

Update: Romania and Bulgaria

September 27, 2014

Missionaries:

Eight (8) American Families, three (3) in Romania and five (5) in Bulgaria: Dave Turner, Nathan Reed, Jacob Reed, Ralph Cheatwood, Matthew Welch, Zachary LeFevre, Larry Leach, William LeFevre. We work as a group, with each missionary having their individual work.

National Pastors:

Four (4) pastors in Romania and eight (8) in Bulgaria. Besides these pastors there are several young men in Romania that preach but do not pastor churches at this time. All these pastors and preachers work under the authority of the missionaries.

Churches:

Mostly Turkish house meetings, with seven (7) self-standing buildings, twenty (20) churches in Romania and eighty (80) in Bulgaria. We minister in English, Turkish, Romanian and Bulgarian.

Our simple definition of a local church is a group of baptized believers, meeting regularly as a church, having a national pastor.

Charity East Association Romania:

Casa Julia: Home where we are raising eleven (11) children. This home is also lovingly called 'The Father's House'. We have had most of these children since birth.

Our ministry in Romania is done from this complex.

[*for full update on Casa Julia, see Attachment 1](#)

Feeding Centers:

National believers' homes where we feed children a hot meal every day. Twelve (12) in Romania and nine (9) in Bulgaria. In these homes the children learn to sing hymns and pray, thanking God for His many blessings and for their daily bread. As these children have grown up, many have been saved and are now established in one of our local churches.

Coats for Kids:

This ministry was started by Larry and Carrie Leach in 2008 with just a few coats in the back of a van. It has grown and now over one thousand (1000) coats with a pair of socks are given out each winter.

Flour and Oil:

Each winter, over two thousand (2000) families in Bulgaria receive a fifty (50) kilogram sack of flour and a five (5) liter bottle of cooking oil. This helps them get through the winter.

Bulgarian and Turkish Bibles:

These Bibles have been newly translated from the English King James 1611 Authorized Version. Along with Turkish hymnbooks, the New Testaments of these Bibles are being freely distributed to our believers and others that are interested.

Daily Bread:

Over 4500 loaves of bread are freely distributed monthly to needy families in Romania through the daily prayer meetings.

Three Seas Missionary Journeys:

Our purpose for these journeys is to raise interest and support for the work in Romania and Bulgaria, and also to expand into Turkey. Since Romania and Bulgaria are a part of the European Union, many of our believers have travelled into Europe, seeking work. They carry their hymnbooks and New Testaments with them, finding each other and meeting together wherever they go, so we have a witness in many parts of Europe. Several of the missionaries have already made trips into Turkey this past year, giving out New Testaments and hymnbooks in Turkish to contacts they have made.

In order to achieve our purpose, we want pastors, mission directors and church members with a heart for missions to have the opportunity to see our work in Romania and Bulgaria, take part in church services and evangelization and visit sites of the seven churches mentioned in the book of Revelation which are in Turkey. We want you to have a 'hands on' part in this work. To use a military term, we want 'Boots on the Ground'.

The cost of these missionary journeys would be your roundtrip airfare to Bucharest, Romania, where you would be met at the airport and brought to our Children's Home complex in Constanta, Romania. The price after arriving in Bucharest would be one hundred dollars (\$100) a day per person all inclusive. This price would cover all your expenses while with us- travel, hotels, meals, snacks, etc.- and would leave us with enough money to produce DVD's, hymnbooks and New Testaments to give out on the way.

[*For itinerary of missionary journeys, see Attachment 2](#)

[* For more information on journeys, see Attachment 3](#)

DVD's and Website:

Twenty years ago we began giving out cassette tapes of our church services that included preaching, testifying, singing and praying. We now give out DVD's with videos of Turkish church services and have a website where hundreds of meeting videos are posted.

This is our work that the Lord has given us. We are thankful to be able to share it with you.

Bro. Ralph Cheatwood

The Turners

Dave and Dara Turner & Family
Missionaries to Eastern Europe

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Dear Fellowsaints,

We are Dave and Dara Turner. We have been Baptist missionaries for 22 years this year. We came to Bulgaria in 1992 to work with Dara's parents, Ralph and Sandy Cheatwood. They have been missionaries since 1975 working among Turkish speaking people, many of whom live in both Romania and Bulgaria.

