

"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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FACEBOOK LIVE EVENT: Join us for a Facebook Live event on Saturday, November 17, at 3PM Eastern Time. We're going to focus on life back in Romania, how we're finding a ministry niche, and what our schedule looks like now. If you need more details on how to join our group or get access to this event, please let us know. And if you don't have Facebook, we'd love for you to email us or call us if you have any questions.

Unity

Our trip back to Romania was flawless. Seriously. We're still in disbelief about how well things went on the trip back: the emotional adjustment of our kids, how well our language seems to have improved, and with how much we felt welcomed back and missed by our Romanian friends. Other than our trip back, it seems like we have a lot of news and a lot to pray about, and all these things seem to center around the theme of unity. So rather than write the normal narrative newsletter, we'd like to categorize what's going on so you can see the big picture with us.

Family: Yes, within two days of being back our kids were sick with ear

infections and coughs, but the sicknesses have been normal and treatable (so far). We're not constantly worrying about whether the boys can breathe, so praise the Lord for His guidance and faithfulness! We did have to give Denton his first albuterol treatment yesterday, but he responded and we're hopeful that this won't be a recurring thing. Please pray that we remain physically and emotionally healthy. Especially pray for our familial health as we figure out our new schedule. Pray that our family would be united and that we would keep family a priority.

Team: We absolutely love our small team. We are are grateful to God for His provision of the Ebbers who have been wise mentors, examples, and encouragements to us. We feel our relationship is very strong and look forward to our continued work with them. Right now, however, the Ebbers are experiencing a financial stressor in that they are towards the end of their term before returning to the States for furlough. By the end of a term, inflation and donor drop-off are usually at their highest, and they are feeling that stress. With our recent, unexpected detour to the States, and being a year into ministry, we are also beginning to see a decline in donations as people shift their contributions, experience life events that cause them to withdraw support, forget to update payment information, etc. Please pray for our team as we navigate through these external necessities of ministry, and pray that our relationship would continue to grow and strengthen.

Church: Our church body has been experiencing a large amount of stress from a variety of sources. Stress can have a tendency to cripple you or of turn you against each other. Fortunately, our community has remained pretty strong, though tired. Pray for the relationships in our church to be strong and pray that zeal for the gospel won't be quelled. Pray that our current Bible and book studies (men, women, and mother studies) would edify individuals and grow us closer as a body. Especially pray for the youth groups that meet on Thursdays and Fridays, led by one of our elders, his wife, and another missionary couple, as well as a program for equipping orphans headed up by two of the younger mothers in our church.

Community: We are currently working with the wife of one of our elders. She is a teacher who believes it would be very beneficial to have us work with some of the kids in her school in an after-school program. Please pray that this program gets approval, and pray that we would build strong relationships with the kids.

The ultimate goal of all we do is to connect individuals to the church, so pray that God would give us wisdom in navigating how to do that. Also pray for *Alexa. We have not seen her since we've been back, which is a bit unusual. We would love to continue working with her and we would love to work with the Roma community. Pray that our relationship has not been severed and that God would continue to open that door if he desires us to continue that pursuit.

Local Church: Right now we are connected with missionaries from five different organizations through our church, and we have acquaintances with missionaries from at least two other organizations. We also have connections with the Hungarian Reformed Church here in Romania through one of our missionary friends. We would love for the relationships between all of the gospel preaching churches in our area to be strengthened, as we believe this would not only be of pragmatic use, but more importantly, internal unity and love is the undisputable mark of a Christ-follower. We want our community to know Christ, and they can most clearly see him through our love and unity. Please pray for wisdom in working together, for unity, and for good communication as we figure out how to best serve and love.

Romanian Church: Our church leadership recently met with a few other pastors from around the country, beginning discussions on starting a presbytery here in Romania. We love the idea of having church connections beyond our local community, as well as accountability and leadership that can be drawn upon. Pray for wisdom for our leadership. Also continue to pray that God would raise up Romanian pastors, especially a native pastor for our church. The work that our team leader began with Third Millennium - an organization that creates content to help train native pastors and congregants - has finally been completed. One of the women in our church is currently going through this course under the guidance of our pastor, and we love that this curriculum is helping individuals to grow in their understanding and worship of God. [Check out one of the translated videos here.](#)

World: The United States seems pretty divided right now, and so does much of the rest of the world. Romania is no exception. There are some big questions being asked and big steps being taken to keep political control. Please pray for the governments around the world, especially in the U.S. and Romania. Pray that turmoil will point Christians to the realization that we are foreigners and aliens here, and that the Kingdom of God is what is needed for true shalom.

