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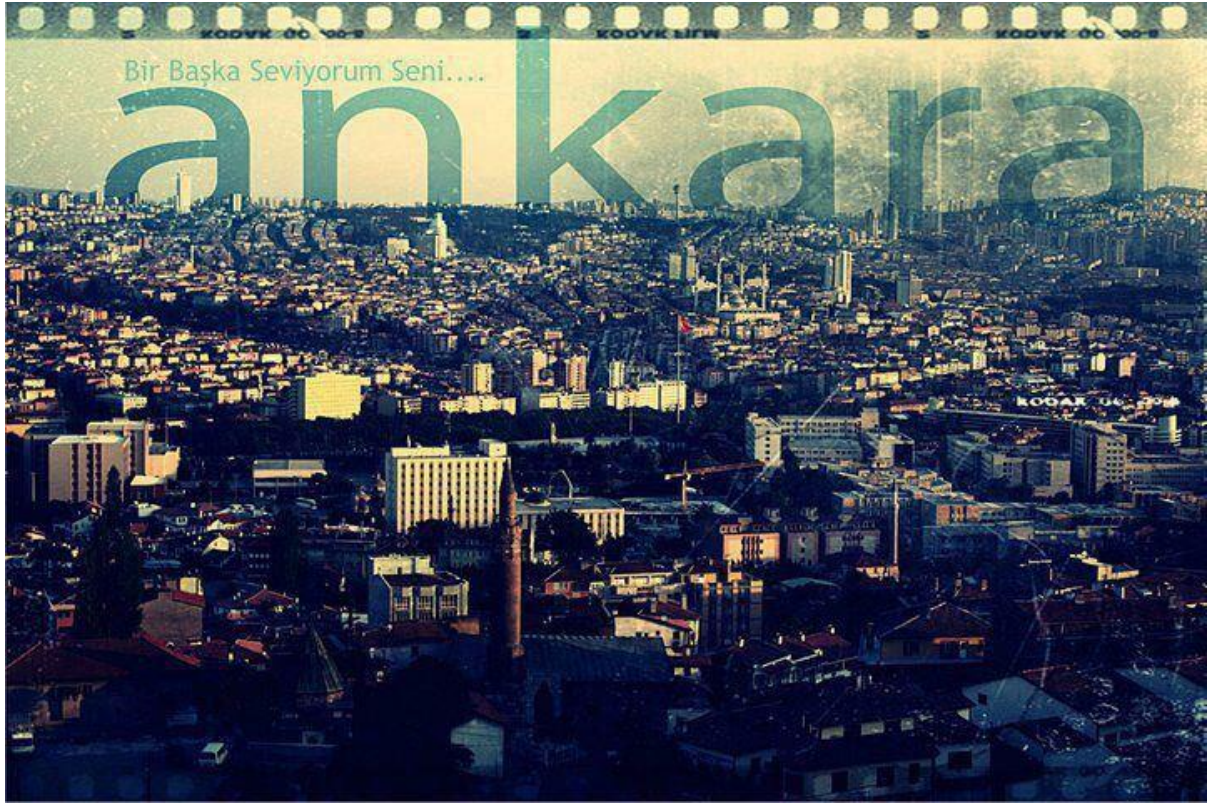
SUNDAY



January 21, 2018



We are called to build and support
the Church in Turkey.



We are (here) on the map.



Dear Calvary,

We have been through a tough time. Turkey is still straining under a state of emergency and this political tension has filtered through to schools across the country.

The optimism with which we started the first semester of the 2017/18 school year, quickly gave way to frustration and even some anxiety as we had to endure a number of unwelcome surprises from our new bosses. Dismissals, surprise appointments, salary disputes, intrigues and uncertainties have all led to an air of despondency with our colleagues and at times even with us as a family. As the only "yabancilar" (foreigners) in our immediate surroundings, we have felt quite isolated in recent months.

As if this was not enough, one of our colleagues (and Madili's close friend) recently had to endure the heartbreak and trauma of her boyfriend's sudden death after a motor vehicle accident.

These and other trials have led us to reflect again on our role and calling here in Turkey, a calling we feel personally reflected in the words of Isaiah 61, words Jesus himself quoted from at the onset of His own ministry to a broken world... (feel free to take a moment to read this beautiful chapter and take courage)



Thankfully, the schools closed on Friday for a welcome two week winter break and there are also a number of highlights we would love to share with you and praise God for!

Miga, Eike and Kaleb are now almost fully trilingual and doing very well at school. Our "cOMpany" has just accepted us as long-term workers here in Turkey and all our initial goals of fitting in and adjusting to life here (apart from my own struggles with language learning) have been successfully reached. Yes, it takes that long... sigh.

Furthermore, we also baptized three new believers at church towards the end of last year! The one lady has a brother that is already part of our fellowship and whom had a significant role in her journey towards faith. The other new disciples are also a brother and a sister, but from Iranian descent, both of whom now form part of our small but growing congregation.

Our recent Christmas service was arranged and led by our Turkish lead Elder and his wife for the first time and it was a huge success. More than twenty visitors accepted personal invitations to join in our celebration service. They shared a meal with us after the service and accepted New Testament book hampers as gifts to take home.

I still sing and play the guitar in the worship team and when we are invited to preach we do so.

Madili continues to tenderly support and witness to her hurting friend. This lady and her mother have even attended a worship service. Two of my Middle School colleagues have also shown an interest and this week we are receiving two university students, with questions about our faith, for supper. Praise God!



Calvary, we want to ask you to pray for us regarding a number of important decisions we will have to make soon. Even though we have only just reached the half way mark of the school year, both

Madili and I already feel that we would like to finish working at our current school. I am considering a move to another school, whilst Madili would either like to continue home schooling our children or further her own studies. This will only be possible if I am able to land a teaching position that would allow her the freedom to pursue her heart's desire. Without elaborating on it too much, we also just feel that this would help us strike a healthier and simpler balance regarding work, ministry and family life. So, please pray for us for wisdom and favor.



Finally, we are already looking forward to our next home visit this June. We miss our country and our loved ones a lot these days. So please allow me the liberty of asking you to help us afford our flight tickets that need to be booked soon. Our teacher salaries are sufficient for our current monthly expenses, but unfortunately they will not cover a two yearly return trip to South Africa for a family of five... Yikes!

Thank you for receiving our newsletter and thank you for reading it too!

We send you lots of warm love from a cold Ankara!

In HIM,
Edward.

Thank you very much to those who give generously to support us financially! We appreciate you and pray that God would also bless you!

Giving options:

- South African bank account: International Swift code FIRNZAJJ896; FNB; Cheque Account number - 62348713399; EW Ackerman; Robertson Branch (250655)
- PAYPAL: ackermanew@gmail.com

OM: Visit www.om.org ; click on the "**Give**" tab and follow the online instructions. **Important:** Please be sure to use **Ackerman (0080030392)** as your reference.

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