

"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf:

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Be reconciled to God." – 2 Corinthians 5:20



The Big Question: When will you go back to Romania?

We wish we had an answer to this, but we still don't. The Romanian borders are closed to Americans right now because of the high numbers of COVID19 cases in the States. We have tried every avenue we can think of to find a way back, including emailing the Romanian consulate in Miami. Please pray with us that the Lord will open a door for us to return, and that He will help us rest and find contentment in His sovereign plan, knowing that ALL THINGS work together for the good of those who love Him as we are conformed to Christ.

Family in Christ

I received a Facebook message from Catherine*, who did mission work in France and is now in Canada. She told me of a Romanian Roma lady, Juliana*, who was a fellow church member in her church in France. Because of COVID19, Juliana had to return to Romania and can't get back to France where her Christian community is. She is in a tough situation with her family in Romania, which consists of drunkenness and abuse. And yet she continues to faithfully follow Christ as a born-again believer. Catherine asked me if I could

help Juliana find work and a place to live in Romania, while the French church would support her financially.

Not being in Romania myself, it has been hard to help directly, especially since the Roma vernacular is often quite different from the textbook-style Romanian we learn in language school. We have a difficult time communicating well with our Roma friends when we're in person, much less over the phone when talking about a tough situation where miscommunication could really hurt. Plus, I discovered that Juliana wasn't near Brasov, but was in a city a few hours away. With the help of our teammates, I reached out to a Romanian pastor in Timisoara, the city where Juliana was hiding out. We created a WhatsApp group chat with the Romanian pastor, our American pastor in Brasov, his wife, Catherine, and me. And we talked and worked together to figure out how to help Juliana, our sister in Christ.

But how, you ask, did Catherine ever find me in the first place to ask for my help with Juliana?

A man named Dan ... who attends a Mississippi church which we presented at while support raising, who joined our newsletter list, who went to school with Catherine, who saw her plea for help on Facebook for anyone who may have ministry contacts in Romania, who then gave Catherine my contact information that he had through our newsletters. Wow! The power of a simple newsletter!

I'm not even sure Juliana will ever know all the people who have worked together to help her in her time of need. And that's okay; she doesn't need to know for our sake. I do pray, though, that even in the midst of her struggles with earthly family, she feels the love and support of her Christian family. And I pray that all Christians reading this will be reminded of the kinship we have in Christ - that we should more closely identify with a Roma Christian in trouble in Romania than even some of our local neighbors because of who we are in Christ first. But mostly I pray that, even in the midst of the pandemic and politics, we are reminded of our a good Father. How He is a good Shepherd who will run after the one lost sheep. Or how a sovereign God can bring a brother through slavery to save all of Egypt. And how, even today, God can link up French, Canadians, Americans, and Romanians to go after and help a Roma sister-in-Christ, all because He loves her and delights in her. And He gave us the privilege of being part of this story because He loves and delights

in each of us. And stories like this remind me just how big a God we serve, but whose vastness and power do not keep him from having his eye even on the sparrow.

PRAISE AND PRAYER:

- Please continue with us in prayer for our teammates, the [Ebbers](#), as they must creatively find ways to raise support during this pandemic.
 - Pray for us as we attempt to stay connected to Romania, build our language, and find ways back.
 - Pray for the Romanian Bible studies we do via zoom - for the edification of the church and for those who don't know Christ to come to him.
 - Continue to pray for the church in Romania. Pray that God would sustain and grow the leadership of the church, and that he would help the church to effectively move out with the love and nourishment they receive from their unity with each other and their connection to Jesus.
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Life in the States Update:

Top: We were able to visit some of our friends and supporters recently, and we stopped at The Ark Encounter on our way. It was a really fantastic thing to see and helped us engage the kids in many cool conversations. Plus, they got to ride a camel, which was a major highlight of their summer. We highly recommend you go at some point!

Middle: Being home for longer has given us the opportunity to go through the few things we have in storage here. Catalina has been collecting snow globes for years, so it was fun adding to our collection during our support-raising travels this year and then telling the kids the story behind each snow globe.

Bottom Left: We took the kids on a stroll through UGA's campus, which is Catalina's alma mater. Denton has become an avid sports fan since being stateside and chooses to watch sports over cartoons, so he was particularly excited to see a real football stadium!

Bottom Right: We have made a big decision this year for however long God has us here: Elin (1st grade), Atticus (K4), and Denton (K2) will go to school at Oak Hill Classical School. We made this decision because having the kids at school gives us greater opportunity to engage with Romania because of the time difference, but we plan to continue homeschooling whenever we return to

Romania. Catalina has restarted language classes and is able to participate in women's prayer group and Bible Study with the Romanian women. Derek has gotten involved with our church's Christian Education group. Plus, the days that our kids are at school gives us an opportunity to dive further into the Storying Training.

That's the end of the newsletter, but it doesn't have to be the end of our communication. We would love to pray with you, chat with you, or answer any questions you may have for us. If you want to meet virtually (or in person if you're in the area), please reach out to us and we'll set something up.



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

07/01/2020 - [The Heavenly Multitude](#) by Derek

07/15/2020 - [Is the Gospel Enough?](#) by Derek

08/06/2020 - [God Loves the Wicked: A New Theodicy](#) by Derek

Continuing - [Podcast Series](#) by Derek

Check us out on Facebook! We post on Catalina's ["From Dacula to Transylvania"](#) album or our ["2019-2020 HMA"](#) 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.



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To make a donation (Account #14088 for Derek and Catalina), (Account #12140 for the Ebbers), or
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