Pray that our appropriate Christian response of love and unity during heightened turmoil will be a beacon for a world who can't comprehend being at peace or loving enemies. Pray that Christians would not succumb to the idolatry of government as savior, and that we would rise above partisanship and recognize that we are all one in Christ. Pray that we would be a city on a hill.

Church Universal: [The Orthodox church is facing a schism](#). That might not sound like a big deal to Protestants, but it is a huge deal. It has literally been 1,000 years since the last schism of this (potential) magnitude occurred. It could be bigger than the schism that occurred in the Catholic Church at the time of the Reformation. It seems like Russia and the current political environment are so potent, they're even having effects on the seemingly unassailable Orthodox Church. Disunity is the opposite of what Christ said would indicate his love in the world, and no schism within Christendom is good. Please pray for those in the Orthodox Church who are our brothers and sisters. Also pray that this apparent weakness in the Orthodox Church would help to open the eyes of those who have always just taken religion for granted and viewed it as an inheritance. Pray that there will be questioning of beliefs and that questioners will receive answers which point them to the gospel. Pray that God might use us as a part of that here in Romania.

While the world spirals in its entropy and disunity, there is no better time than now for Christians to demonstrate some chiaroscuro. How strange it would be for the world to see a group of people who were unaffected by the chaos that surrounds us. How powerful it would be for the world to see churches where minorities and majorities, democrats and republicans, rich and poor, and religious leader and sinner all met together and loved each other. More than the stability of my family or of the church here in Codlea, pray for the unity of the church universal and its power as an agent of change to advance the gospel of the Kingdom of God. Pray for that unity with us, and be that unity wherever it is that God has called you to advance his Kingdom.

PLEASE PRAY...

- For continued health (emotional, mental, spiritual, and physical)
- That God would guide us into new relationships as well as strengthen the ones he's already given us. Pray for wisdom as we figure out how to best use our time and resources to advance the gospel and edify the church.

- Continue to pray that our church would find a Romanian pastor.
- Please pray for our church congregants, especially the elders, as there are many who are facing some very difficult circumstances. Please pray that God would give them wisdom and endurance, and that he would help them to lean into the body. Pray that we would have wisdom in reaching out to them and supporting them.





Fall is beautiful in Romania. We are enjoying the nice weather, the kids are enjoying their classmates from school, and Catalina got to teach an English lesson at the kids' school (but we think it was more of a practice of her Romanian skills!). The kids have been so happy to be back with their dogs which they've missed so much, and we're endeavoring to enjoy some Romanian cuisine (top right) as we attempt to make our first batch of [varza murata](#) in the big barrel for Christmas [sarmale](#). We also celebrated Atticus's

birthday this month, playing at a dinosaur park in nearby Rasnov. Happy third birthday, Atticus!

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

10/10/18 - [The High Road of Forgiveness](#) by Derek

09/24/18 - [The Lesser of Two Evils: How Moral Pragmatism Undermines God's Benevolence](#) by Derek

09/22/22 - [How Christians Ought to Vote](#) 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!

Reminders:

- Our teammates, Derek and Shannon Ebbers, have been faithful missionaries to Romania for 11 years now and are seriously the best team leaders God could have possibly provided for us! As is normal for all long-term missionaries, they have recently lost some financial supporters and are looking to make up the loss in their monthly account. Supporting our teammates is a direct way you can be in support of us; if they have to go back to the States for support-raising, that affects the team dynamic and ministry. We would love for you to consider joining our support team by literally supporting our whole team! If you would be interested in reaching out to them, supporting them, or passing their names along to individuals and churches who may have interest in what we're doing in Romania, we would greatly appreciate this. You can [find them here](#).
- 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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<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>

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