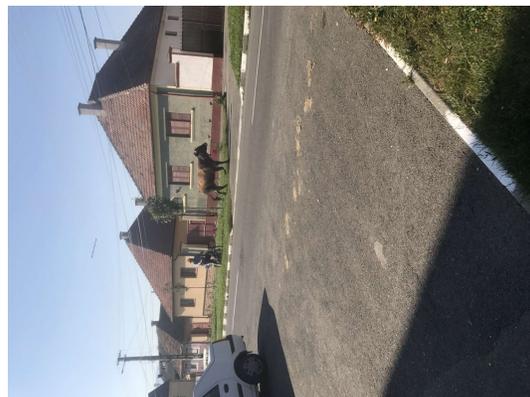




1,000 / 40 for 40: Day TWENTY THREE



The first picture is of Cipri reading the sermon today at church.

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cart." (Maybe someone will get the Dumb and Dumber reference.) It just struck me as so funny and one of those "we're definitely in a different country moments."

Prayer Requests

Here are our quick, specific prayer requests for August 20, 2017:

- Catalina is sick with something - not sure yet if it's food poisoning or a virus or maybe she got some unboiled water. Pray for her and baby Denton and that she won't become hydrated.
- Cami is the wife of one of the elders at church and is a fourth grade teacher right here in Codlea. She told me A LOT about the Kindergarten options around here and set my mind at ease about a lot of my fears. Apparently there's a Kindergarten where the teachers speak English so the Romanian kids can learn it. We think this might be a fantastic transition option for Elin because she'll still hear a ton of Romanian since the kids speak it. But it's a private school - so it costs. And apparently everyone enrolls for school in the Spring to start the following September. So we have no idea if there are any spots available for her. Please pray for the Lord's continued guidance and for open doors to the right school for her. We finally asked Elin today if she would like to go to school and she gave a resounding YES! So that's also a great sign and a huge answer to prayer in helping us make this decision. Please keep praying for this!
- 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

Earlier we introduced you to Măria, one of the two pregnant ladies I've met in our church. She still has two weeks until her due date. Well today we'll introduce you to her husband, Cipri (Cheepree).

Cipri grew up in the same orphanage as Măria and says he remembers the day she was dropped off at the orphanage. His parents are Roma, so it's so interesting to see how differently his life has turned out because he was in the orphanage than if he had stayed with his parents. It's also interesting because then, Măria and Cipri are in a pretty uncommon marriage since he's Roma and

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grade at the most because it's not a cultural value. They are sent to "work" as beggars in the markets or grocery stores or digging through dumpsters by their parents. So the fact that Cipri grew up, got a college education, and is holding down a steady engineering job as a he starts a family is one of those very rare success stories!

He's also a very committed follower of Jesus who is super kind and clearly has a heart for children. He's been so kind to Elin and Atticus. He often leads parts of the worship service, but today we got to hear him read the entire sermon since the regular pastor was sick today. He's got the kindest smile and laugh, and he wants so badly to be a good dad and husband. We are really blessed to know him.

Please continue praying for Măria and Cipri as they prepare for baby Debora. Pray that the Lord would give them wisdom and love as new parents, and that they would find their identity in Christ and not their parenting. Pray that Cipri would continue to grow as a church leader and deepen his relationship with the Lord. Pray that we would be able to encourage them somehow and that they would also be invested in us as fellow church members.

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