not missing one occasion to catch a soul. They do everything possible to instill their Christian faith in their own children or in their neighbors." What incredible words of appreciation for persecuted Christians coming from a persecutor! How about you brother and sister? Did you chose your profession to be most useful in serving the Lord? Are you concerned that those working for you or around you be saved? When Lord Jesus Christ was on the cross, the priests of that time did not honor Him, but they gave their honor to a robber! They did not recognize Jesus as the true King of the Jews. If western Christian today do not honor persecuted Christians, they are missing their calling!



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.

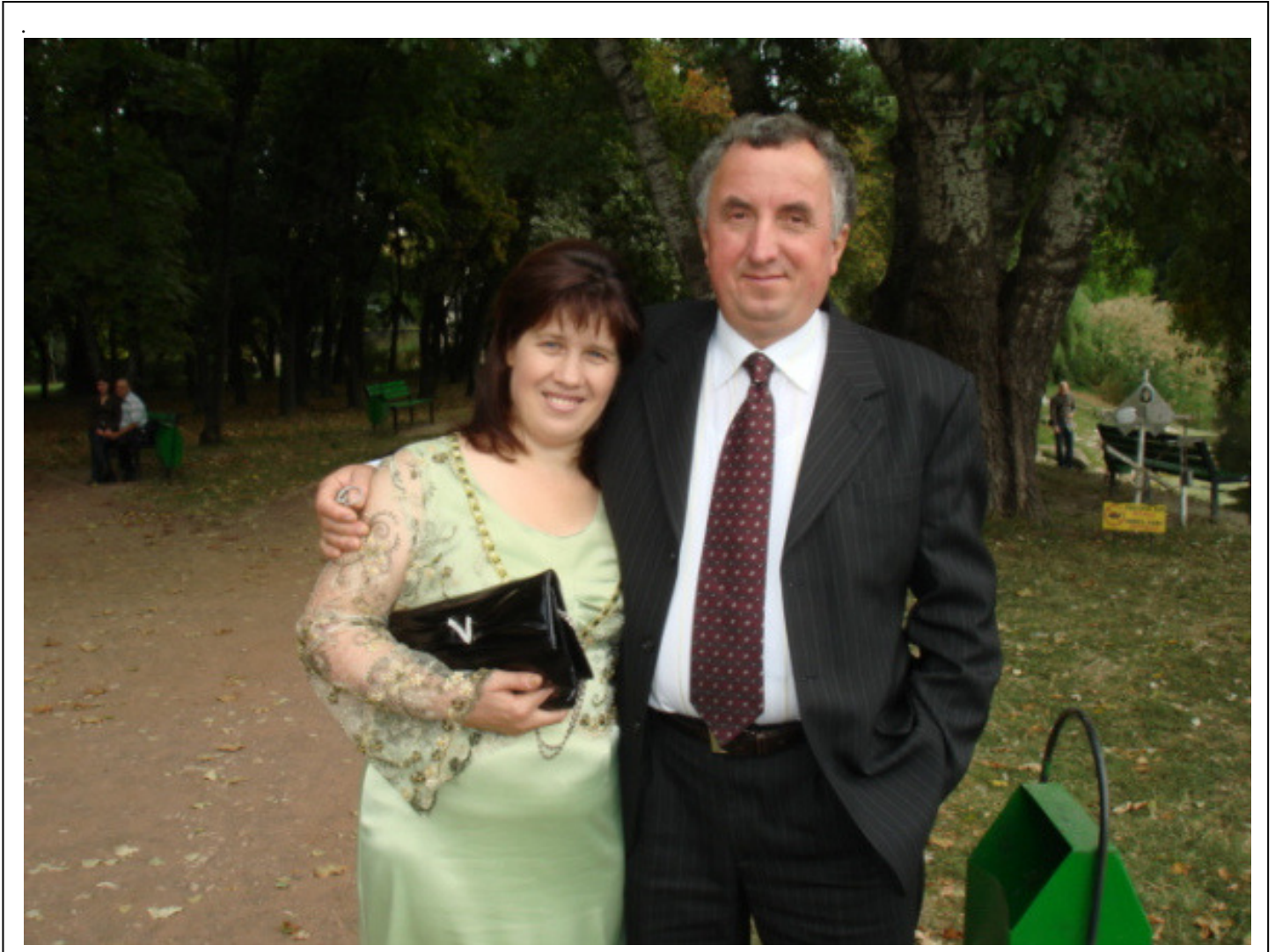


Mug shot of Late Reverend Richard Wurmbrand when held in Jilava.

HELP FOR REFUGEES, INC. has helped for the last 40 years orphans and Christians who had been imprisoned for their faith in present and former communist countries. <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 Helped With Your Gifts From Inside The Former Soviet Union The Story Of A Christian Bible-Smuggler!



Baptist Christian Vasile Tasca and wife Eugenia
Because of smuggling the Word Of God, Brother Tasca suffered
three years in Russian communist prisons.

Following, Brother Vasile Tasca describes how he participated in the smuggling of Bibles inside the former Soviet Union. Bible printing was financed and provided from funds contributed by believers in the Free World.

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An excerpt from brother Vasile Tasca's speech at the "Spring of Life Church" in Chisinau, Republic of Moldavia.

