

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. As we come to the end of another year, I want to thank the Lord for letting us continue to serve Him. He has been more than faithful. This year has not been without its trials but we have seen the Lord do great things in spite of the storms...maybe even because of the storms.

I was talking to the kids in church last Sunday about the foundation on which we build our lives. I said that if we build our lives on the foundation of Jesus Christ, we may face storms but our foundation cannot be shaken. I told them that the storms we have been through in these 30 years on the field, rather than discourage us or cause us to doubt, have revealed to us the worth of our foundation.

One of the first Turkish meetings Brother Ralph started after we moved to Romania was in the home of a dear, Godly woman named Cadrie. She has been faithful over the years to open her home to anyone who wanted to come to the meetings. Many have come to Christ through the prayers and faithfulness of this precious lady who has always been willing to share her faith, her testimony, her love and her home to anyone who would come.

Over the last few years, the landlord where she was staying became more and more opposed to the church. She would argue about all the coming and going and the noise of the singing and praying. The crowd fell considerably due to her constant harassment. Praise the Lord, we were able to find a larger, nicer home in a better part of town for Cadrie to move into. Since the word got out, every week has seen more and more people coming. Some new folks...some folks we haven't seen in years. Yesterday a little widow woman who cares for her handicapped daughter and grandchildren showed up after no one had seen her for years. There was much crying and rejoicing as she rejoined the fold. God is so good! Sister Cadrie feels like she is in Heaven! I thank the Lord for blessing her faithfulness.

I want to thank everyone who has been so gracious to give extra so that we may have a bountiful Christmas with our kids and those to whom we minister. I know it is not always easy. We truly appreciate it. This afternoon, Dara, Sandy, the kids and I are putting together packets of food to take out to the poorest families in and around our churches here in town. I am glad our kids get a blessing from sharing what the Lord has given them.

A little while back, our 13-year-old son, Creed, started asking from time to time if he could walk by himself to the neighborhood store about a quarter mile from our house. He said he just likes to go for walks. We said, "Sure, be careful". When he would come back, I'd ask if he got anything from the store. He'd say, "No, Sir". We found out recently he has been using his own money to buy things at the store for a homeless man and his son who shelter beside the store. Can you imagine what a blessing that is for us?

(Continued on the other side)

"If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be..." John 12:26

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I am putting together another shipment of food, clothes, Gospel tracts and other necessities that I plan to take into Ukraine in the coming days. The Ukrainian pastor who distributes these to his churches in the war torn areas says these things continue to be desperately needed. Thank you to those who have sent funds to make this possible.

Thanks to Larry and Carrie Leach's "Coats for Kids" ministry, we were able to fit 35 children with very nice coats and socks. These are children whose families live beside the municipal garbage dump in a nearby town. They are, as the saying goes, 'poor as Job's turkey'. (I'm not sure where the saying comes from...I can't find one mention of a turkey in the entire King James Bible, much less in the Book of Job) Anyway, we have been able to hold church meetings and minister to these families for some years now. Putting coats on those precious kids has become a highlight of our Christmas season each year.

One last testimony before I close.... We have two boys in the Children's Home, Billy and Gabriel, who are "special needs" kids. I say kids, but they are now 20 and 19 years old. They are both precious, sweet boys who, even though they have always been way behind mentally, have always been just part of the family like everyone else. Brother Ralph used to say that, even though they maybe would never understand all there is to know about salvation, he believed they were "safe" in God's love like any other little child. We were so blessed a few weeks ago as we were sitting around talking about how thankful we are for our kids that are saved, when Billy chimed in "I know I am saved! I know Jesus saved me!" I believe he is. Billy and Gabriel have never missed a church service in their lives. They sing the hymns the best they can. They sit quietly and listen to the preaching. You never know what God is doing.

I am so thankful for what the Lord has let us be a part of all of these years. We are blessed much more than I have words to express. This holiday season, I pray you can truly see how blessed we all are by our Saviour, the Lamb of God, Emmanuel, Christ the Lord! Our best wishes, sincere prayers and heartfelt thanks go out to you all.

In Christ,

Dave, Dara, Sandy and the Kids