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# 1,000 / 40 for 40: Day TWENTY

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Can you believe we're already halfway through our forty days of prayer? But if you've been able to pray for us everyday, then by tomorrow it's scientifically become a habit for you, so you should just continue! :-) We are truly grateful for your prayers, emails, and encouragement.

Today Shannon and Hannah Ebbers took the kids and me to bring a meal to Madalina, Mihai, and baby Alma. She's one of the smallest babies I've ever held, and she's such a joy!

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## Prayer Requests

Here are our quick, specific prayer requests for August 17, 2017:

- Madalina is extremely exhausted, as most new moms are. But thankfully Alma is already back to birth weight, so that's a great sign. Pray for her, Mihai, and baby Alma.
- The usuals - Catalina's hips and pregnancy, friends for Elin, decision about Kindergarten and which one, pastor for our church. THANK YOU!

## Who We Met

On our way back from taking the meal to Madalina, we stopped at Hornbach - basically a Romanian version of Home Depot. We had previously bought a water filtration system there because we forgot to buy one and ship it on our pallet as had been advised. Derek had installed the filter correctly, and we were

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When we tried to return it, the lady at the front sent for an English-speaking worker. When he came, our experience went south really quickly. His name was Perocules (I actually don't know if that's it because I have no idea how to spell it.) Let's put it this way - think of the worst customer service experience you've had in the States, and this was likely much worse. He was immediately frustrated when we got there and questioned whether I was telling the truth about the leak (thankfully Derek had the great idea to take a video of the leak to prove it), berated me for not having put the defective product back in the bags/boxes correctly, stormed off to check another box of the same product insinuating we had not returned all of the parts correctly, blamed my husband for not installing it correctly and that's why it leaked, tried to convince me that the product is fine and all that I needed to do was buy some water-proof electrical tape to fix it, demeaned me for being from the States and not knowing how things work around here, and then finally called his boss saying that we could not return it because it had already been opened and used. My mom once described me as a bulldog, which I've actually prayed for a long time for the Lord to soften me. And He certainly has, especially through Derek's example of always being full of grace, apologetic, and kind even with the worst people. And it truly was just the Spirit in me because even in the face of all of this mistreatment, I was able to remain calm and respectful yet firm in my resolve to have the problem fixed.

When the boss came, he too said that we could not return it because it was already used and tried to explain to me how to unscrew certain parts to fix it myself. When I told him that I am not a plumber and did not feel comfortable or capable to fix this problem myself and continued to insist that it be resolved. Finally, he mentioned that the product came with a two-year guarantee, which meant that Hornbach would fix try fixing the leak three times before we would receive our money back if it cannot be fixed. This was not the solution I was hoping for because at this point we just wanted to be rid of the darn thing, but at least this was a legitimate solution that they were willing to fix. Perocules walked me back to the service repair section to get my information. He softened - a little - after taking a last jab at how they don't "do things like that around here." Oh well, hopefully it will be resolved.

While we were standing there Elin and Atticus were getting restless (it took over an hour!), and I tried to explain to Elin that we needed to be very nice and polite

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tried to explain his mood. Thankfully, she calmed down. But what I should have done is led her in a quick prayer for the Lord's help. He was there, and He helped because I'm telling you right now that "the bulldog" was restrained by the Holy Spirit. But I do want to pray for Perocules because he lives in a country of dishonesty, where people can't trust others. He's probably suspicious because he's had to become that way. Maybe he was just having a particularly frustrating day. Or maybe he's just a curmudgeon of a human being who desperately needs Christ's love to shine in his heart. I'm certain of at least that last part, regardless of the circumstances. And since he's one of the few English-speaking workers, and since we will have to go back to Hornbach since they carry things we need, it is likely that I will see him again. And I would be surprised if he didn't remember me after today. Please pray that our every action, even in the face of such injustice, would be a pleasing aroma to those around us because that's what Christ would call us to do. Pray for Perocules and for him to know Christ. And help me to see myself in Perocules, because without the Spirit in me I am absolutely no better than he.

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