

"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf:

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Be reconciled to God." – 2 Corinthians 5:20



## IMPORTANT END-OF-YEAR ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Do we have your current mailing address so you can be sure to receive our special December newsletter for Christmas? If you've never received a physical letter and would like to or if you've moved this year, please [fill out this form](#) to help us stay up-to-date.

As we head into 2020 and our upcoming support-raising travels, we need to raise about \$300 of committed monthly support. Would you please consider becoming a [monthly supporter](#) or give an end-of-year gift to our church's [special ministry fund](#), [our support account](#), or [our teammates' support account](#)?



## EMMANUEL, GOD WITH US

I think just about anyone with children can attest that when your children are sick, especially with something mysterious, it's the worst feeling of helplessness and fear. We can so easily start to question, *is God really with us?* I think Satan knows this truth well and has used it against our family.

In our two short years in Romania, Elin, Atticus, and Denton have experienced 3 hospitalizations, 1 surgery, 5 emergency room visits, 14 ear infections in the last year alone, countless ill-timed illnesses, mishaps, and doctor's visits. And then, of course, there's my pregnancy with Jemma, which was difficult from the start. An early hematoma that made us think I was miscarrying... gestational diabetes... placenta previa... couldn't find her kidneys on ultrasound... breech presentation... then a "sunny side up" presentation... breaking my leg and being on crutches for my final trimester...

Clearly, God healed me from all of these pregnancy issues and has helped us face all of the other mystery sicknesses and problems, but the sheer volume, frequency, and timing of all the problems and sicknesses we've had since

moving to Romania – which are almost entirely centered around our children – has often left us overwhelmed, discouraged, and afraid of “*what’s next?*”

It’s hard not to question what in the world the Lord is doing. It’s even harder not to question whether we’ve misheard our calling to Romania when it’s specifically our children who seem to be constantly suffering so much from our decision to go. Why is this constantly happening? Is it purely physical issues because our kids aren’t immune to the pathogens in Romania, or because the medical is different there and more difficult for us to navigate? Is it largely of a spiritual nature – are we being attacked by Satan or is God showing us that we weren’t really following Him to Romania at all? Would a good God allow these things to keep happening to us if we were truly following His call on our lives? In fact, we’ve had several people question our calling for these exact reasons and urge us to move back to the States.

And yet, when we consider numerous Biblical examples of suffering – from Job’s loss of all of his children ... to Abraham’s trust in the Lord to somehow deliver Isaac ... to God sacrificing *His* own son – we see that the Lord frequently allows us to go through trials, even when it directly involves our children. We are told over and over again throughout all of Scripture that trials are meant for our own good to conform us to the likeness of Christ and are not in and of themselves indicators of disobedience or a need to change course. And though he doesn’t promise to save us from trials, He *does* promise to be our Emmanuel: God with us! God has revealed His presence by healing many of our sicknesses and issues, giving us his inner peace, and through the tangible encouragement and provisions of His people.

God’s presence has been manifested to us through his people in a variety of ways. We continue to receive great encouragement from our friends in Romania. We receive faithful financial support from many churches and individuals. We experience God’s presence when we plead for help with supplies, like kids clothes and baby supplies and even “extras” like rollerblades for Elin, and the sign up list was filled within two hours. Or in the way so many of you have given hugs, emails, prayers, words of encouragement, and even just genuinely asking questions to find out how we are and inquiring about our lives in Romania. Or when our new pastor at Restoration Presbyterian, who didn’t even know us when we came home, asked me how we’re doing, and when I smilingly responded that we were doing fine, he stopped and looked and

said, “Ok, so how are y’all *really* doing?” Or when the elders of our home church gathered around Derek and prayed for us. We feel seen and loved here in the States and in Romania. And that can only come from God when He is our Emmanuel – when He is here *among us* because He dwells *within* us.

So through these continued trials in 2019, we feel reinvigorated to return to Romania and keep working out our calling to bring the Gospel to others. We know that God is with us – which gives us hope and love and community. And we want others to know Him personally and experience this same love that we know. So somewhat ironically, we’re emboldened in our calling not because we’ve experienced trials, but because *through our* trials we have experienced God’s loving hand – a hand which has faithfully comforted and sustained us.

We know that our trials probably won’t stop when we go back in April – but we are able and excited to return because we know that we have Emmanuel. God IS with us.

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## PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pray for us as we prepare for our traveling season, starting two days after Christmas and continuing until the end of February. Pray for health and patience as we travel as a young family of six all over the eastcoast.

- Pray for the continuing Sunday Social group that is meeting with the Ebbers in Romania. We are encouraged to hear reports of the young couples' commitment to this group and desire to evangelistically pull others into this budding community!

- Pray for God to raise up a Romanian pastor to lead the church.

- Pray for the upcoming Christmas-related ministry events going on in Romania: that the people in Codlea would be drawn to understand Emmanuel in a new way this season.

- 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. They will be on Home Ministry Assignment until January 2021, as they report to churches and seek new financial supporters. They must make up a significant loss of financial support before they can return to the field. Please let us know if you would be interested in speaking with us or the Ebbers and possibly joining their support team,

as well. Supporting our teammates is an indirect, yet incredibly important way you can support us and all the work being done in Romania. The Ebbers have faithfully served there for 12 years! You can [find them here](#).

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### Life in the States Update:

Of course our biggest news in November is the arrival of Miss Jemma Jayne Kreider on Thursday, November 7! She weighed 8 lb, 2 oz and was 20.25 inches long. She's been making up for such a difficult pregnancy by being such an easy baby thus far! We are also so grateful to report that all the kids adore

her and we haven't had any trouble with jealousy whatsoever! WE PRAISE GOD FOR OUR BABIES!

Atticus also turned 4 on November 1, and after I recovered from delivery, we took him to see the real dinosaur bones at an Atlanta museum. He was in heaven!

We also made our first trip as a family of 6 to Pell City, AL to visit with Lakewood Presbyterian Church. They were such gracious hosts to us. It was awesome to see that they have a corkboard for each of the missionaries they support, and they had already printed off our family picture and a picture of Jemma to share with the congregation. They treated us like family, and we were so grateful to fellowship with them!

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!

Dec 1: Restoration Presbyterian

Dec 8: Brookhaven Presbyterian

Dec 27 – Jan 8: Orlando and Bonita Springs, FL

Jan 12: Westminster Presbyterian

Jan 18 – 20: Redeemer Presbyterian, Charleston, SC

Jan 25 – 26: Redeemer Presbyterian, Valdosta, GA

Feb 4-12: Lancaster and Lebanon, PA

Feb 20 – 24: Nashville, TN

Mar 18 – 20: Chestnut Mountain Presbyterian

Mar 21 – 22: Westminster Presbyterian



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IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

11/22/2019 - [Rebuttal to C.S. Lewis's "Why I Am Not a Pacifist"](#) (podcast episode) by Derek  
 11/20/2019 - [How Did Sin Originate in a Perfect World?](#) by Derek  
 11/7/2019 - [What to Expect When You're Expecting](#) 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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