

"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God." – 2 Corinthians 5:20

[View this email in your browser](#)



In our last newsletter, we showed you the view from our back porch of the mountain sunset in the distance. This view is from our front porch, just outside the kitchen. Autumn is such a gorgeous time of year in Romania, and we are still loving our new apartment!

Happy Thanksgiving!

We celebrated Thanksgiving last night with some dear Romanian friends we hadn't seen in two years. They've been at all of our Thanksgiving meals in Romania so far.

And true to general Kreider Chaos and never ever "having it together," I accidentally screwed up when inviting one of the families. Romanians generally give times in military time, and I know how to do this! But I guess this time I just wasn't thinking (most likely was trying to send the message in Romanian while also listening to kid craziness), and told her to come at 15:30 for dinner at 16:30, intending to ask her to come at 5:30 pm for 6:30 pm dinner.

So when they knocked on my door two hours earlier than I was expecting... when Derek was still vacuuming the kids' rooms, I was in a tanktop with my wet hair "plopped" on my head in a tshirt with no make up, and the kids were still cutting out the craft for the homemade placemats, there was no possible way to play it off and pretend like they were right on time. Of course, they were, in fact, right on time!

When she worriedly asked "are we too early?" several times, I finally just grabbed her shoulders and said "I'm so sorry if my mistake is making you uncomfortable, and I'm especially sorry if my mistake made you take off work early to be here. But let me tell you... in the States, families tend to get together and cook together all day long. So really, you being here is just making it feel more like a genuine Thanksgiving for me. I'm glad you're here! But would you be willing to help chop up some veggies and cheese for my charcuterie board while I go finish my hair and put on my makeup?" She happily obliged and we spent the next few hours in the kitchen together while the dads built super cool towers with the kids (see below!).

I had worked for days in advance to prepare as much as I could. And I cleaned all day long, because for just once I wanted to pretend like I have it all together. Romanians always seem to have it all together; their houses are always tidy and pristine, and they can prepare delicious meals that are always on time. But that's all it would've been for me... just pretending! And God is definitely not interested in my pretenses.

Recently another Romanian friend told me that she enjoys coming over to my

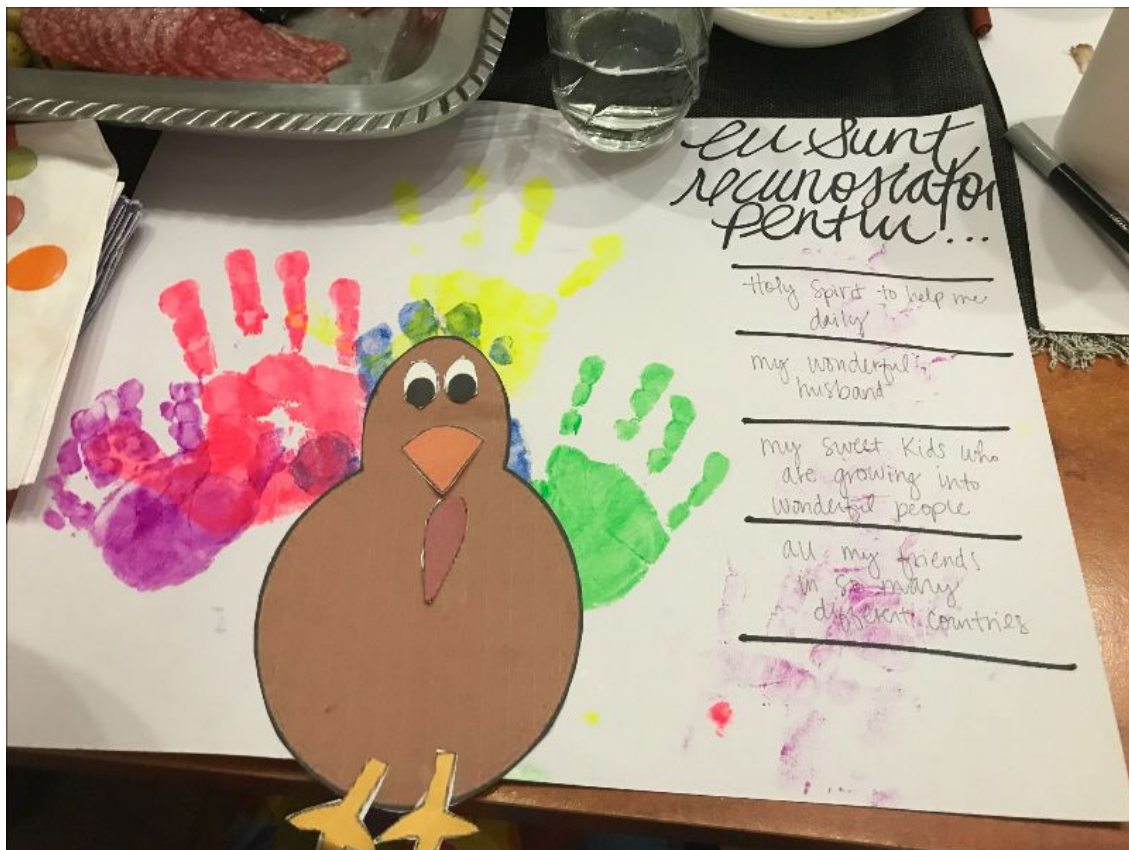
house because I clearly don't have it all together. (Haha!) But I also think that perfect houses can be a difficult cultural precedent for these young moms to live up to, and they can tend to stay isolated. So once again, the Lord's strength and plans are made perfect in our weakness, and even when I want to offer up my "perfection," He gently humbles me and shows me that His way is always better.

