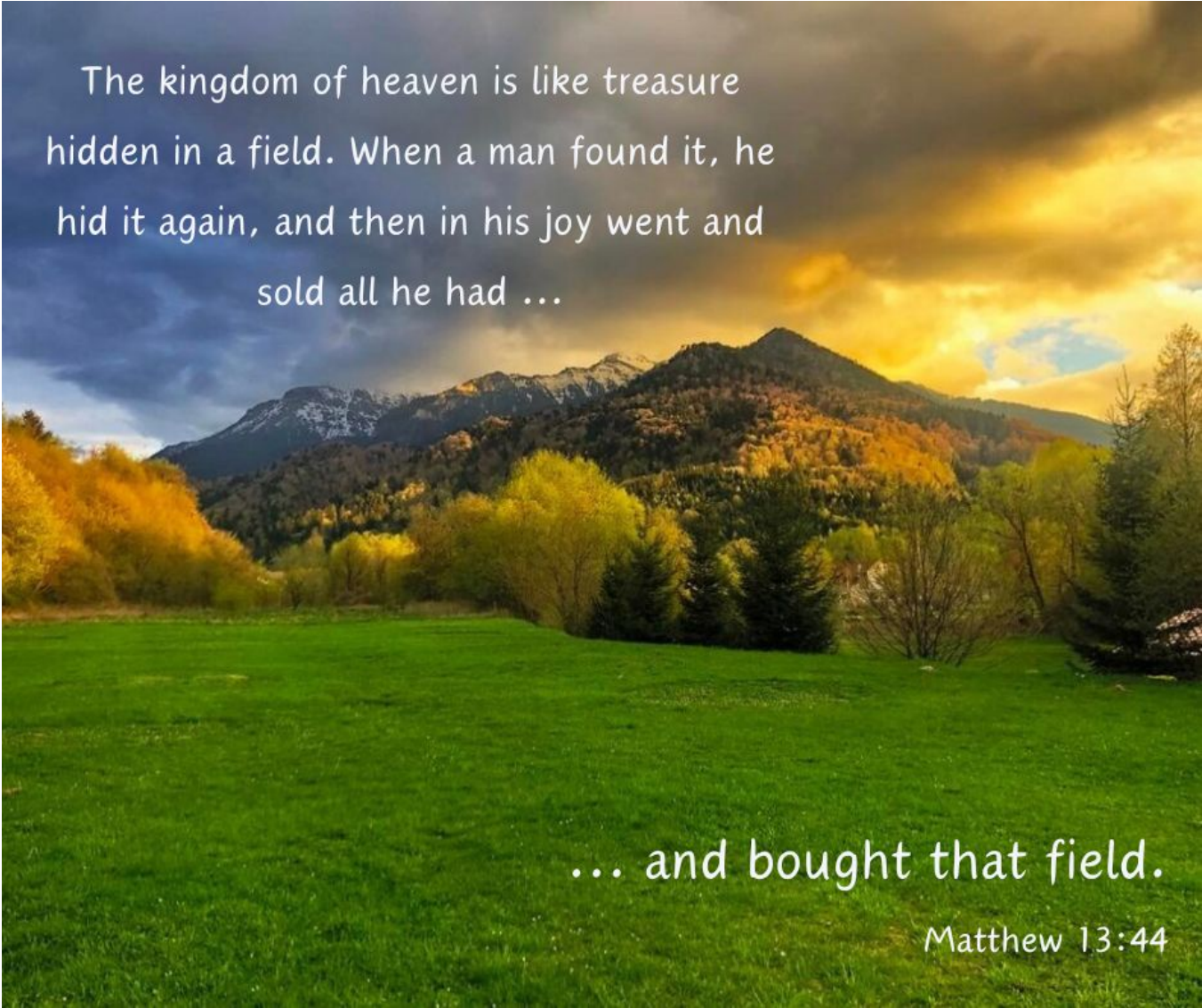


"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God." – 2 Corinthians 5:20

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The kingdom of heaven is like treasure
hidden in a field. When a man found it, he
hid it again, and then in his joy went and
sold all he had ...

... and bought that field.

Matthew 13:44

Leaving the Field, Keeping the Treasure

Nine years ago, Catalina and I were called out of the lives we were building in Dacula, GA to help spread the message of the Kingdom of Heaven abroad. We took a vision trip to Romania and knew the Lord was leading us to tell others about the treasure we had found, and that they, too, could have. Like the parable, we returned from that trip, sold almost all that we had, and raised support to move overseas to follow Christ where He called. We bought the field.

During our time as "official missionaries," we praise God for the opportunities He has given us to spread His message and share His love with others. We

have sought to honor Him and invest all that we have to offer in His Kingdom. Though we came in our strength, it has been through our weakness that we have been able to offer others the treasure of knowing Christ. We say this in humility, as we recognize that we have received far more than we have been able to give.

