



1,000 / 40 for 40: Day EIGHTEEN



Several people have emailed us about updating our address at the bottom of this email. We were having a hard time getting our internet to really work, so we

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address at the bottom of the newsletter. Also, several people have asked about sending us things that we're missing. As of right now, there's not much that we're missing that we can't get either right here in the country or through the German Amazon (with free shipping since we're in the EU!). But we LOVE getting snail mail, especially cards and such. The kids love getting coloring pages, stickers, gum, etc.- small things that can fit in a normal envelope. And we would be so happy if you updated your address book and send us your Christmas card. (We don't even care if we don't get it until mid-January!) Finally, if anyone does choose to send anything, here are some good guidelines:

- Wrap each individual thing you send like it's a present for the kids or something.
- Don't list the value of the package as more than about \$30 or else we may have to pay extra "fees" (cough cough - wink wink) to actually receive our things.
- Everything will get searched (though wrapping our presents will help curb that sometimes), so definitely don't send anything that would be devastating to get (ahem) "lost."

Prayer Requests

Here are our quick, specific prayer requests for August 15, 2017:

- Today I went to language tutoring with Corina, our teacher. She just found out news this morning that she had suspected for a while - that her son has high-functioning autism in a country with no government-sponsored financial aid to help with the therapies, medicines, tests, special schools, helpers, etc. that her son needs. There are no Special Education programs in Romania. She's overwhelmed by the magnitude of it all and doesn't have the resources available to her - even though she knows they exist. I listened and talked for about thirty minutes of our language time and then asked if I could pray with her. She agreed, and sitting together we prayed for her and her son and for her to find strength to manage through Christ and not herself. Please pray for Corina and her son. Pray for us to have wisdom and compassion.
- We found out that "Kindergarten" here starts at age 3. It's 4 hours per day, and there are many public and private options in our area. Classes begin mid-September, so please pray for urgent guidance on whether this may

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gets used to it. But we know that it would be a HARD adjustment for her. Plus, it would help her learn the language. We will begin looking into it and asking around, so please pray for us to know what to do and what is best for her. We need the Lord's guidance!!

- The usuals - Catalina's hips and pregnancy, friends for Elin, pastor for our church. THANK YOU!

Who We Met

We met the fifth and final lady from the group that sits on the wall outside our house. Her name is Moni (presumably short for Monica), and boy is she a fireball! Derek and I both agreed that she reminds us of a Romanian Grandma Kreider (for those of you who will understand the reference to Derek's grandma!). She's SO kind and outgoing, and she just has an unexplainable spunk to her and the way she talks and interacts. She started yelling at some of the neighborhood kids who were picking up their pet rabbit by the ears. She's great!

She gave us some eggs from her home and also mentioned that they're good, natural nutrition for our kids. Again, our assumption is that the neighborhood ladies are worried about our children being too skinny, which I simply do not understand! Haha! But like all good grandmas, we take this as a huge sign of love and care for us - and accepting us into the family.

Now everytime we walk outside, Elin goes to sit on the wall by herself and pretends to be the old ladies. She uses the few Romanian words she knows (hello, nice to meet you, my name is, etc. etc.) and then makes up her own gibberish the rest of the time. She insists that we come by her and shake her hand and speak to her in Romanian. It's so precious!! Tonight as we parted with the ladies, she said "La Reveredera" (Goodbye!), and they all burst into smiles and loving laughs that she finally spoke to them in their heart language. It was awesome!

Pray for Moni and our relationship with her to continue, like the other ladies. We assume that she is Orthodox like the others. Pray that she would have a living faith in Christ, one that relies on his grace and not her works. As we should pray for everyone, including ourselves!

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