

"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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A lot has changed for us in the past two weeks, as I'm sure you can imagine. Please watch this video. Pass it on! Show it to your churches and friends! We need you!

## Being His Hands and Feet

I took six people to the train station Sunday morning before going to church, to help them continue on to Turkey. One of the ladies spoke English. We

crammed into my van. Two young boys, a preteen girl, a mom with a toddler on her lap, two adult women, and the Mama Matriarch of the family. The preteen girl held a stack of all 7 Harry Potter books, beautifully wrapped in a ribbon.

First they said goodbye to their home and their husbands. They fled here with a group of 17 church members that came together from Odessa. And now they had to say goodbye to the other ladies that morning, who have now been further bonded by their shared suffering. The Mama Matriarch sat beside me in the front seat, and as we left, tears started to fall gently and silently. None of her family in the back seats could see her. She had only a few minutes to ride to the train station before she would put on a brave face again.

I didn't know what to do. I can't speak to her at all. I don't know cultural customs and whether touch is ok. And I'm a stranger. But I saw her hand sitting there, and I just prayed, "God, if we're really your hands and feet, and if that means something more than just a metaphor, please help her feel the hand of Christ touching her now, not me."

I reached over and squeezed her hand. She looked at me and smiled, and then more silent tears came. I started to well up, too. Should I cry in solidarity? Or should I not make them bear the burden of my tears, too? These are all the strange questions confronting us now, because none of us has been trained to deal with this type of crisis.

I had tissues right beside me and handed her one and took one myself. And she and I drove in silence as the others in the back chatted away - all squished in like sardines.

We got to the train station and piled out. Mama Matriarch gave me the biggest hug and kissed my cheek. I gestured that I'm praying for her. Two other women gave me long hugs, too. Said "God bless you" to me. Long hugs. Seriously long hugs. As if we were lifelong friends saying goodbye.

But I guess that's what it's like to be in the Body of Christ together. We're not lifelong friends. We're sisters in Christ.

And I believe Christ used my hand this morning as His own ... maybe even in a totally mystical, doesn't-fit-into-a-proper-theological-box kind of way. I pray He did.

I believe He did.

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## Donate to Support Ukrainian Refugees in Romania!

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### Prayer Requests

- **Where to begin?** Ukraine. Strength. Endurance. Multiplied sleep. Finances. (Prices over here are skyrocketing. Gas is \$6.50/gallon now. We're feeding a ton of people, and utilities are going up.) Wisdom. Supplies. Gentleness. Faithfulness. For us to give it all to the Father, knowing He is the only one who can handle all of this. Self-care. That we would show Christ to the refugees and other Romanians, especially when we cannot speak to them. To know how to care for the women and children in trauma. But mostly - that even through this, Christ will be proclaimed and His Kingdom will reign.
- **The church.** Pray that even in the midst of hardship, the church in Romania and around Europe will remain strong in its desire to grow in unity, service, and encouragement of one another and the community.
- **Something New.** The church in Codlea are planning a family church camp at the end of April. The theme will be unity in family relationships that comes from our unity in Christ.
- **Leadership Development.** The church elders are currently working with 2 young men who feel God calling them to be part of our church leadership team as elders. Both of these young men grew up in orphanages, have families, and love Jesus!
- **Our children.** I recently prayed for God to help us truly see our children right now. To have eyes, hearts, and ears open to how they're doing. We have already been having difficulties with one child, and some of us have begun weekly online counseling. Please pray for Christ to protect our family. For us to

have wisdom and patience with our kiddos. Please pray for their hearts to know the love of Jesus deeply.







While everyone's focus is understandably on the Ukraine crisis, we continue to have our regular missionary duties to the Romanian church, too. We still watch Baby M twice each week; host people in our home for fun, for Bible Study, and for weekly prayer meeting; support Kids Clubs; help lead weekly worship; and we're still homeschooling our children. And Derek is taking two online seminary classes.

Shannon recently gave Elin a sassy new haircut, and we've had some good winter weather! Jemma has become a little mouse in the house, sneaking apples and only eating a few bites. So I just collect them and then throw them in the pot when I make applesauce. And today I received the sweetest card for International Women's Day from Elin and Atticus! Even in the midst of now having an overly full plate, we are so conscious of providing for our family's needs. Each Wednesday is "family day," where we don't schedule any ministry events and do something fun as a family. Plus, the kids continue their tradition of walking with Derek to get pastries at the market on Saturday mornings. And BONUS! Elin has recently started making us breakfast in bed (scrambled eggs and yogurt parfait) on Saturdays before the pastry run. SCORE!!

We are so very grateful for all of your prayers and support. Truly. We know so many of you wish you could be here to help with this crisis in person, and we are honored to represent you here. Please continue fighting the spiritual battles with us in the best warrior pose possible - on your knees with head bowed to King Jesus.





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