We love Romania. It is our home. When people have asked us how long we will live abroad, we have always said "for as long as the Lord calls us to be here." And we honestly assumed that would be for a very long time. So it is with great sadness that we tell you that God is now guiding us to return to the States. As we have faced new medical trials, including Elin's scoliosis, we have been praying for God's guidance and clarity since September. We had asked him to confirm His calling for us to be in Romania by finding us medical care abroad and raising the financial support we needed to stay here and care for the growing needs of our family. In His abundant grace, He has answered our prayer for guidance by closing door after door that would make it possible for us to stay on the field. Our entire team and leadership is in agreement that God is guiding us back to Georgia.

It's true that we have sacrificed a lot and endured many hardships to be here. But following Jesus here was the best investment because we truly love this field. Its beauty. Its people. Its culture and food. The friends we've made. The community we've built. The opportunity to homeschool our children. The gift of spending our days tilling, planting, and watering the spiritual field. It has been hard work and full of trials. But we have loved it, and are now deeply grieving our departure. The field we bought is being taken away. But in this time of grieving, we are being reminded that Romania is the field, not the treasure; Jesus is the treasure. We have experienced that treasure even more through the relinquishing of our possessions to follow Him, God's enduring faithfulness through many trials and hardships, the servant leadership of Romanian elders and friends towards us in our weakness, the awe-inspiring beauty of the diversity of God's church, and the immense generosity of God's people worldwide to us.

As we begin this new and unknown stage, we are reminded that we serve the same God. The same God who called us to serve in Romania all the way back in 2015 is the same God inviting us to love and serve Him wherever we are. The same God who provided all that we needed to move to Romania is the same God we are asking to provide for us now. The same God who loved us enough to meet us on this earth as the incarnate Christ is the same God who loves us enough to faithfully meet us where we're at in every season, trial, and grief. We pray that you are being filled with the same joy regardless of what you are facing. The same God who has faithfully sustained His people for thousands and thousands of years is still faithfully sustaining us and you because He is good. He is the treasure.

We hope to be good stewards, invest the treasure well, and then share that treasure in the new field in which we will find ourselves. His treasure is available in any field, if we only dig.

With Love and Gratitude,
Derek and Catalina

-
- Please pray for our whole family as we pack/sell our things, say our goodbyes, and work through our grief. We will fly back to the States on February 28. Please pray that we would honor the Lord and point others to Christ even with our lament.
 - Please pray for our family during this next unknown stage and our many needs: schooling, jobs, insurance, cars, etc. If you or someone you know is selling a used car that can fit a family of six, please let us know. We will also need a second used smaller car.

- Please prayerfully consider maintaining your financial support until June 1 so that we may have time to find jobs. Then, please prayerfully consider maintaining your partnership with the church in Romania. Since the very beginning of support raising, we have prayed that God would raise up people who would be more interested in helping their Romanian brothers and sisters in Christ than their support of us, the Kreiders; we have simply been your bridge to another part of God's great Kingdom. Please consider continuing your current level of support and moving it to either our beloved teammates, [Derek and Shannon Ebbers](#), or our brand new MTW Romanian national partners, [Raul and Claudia Profire](#). Alternatively, you could give directly to the Romania Team Fund that is used for ministry and church needs (account #94978). The harvest in Romania is still plenty, and the workers are still few. Please continue investing in





After so much traveling in October and November, we shared some special time with family in December. Derek's parents took our family to Wolf Lodge as our Christmas present for a few days. We celebrated Denton turning 6! On Christmas morning with Catalina's parents, we spent time reflecting on God's acts of kindness, mercy, and faithfulness to us around the table. And we received a special gift from one on my mom's friends - a ceramic Santa made in Romania!

Throughout this whole time, we had been praying for God to give us clear guidance. When the Lord showed us that it was time for us to leave the field, we had to decide whether to cancel our last two scheduled events: Taste of Romania and a missions conference in Charleston, SC. Both of those events were very hard for us to participate in within just days of making the final decision. But we've always said that the point of these opportunities isn't really about raising money; it is to glorify God and tell of His Kingdom in Romania! And we get so much joy from doing that! So in joy mixed with grief, we were

grateful for both opportunities to connect brothers and sisters in Christ to one another through the stories He's given us to share. The Taste of Romania event was well-attended, and we received great feedback that they enjoyed the food and participating in this special way of learning about Romania. Praise God! May He be glorified!



Although we were unable to raise the necessary funding for us to return to the field (just one of the ways God is closing the door), we have always been so blessed to have had the chance to raise support. While at times difficult and stressful, it has been a joy to have the privilege of knowing brothers and sisters all over the States and seeing the body of Christ in a larger way. Before Christmas was a Sunday filled with particular joy as we worshiped and presented at Creekstone Presbyterian in Dahlonega, GA where one of our former pastors now leads. The children were singing that day, and our kids just jumped right in! It's another reminder of the beautiful gifts that the Lord has given our children through this experience; they are very adaptable! :-)

We will continue sending out newsletters for the time being. We would love to share with you stories from our final weeks here in Romania and let you know of our needs when we return to the States. The Lord has continually used our community to confirm our calling and keep us going in our calling, and we are trusting that He will provide again as we follow Him to a new phase of calling. We will also give more details about plans and next steps. So please don't unsubscribe just yet! :-)



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