We had a fantastic Thanksgiving night together. The food turned out well, I got to spend extra time with friends, the kids had a blast with the other kids, and my house is actually really clean at the moment (at least for us, anyway).

So for those of you scrambling to get everything ready for Thursday in the States, remember my blundering story. Don't offer up your pretend perfection. Let God work in your mess!

(But then also maybe don't forget to double check that you told your guests the right time!)

Happy Thanksgiving!





Prayer Requests:

- PRAISE!!! WE HAVE OUR VISAS!!! And they're for two years!! Thank you, Lord!!!

- COVID numbers have been rising, and the restrictions, especially for the unvaccinated, have become quite strict. Curfews. Masks, even on the streets. The unvaccinated are only allowed in grocery stores and pharmacies. While we can still meet for church, we can't hold any additional events. Most of our church members aren't vaccinated, so we've been grateful to be able to do some shopping on their behalf since we are vaccinated. Please pray for Romania and our church to grow even in the midst of these restrictions.

- Derek has been working hard on developing Bible Study English lessons to offer to the community in January. He's hoping to use these English lessons as a way to get to know the community and spread the Gospel. People are very interested in learning and practicing English with native speakers, but we don't want to simply teach English and hope that we can find a way to bring up Gospel conversations. We've decided to try a bolder approach by advertising it as studying English using the Bible and see if anyone is interested. Please pray for this new endeavor!

- Please continue to pray for our children as we transition. In some ways it feels like we're settled, but we also have to remember that grief isn't linear and doesn't stop just because our house is unpacked and we have a normal schedule. We've had many meltdowns. Many tears over missing friends and grandparents. And just a lot of general difficult behavior from the little ones, who are too young to really understand what is going on inside their hearts and can't process or verbalize like the

older ones can. So they just act out. Thankfully the Lord has helped us to recognize this for what it is, and we feel much better prepared this time to help our kids work through this process. But the holidays always add an extra layer of grief, so please be in prayer for them.







- Every Tuesday morning another mother from our church comes to our house with her two kids. We've started doing crafts, learning songs in Romanian, and reading stories. We're planning to do activities related to Advent soon, and we've both commented on how this is turning into a sort-of Sunday School for our kids, since we don't have any Children's Church or anything on Sundays. Recently the Romanian lady who leads the Kids Club and Sunday worship offered to come over during our "Tuesday Time" and teach the kids a song and choreography to do at church. The kids loved learning the song and did such a great job performing it during church!

- Atticus and Jemma both had birthdays this month! Atti is now 6, and Jemma is 2!

- We continue to minister to Mama M and Baby M. We take care of Baby M fairly frequently, though not as regularly as before since COVID restrictions require many schools to be shut down so that Mama M stays home for class now. Shannon and Catalina recently went to her house to teach her to cook some new foods!

- We're getting together with other families all the time. A visiting pastor and his family came as a guest preacher recently, and we went to the hillside for a picnic and smores! We also met a new missionary unit that got to Romania

about a month ago to minister in a Hungarian town about two hours north of us. She's 26 weeks pregnant and has a 16 month old girl, and she reached out to me for help with the medical system and how to navigate labor and delivery here when you're new to the country. (Reminder that I was 24 weeks pregnant with Denton when we first moved here!) Their sweet family came to visit us for three days and had an appointment with the local private hospital. They're coming to stay with us again soon, and we're very grateful for these new friends and that we're able to help them as their family grows!

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Check us out on Facebook! We post on Catalina's "[From Dacula to Transylvania](#)" album so that you can stay up to date with us. You can also follow [our photos on instagram](#) or check out our [video archive](#). But best, of all, you should let us know if you want to join our secret Facebook Group to get more updates!

Support Account Reminders:

- If you're interested in one-time giving and would rather support projects, we have a project account for the Romanian church which goes towards things like the youth program, elder trainings, etc. The account is **#94978** for the Romania church plant.



Copyright © 2016 Derek and Catalina Kreider. All rights reserved.

Thank you for your support.

Visit our website:

<http://www.dckreider.com>

To make a donation (Account #14088 for Derek and Catalina), (Account #12140 for the Ebbbers), or (Account #94978 Romania church plant for church projects):

<https://www.mtw.org/missionaries/details/derek-and-catalina-kreider>

or

Mission To The World
PO Box 744165

Our Romanian mailing address is TBD

Want to send us something? Check out [this link](#) for more information on how to get it to us!

Using iMessage or WhatsApp, you can contact us on our Romanian phone numbers:

(Yes, the +40 is necessary!)

Catalina: +40 (771) 272 908

Derek: +40 (771) 036 084

Our Stateside mailing address is

Derek and Catalina Kreider

146 Colonial Court

Jefferson, GA 30549

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Mission to the World · 605 Beckenham Walk Drive · Dacula, Ga 30019 · USA

