

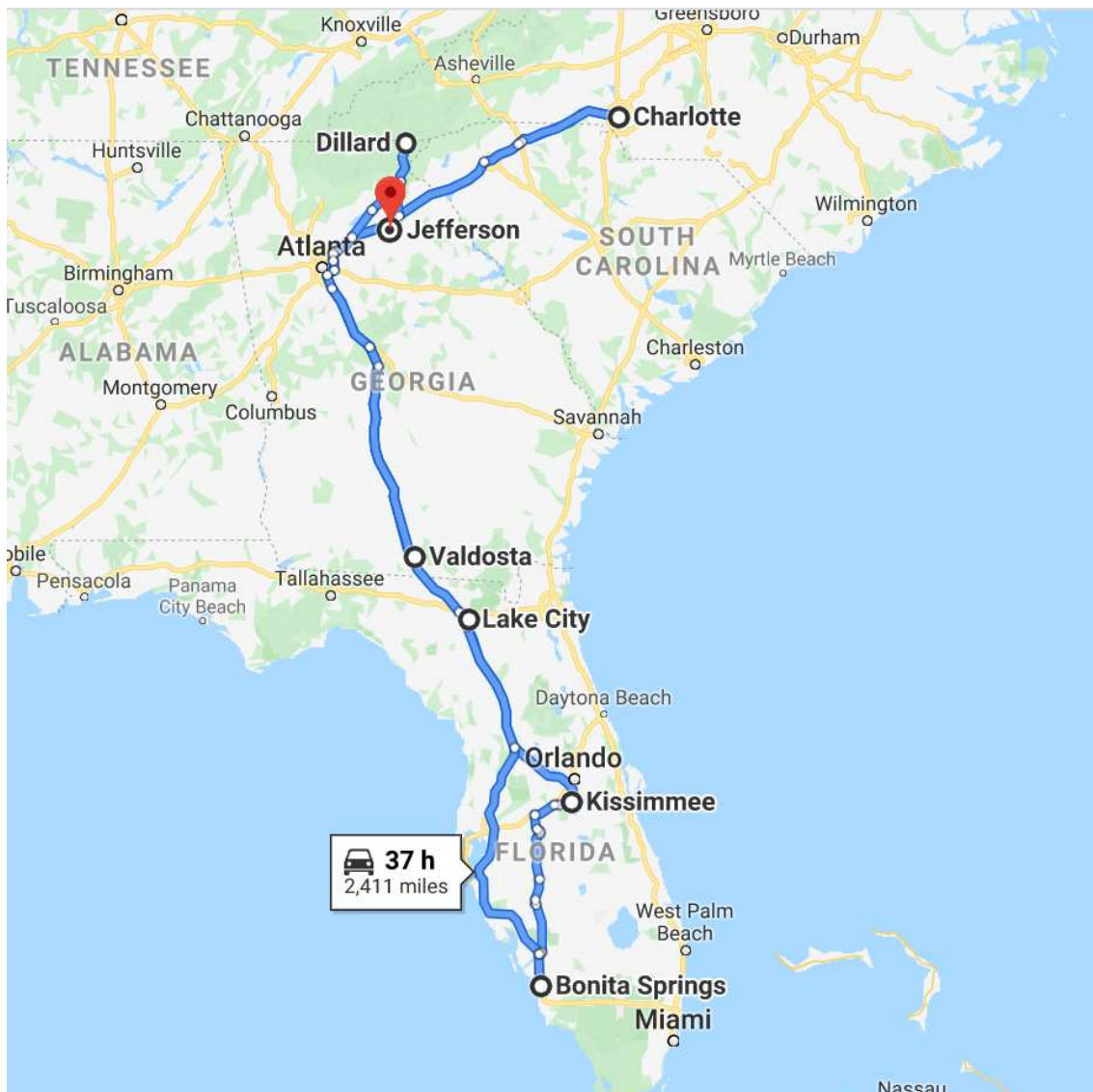
"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God." – 2 Corinthians 5:20

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We encourage you to join our "Kreiders in Romania" Facebook group so you can get more frequent and specific updates about what's going on! Respond to this email and let us know if you'd like to be added to this group!

[If you are a regular financial partner, would you please take a moment to check your account with MTW? We have lost quite a bit of financial support with "lapsed" accounts, signifying that the credit card that had been used for the account simply expired and was not renewed. But these "lapsed" accounts make up about \\$400 of lost monthly support. Thank you!](#)



## ***Finding Contentment***

It's funny how different people view missionaries so differently.

Some people look at us and glamorize our life: "Wow! Romania is so beautiful and peaceful. It must be a dream to live there!" -or- "Must be nice to just travel all over Europe for your job."

While other people pity us: "I'm so sorry you have to live somewhere like Romania." -or- "I would hate to do all that traveling with small kids all over the States."

Some people uphold us as some righteous giants, holier than others: "You must really have a lot of faith." -or- "Being a PCA missionary automatically gets you into the Bible-nerd club."

And secretly, some people probably question why in the world God would call US to go live overseas: "Don't you know what they're really like, God?"

The truth is, our jobs are a lot like other jobs: there are definite pros and cons. Yes, we love getting to travel a lot. But we also get really tired of never having our own home. Yes, we love having friends all over the world. But we also feel sad when we know that we will never truly fit in anywhere anymore. Yes, our kids are getting some awesome experiences at such a young age. But we also walk with them through the pain of saying goodbye over and over again. Yes, it's amazing to see God grow our faith so much stronger as we see Him do incredible things. But that growth almost always comes through difficult trials.

