

2hearts Ministries

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Pastor David McFarland, 6, Cottage Grange, Dollingstown, Lurgan. BT67 9LX 02838322001 david@2hearts.org

Dear friend,

Greetings again in the Lord's Name. I write with some tremendously exciting and encouraging news.

At the beginning of 2007, the Lord laid it on my heart to help the little Baptist Church in Turnu-Magurele, Romania to build a new place for worship and witness. Right from the beginning I was amazed by the support you gave and thank you most sincerely for your fellowship and generosity. Some gave individually, some helped practically in Romania, some churches made donations and others invited me to speak on the project and gave offerings. Several Christian Charitable Trusts and businesses were most generous and one lady walked the Belfast Marathon course twice, raising over £3000. One church sent carpet tiles. Every single gift has been such a blessing.

The project has taken longer and cost more than anticipated. The dramatic effects of inflation in Romania led to the need for more money to complete the project. Your initial generosity encouraged us to allow the Pastor to build something not just adequate for the present but a building for the future. That added to the expense but God used you to meet the need. The great news is that He has sent us **£35,100**. We believe this will be adequate to complete the main phase of the building.

I have been given the honour of naming the new church and am delighted to tell you that the opening of Grace Baptist Church, Turnu-Magurele is planned for **Sunday 18th April 2010**. The building will seat up to 250 people. Upper floors can be developed for all aspects of church life. The church plans to use the building as a centre for appropriate community activities. Already they are planning to use it for a drugs awareness programme. The new building is unique in the community where any public witness for Christ was banned for so many years. The project has created quite an impact. What a testimony this is for Jesus Christ in this large town.

The believers have worked so hard, particularly the Pastor and two young men who were studying for the ministry. Their labours are about to bear fruit. Both young men have completed their studies and will be ordained at Easter, so the church is doubly excited at what God has done. They can never thank you enough for the vital part you have played in this but they want to invite you to come to Romania for the opening weekend. It would be a great thrill to me if you were able to attend. My health will not allow me to be there, despite the requests from the folk in Romania.

We have been making enquiries and the best value route would be to fly to Bucharest from Dublin on 15th April and return on Monday 19th. The Pastor hopes to negotiate a reduced rate in local hotels and also to hire transport. It is not possible at this point to quote accurate costs but if you are interested, please let me know. I have friends who are prepared to organise this and the churches there would love to share fellowship with you over that weekend.

I am not only grateful to all who donated financially but all who got involved practically. Some young people from here worked on site early in the project and some men went this year to advance the construction. We may need some more practical workers before completion and maybe some help the week before the opening. If you feel you can use your practical skills, let me know and I will inform Pastor George. So much depends on the winter weather in Romania. Please pray for the believers as they make the front of the building weatherproof and work on the interior over the coming months. (You have seen the pictures of the scaffolding on the web site! I will keep the pages updated as I get photos from Romania). Mr Tom Cairns and Pastor Keith Giles have been great help and will be involved in co-ordinating the practical details of any work teams and transport etc. for anyone attending the opening.

So this has not been my project but yours. All I could do was sit at home and have ideas. You are the people who have made this possible and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. The fund will remain open for some time and any further donations will be forwarded to assist the church in its project and ministry. I hope you will have the opportunity to attend the opening or at least to visit the Church in Turnu-Magurele at some point in the future. May God richly bless you. I thank you again for the privilege and blessing of fellowship in the Gospel.

In grace,

David McFarland

Contributions may be sent to me at the above address. Cheques should be payable to: **Christian Fellowship Trust** who very generously support this project. All donations are sent without deduction. Donations can be made through Gift Aid. Details and photographs are published on the project pages of 2hearts Ministries <http://2hearts.co.uk>