

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>



Late Reverend Richard Wurmland with wife, Sabina

Late Reverend Richard Wurmland spent 14 years in Romanian communist prisons. Mrs. Wurmland was imprisoned nearly three years also for her Christian faith in some of the same prisons.

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" And went again into the judgment hall, and saith unto Jesus, Whence art thou? **But Jesus gave him no answer.**

"Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me?"

(John 19:9-10)

From an unpublished Bible meditation by late Reverend Richard Wurmland

Why Pilate Received no Answer from Jesus`?

The disciples of Jesus must have wondered very much. They must have wondered very much about His attitude towards Pilate. Jesus could speak like no one else. There was such a convincing power in His words. Many times, His enemies, the Pharisees, the Sadducees tried to confound Him with different questions. They never succeeded. Jesus always had the right answer. And now, Jesus was before Pilate. The disciples were sure that Jesus will be able to defend Himself. He could find the right words to open the heart of Pilate. He could make a miracle before the eyes of Pilate, and convince him like this. How was it that Jesus was almost silent before Pilate?

It was because on that day, according to Roman custom, one prisoner had to be freed, released. And the people had the choice to free Jesus or a robber with the name of Barabbas. Jesus could not feel that he should be freed and Barabbas should be crucified. He preferred to die Himself that Barabbas might go to his mother and to his wife. Jesus loves sinners. That is our joy. All men are sinners. And Jesus preferred that he should die that the sinner, Barabbas, should be free.

Barabbas, in the Hebrew language, in the language of the Jews, means "son of the father". So, before Pilate stood two sons of the Father. Jesus was also a Barabbas. And Barabbas was a son of the father. And Jesus believed that it is better that He, the good Son of the Father should die, than the bad son of the father. He wished to sacrifice His life for sinners.

Christians are aware they are forgiven sinners. Myself and so did other Christians suffer many years in communist prisons. In these prisons Christians were savagely beaten, tortured. Yet, there were cases when Christians were insulted and beaten and the Christians fell on their knees and bowed to the beating communist policeman and then the Communist asked: "Why do you bow before me?" The Christian answered him: "Two

thousand years ago there was a police officer who beat Christians. His name was Saul of Tars. He persecuted the Christians, he was ready to kill them. But he was an elect of God, who did not know yet that he was chosen by Jesus Christ. He was the future apostle Paul. An egg does not know, it could turn into a hen. And there are many unbelievers and there are many torturers of Christians, who don't know that they are future children of God. And the Christian explained: "I bowed before you because I see in you a future apostle. I see in you perhaps a future martyr for Christ, as St. Paul had become a martyr.

Pontius Pilate, was a slave to the shouting crowd. He would have liked to free Jesus, but he did not have the courage. He saw so many hundreds shouting: "Free Barabbas! Free Barabbas!" that he yielded. When you have Christ in your heart, you are nobody's slave anymore. The truth sets you free. Sometimes a Communist officer would come to us and they would say: "Deny Christ and you will be free!" And Christians answered: "But I am free!" "But how are you free? You are in this prison cell, with chains arounds hands and feet?" And the Christian answered quietly: "You can have the most beautiful uniform with epaulets, but if you are a slave of your sins and of your passions, if you wish to have one or two stars more on your epaulet, then you are a prisoner, even if you are a captain. If the heart is cleansed by the blood of Jesus, if you are a child of God, then you are free even when you sit in prison, with chains. You shout at us, you can only shout and I can sing."

A Christian was arrested and brought before his communist interrogator. And the first words of the Christian were: "Me, you can't buy and you can't frighten. What do you have to tell me?" The Communist captain wondered: "How come you can't be bought? How come you can't be frightened? We atheists believe that men are moved only by reward and punishment. I need understand this!

"For instance, Judas Iscariot seemed to have been stupid. He sold himself for thirty pieces of silver. He could have had three hundred or three thousand. The priests in the temple did not pay the money out of their own pocket. Had Judas asked more, he would have received more. It is a common saying that everyone has a price. What is your price? We wish to buy you. We are the power in the state. We can free you. We can see that you should have a nice apartment and good jobs. We can see that your children should study. And if you wish to be a Christian, you are free, you can be a Christian. Only once every fortnight, come and meet with one of us and tell us the secrets of the church. Where you print secretly Bibles, who are the leaders and where they meet. Be our informer. Be our Judas. And we give you whatever you like. Tell me, what is your price?"