Raising financial support is one of the few parts of our job that almost everyone agrees that they would hate! Asking others for money? Yuck! Traveling every single weekend with four small children? Ugh! Constantly making presentations in front of large crowds at churches? Kill me now!

So it's ironic that, overall, we actually really enjoy support raising! Our kids have been traveling long distances since birth, so they're used to it and are therefore really good travelers. Granted, it still takes twice as long to get anywhere because of having to stop so often for nursing and potty breaks, but singing Frozen songs and Bethel Music together as a family, having in-depth discussions, and playing I Spy help us pass the time and create fond memories. Truthfully, meeting people in their homes is the most stressful part because I always worry my kids will either break into fights or break a family heirloom. And yet we've always been met with such hospitality and understanding, and it's always a true joy to get to sit down and talk with people to find out more about them and be able to share about our passion for Romania. And while neither of us enjoy presenting by ourselves, we love the privilege of edifying the body of Christ in a church setting as we get to share about what's going on with our Romanian brothers and sisters across the world. It's a lot of fun! Of course, asking for money in any capacity is never anyone's favorite thing to do, but when we remember that it's the Lord's money and that we truly love the partnership that we get to feel with those who join our financial team, it becomes a fun challenge to see how, where, and when God is going to randomly provide the funds we need.

There is always the good and the difficult in any circumstance. So while there have been several instances this time home that we've recognized that it would be easier to just go back in time and stay in the States, we are quick to

remember that, the truth is, we are all called to seek the "secret of being content in any and every situation" because we "can do this through the Lord who gives (us) strength." (Phil 4:12-13). Each of us must prayerfully seek contentment in whatever situation God calls us to. We have to choose to neither glorify nor pity anyone for the calling God has placed on their lives. We must choose to give thanks and count it all pure joy to serve the Lord wherever He has placed us.

So what better way to begin 2020 than to take a moment and reflect on where God has called each of us, why He may have called us here, how we can serve His Kingdom here, and how we can give thanks for the blessings even in the midst of the difficult.

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## PRAISES:

- We are THRILLED to report that the Lord is working among the Romanians in the church. Some are independently reading their Bibles, some are taking communion, some are bringing their children to church, and some are stepping up for more leadership roles. We are so grateful to God for answering these prayers!

- The Lord quickly provided \$300/month we need for our support account for 2020! We have since discovered that we lost a few other financial partners, but we are confident God will provide for the rest of our needs!

- Our team leader, Derek Ebbers, is in the States now, beginning his HMA. The rest of his family will join him in April after we return to Romania. Before he left, the Lord answered prayers for incredible encouragement as Derek got to glimpse some fruit after 12 years of faithfully planting and watering seeds. Pray for the Ebbers family. Derek Ebbers will be leaving Romania in January, and Shannon and the kids will follow him in April after we return to Romania. We are trusting the Lord to provide for their significant financial needs. You can [find them here](#).

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### Life in the States Update:

Missionary life is weird. You meet people with whom you have a deep kinship, and then God spreads you out into the world and you're not really sure if you'll ever see them again. So it was a special month, as our support-traveling allowed us to cross paths again with two special people. The first: Derek and I met in Mexico City in 2008 when he was teaching at a missionary kid school affiliated with the IMB, and I went on a three-month mission trip through the IMB during my sophomore year of college. I stayed with a family, and the kids of that family had Derek as a teacher! The family I lived with still feel like family, so it was extra special getting to visit with Rissa and her two babies! And the second: We met Brian Moore and his wife in an MTW training. When we discovered that we lived close by them, had daughters similar in age, and were both going to Europe, we hit it off. It was so nice to present with him at Westminster PCA in Gainesville, GA and get to catch up for a short while together.





We had a great visit at Bayside PCA in Bonita Springs, FL, and even managed to spend two hours looking for seashells on the beach! A highlight of the month was getting to visit my sister and her family in Charlotte, NC (and having to go ahead and say goodbye to them for a few more years!), and our friends hosted a dinner party where we cooked Romanian food and shared about our ministry with their friends.

We hope to see as many of you as possible while we're Stateside until April 1. Here is our travel schedule. Please reach out and let us know if we're coming near or through your city so we can see you! We'd also love to speak at your Bible Study group, school chapel, Sunday School, youth group, or a dinner party! Let us know how we can help!

Feb 4-12: Lancaster and Lebanon, PA

Feb 20 – 24: Nashville, TN

Feb 29 - Mar 1: Redeemer Presbyterian, Charleston, SC

Mar 18 – 20: Chestnut Mountain Presbyterian

Mar 21 – 22: Westminster Presbyterian

March 25 - Ivy Creek Baptist AWANAS

Apr 1 - Return to Romania



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#### IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

01/03/2020 - [My Consequentialist Ethic and Grace](#) (podcast episode) by Derek

01/15/2020 - [God's Impossible World](#) by Derek

Continuing - [The Case for Christian Nonviolence](#) (podcast series) by Derek

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](#) 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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Thank you for your support.

Visit our website:

<http://www.dckreider.com>

To make a donation (Account #14088 for Derek and Catalina), (Account #12140 for the Ebbers), or (Account #94978 Romania church plant for church projects):

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

or

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