

"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

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April Showers Bring May Flowers

April has been a pretty crazy month for us. We've received some life giving rain as well as some torrential downpours. We're praying that God uses both the good and the bad to grow us in Him so we can pour ourselves into others.

The Good:

1. We have begun planning a summer English/Leadership/Bible camp for kids in August. There is the potential we will receive a team from Canada to assist us and are looking forward to figuring out how to organize and plan everything.
2. The men's Bible study kicked off this month. Derek and the others are going through "The Prodigal God" by Tim Keller. It's refreshing and helpful for Derek to be able to study, build relationships with other men, and learn more Romanian. Derek will be leading the questions next week (in Romanian) and is excited.
3. We were approached by one of the elders to begin assisting with the youth each Friday evening (and sometimes Thursdays as well). We're looking forward to stepping into that role to help and build relationships.
4. Elin is making progress in school and is more willing to identify classmates as friends. She went to a friend's birthday party and had a lot of fun. She is also excited to be planning her own birthday party coming up in about a month. We're looking forward to helping Elin feel established in Romania and we are looking forward to building deeper relationships with some of the parents from school.
5. Catalina's parents were here for two weeks. Elin and Atticus thoroughly enjoyed their time here.

6. Denton was baptized and we had a great time as a church community (see video and read more below).

The Bad:

1. When Catalina's parents left, Elin took it pretty hard and reverted to some of the conditions we saw before. We're hoping this passes.
2. Denton had his second trip to the hospital this month. Denton was in the hospital for five days for breathing issues again. Unfortunately this hospital stay overlapped with Catalina's parents leaving. That meant Catalina wasn't really able to say "goodbye" and she wasn't home with the kids as they dealt with the difficulty of their grandparents leaving.
3. Denton took his third trip to the hospital just last night. He was having difficulty breathing, there was retraction, and his blood oxygen level was low. Doctors think the issue this time may be bacterial due to an accompanying fever, and released Denton with an antibiotic prescription. We are praying that the breathing issues are resolved. We're also [praying for all the babies and mothers left behind in the hospital](#).
4. We've started considering the possibility of both Atticus and Denton having asthma with their frequent breathing difficulties, allergies, coughs and fevers. Unfortunately, it's hard to actually get a diagnosis for a child below the age of 5, so this is really a trial and error journey. We're praying for the Lord's leading and wisdom in knowing how to best help our children with their health.

The Interesting:

1. Sometimes you get to practice your Romanian in unexpected ways. We rented a van while Catalina's parents were here, and there was a little fender bender with a wall. We learned that, in Romania, without a police report you cannot get a vehicle with accident damage fixed. That means Derek had the opportunity to visit the police station and make an accident report. He says it was extremely intimidating. Pressure isn't good for one's ability to recall vocabulary in a second language. Fortunately, the police spoke sufficient English to make the process manageable.
2. Derek and Ben (Catalina's dad) went to a shooting range with Derek's language tutor and friend, Ionut. It was a bit expensive to shoot here since firearms are highly regulated, but it was fun because it was Ionut's first time shooting a real gun. Ionut was a very good shot, but was overwhelmed at how powerful the gun felt in his hands. It's interesting to see his perspective, as he has a significantly different experience with guns than Derek. Derek grew up with guns but Ionut can't fathom giving people access to them after experiencing their force.

PLEASE PRAY...

