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"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 believe in the power of prayer!"

For some reason, in our culture, we sometimes say such things as if the idea is novel or unique. But that's weird. If we ever read something like that in the Bible, it would seem out of place; of course the people in the Bible "believed" in prayer -- it was their lifeline! Prayer is one of the ways in which we commune with God, remind ourselves who we are in comparison to Him, adore Him and thank Him, repent, and go to Him as we might go to our father to discuss our needs and desires.

To make a statement emphasizing that we believe in the power of prayer seems out of place in the Christian walk. It is akin to a husband saying he believes in the power of talking with his wife. It's so painfully obvious that it need not even be said. Yet, in our culture, it *does* need to be said. Like the majority of our culture, we are guilty of often using prayer as a talisman; "I'll pray for you" often means nothing more than "Oh, I'm sorry that's happening." We forget to pray, or we just think positive thoughts, or we say it because we don't know what else to say. Often, we think of prayer as more of a duty than an opportunity to spend time with our God. We don't truly believe that God hears or answers our prayers, and we are sick and tired of the social-media memes

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-- that we actually, truly believe in the power of prayer -- is often very necessary. And we do! Prayer is the baseline of our ministry, and **it is the single most important way you can participate in our ministry in Romania.**

With that in mind, we need people to pray for us! We need people who will *commit* to pray for us. And just like we need 100% of our financial support to go to Romania, we need 100% of our prayer support. **We are committed to garnering 1,000 people to pray for us daily for the first 40 days we are in Romania. And to encourage ourselves to move out into the community and make Romania our home, rather than to seclude ourselves in the comfort of our English-speaking family, we have a goal to meet 40 new people in those 40 days. We will send those names, along with our prayer requests, to our prayer partners. We intend to be bathed in prayer to begin our ministry, and we need you to do that for us!**

Please click the link below to sign up to be part of our "1,000 / 40 for 40" group of prayer partners. At the end of those 40 days, your commitment will be complete, but we hope you'll continue to pray for us and stay involved. Note that this email list will not begin until we get to Romania.

Join the 1000 / 40 / 40 Prayer Group!

PLEASE PRAY...

- We will be presenting in Pell City, AL; Gainesville, GA; and Valdosta, GA, in the month of August. Please continue to pray for our support-raising (both financial and prayer support) at these churches.
- Derek's parents have been living with us for over a week now, and all is well! Please continue to pray for us to show one another grace, love, and patience. We are SO HAPPY they are with us!
- Our teammates, the Ebbers, have been stateside this summer to settle their oldest daughter into college. They will be going back to Romania soon as she starts her freshman year. Please pray for them as they transition to a household without their oldest daughter; we know this will be a difficult time for them to be apart from her.

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We got back from our road trip on July 10. (The picture above shows us speaking to a Bible study group in Eagan, MN, about our call to Romania. We would love to have an opportunity to speak to YOUR Bible study, Sunday school, or friend group, too!) The trip started out really rough. The first five days consisted of finding out that our weatherproof roof rack wasn't quite so weatherproof, resulting in the loss of a lot of our presentation materials; Elin deciding to be a full-fledged toddler and waking up each night, screaming and throwing tantrums; Elin also deciding to pee on a host family's bed after her bath one night; and a number of people canceling their appointments with us. But oh, how God's plans were so much better than ours! Things settled down with the kids after they got used to traveling, we enjoyed a lot of family time, we saw and experienced new things, and we got to share our call with so many people we weren't originally expecting. Though five appointments got cancelled, God provided EIGHT NEW ONES that we didn't originally have planned. God's



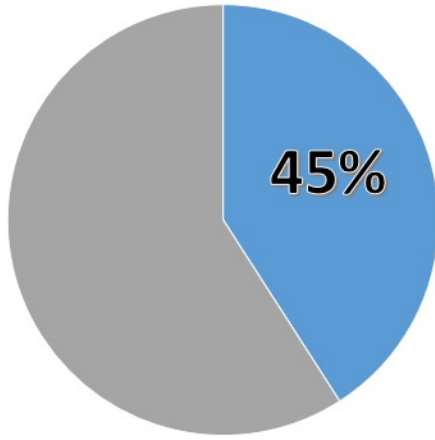
(We encourage you to watch the video above, but please be advised that there is one short violent scene.)

"We have a woman in the shelter who was sold, by her mother, for four cigarettes My question is, who establishes the price of a soul?" -- Iana Matei

Romans 12:15 calls on us to *mourn with those who mourn*, and in Romania, there are plenty of people with whom we can mourn. The Lord is continuing to break our hearts for the Romanian people, especially when it comes to human trafficking. We are still trying to wrap our minds around the entire issue of human trafficking in Romania and how it has become [the leading EU country in terms of number of human-trafficking victims](#). Though we don't plan to specifically work on human trafficking, it gives us a picture of the hopelessness that the immense poverty in the country brings. We hope that we can help the current church plant establish a mercy outreach ministry, where they can help meet the needs of the community and connect the Word they are learning to the deeds that will show others the Christ they are following.

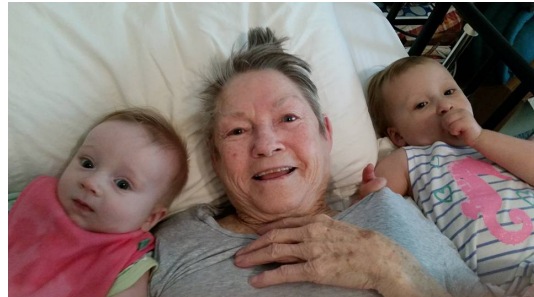
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four new monthly supporters and several one-time gifts. Thank you for your prayers as we were traveling!



We have almost met our 50% goal!! We started the summer at 35% support, and we are currently at 45% -- just 5% to go in the next two weeks to meet our end-of-summer goal. The Lord has been so sweet to provide new monthly supporters and a number of one-time donations. If you plan to be on our support team -- even if you don't want to start your donations yet -- would you please let us know your intentions to give? [You can officially record your intended pledge](#), or you can just email us and let us know. Knowing this information really helps us with our planning. We are so thankful that God has raised up so many generous financial supporters!

Father; not a Father they're familiar with, but a Father who shows unconditional love and will always be there for them. Always sustain them and always hope in them... He's always true." We hope that our church planting, leadership, university, and mercy ministry will do the same. Amen and amen!



It has been a difficult time for our families, as Derek's grandfather passed in May, and Catalina's grandmother passed away this month. We are glad that they are free from suffering in this world; we're blessed that Elin and Atticus were able to meet both of their namesakes; and we're so very honored that we are part of their lives and legacies. Thank you for all of your prayers and encouragement.

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7/11/16 - [OT Barbarism: Rebellion Against Justice](#) by Derek

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7/20/16 - [Beauty Isn't Everything, but It's Something: Rebellion Against Form](#) by Derek

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