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1,000 / 40 for 40: Day FIFTEEN

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Atticus is becoming quite the little daredevil. I looked up from talking to Renate and realized he was quickly at the very top of this ladder and attempting to swing his leg over the other side. But at least the park is a great way to meet people!

Prayer Requests

Here are our quick, specific prayer requests for August 12, 2017:

- Pray for Elin's heart. We walked ten minutes to the park this evening and the whole way there Elin was waving at every kid she saw, who of course were all at least 5 years older than her and didn't so much as look her way. She keeps talking about missing her friends and how sad she is - which absolutely surprises us. We had no idea a three-year-old would feel such a loss. The babies played with a few other kids at the park this evening. On the way home Elin referred to them as her friends even though they didn't even speak and we spent half of the time trying to coax the kids to share. She is desperate for connection and we don't know how to give that to her. It's just a desperate plea of our hearts that the Lord would provide this for her, because He is the only one who can right now.
- Pray for a Romanian pastor. Tomorrow is our third Sunday here, and every Sunday is a reminder that we are still praying for a Romanian pastor to be raised up to lead this congregation.

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I mentioned in yesterday's update that I was exhausted and excited for a Friday break. Well, today it was Catalina's turn to feel that exhaustion. We managed to pull ourselves out of the house after dinner and took the kids to the park. We were blessed to meet Renate and her father Trian, along with Renate's two children: Tio (almost 4) and Astrid (2). We were blessed even more that Renate spoke English, so when we couldn't translate, she intervened. It was a nice safety cushion that helped us to relax a little more.

We found out that Renate and Trian are Seventh Day Adventists. We talked a little about the differences between their denomination and ours. We also chatted a bit about religion in Romanian culture. I said that I had observed only older Romanians heading out to church on Sunday mornings, and my impression from observations and conversations with other Romanians was that the younger generation wasn't too interested in religion. Renate said that this is largely the case, especially in Orthodoxy. She said that the Orthodox in Romania largely acquire it through birth and tradition, but her church has a wide variety of ages, and those who come do so because they want to. It was an interesting perspective. She then invited us to travel with her family to visit Dracula's Castle tomorrow - but of course we have church and they don't. Nevertheless, we had a great conversation, exchanged numbers, and hopefully made some friends. She was so nice and even offered to help Catalina with the pregnancy and finding doctors. We are hoping that we get to see them again.

Please pray for Renate and Trian. We know that many churches over here that aren't Orthodox still cling to a rules and regulations mentality that kills any inclination towards embracing grace. I don't know anything about Renate and Trian's faith, so pray that they would have wisdom and discernment as they seek God, and that God would either be leading them to or strengthening them in a true faith and reliance on him. Also pray for us as we will certainly run into more religious people while we're here. Pray for wisdom in our encounters. While we love theology and embrace good conversation, our primary goal is to share the gospel with the lost, not to convert a true believer from one denomination to another. We believe that Christ told us that one of the best ways to show ourselves to the world is by loving one another. We do not at all see the work here as a place for in-fighting and competition. Pray that we would have wisdom as we seek ecumenicism and as we seek to find other believers and partner with them, while at the same time maintaining our doctrinal identity and integrity.

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know this family so that Elin may be able to maintain some true friendships.

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