



1,000 / 40 for 40: Day FOURTEEN



The first picture shows the different commute types - taxis on the right and the dubița (do-bee-tza) on the left. We take the dubița each day from Codlea to the

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take anywhere from 45 minutes to 1.5 hours to ride the public transportation to get to our school, a drive that would take about 20 minutes in a car! But we kind of enjoy the time to just read, listen to podcasts, catch up on emails, or just sit! And when Derek and I go together to school twice a week, we get to sit and hold hands since they're free of children!!! It's like a date! 😊

I typed too soon yesterday! Though I thought we would not have a reason to see Alexandra again, I saw her today and will see her more next week since we have to get all of our visa documents officially translated from English to Romanian (birth and marriage certificates, diplomas, etc.) It is definitely a lengthy process so perhaps we'll run into her more than we think!

Prayer Requests

Here are our not-so-quick, specific prayer requests for August 11, 2017:

- Pray for our visa application process to go smoothly, quickly, and be approved.
- Pray for my hip/sciatic nerve for Catalina.
- Pray for our language study. We LOVE it so far but it definitely becomes quickly overwhelming. We are getting a glimpse at how Atticus feels because we're basically less than toddlers right now with our ability to speak. It's frustrating and the difference between us and Atticus is that he doesn't deal with the emotions of feeling stupid - he may be overwhelmed and frustrated at not being able to talk but I'm guessing he doesn't feel inept. We shouldn't feel inept either because we're just learning but it's hard to fight those feelings when we get things wrong during our lessons or forget words that we should already know. We're being humbled to be toddler-learners again!
- Pray for our attitudes. We KNOW we've been taken advantage of by taxi drivers since they know we're foreigners and can't speak the language. We know that what they're charging is unfair and today a driver took me way out of the way to get to my destination, but I have no idea how to talk to him to tell him I know what he's doing and it's unfair. We knew from training to expect this sort of thing. And it IS unjust. But our attitudes about it can be just as unmerciful and lacking grace as their decision to cheat us. And, we have to keep in mind that we're being cheated out of less than a dollar when all is said and done. So it's not worth us getting

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to get angry and feel badly towards all taxi drivers. But it's definitely a struggle. Pray for us to be filled with grace and mercy and love, even when we're being cheated - so that in the future when we CAN speak the language and stand up for ourselves we'll be able to do it out of love and justice, not anger and distrust. And I'm also so grateful for the Lord giving me Derek because he's SO much better than I am in helping me remember not to get my panties in a wad over these things. He's full of so much more grace and mercy than I am, so I'm grateful for the way the Holy Spirit uses Derek to gently remind me time and time again. I just may need LOTS of extra reminders here!!

Who We Met

Today is Friday, as I'm sure you know. It's the day of the week that most of us usually look forward to as we prepare to breathe a sigh of relief. Our family took a big breath today. After language classes, running errands for our visa process, cooking for Madalina who just had a baby, etc - we decided to go out to our first restaurant here in Codlea. No dirty dishes to wash tonight and no cooking! We are very tired and thought it would be a great opportunity to see where the locals hang out.

Catalina went to the grocery store after dinner, and I walked the kids back home. In the mood of taking a break, I decided to alter my normal route home to avoid Flora - the Roma woman who has asked us for money every time we've run into her. We avoided Dorita, the old men's group, and Calin. I did keep my eyes open for Emil and his son Nicolae, as Elin is really desperate for friends and already considers Nicolae as such, but other than that, we avoided our normal route. We just needed a break. But on our altered course we ran into two new, older ladies - Elen and Elena.

What is particularly interesting about Elena is that Nicolae, our next door neighbor, is actually her brother. Out of a huge city block of five story apartments we just so happened to run into and talk to the sister of our neighbor. I thought that was pretty cool. At the same time, we marked our territory on another block, ensuring that there are now fewer paths of respite on our way home. That is a very awesome thing but also an overwhelming thing at this point. It's constantly a dual blessing and struggle. We're so grateful for community, but everyone needs a break sometimes. Please pray for our

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pregnancy develops, and as the newness of our community wears off. Also pray for Elen and Elena. We have an instant connection due to our neighbor Nicolae and Elen and Elena LOVED our kids. Pray that we would have more opportunities to build a relationship with them and pray that God would be drawing them closer to himself.

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