The idea for Casa Julia came to Bro. Ralph about 13 years ago. For several years we had been starting churches among the Turks living in Romania in the area around the city of Constanta. In these churches, we sang hymns, preached the Gospel and prayed for God to move and save sinners. We also prayed for the sick and those with special problems and needs. Out of these churches, we began to give bread to needy families and eventually to provide hot meals once a day to children in the poorer neighborhoods of Constanta and in villages nearby. Our churches became known among the people as places where one could truly get help from God. As a result of our reputation for genuinely caring about the needy, we began to get asked if we could take babies who, for one reason or another, would be abandoned. From this was born Bro. Ralph's vision of what is now Casa Julia.

Casa Julia is our home now, and the only home these children have ever known. Dara and I have 6 children and one grandchild. Shalyn, our oldest and only girl, turns 20 this year and lives in the States. Noah Cross, our youngest, went to be with the Lord 8 days after he was born two years ago. We live here with our other 4 boys and the 11 children in the Home. All of the children call me "Daddy" and Dara "Mommy". We got most of the children newborn, several of which are now 12 years old. We are very proud of what the Lord has let us do here and that He helped us realize Bro. Ralph's vision of having a place where we could raise unwanted children as our own in the hope of one day seeing them saved and maybe even staying here and serving with us in the work.

Bro. Ralph told us he did not want the children to grow up ashamed that they were raised in an orphanage. When they are asked where they live, he wants them to be able to hold their heads up and say proudly "I live there, in 'The Father's House'".

Bro. Ralph taught us that all of the work should be an extension of the local church, in which he believes strongly. We always keep the church as the center of our work here and also the Children's Home. Each week we have a Turkish meeting here on the grounds which the children attend. We also have an English meeting each week in the Children's Home on the top floor which we built to be our church. The children love to sing and know many of the English and Turkish hymns. It is such a comfort to know they are being raised under the Gospel and are given this opportunity to grow up knowing Jesus.

Besides Dara and me, our 4 boys, and Ralph and Sandy, another missionary family, Nathan and Teresa Reed and their children also live here on the property. Nathan, his son Jacob, and our national pastors take care of the village meetings. There are five other missionary families in our group who live in Bulgaria. Over the years, the Children's Home has become somewhat of a 'safe haven' for the other missionary families. Three times a year, we have a week-long campmeeting.

The missionaries and their families come and stay here and we have two services and three meals a day. They are able to get away from their every day work, relax and get a spiritual refreshing here at the meeting. We also open the home to them whenever they want to come up for a weekend to have church with us or if they just need a day or two away. We provide a comfortable place to stay and meals so they can rest and get whatever help they may need. This is just one outreach that we have been able to be a part of by having the Home.

About 4 years ago, we met some servicemen stationed at the nearby American military base. We invited them to church at the Home. They came on Sunday to church, stayed for lunch, and spent the rest of the day playing with the kids. This began a very special relationship with our servicemen and women. As their mission here is rotational, we have a steady flow of Marine, Army, Navy and Air Force men and women coming through the base.

We stay in contact with the military, making sure they know they are more than welcome to attend our services or just come and spend time with the kids. This has enriched our lives and those of the kids so much and, from what many have said, been a great blessing to these men and women. Several have said that it was the first time they had ever been to church.

We are very thankful that several of the children have people in the states who have taken a special interest in them. These are people, mostly in churches, who have heard about the children and have taken it upon themselves to help with things like birthday presents, Christmas gifts, and cards at holidays. A few of these even write back and forth with the children. It is so special to the kids to have someone in America to call their own. To the children, America seems to be some far-away magical place that must be wonderful since that's where Mommy and Daddy came from. There are others who on occasion send gifts to all of the kids....Easter candy, presents, school supplies. These types of things help us give to our Home children a little of what kids in America take for granted. We really appreciate those who have taken the time to do something special for our children.

When we talked about what we would tell you about Casa Julia and our children, we discussed telling you the story of how we found each of the children in the Home....of the dreadful conditions, of the lack of love, and in some cases, of the terrible abuse. We decided that we would rather give you the picture of how we see our children. They are bright, loving, adorable little people who have been as much a blessing to us as we could ever be to them. We thank the Lord for calling us to this work and we feel blessed beyond measure for the wonderful life He has given us.

We believe that God has a very special plan for each one of these children He sent our way and whatever that plan is for their lives, we want to care for them and raise them in a way that will bring them to know Jesus Christ as their Savior.

In Christ,

Dave and Dara Turner

Attachment 2

Schedule for Three Seas Missionary Journey #1 along the Black Sea, through Romania and Bulgaria, and the Aegean and Mediterranean Seas in Turkey, visiting the sites of the seven churches.

