

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. We are all doing well and we appreciate the prayers of the saints for our family and for the work.

I generally do not make a prayer request the entire focus of an update letter. Brother Ralph used to tell about a church business meeting where one of the deacons was explaining how every possible option had been tried, but they still could not find a solution for some big need in the church. The deacon finished by saying 'All we can do now is pray!' Another of the deacons at the meeting said 'Has it really come to that?!'

Well, for us, it has come to that and so I am asking all of the saints who care about our family and our work to pray with us.

Seven years ago, when Johnny was seven and Blue was just three, a homeless mother asked us to take her two children who had been living on the street with her. Her mother was a faithful member of our Turkish church and she knew the kind of people we are. This woman said she wanted her kids to have a better life than she could offer – a good education, a stable home life, and a loving faith-based upbringing. She was going to Germany to look for work and said she would leave them with us until they were 18 years old.

Even though there was no time to go through the normal channels which would give us at least some legal footing, we prayed about it and got peace to take them into our home. These years have been wonderful with them. They instantly became as much of the family as any of the rest of us. Johnny was the same age as our biological son, Creed, and they became, and still are, inseparable. Both Johnny and Blue got saved in our Children's Home church and were baptized. In school, they both have excellent grades, many friends and the praise of their teachers. They are warm and loving children...our children...who see Dara as Mommy and me as Daddy.

Recently, the mother came back from Germany. She wanted to see the kids and spend some time with them. We have been taking them for visits on the weekends when they were out of school.

In the time she has been here, she secretly got passports for the two kids. She told them she wants to take them for a visit to Germany during the summer vacation...only a few weeks or maybe a month. When we found out, I talked to her and she assures me they will be back. I have no legal right to stop her. I have a sickening feeling that she intends to leave with them and not come back.

I know God gave them to us and, therefore, they can't be taken unless He allows. Thank the Lord, they are already saved!! I can't imagine how much worse this would be without that assurance.

Twenty years ago, when Brother Ralph said we should start a children's home, he told us that these children are not ours...God was only allowing us to raise them for Him. Brother Ralph said we should expect some heartache. But, to be honest, we are not at all prepared for this.

I just found out today the mother is planning to leave with them in three days. By the time you see this, if the Lord hasn't already stepped in, they will be gone. Please help us pray that they will indeed return. If they don't, I cannot imagine the hole that will be left in our hearts, Creed's heart, their hearts.

We appreciate all of your prayers.

In Christ,

Dave, Dara, Sandy and the Kids

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