

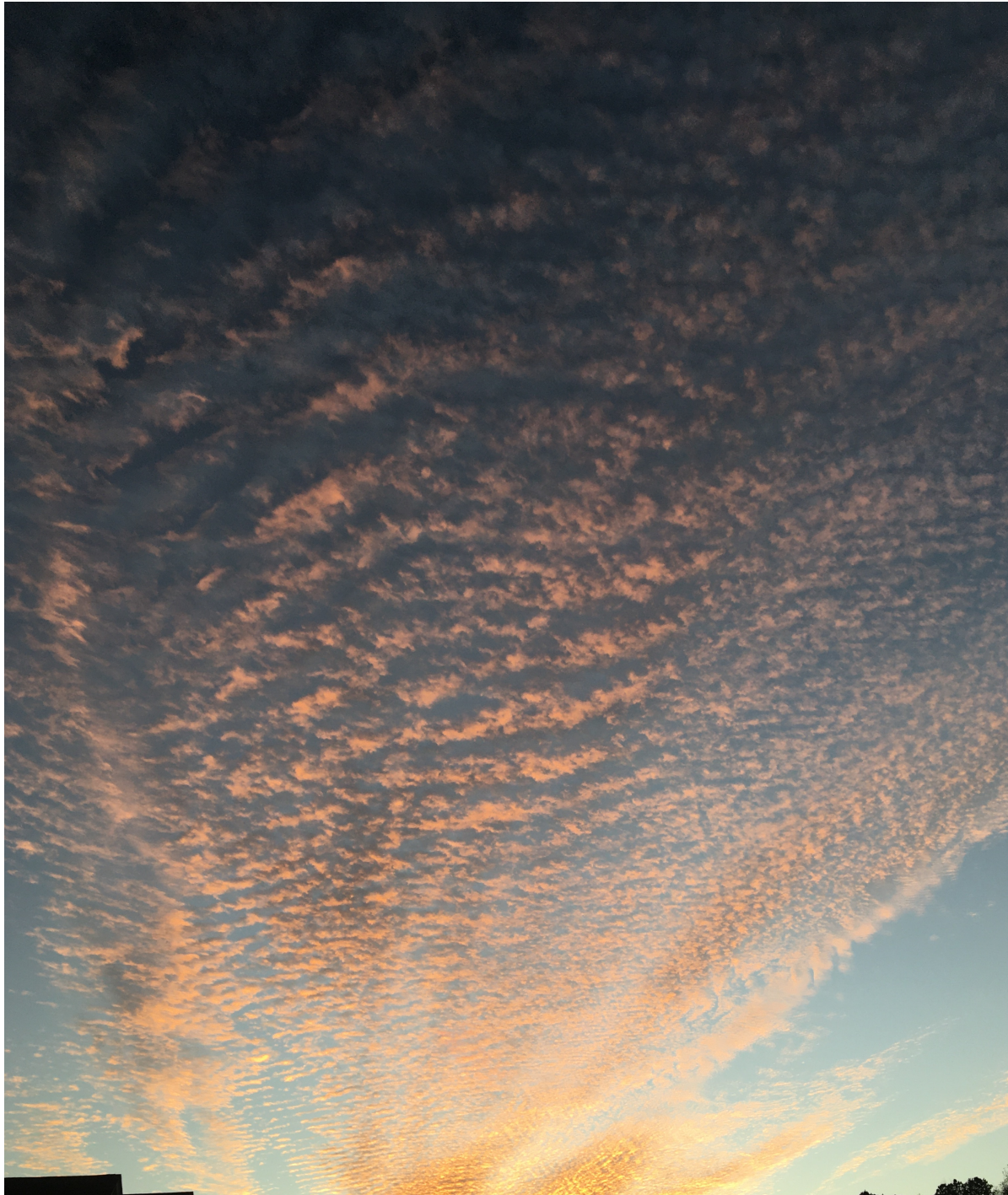
"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God." – 2 Corinthians 5:20

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The Big Question: When will you go back to Romania?

We wish we had an answer to this, but we still don't. The Romanian borders are closed to Americans right now because of the high numbers of COVID19 cases in the States. We have tried every avenue we can think of to find a way back, including emailing the Romanian consulate in Miami, emailing the American consulate, checking if we could enter via an intermediary country, obtaining humanitarian visas, and having friends in Romania contact border security for other options, etc. Please pray with us that the Lord will open a door for us to return, and that He will help us rest and find contentment in His sovereign plan, knowing that ALL THINGS work together for the good of those who love Him as we are conformed to Christ.





