

"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 will be Stateside for at least another month and would love to connect with you. Please reach out to us if you'd like to chat, ask questions, or pray together. We would love to encourage and connect however we are able.

What is God doing?

It's easy to ask this question right now. We sure are asking it a lot as we continue to wait to be able to return to Romania. With growing number of coronavirus cases in the States, and the European ban on American travelers, we still have no idea when we'll be able to return. And despite our petitions, God has not granted us our own space to live in for the foreseeable future. We are living again with Derek's parents. Our children are continuing to struggle with the constant instability, and poor Denton is now entirely confused about where we live and what "home" is.

Why, God? What are you doing?

But in the midst of these constant questions, we are grateful for some of His answers. Because God is still clearly working.

He is working on our language and missionary skills. Derek has made huge strides in his language abilities by attending online tutoring three times a week. He is encouraged by these gains, since he knows that it will make him a more effective helper in Romania. Plus, we are studying Storytelling to help us become better evangelists to the largely illiterate Roma people with whom we work.

He is working on the hearts of our Romanian church members. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the young couples have stepped up and taken ownership of many things in the church. Of their own accord, they planned and implemented a twice-weekly prayer meeting via Facebook Messenger, where we share prayer requests, Scripture, songs, and other encouragements with one another. And we pray together. Two of the ladies are continuing to find ways to minister to girls in orphanages in our area even when they cannot see them face-to-face. And they have worked together to figure out safe ways to meet in person in smaller groups for church so as to comport with the governmental regulations for meeting together. And He's preparing new parents, as two of our friends are halfway through their pregnancy with their first baby boy. The church is growing through covenant children! We have prayed for our church members to implicate themselves more in the leadership of the church, and we are seeing great fruits of these prayers!

He is continuing to equip us through the body in the States. It is an interesting time to be Stateside, not just because of the virus, but because of the racial tensions which have come to a head. It's amazing how all problems are problems intrinsic to humanity as a whole, and rarely isolated in a particular culture. Much of what we're hearing, seeing, and learning from our Black brothers and sisters about their experiences in the States are quite similar to the experiences of and systemic issues towards the Roma in Romania. It's

at least true at the heart level, though it plays out differently in different societal structures. So as we continue to learn about American history and the Black community while also seeking to learn more about Romania and the Roma community, we're finding that we're seeing the human heart and human need in both situations. Please pray for us as we seek to humbly learn, and as we seek to be vessels which find effective ways to minister to others wherever God has us at the moment.

He is working on the hearts of our sending community here in the States. It takes a lot of love and sacrifice for our parents to allow us to live with them and to help with the kids so much. Even things that are joyful, like playing with grandkids, can become a lot more difficult when we're all together in a small space. He is reminding people to pray for us and give sacrificially to continue our funding even in the midst of uncertain financial times. We continue to feel cared for by our sending community.

He is working on our hearts as we learn greater trust and dependence on Him. There is no sugarcoating the fact that this is a very difficult time for our family, as it is for so many; and one that is coming on the heels of four years of other difficult circumstances. But we continue to seek the Lord's face. He is always faithful.

PRAISE AND PRAYER:

- Please continue with us in prayer for our teammates, the [Ebbers](#), as they must creatively find ways to raise support during this pandemic.
- Pray for us as we are connecting with potential teammates while we are Stateside. It's a great opportunity to be able to connect with others who are desiring to minister in Romania, but it is also difficult to make decisions considering we don't have a great idea of what the future will look like with all of these uncertainties.
- Continue to pray for the church in Romania. Pray that God would sustain and grow

the leadership of the church, and that he would help the church to effectively move out with the love and nourishment they receive from their unity with each other and their connection to Jesus.





Life in the States Update:

Top - Our church gathered in the parking lot to pray for our nation and the need for racial reconciliation.

Middle - We finally got to reunite with the Ebbers for a quick visit!

Bottom - We celebrated Elin's 6th birthday with a Unicorn Party, and Jemma started crawling, pulling up, cruising, and eating better all in the past month! Now if she could just start sleeping all night!!



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

06/07/2020 - [Bearing Our Crosses](#) by Derek

06/11/2020 - [The Influence of Race on Evangelicalism's Anti-Abortion Movement](#) (podcast) by Derek

05/15/2020 - [More Racism: Racial Disparity and the Demographics of Abortion](#) (podcast) by Derek

05/22/2020 - [Killing Nazis vs. Killing Abortionists: The Illogic of Violence](#) (podcast) by Derek

06/26/2020 - [The Incoherence of Just War Theory: History](#) (podcast) by Derek

Continuing - [Podcast Series](#) by Derek

Check us out on Facebook! We post on Catalina's ["From Dacula to Transylvania"](#) album or our ["2019-2020 HMA"](#) 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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Want to send us something? Check out [this link](#) for more information on how to get it to us!

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