

"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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WE ARE NOW A FAMILY OF FIVE!!!

Denton Orin Kreider joined our family one week early, on December 15, 2017 at 12:03 p.m. The doctors and nurses were stunned at how big he was at 9.1 lb and 22 inches long; by far the biggest baby they had in their nursery! Although he was born a scary blue tint to his skin and not breathing due to the cord being wrapped around him, the doctors did a wonderful job of working quickly to do what needed to be done to help him. (In fact, so quickly that I hardly had time to be scared about it until it was already passed and I realized the gravity of what could have been!) We are praising our Lord for his safe arrival and the joy he has already brought to our family. He is definitely the best Christmas gift!!

Craciun Fericit!!

Although our Christmas tree and decorations have been up since just after Thanksgiving, our Romanian friends will be putting up their trees tonight - on Christmas Eve. For younger kids, parents don't put up their trees until after the kids go to bed so that the tree is a gift from Santa, whereas families with older kids spend the evening decorating the tree together. We've also discovered that Nativity Scenes are very rare here because they are "a Catholic thing," so we were disappointed to not be able to get a new Nativity Scene this year. (We left ours at home since it was handmade ceramic by Derek's great grandfather and we didn't want to take the chance of it breaking in transport.) And their traditional meal is Sarmale (stuffed cabbage rolls) and lots of pork, as opposed to our turkey meal.

This has been such a special Christmas season for us. I had a chance to [virtually be a guest speaker for the women's gathering at our Stateside home church](#) on December 2nd. We completed language school with our semester final exams on December 8th, and we both passed the exam! On the same day, Derek's parents joined us with a joyful, tear-filled greeting and have been such a great gift for the holidays. We have loved showing them around our town. On December 15th, our sweet Denton was born in Brasov, which was truly a new cultural experience! Our church had its annual Christmas Luncheon after service on December 17th, and the Lord brought the largest group we've had so far. Unfortunately Derek and I missed this special event as we were waiting to be discharged from the hospital, but Derek's parents and our kids went and said it was a great event. There was a large participation from the kids in the Mici Exploritor (Little Explorers) ministry that is held weekly at our church. Many of their parents came, as well, to see their children singing, which was a great form of outreach since many of these families do not attend a church of their own.





On December 19th, Derek and I celebrated our 8th anniversary, and admittedly it was the first time that Derek had to remind me it was our anniversary! We are planning to go out next week to celebrate. Elin and Atticus had a Christmas celebration at their school, and Elin started ski lessons with her school on December 21st. And we started a new Advent tradition this year with a Jesse Tree and learning a new carol each week. One of the things I miss the most about being in the States is singing with Derek's parents at dinnertime devotions, so it has been with such joy that we have sung these carols each night in four-part harmony - especially as we add in our sweet toddlers' voices! The Lord has blessed us with especially beautiful snowfalls and sunrises in the last few weeks, and receiving your beautiful and thoughtful Christmas cards has been extra special to us this year.





With Christmas coming tomorrow, we hope that you have had a chance to see and read our [Christmas card](#). If you did not personally receive this letter, it's either because we don't have your address or have an outdated one. We send out a physical card and letter for Christmas and Easter each year, and if you did not receive it this time, we would love to add you to our list for Easter. Please respond to this email and let us know your mailing address.

We are grateful for each of you and count you among the many blessings the Lord has given us this year. We hope you have a very Merry Christmas - one with a clear focus on the gift we have been given in the incarnate Christ. Praise be to our Emmanuel!

Love,
Derek, Catalina, Elin, Atticus, and Denton

PLEASE PRAY...

- We are so grateful to report that Elin is continuing to improve daily. Having her grandparents here has helped so much, and as a huge answer to prayer, Denton's arrival has brought more joy to her little life than we've seen her have in a long time. And as she's continued participating in her school events, learning more Romanian, and staying healthy - along with our awesome guidance from the child behavioral therapist - we have seen a change in her recently. Derek's parents go back to the States on January 9th, and we would love for you to continue to pray for her through that transition. And though we have seen a lot of encouraging improvement, it is still a daily prayer for us that the Lord will comfort her as she still struggles with anxiety and grief. We are so grateful for our very large family of supporters who are lifting up Elin so much. We know that the Lord is listening and loving and that He is strengthening us and Elin as He takes us through this specific challenge.
- We have also seen a turn in our health! Praise the Lord! Since our last newsletter we have only experienced occasional and minor issues, which is a

great improvement from the chronic sicknesses we were all experiencing before. As much as we can tell, we have totally eradicated the mold and have greatly appreciated all the advice people gave us to help with that.

- Please pray for us as we go through the process of obtaining Denton's United States citizenship, passport, and social security number with the US Embassy, as well as going through the VISA process again for his residency status with Romania. (For those wondering, he does NOT have dual citizenship because Romania only allows automatic citizenship if he has at least one Romanian parent, and if any of us wanted to apply for citizenship in the future, we would have to give up our American passports. So all of us will remain only American citizens.)
- Please pray for us through these next few months of continued language school. We are still planning to focus mainly on language until the Spring. We are praying that the Lord will provide a woman who can come to our house once or twice a week to help Catalina, since her ability to go to language school will certainly decrease for a while. And please pray for the Lord's guidance as we begin the research process into how He wants us to best serve here in Romania through university and mercy ministry.



We understand that not everyone has a presence on Social Media. But remember that even if you don't have an account, you can check out our Facebook public photo album that we always have linked below ([and here!](#)). And of course if you *are* on Facebook, let us know if you want to be added to our Secret Group, where we send out more frequent updates and prayer requests.



Year-End Giving

We are incredibly grateful for all the ways our support team has carried us through this crazy 2017 year! You have all prayed for us countless times, sent us encouragement and advice, helped us know that we are gone but not forgotten, and shown us such love! And it is because of your generosity that we are finishing out this year fully funded for our ministry. Nevertheless, we understand that supporters drop off, the cost of living eventually rises, and giving next year may decrease due to the new tax laws. We know that support raising is a continual activity for missionaries on the field, yet we are so encouraged that we are finishing this year strong. If you would like to contribute to the work being done in Romania through year-end giving, there are several ways to do that. Please reach out to us so we can discuss it with you.

Also, please note that if you send checks to MTW on our behalf through the mail, they have updated their mailing address. Please be sure to update the address when you send your financial support, as well. This does not affect online giving.

Mission to the World
PO Box 744165
Atlanta, GA 30374-4165
Account # 14088



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

12/07/17 - [Savor the Savior](#) by Catalina

12/15/17 - [Denton's Directions](#) by Derek

12/24/17 - [Merry Christmas Letter](#) 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](#). 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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To make a donation (Account #14088):

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

or

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

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(Yes, the +40 is necessary!)

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