Give Thanks Always

2020 has been a strange year for all of us, and a difficult year for many. We know families who have been impacted in significant ways by this year's events. It's a sobering thing to approach Thanksgiving knowing that many may feel a need to dig deep in order to foster a spirit of thankfulness. But at the same time, what better moment for Thanksgiving to fall then at the end of a year filled with such turmoil? Whereas most Thanksgivings have been, at least for me, a time of recognizing all the blessings I've become numb to because blessings had been the expected norm, this year we will have an opportunity to recognize that our blessings are truly that - blessings. They are not guarantees.

Over the past few months we have, like many of you, had our share of difficulties and frustrations. We have gone back to the drawing board with our teammates, our church in Romania, and our mission's agency as we all attempt to figure out what the future looks like in a changing and uncertain world. While we have been frustrated to be far from those we long to be with most right now, we have been blessed for the technology that exists which helps us to continue in our language tutoring, connect with the church, communicate with our team, attend virtual seminars, and create content from a distance. It's certainly not the same as being in person, but we are thankful for the flexibility we have.

We are also thankful for family - both our blood family and our spiritual family. We are thankful for all of the help all four grandparents have provided us with

vehicles and lodging, and for all the attention they've been able to give the grandkids. And we are thankful for our spiritual family, as churches and individuals continue to pray for us and for the ministry in Romania. We are grateful for all those who have reached out to us with encouragement, and we are thankful for so many who have continued to support us.

Without qualification, we are thankful, and we appreciate this time of year which forces us to face those situations which may otherwise create dissatisfaction within us. We would love for you to be praying along with us that we will rejoice always and give thanks in all circumstances. At the same time, please continue to pray with us that God's Kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven, and that through these times, the dissonance we are feeling between what is and what we know ought to be will drive us to pray without ceasing for God's healing hand on our world, and for his gospel to be manifest to the nations.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ~ I Thessalonians 5:16-18

P.S. We are getting ready to send out our Christmas letter. If you haven't received one in the past or if your address has changed in the last year, please let us know so we can make sure we have your address.

PRAISE AND PRAYER:

- Please pray for one of the families on Codlea who are due to have a baby any day now, but have also come down with COVID. Please pray that they would beat COVID before having to enter the hospital to give birth, as their current policy is to quarantine the baby for two weeks if the mother has COVID.

- Continue to pray for the church in Romania. It has been difficult to navigate the government regulations and ministry, and it has made search for a Romanian pastor even more difficult. This has been especially difficult on the leadership of the church, so please be in prayer for them. Like everyone else, we're trying to navigate what this all means for how we move forward.

- Please pray for us as we figure out how to connect from a distance. We are currently working on language tutoring, Bible studies, event planning for advent with Romania, while attending more online trainings and modules through MTW and trying to engage with the missionary community as to how we can effectively minister under COVID restrictions. Pray that we would gain wisdom as to how we can be effective from our current position.

- Please pray for us to have wisdom as to long-term planning. Like most others, we thought this COVID thing would blow over in a few months. At this point, we're realizing it could be another six months or more until things go back to "normal." We've been discussing plans with our teammates and have some plans we're looking to implement soon. Please pray for us as we plan.





Life in the States Update:

Top: The concept of a "white Christmas" didn't resonate too much with Catalina until we moved to Romania. Now, the song and concept are reminders this year that we aren't where we feel we should be. This picture, from our first white Christmas in Romania, is a placeholder for the real thing this year.

Left: One positive about being Stateside is that we've gotten to connect with our teammates who we would otherwise have been separated from for almost a year. They have been in to Georgia several times and we've visited them in Mississippi. It's been a good time of fun, celebration, planning, and growing together.

Right: *We recently celebrated Atticus's and Jemma's birthdays.* Jemma's birthday was particularly bittersweet for us. We came to the States for her birth last year, so celebrating her birthday in the States was a reminder that not only was Jemma a year old, but so was our time here.

That's the end of the newsletter, but it doesn't have to be the end of our communication. We would love to pray with you, chat with you, or answer any questions you may have for us. If you want to meet/chat with us sometime, please reach out to us and we'll set something up.



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

10/14/2020 - [How Can Evil Exist if God is Perfect?](#) by Derek

10/21/2020 - [One Issue Voting: A Response to Scott Klusendorf](#) (podcast) by Derek

11/14/2020 - [A Revised "Pascal's Wager"](#) 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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