- Day 1 Arrive at the airport in Bucharest, Romania. Picked up by the missionaries and brought to Constanta.
Turkish meeting.
Spend the night in Constanta at the Children's Home complex
- Day 2 Travel to Bulgaria.
Turkish meeting in Avren.
Spend the night in Burgas.
- Day 3 Enter Turkey.
Spend the night in Chanakkale.
- Day 4 Visit the sites of Troy and Assos.
Travel to Bergama, (Pergamos).
Spend the night in Bergama.
- Day 5 Visit sites in Bergama.
Spend the night in Bergama.
- Day 6 Travel to Denizli, (Colosse, Laodicea and Hieropolis)
visiting Thyatira, Sardis and Philadelphia on the way.
Spend the night in Denizli.
- Day 7 Visit Laodicea and Hierapolis.
Travel to Selchuk (Ephesus).
Spend the night in Selchuk.
- Day 8 Visit Ephesus and Smyrna.
Spend the night in Bergama.
- Day 9 Spend the night in Chanakkale
- Day 10 Return to Bulgaria.
Spend the night in Burgas.
Visit Turkish villages.
- Day 11 Return to Romania.
English service
Spend the night in Constanta at the Children's Home.
- Day 12 Reflect on the trip.

Spend the night in Constanta at the Children's Home.

Day 13 Leave from Bucharest back to the States.

Schedule for Three Seas Missionary Journey #2 along the Black Sea through Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey.

Day 1 Arrive at the airport in Bucharest, Romania. Picked up by the missionaries and brought to Constanta.

Turkish meeting.

Spend the night in Constanta at the Children's Home complex

Day 2 Travel to Bulgaria.

Turkish meeting in Avren.

Spend the night in Burgas.

Day 3 Enter Turkey.

Spend the night in Istanbul.

Day 4 Visit sites in Istanbul

Spend the night in Istanbul

Day 5 Travel along the Black Sea to the Town of Samsun.

Spend the night in Samsun

Day 6 Travel to the town of Rize and The eastern Turkish border.

Spend the night in Rize.

Day 7 Visit Mount Ararat

Return to the Black Sea coast and to the town of Trabson.

Spend the night in Trabson.

Day 8 Return to Istanbul.

Spend the night in Istanbul.

Day 9 Return to Bulgaria.

Spend the night in Burgas.

Day 10 Visit Turkish villages around Burgas.

Day 11 Return to Romania.

Spend the night at the Children's Home complex in Constanta.

English service.

Day 12 Reflect on the tour.

Attachment 3

I just wanted to pass some information on to you from Brother Ralph. As you know, it's been on his heart this past year to get back into Turkey. The Turkish Bible is pretty much finished. This year he wants to focus on printing as many as we can and getting every church member a New Testament. (He still wants us to print the Bibles ourselves, not a mass printing.) Last year we were able to get every church member a hymn book; this year we'll work on printing Bibles.

In April Brother Ralph made his first trip into Turkey in over twenty years. The missionaries made several other group trips. If the Lord opens the door, we plan on making more. For now, though, let me tell you what Brother Ralph is thinking:

The gospel went from Jerusalem up to Antioch (in Turkey) and then westward (through Turkey) into Macedonia, Achaia, Rome, etc. (Europe). In the last two thousand years the gospel has been preached around the world. Before the Lord returns, Brother Ralph believes that the gospel will return to Israel, but through Turkey.

We want to spread the gospel in Turkey to as many as would receive it. (In our first visit down there, the Lord led us to a woman who was thrilled to meet Christian missionaries. Later we returned and gave her a Bible, which she received joyfully).

Unbeknownst to Brother Ralph, Turkey has been developing their ancient sites for tourism. This includes excavations of Biblical sites. We have seen these sites and believe that American Christians would love to see them, too. The time is ready to learn about Turkey, the second holy land.

Our desire is to show these sites to American pastors and other Christian workers who are able to help us in the mission work. On a two week trip, we would show them the Biblical sites where the Lord worked mightily in the 1st century, and then show them Bulgaria where the Lord is working in the 21st century.

Our goal is to raise support for the work in Bulgaria/Romania. We're ready for any pastor willing to help us in the mission work (as well as paying his own personal expenses on the trip). The national pastors preaching in Bulgaria/Romania are doing a great work, and they are in dire need of support. This would be a great opportunity for American pastors to meet and work with our national pastors.

Our work has always been through Brookside, and we want you to be the first to experience such a missionary journey. Please pray about this work. We love you all and look forward to seeing the Lord work again in 2014.

Zach LeFevre

January 22, 2014