

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 I mentioned in my last letter, we made it through a summer filled with some unexpected trials. In hindsight, without having had to face these difficulties, we would have missed experiencing God's mighty, gentle, strong and kind hand as He guided us through each situation.

At the beginning of summer, when Johnny and Blue were leaving for Germany, I experienced what we feared could be a heart attack...chest pain, difficulty breathing, etc. I wound up in the emergency room of the municipal hospital, which anyone who has had the misfortune of needing medical attention in Romania knows, is usually worse than the ailment that brought you there. Over the next weeks I had numerous tests (heart ultrasound, angiogram, CT scan of lungs, thyroid and abdominal ultrasounds and dozens of blood tests) which, in the end, found nothing that should have caused such symptoms and kept me in bed for about two weeks. The doc said if the symptoms reappear, they will investigate more. Thank the Lord, He raised me up right about the time our next trial would unfold.

After a news story broke about horrible conditions and treatment in a nursing home in Bucharest, the government declared all nursing homes and children's homes would be investigated. A couple of days later, a van showed up unannounced with officials from 7 or 8 different agencies and raided our Home. Police, Fire Department, Health Department, Consumer Protection, Ministry of Finance, Child Protection and others were all represented. After a day and a half combing through our records, talking with the children and workers, and inspecting the Home, Thank God, they had only a couple of issues. One, we had to install a video security system and, Two, they closed our kitchen until we could remodel it to meet new European Union requirements.

They gave us until September 15th, about 2 ½ weeks, to have everything done. It was going to take a huge amount of work and a huge amount of money that we didn't have to get it all done. I have to be honest, I had my doubts we could meet the deadline. I told the kids "We don't have a choice. We are going to start the work and trust the Lord to help us get it done and get the money here to pay for it. It's God's house. You are God's kids. I can't do it, but He can!"

All the kids who were available helped as we put in new ceilings, light fixtures, stove exhaust fans, an extra sink, new metal shelving in the pantry, new windows in the kitchen, and converted a toy room into a worker's dressing/bathroom. We also had to close off the kitchen from the living room which had been wide open.

Several of the kids worked with me day and night and the Lord helped in so many ways over this time. It seemed each morning Sandy would come over and tell me about someone who was sending money...one day a precious widow sending \$50...the next a church sending \$1,000...each day the expenses being taken care of until a couple of days ago, a church in St. Pete, Florida, promising to take care of what was left. The Lord provided exactly what was needed.

On the 15th, the inspector came and was amazed we got everything done and done so well. I thank the Lord for each of you who sent what was needed. I pray you are blessed as much as we are seeing God move mountains for us. I am thankful for Dara, Sandy, our kids and the Home workers who labored tirelessly so that we could have our kitchen back.

Finally, for a week in August we were blessed to host a mission group from First Baptist Church of San Antonio. They are our long-time friends, actually now family, who started visiting after one of their deacons was stationed at the nearby American military base some years back and came to the Children's Home church. Together we held a 3-day mini VBS with some very poor children in a nearby village and painted the entire downstairs of the Children's Home. Most of all, they were, as always, a huge blessing and encouragement to all of us here.

As I said at the beginning, it was a summer filled with challenges. Thank the Lord, we didn't have to face them alone. Our God is faithful. Thank you again to all of you who helped us through your prayers and your giving.

"Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you."

2 Chronicles 20:17

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