This Christian replied: "Captain, this proposal I like. I am also business-minded. I have sold myself already once. I have sold myself to Jesus Christ. He paid for me with blood, with sweat and tears. He suffered for me as no other being has ever suffered on earth. He has given me forgiveness of all my sins, peace and joy in my heart, protecting angel, and a beautiful paradise. Nobody can describe how splendid this paradise is. But, captain, my mind has remained opened. I am ready to sell myself to somebody else. Can you, captain, give me a bigger price than that of Jesus? Can you give me more than a paradise? Can you give me more than eternal life? Can you give me more than forgiveness of sins and peace in my heart? Can you give me more than unceasing happiness? Captain, I wish to sell myself to you. But, tell me, do you have a better offer? And as to being frightened, we Christians believe the Bible which writes: "Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and let Him be your fear, and let Him be your dread." (Isaiah 8:13) The communist captain left in silence.

By keeping silent, Jesus, same day, helped the robber Barabbas to be freed. Christians are sinners forgiven and set free through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.



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 past 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 Wurmbbrand College, a high school in Iasi, Romania where many children of disadvantaged families are able to study. See <http://helpforrefugees.com>. Anyone may use a "DONATE" button on site. Due to tax laws inside Romania and Eastern Europe, some help needs be sent through the local Romanian nonprofit Sabina Wurmbbrand Christian Association.

"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)

6 Months Isolation in a Secret Printing Room

Christians Helped with Your Gifts! Sister Galina Ivanovna Iudintseva's Testimony



"I am born in 1938 and now at 80, I feel well and do, in the church I so much love, all that is in my power. During the Soviet era, I was part of the underground church. This church was greatly persecuted because we did not accept the interference of the state in the life of the church. During the Soviet era, an official printing house existed in Moscow, so the Soviet state could pretend for show, editing extremely small quantities of some Christian literature. For propaganda purposes, the communist authorities wanted to show outside the Soviet Union that there is some freedom of worship.

All churches had a great lack of Bibles and other Christian literature. Therefore, Russian Christian church leaders organized an underground printing shop. I had an intense desire be part of this church work. I participated with great joy and got fully involved though well aware of being under the threat of imprisonment. I thought that for God and church, the sacrifice on my part was very much worth it. The work was very hard.

We were living in closed rooms for periods of 5-6 months. We could not get out of the house during the day so as not arouse suspicions with neighbors regarding how many persons were living in the house. We could get out briefly some dark nights. The preparations used for printing were very toxic. They contained lead and zinc. The rooms we were working in, were not equipped with any ventilation. The work involved 5-6 people. In the period of 5-6 months, we were able to print about 10,000-12,000 copies of the New Testament. Despite of our precautions, in the summer of 1980, we were all arrested and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment. I was sentenced to 3 years of jail. During the investigation we were told that in exchange for being let free, we should disclose everything we know of the underground "Khrestianin (the Christian) Publishing House". None of us participating, betrayed this underground Christian activity. I spent these three years in prison in one of Siberia's prisons, in the Sverdlovsk region. I was released from prison in 1983. And now I am very grateful to God for what He has done in my life.

I wish Good Lord bless you in the work you do! Your sister Galina"

Help for Refugees, PO 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/> (To find, enter the EIN!)



**“Christianity Will Be Uprooted! We Will Show By 1980, on Soviet TV, the Last Existing Christian.”
Nikita Khrushchev (Soviet Union Leader)**

**Christians Helped with Your Gifts
Sister Dina Vladimirovan Fadeeva’s Testimony**

“I am born in 1961, in a family of Baptist believers. The Soviet state leader at the time, was Nikita Khrushchev. A repressive, atheist dictator, he announced, should even one Christian still exist by 1980 in communist Soviet Union, such Christian person will be displayed as some old museum piece on

