

"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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Small World

Our family is currently reading a book called "Hero Tales" as a part of our mealtime devotions. While we're struck by the courage of many Christians throughout the ages, we're simultaneously struck with the blessings we have living in our age. The story that always gives me the most perspective is how missionaries used to pack all their belongings into coffins for their journey

overseas, as they knew that not only did the land they were entering contain great peril, but that the cost of return and lack of opportunity meant that they would likely die in their new homeland.

Having been back to the States twice now - once unplanned and once as an extension - we've recognized the sacrifices missionaries used to make which have been reduced due to the way technology has shrunk the world. But while we are certainly thankful for the blessing of being able to return to the States so easily when needed, it also thrusts us into a new dilemma. One of the first questions people usually ask us is something like, "are you glad to be home?" or "how does it feel being home?" That's a tough question when it feels like you have two homes now, and when it feels like you have left the place which is supposed to be your primary home.

But God is gracious and has given us the blessing of some renewed perspective - a perspective most people never have the opportunity to experience. Having two homes reminds us that home is anywhere God's people are. We have been bathed in prayer, support, love, encouragement, gifts, and companionship from Christians all over Georgia, all over the United States, all over Romania, and even throughout the world. We're constantly reminded of this as we see who is receiving our newsletters, as we communicate with people on Facebook, and as we receive letters and emails from various individuals and families.

Two weeks ago, technology enabled us to briefly FaceTime into our church's small group that started right before we had to leave. While we were making breakfast and getting kids ready for church, we were able to connect to our community half-way across the world. We were able to see faces, hear voices, and interact with our community. What a blessing it is to live in a small world!

The world began to get even smaller as we moved through October. At the beginning of the month we were able to present to one of our supporting churches in the area, and Derek was able to also present at a men's prayer breakfast at his parent's church. At the prayer breakfast, Derek met a man from Romania who invited him to a local Romanian church. We had always wanted to go to a Romanian church, but felt a little weird just showing up, so we were happy to have the invitation.

We ended up going to the Romanian church last week for the evening service and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. It was great to hear Romanian again, as six weeks away from it was making us feel a bit rusty. The experience was awesome and the community was so receptive of us, but it got even better. One of the pastors of the church was from Codlea, the city where we live. More than that, we met a lady who was connected with the local Christian school in Romania. We had actually talked over the phone this last summer while we were both in Romania, and she had apparently come to the States recently and just so happened to attend this Romanian church in Georgia. By the end of the night we met two more Romanians with whom we had connections - one who was a former neighbor and had attended our yard sale when we sold our house, and another who knew of us through a mutual friend.

During October we also had the opportunity to come alongside a Romanian family with whom our church is working. Catalina and I had the opportunity to have a Romanian conversation and help figure things out. It just so happened that we had a connection with the sister of this family. It felt like over and over again God was reminding us of how small the world actually is.

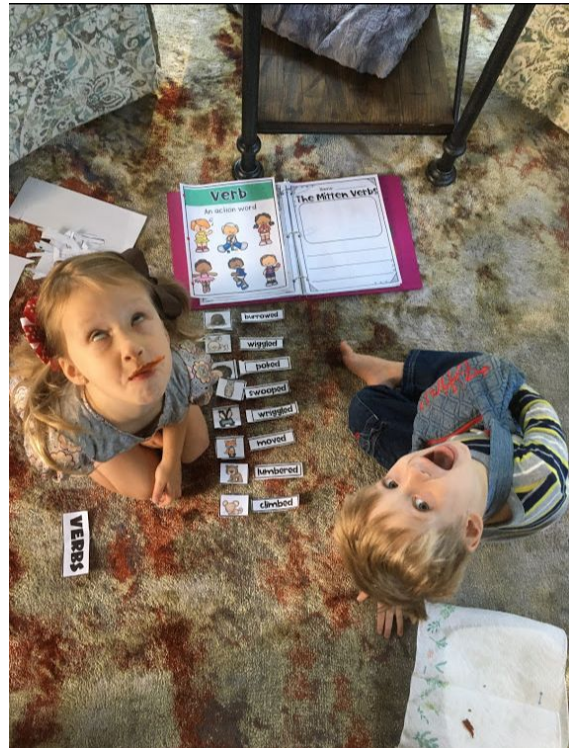
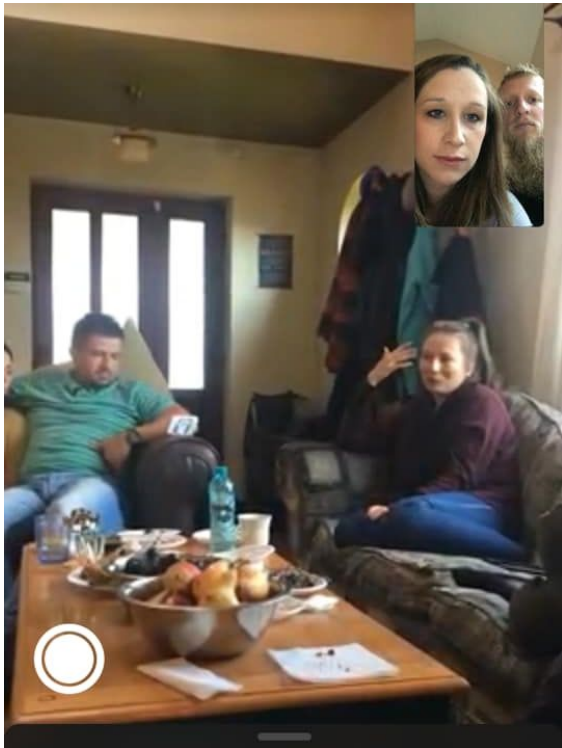
One of the beauties of God's Kingdom is that there really isn't any such thing as a stranger. When God restores all things, we will come together with every tribe, tongue, and nation to glorify him. But God certainly doesn't want us to wait for restoration to do that. Jesus Christ reigns in power now and has sent out his hands and feet - his ambassadors - to bring the good news to the world that Christ's Kingdom is here. In that Kingdom, Jews and Gentiles fellowship together, enemies are our neighbors, and strangers are to be clothed and fed like family. As our family experiences the warmth of so many embracing individuals and communities around the world, and as we see the Kingdom of God manifested in so many places, we are finding that the world has become much smaller. We hope that God, through stories like ours, will help you to see that our world is small because our God is big.



PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Developing ministries in Romania: outreach projects, the young adult group, and Mommy Club
- Our children's health, Catalina's knee, and Jemma's upcoming arrival (see more below)





Life in the States:

We have been through quite a lot since being in the States, but each time God has been so faithful to see us through. Catalina got off crutches mid-October and has really benefited from physical therapy so that she has been cleared for a natural delivery!

We've been enjoying some fall weather activities, Catalina's sister and her kids came down to celebrate Atticus's 4th birthday early (Nov 1 is the actual date), and we've started homeschooling.

We've been able to meet with several supporters, we presented at Chestnut Mountain Presbyterian Church, and Elin began her Communicant Classes at our home church. Plus, we've begun scheduling our out-of-town visits to supporters and supporting churches, which will take us on the road from December 27th through the end of February.

And of course, we're on baby watch! Jemma is due on November 8th, but Catalina is already 3 cm dilated and very ready for her to come as soon as possible!

Upcoming Visits and Presentations:

Please reach out to us if we're coming to or through your area! We'd love to see you!!

- Nov 24 - Lakewood PCA (Pell City, Alabama)

Would you like us to visit and share a presentation for your Sunday School, Community Group, or Youth Group? Let us know! We'd love to visit and help in this way if our schedule allows!

Want to help?

We want to see as many of our supporters as possible while we're home, but it will be quite a task to do that on a one-on-one basis in the short time we have. Plus, we do not have a home of our own right now as we are staying with Derek's parents. Would you be willing to open your home for a small dinner or dessert gathering so we can invite several people at once? We will provide the food and drinks; we just need a place to host! We'd like to be able to visit with supporters, give a short presentation of what's going on in Romania, and answer any questions that people have for us. If you are willing and able to help us in this way, please reach out and let us know!

- Reply to this email

- Email catalina@dckreider.com or kreiderdm@gmail.com

- Call/text Catalina (706-816-9849) or Derek (706-816-6146)

Support Raising:

We have been blessed with faithful supporters and an overall healthy support account. However, our budget will be increasing slightly in the next few years as our children begin schooling, our housing budget increases, and some supporters have had to drop off. Also, MTW changed their donations platform since we began on the field, and sometimes people change credit cards and

forget to update their automatic giving with MTW. **Would you please take a moment to make sure that your pledge and giving is recorded with MTW?** Having a true pledge reflection of monthly giving helps us plan better for our support-raising needs while we're here.



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

10/15/2019 - [Fear Itself](#) 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:

- 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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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

Mission To The World

PO Box 744165

Atlanta, GA 30374-4165

Our Romanian mailing address is

Derek and Catalina Kreider

Str. Vulturului #4

Codlea, 505100

Brasov, Romania

Want to send us something? Check out [this link](#) for more information on how to get it to us!

Using iMessage or WhatsApp, you can contact us on our Romanian phone numbers:

(Yes, the +40 is necessary!)

Catalina: +40 (771) 272 908

Derek: +40 (771) 036 084

Our Stateside mailing address is

Derek and Catalina Kreider

146 Colonial Court

Jefferson, GA 30549

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