

"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're Stateside with Surprising News!***

As we were covered in prayer, we made it to the States safely on Tuesday and have spent the last few days going to doctor's appointments and trying to get over jet lag. And the day after I got home, I went to my doctor here in the States and got some surprising news.

I don't have placenta previa. Yes, you read that correctly. And perhaps it's as shocking to you as it was to me when I went to the doctor and saw in another ultrasound that my placenta is completely in the right place and poses no threat to me or the baby. Yes, it took me a while to wrap my mind around it, too. So, breathe a sigh of relief and gratitude with us, and then let the questions flood your mind, too.

When I had the ultrasound last Wednesday, August 21, it looked as though I had almost a complete previa. My Romanian OB diagnosed it, the Chief Doctor at the hospital confirmed it, and my OB in the States saw the ultrasound picture and agreed. My OB in the States strongly urged me to get home as quickly as possible, and we consulted the third-party medical emergency group that partners with MTW which also gave the same recommendation. Our team leaders were in full agreement, and of course our friends and family agreed. It was a shocking and scary diagnosis to receive while in Romania, especially for me personally with my additional medical issues that put me at a much higher risk of complications with this condition. With the information given, we made the best decision we knew how to make. Then two days ago I saw my OB in the States and had an ultrasound done, showing absolutely no sign of a previa. She looked at the ultrasounds from Romania again in person and was still dumbfounded because she had no explanation, since it still looked like a previa to her. She kept saying "this is just so weird. I don't have an explanation for this other than something miraculous." Then yesterday I was able to see a Maternal Fetal Specialist, who confirmed that there is no sign of previa, agreed that the ultrasound I had in Romania was understandably diagnosed as previa, and gave me an alternate explanation as to what it probably was instead of a previa, since it's unheard of for previa to go away so quickly, so late in a pregnancy. She agreed that she would have given me the same advice as the other doctors to come back to the States based on the ultrasound in Romania,

but that now it just wasn't there.

So, did I have the previa and God miraculously healed me? Or was it just a complete misdiagnosis and I never had it to begin with? We don't know! But in the end, the result is the same - we praise God for His sovereignty and love and good gifts and the blessing of this precious baby and my now normal, healthy pregnancy. Our brains and hearts are reeling. We're confused, disappointed, relieved, and questioning.

So, what now? We never wanted or planned to come home and have our baby here. Our hearts are in Romania, and we would love to be there. But the reality is, I am still 30 weeks pregnant, which is not an optimal time to be flying internationally. We already packed up our entire house in Romania and broke our housing contract. And we were already planning to come home for Home Ministry Assignment (HMA) in December, so at this point going back and then returning again would be a large drain on our time and resources. So despite our desire to be there, we've decided it's best to stay in the States for Home Ministry Assignment (HMA) and to just have the baby here.

While we are disappointed that we aren't currently in Romania, a longer HMA is a blessing. As we were beginning to think about our original HMA plan beginning in December, it was already overwhelming as we had as many churches to visit as there were weeks in our HMA. Being able to have more time to spend with individuals and churches will be a huge blessing, as a big part of our ministry is to share God's work and Kingdom vision with those who send us out. We also plan on staying well connected with the church in Codlea, as I still plan to participate in the Mommy Club planning meetings via FaceTime, we continue our weekly team meetings with the Ebbers through Skype, and we participate remotely in planning for events and research for some upcoming projects with the church. We are also going to focus heavily on improving our Romanian skills through online tutors. It is definitely not the same as being there in person, but there is clearly a lot we can still do remotely. We are also actively seeking additional training in "Storying," a method of sharing the Gospel through stories to better reach illiterate or struggling-reader people groups, which we think would be very beneficial for our work with the Roma. And we are also grateful for the additional time to seek out medical attention for Atticus's continued health issues and the immuno deficiencies we've discovered he has.

We can't thank you enough for your prayers and encouragement. Our hearts are much lighter than they were a week ago, and we are praising God for his blessings - not only his blessing of health, but his blessing of showing us his love through the community that so quickly and thoroughly came around us to provide for us and encourage us. We look forward to contacting many of you very soon as we begin our HMA plans to see our supporters!

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You can contact us on our new phone numbers.

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9/14/2019

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**Our Stateside mailing address is**

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