TV. Years passed, the 1980s are long gone, and Christians in the former Soviet Union greatly multiplied in number, despite this Soviet leader's false predictions. During communism, the Soviet authorities did everything so that Christian life would become inexistent. Christian children were mocked in schools, they were castigated and not allowed be promoted in any manner. Therefore, the underground church I was part of, paid special attention to educate the children in a Christian way of life. We had Sunday School classes, a children's choir, all such activities forbidden by the communist state. Promoting such, was qualified by the Soviet state as a serious crime. Those involved in this church service, faced many years of jail. Although I was well aware of the risks I faced, I was asked by the church leadership to be a Sunday School teacher and gladly accepted it. After being active in this church activities for 3 years, I was arrested in 1983, when only 22 years old. The interrogations lasted 3 months and then I was sentenced in a show-trial, to 3 years of prison. During the house search, the KGB (Soviet secret police) found magazines published by the underground "Khrestianin" (the Christian) Publishing House. I was accused of participating in the illegal printing and distribution of materials “undermining the Soviet social and political system.” Like many Christians who had been condemned just for believing in God, I was asked to collaborate with the police, the Soviet KGB. If I had accepted to be a secret informer, the KGB offered me many incentives. I could continue my studies in a higher educational institution. I refused all their proposals. I chose rather suffer with the people of God and was released in 1986. Even after the fall of the Soviet Union, persecution continues in parts of Russia and in the former Soviet states, such as Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan.

God gave me a beautiful family. We Christians have a promise: Our Lord said, "I will create My Church, and the gates of hell will not be able overcome it." We all trust His promise. I wish you live with faith and hope in God. God bless you! Dina”

Due to new tax laws inside many countries in Eastern Europe, some help needs be sent through the local Romanian nonprofit Sabina Wurmbrand Christian Association. The financial support is distributed in turn as financial aid to Richard Wurmbrand High School, the Agape Orphanage or to many Christians in Eastern Europe, most of them now 70 to 90 years old. We help the families of those who endured many years of communist prison.

**Christian Son Defies Communist Court!
Christians Helped with Your Gifts
Pastor Muhin Alexandru Simeonovich Testimony**



"I, Muhin Alexandru Simeonovich, am born in 1931. The 1970s were years of great trials and persecutions for the Church and believers under communism. All the powers of the Wicked One descended upon the Church. The Soviet atheist system was fighting with great violence against Christians. The KGB (Soviet secret police) did not realize that they were fighting against God, and they had no chance to win. I remembered the words of Gamaliel, in the Bible book of Acts of the Apostles (Acts 5:34-39), who addressed the Jewish Temple Council and told the political leaders of those times "Ye men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what ye intend to do as touching these men...for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought. But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God."

Being ordained as a minister, we pastors were in this first line of battle. I was expecting to be arrested and convicted. I was told this when I was called and had talks with the KGB Empowered Official for Religious Cults. Eventually when detained, since I did not concede immediately to be subjected to the communist demands, the police authorities presented me with a quandary: Either I accept the authorities' rules of brutal oversight of the church and will be released, if not, then I go straight to jail. Without a bit of hesitation, I chose the second option.



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The case was pursued against me and I was sentenced to five years of a regular regime imprisonment. I spent five years in a prison in the town of Navoiy, in the southwestern part of Uzbekistan, at that time, part of the Soviet Union.

During the trial, before the sentence was pronounced, I was allowed a few words in my defense. I spoke briefly, expressing only one thought: "Even if I were broken into pieces, I would never leave my faith in God". When I spoke these words, my son, who was in the courtroom, threw a large bouquet of flowers in my direction and cried aloud: "My place in the work of God, will be occupied by my sons." I was profoundly encouraged, hearing the loud shout of my son. The judge, when hearing these words, commanded the police officers who guarded me to kick myself and the audience out of the courtroom. Ten years after having been released in 1976, I was sentenced in November 1986 again to another five years of strict regime imprisonment. And at the same time, according to this harsh sentence, all my belongings were supposed to be confiscated for the benefit of the state. I wrote an application for the state not be allowed to take away my few material goods. Nevertheless, the authorities did make an attempt to come at the place we lived. The police found nothing valuable they could take and so they left emptyhanded. I was imprisoned for only 3 months this time, due to Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms that came about and the fall of the Soviet Union. Thanks God for the years of life He granted me, as I already reached 87. I thank you for the work that you are doing for us. God bless!"