The best timing for any surreptitious introduction of Christian literature was around Soviet holidays. At such times the local Russian police was more preoccupied with festivities, thus neglecting to pursue the usual persecution of Christians. An example is how on the most important holiday, the celebration of the Soviet Revolution, on November 7th 1977 a lorry hiding a very large transport of Christian literature arrived from Finland unto the Soviet Union territory and we were successful in secretly unloading it in an isolated forest around the Ukrainian city of Poltava. I was blessed by holding in my hand for the first time a complete Bible. A second transport arrived in June 1978. A third transport came on November 7th, 1979 (again the anniversary of the revolution of 1917) and finally I participated in a 4th such Bible-smuggling operation on June 22nd, 1980. The truck in this last smuggling attempt occurred when the Olympic torch was just passing from Greece to Moscow through the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic territory (now this former part of the Soviet Union is an independent country called the Republic of Moldavia.)

We met always the Finnish brethren driving the trucks during the night. As explained above the truck with the Bibles made it into the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic territory on June 21, 1980 into the night at the 3AM. Five smaller trucks reloaded the smuggled Bibles. Just in the truck I was driving, I had 5,500 Russian and even German Bibles (a large German population lived at the time in the Southern part of Russia.) Also other Christian literature included was like children Bible stories and tracts.

The body of the truck looked like a large metal box with only a side window over which we hanged some tarpaulin. Immediately behind this window we had loaded a few heavy wood beams. The manifest for the truck load was reading, " construction wood." The drivers and helpers in the five trucks were the Christian brethren Vasile Tasca (that is myself) Nicolae Bucalov, Vladimir Serbina, Ion Buzulan, Illie Mirza and Ion Tasca. We started toward Kishinev (the capital city of the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic.) Vladimir Serbina's truck was the first truck and arrived without incidents.

Each truck came one after another at 15 minutes intervals. When exiting the Stauceni village, a police car stopped and then let through the second, fourth and fifth car. The third truck, driven by myself did not wait for the police to come around and I tried to take off. The communist police let the other cars unchecked, ran after me and I was stopped right at the entrance into the capital.

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I was arrested and interrogated by a secret police officer named Vladimir Turcan. Nowadays, after the fall of communism in Moldavia, he became the founder of a "democratic" party called United Moldova. He and the rest of the communist secret police burned a few of the Bibles we tried to smuggle.

The interrogation consisted of hours and hours of being questioned in many ways and lasted 10 months. It so happened that not long before I was arrested, some other Christian brethren had been arrested and so badly beaten that they died in prison. This created a wave of bad publicity outside the Soviet Union. Therefore right before my arrest a new law was passed by which the Soviet police were forbidden at least for a while, beating prisoners, so I escaped being beaten while interrogated. I was placed in a solitary cell but after a while ended up in the same cell with a common law criminal serving a prison sentence for the 8th time. This criminal recounted for me his admiration for so many Christians he had encountered during his years spent in the Soviet prisons. He also instructed me all the tricks of the interrogators, how to answer difficult questions and allowing me to stay firm in my faith. After 10 months of interrogations, I was sentenced to 3 years of prison. Another Christian I knew Ion Oselshi, was sentenced at the same time to five years of communist prison for having officiated in the underground church a baptism and two marriages.

In the Soviet prison of Cahul where I was kept, surprisingly someone was able to smuggle in a New Testament that I could read for brief periods. Once a week, the prisoners were obliged by the government to read the local Soviet newspaper "Sovietskaya Moldavia." In it, a Soviet writer E. Andreev (most likely a pen-name) started a series of anti-Christian articles under a general title of "The Instigators." His first article which appeared on the 6th of June, 1981, with a subtitle of "Travelling In The Night," was describing my Bible-smuggling activities.

Fellow prisoners who had no idea who I was, were commenting what a harsh sentence expects this smuggler, without knowing I was the principal described in the article. A third and fourth article again referring to our group of Christian Bible-smugglers named us "a small group of renegades, religious fanatics ...who destroy lives of so many people" and further badmouthed Evangelical believers.

While in prison, I was allowed to receive one time a visit from my own sister. She came in with a friend-believer named Eugenia. Eugenia saw me in a prison garb and hair shorn bald! Though I could not physically impress her, after I came out of the Soviet prisons she was not scared to become my wife and God gave us six children. In our Bible-smuggling work we saw how God covered the eyes of our persecutors. It so happened that one of the Bibles-loaded incoming trucks passed through unexpected difficulties. Thus while trying to pass under a bridge that was too low, the truck became blocked. Further the truck could not go up a steep incline. Unaware of the truck content, the local Soviet police worked at letting the air out of the tires,

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so as to lower the truck height allowing it to cross under the bridge. In the second instance they provided some kind of a tractor to help pull the truck on the steep incline. A brother of ours, Vasile Jomiru from the village of Ciuciuleni had so much Bible-literature in his attic that the attic floor showed signs of barely holding before collapsing unto the lower rooms. The Soviet police came to do a house search. After searching the entire house and not finding any forbidden Christian literature, brother Jomiru told them they need go up a nearby ladder and search the attic. The police was too fearful to do it and thus they missed tons of Christian literature hidden there.

The Soviet persecution of Christians increased the number of Christian instead of decreasing their number. Thus now after the fall of communism, many more Evangelical churches could be opened in Kishinev (in Romanian: Chisinau.) I was even able years later to meet again brother Esco, one of the faithful Finnish brethren who drove into the Soviet Union the smuggled Bibles. I was able to thank the Finnish brethren for their sacrifice, disregarding so many dangers. I continue advising youngsters in our churches to understand how precious is God's Word and how precious is to enjoy the freedom to read it.



Brother Vasile Tasca, surrounded by his loving family.

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/>

Your gifts have allowed us to help financially several orphanages and many elderly Christians (between 70-100 years old) who spent years within communist prisons in Eastern Europe because of their Christian witness.