

The Turners

Dave and Dara Turner & Family
Missionaries to Eastern Europe

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Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Thank you to all of you who pray faithfully and have supported this work that Brother Ralph Cheatwood began over 40 years ago.

About 25 years ago, after seeing the number of children abandoned at the hospital, especially among the poorer communities in which we worked, Brother Ralph said in church one Sunday that he believed God wanted us to start a children's home. He wanted a home where these forsaken children could be raised to God's glory. He also wanted it to be a place where they could be proud to say they grew up in "The Father's House". Now, six years after Brother Ralph went home to be with the Lord, we are continuing the vision the Lord gave him with a new generation of children.

Most of our original children are now grown...some married, some moved out on their own and some still here with us...all of them still a part of our family and most importantly a part of God's family, having come to know Jesus Christ as their Savior.

In our church, on any given Sunday, we may have our older children - some with spouses, some with their own children, some with boyfriends or girlfriends that they bring to church with them – and, of course, the young kids who now have the example of older brothers and sisters to worship with.

We have a "middle" group of young teens who are all saved, still in school and doing well. Creed, who turns 15 this month, has been leading the singing in our church services for a while now and also sings the occasional "special" during the song service.

We hired a private tutor to "homeschool" our three youngest kids. They are 4, 7 and 8 years old, but having grown up virtually homeless, we didn't feel they were ready to be thrown into the school system here. They are doing wonderfully... catching up very quickly with the basics as well as learning to speak English. They sit attentively in church and usually ask if we can sing "Jesus Loves Me", which is their favorite.

For those of you who had children and nurtured them, especially if you brought them up in church, it would be hard to imagine how far they had to go to catch up. Being very neglected, they could hardly speak at all and were very fragile and undeveloped both emotionally and socially. Dara has done an amazing job with them. First of all, making them feel safe and loved. Then bringing out their amazing little personalities that had been buried in fear and suspicion. It has been a year-long journey that was an around-the-clock job, but the results are such a blessing to see.

The Romanian and Turkish churches in town that I care for are doing well. One of our older daughters, Sheker, has the Romanian meeting in her home and she has been a great help to me.

There is never a dull moment around here but, Praise God, we see Him working on every hand. We cherish your continued support and prayers and we remember you often in ours.

In Christ,

Dave, Dara, Sandy and the kids