Baptist minister Muhin Alexander

8 Years Imprisonment for Being a Christian Christians Helped with Your Gifts



“I, Polushin Leonid Nikolaevich, am born in 1938. At the age of 30, I was ordained as a pastor in the church in Maykop, Krasnodar region, Soviet Union. I was arrested on September 10, 1973 and sentenced to 5 years imprisonment by the Maykop City Court. Here is how it happened: I was serving as a pastor in the church, and in the house where we lived, a total search was made, after which all Christian literature, the Bible, the New Testament, the Songs of Zion, and so on, were confiscated. I had 5 young children, the oldest being 9 years and the youngest 2. The children ended up extremely scared of the way the KGB agents behaved. The children began to scream and shout but there was no one to pay any attention to them. When they finished the search, they took the whole literature with them and left. Police came again after a few days, around 10 o'clock at night and took the old car. They asked me to go with them to the police section for a 15 minutes discussion. Again, the children got scared by the screams of the KGB agents. I said good-bye to the family and went to the police with them. There, they told me what I already expected to hear, I was under arrest. Then I was sentenced to 5 years of jail. During my imprisonment, the communist authorities threatened that if I did not agree with them to become an informer, I would never ever see my family again.

(Continued from left column)

A high-ranking KGB major threatened he himself would kill me and nobody would know what happened to me. It was only God who protected me and I escaped alive. During the interrogations, I was mocked again and again. They made fun of me being a believing Christian. When sentenced, I spent 5 years in a common regime prison. After I completed the 5 years prison term, I was arrested a second time in November 1980, while living in the Ukraine, the Voroshilovgrad region, at that time part of the Soviet Union. The church had no actual prayer house. The Christian faithful gathered in my house. A number of times I was visited by the police and fined 50 rubles (for comparison, a nurse's monthly salary was 90 rubles). After I paid such fines a number of times, I was arrested again. I was blamed for violating the public order by having Christian gatherings in my home. I was sentenced to 3 years of strict regime prison. These 3 years, I ended up imprisoned in Lviv, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. I got very sick in this prison. The communist authorities did not give me any medication or treatment. I managed to smuggle a letter to my wife telling her of my critical condition. I was given some help only after my wife alerted some higher up officials in the city of Kiev. My family spent long days in fasting and prayer for me. We thank God for having listened to these prayers. Now I am very grateful to God for the narrow path, yet wonderful He led us upon. May the Lord God be with you all!

Полушин Леонтий Николаевич 17. 07. 1938 г. Справка № 067779
Судим по статье 142 ч. 2. 227 ч. 1, 40 УК РСФСР к 5 годам с конфискацией а/ машины Москвич 407

10 сентября 1973 г. по 8 сентября 1977, условно по указу РВС СССР 8. 2. 77 на неотбытый срок 1 г. 2 месяца Краснодарский край Приморско-Ахтарского район, учреждение УО 68/12, за религиозные убеждения. Справка № 083851

Учреждение ВЛ 315/30 г. Львов. Осужден Ворошиловградским областным судом по ст. 138 ч. 2, ст. 187 ч. 1, 42 УК УССР на 3 года лишения свободы за религиозные убеждения.

Освободился 1 сентября 1983 Г.

Prison Record in Russian of brother Polushin. It shows imprisonment for religious beliefs.

Translation:

” Polushin Leonty Nikolaevich 17. 07. 1938 Reference No. 067779, We judge under Article 142, part 2, 227, part 1, 40 of the Criminal Code of the RSFSR to 5 years with confiscation of a car Moskvich 407, September 10, 1973 to September 8, 1977, conditionally according to the decree of the Revolutionary Military Council of the USSR 8. 2. 77 for an unexpired term of 1 year 2 months Krasnodar Territory Primoro-Akhtarsky region, establishment of the UO 68/12, **for religious beliefs.**

Reference No. 083851, Establishment of HVL 315/30, Lviv. He was convicted by the Voroshilovgrad Regional Court under Art. 138 p. 2, art. 187 part 1, 42 of the Criminal Code of the Ukrainian SSR for 3 **years imprisonment for religious beliefs.** He was released on September 1, 1983.