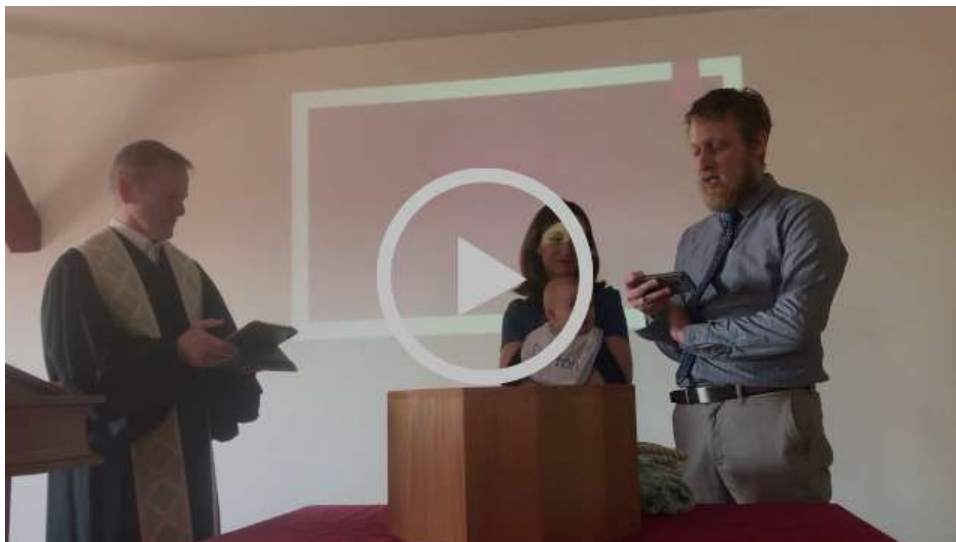
- Pray for our wisdom as we transition out of full-time language learning. We are beginning to take on (or consider taking on) a number of activities. If we take on everything in the queue right now, we will have four weekday evenings

when at least one of us is gone for the evening - the time which has been our normal family time together with the kids. We need wisdom in planning and balancing our schedules to ensure that we are learning and ministering outside of the home while also not doing so to the detriment of our family.

- Please pray fervently that God would bring a Romanian pastor to the church here in Codlea.
- Many in the church community are facing some sort of trial right now. Some of these trials are very significant. Pray for our church community that these trials will produce in us God's promised perseverance and faith.
- We are so exhausted of sickness and hospitals. It consumes so much of our time and resources being in the hospital, figuring out the system, researching medicines and illnesses, trying to find a potential cause of our children's continued sickness, dealing with the insurance and expenses, etc. We are so blessed to have a church family in Romania who loves and supports us, as well as a church family in the States who prays for us and encourages us. But we're tired. Please keep praying for our health and wisdom in this regard.



We want to check in with everyone again via Facebook Live to fill you in on some of the things we haven't been able to fit in our newsletters. We will be doing a Facebook Live event **Saturday, May 12th at 3 pm EST** to update you on some of these things. Please feel free to let us know any questions you may have for us that you'd like us to talk about.



We had the privilege of baptizing Denton while Catalina's parents were here in Romania. We especially enjoyed Denton's baptism because we were able to do it in a Romanian fashion, which just means it was more celebratory and communal. We had a whole special service just for the baptism on a Saturday, and then ate lunch together as a community. It was a fantastic way not only to recognize God's grace, but to receive it through the sacrifice of his community as they took the time to love us on this special day. We understand that many who know us may be unfamiliar with infant baptism, or may have misconceptions. We'd love for you to find our biblical rationale for this practice [here](#). If you have any questions, just reach out to us.



One question we had to answer before doing missions was "why go elsewhere?" We all know that there are many in the United States who don't know Christ, so why use resources to take the gospel elsewhere? MTW has apparently been answering the same question, and I believe they summarize some of our conclusions. It's important to recognize that while there is darkness in the States, there is also a great accessibility to the gospel that other parts of the world don't have. Watch this short video to get a glimpse into some of the reasons we think it's important to send missionaries. Also, feel free to bring questions or pushback to us at any time. If you're interested, also check out [our philosophy on missions](#) and what we believe we're to do as we help grow churches.



["Richard and Sabina attended the Congress of Cults, organized by the Romanian Communist government. Many religious leaders came forward to praise Communism and to swear loyalty to the new regime. Richard walked up to the podium and declared to the delegates, whose speeches were broadcast to the whole nation, that their duty was to glorify God and Christ alone."](#)

Richard Wurmbrand wrote the bestselling book *Tortured for Christ* about his 14 years of experience in a Romanian Communist prison for his faith in Christ, and now they released a movie based on the book. Click [here](#) to find out where you can go see this movie!

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

- 4/1/18 - [Palm Sunday](#) by Catalina
- 4/4/18 - [Arguments for Christian Pacifism](#) by Derek
- 4/23/18 - [I'm Praying for the Babies](#) by Catalina

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!



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