

"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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One Month In!

So yesterday, on August 31st, our internet was down so that we couldn't send this. :-)

Some days it feels like we've already been here forever, and some days it feels like we just stepped off the airplane. We've settled into our new home, found babysitters for the kids, begun language school, figured out the necessities (grocery shopping, getting money out for a cash-based society, sent in our visa application, finding a preK for Elin and Atticus, finding an OB for Catalina, and obviously the most important - found the neighbor who does gel manicures! haha!). We're on Day 35 of our 40 days of prayer, and would welcome any latecomers who want to join for the last five days (see link below). In fact, we will likely maintain the prayer support group, though it will not be on a daily basis. We would love for you to join us in more regular prayer as the most important means of supporting us!

It has been an interesting shift in our lives, as we have created new routines and tried to get used to a somewhat slower pace. In some ways, it's much more difficult to live here than in the States: no car, new language, boiling our own water, hanging our clothes to dry, walking everywhere, going to the store every

few days since we have a teeny tiny refrigerator, not having a dishwasher, etc. These things make our routines seem longer and more cyclical, like we never really get out of the kitchen and laundry room. It often feels like we're constantly up and working yet never accomplishing anything. And this has an emotional aspect; we're unfortunately used to identifying ourselves by what we *do* and *accomplish*. Writing a newsletter about a lack of daily life conveniences and 1.5 hours per day of language study don't seem to engender much inspiration or sense of accomplishment. And yet, we know that this is what the Lord has called us to for this season; and in fact He's placed over us an awesome team leader whose favorite phrase seems to be, "You don't start a marathon with a sprint" and has blatantly banned us from any form of "ministerial work" until we've had at least six months of intensive language and cultural study.

And yet, in many ways this new lifestyle has been life-giving. Catalina has enjoyed cooking and baking on a daily basis, and Derek has enjoyed biking and walking more often. We've both enjoyed spending more time around our children (though that certainly brings with it a separate set of challenges), and we've loved being able to focus on getting things set up in our home. And with our focus on the 40 days of prayer, we have committed to meeting a new person by name in our community each day we're here. It's been wonderful to slow down our life and make room for just making relationships and learning names. We've had more time for family devotions at mealtimes throughout the day and not just after a rushed dinner. We haven't had as many different things weighing on our minds as we did in the States. And y'all, the views! This country is certainly not lacking any picturesque landscapes.

We are so grateful for the Lord's daily reminders of his love, grace, and mercy. We are grateful that our identity comes from Christ, not our children, our language, our success, our accomplishments, or our careers. We are grateful that each day - whether in the States or in Romania - we get to wake up and experience the love of our Father anew. We pray that the lives of many Romanans will come to understand these great joys with us. Thank you for your support that allows us to follow this calling, whether through financial support, prayers, encouragement, friendship, and advocacy. We are grateful that the Lord has given us the Body of Christ to support us.

Scroll to the bottom of this newsletter to see some pictures from our first month here.

PLEASE PRAY...

- Catalina is having a lot of hip/back pain due to pregnancy and the increase in walking and carrying heavy things. We are, therefore, looking to get a car much sooner than we had originally anticipated. But we have to get our Visa ID numbers before we can purchase a car. Please pray for our visas to get here more quickly than usual and that the Lord would lead us to the exact right car for us. Pray, also, for Catalina's pain; some days it's fairly debilitating so other than going to class and the grocery store, she has stayed inside as much as possible to avoid the pain. And of course, continue to pray for a safe and healthy pregnancy as we prepare to welcome Baby Denton in December.
- We never dreamed Elin would have as much trouble adjusting to leaving family and friends. Even after being away from the States for over two months, she still tells us on almost a daily basis that she's sad because she misses her friends. She is desperate to make friends here in Romania, which is why we decided to enroll her in preK, which previously was not even a consideration for us. We are grateful that the Lord provided a preK where the owner and teacher speaks English to help with the transition to learning more Romanian, but please pray for her sweet little heart as she continues to grieve and process.
- Pray for the church here and our team. We are continually praying for the Lord to raise up a Romanian pastor. We have loved worshiping here in English, Romanian, Portugese, and German - all within one church service!

We only have a few more days of our prayer group, but we would still love for you to join. It's a great way to hear more stories about what life is like and who we're meeting.

Join the 1000 / 40 for 40 Prayer Group!



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: We have created a secret Facebook group called "Kreiders in Romania" and we will be doing a Facebook Live event at 2:30 pm EST next Saturday, September 9th. We would love for you to send us questions ahead of time by posting them on the group page or responding to this email. We will answer those questions and give some tours of our space here that you can either watch live or see in the video later on. However, you must let us know if you want to participate in this secret group.



We received our first package from the States, thanks to Catalin's parents. You can see the condition they were in when we picked them up - already opened. When we got them home, we

discovered that most of our candy was already eaten with one particularly sneaky item: the workers had taken out the sour patch kids, eaten them, and then put the empty box of candy back in the package so that it looked like it was still in there. So, while we are BEYOND GRATEFUL for the many people who have already offered to send us care packages, please keep in mind that this is NOT the USPS. We absolutely love receiving snail mail, especially cards and Christmas letters, and small things like stickers and gum for the kids is a great treat for them. If you decide to send something, our address is listed below, but please speak to us first so that we can tell you the guidelines for sending things, along with some tips for helping our packages get to us a little more intact. Another great option is to ship things through Germany's Amazon.de website, which will bypass the Romanian customs (and candy-stealers) and be delivered straight to our door.

Derek and Catalina Kreider

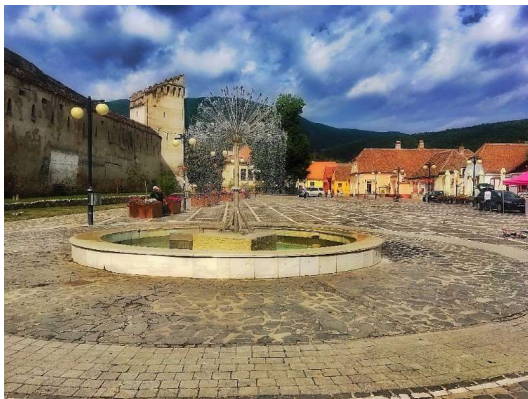
Str. Vulturului #4

Codlea, 505100

Brasov, Romania



Here are our MTW teammates, the Ebbers family. Derek and Shannon have five children: Jessalyn, Aaron, Isaac, Elijah, and Hannah. The two oldest are at college in the States, and the two youngest are babysitters for our kids while we're at language school together twice each week. Each morning at our breakfast devotion we each say something for which we're grateful. Almost every morning Elin and/or Atticus say that they're thankful for Hannah and Elijah. We are so grateful that they are our teammates and that our babies love them so much! And we're incredibly blessed to get along with so well, philosophically be on the same page with them so much, and just truly enjoy their company and leadership.





IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

8/15/17 - [The Means to the End](#) by Derek

Check us out on Facebook! We post on our ["From Dacula to Transylvania"](#) album so that you can stay up to date with us. You can also follow [our photos on instagram](#).



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