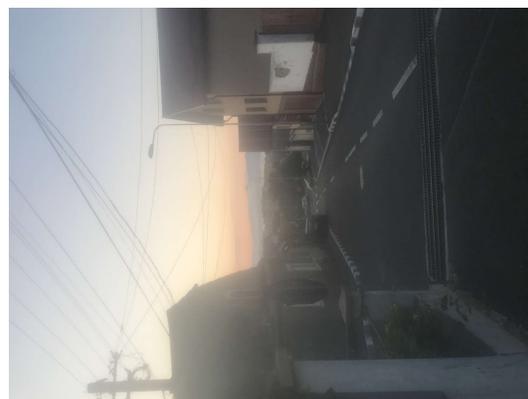




# 1,000 / 40 for 40: Day TWENTY SEVEN



I was so thrilled to get ultrasound pictures of Baby Denton!

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degrees F as I left this morning. It's hard to believe it was in the 90s less than two weeks ago, as I donned a sweater and scarf!!

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## Prayer Requests

Here are our quick, specific prayer requests for August 24, 2017:

- Pray for the abortion culture here in Romania.
- Please continue to pray for my hips and back, which are getting increasingly worse as I progress in pregnancy. I'm already limiting myself a LOT and confining myself to the house except for appointments and language school because it hurts so badly to even walk ten minutes to the market. Pray for Derek, too, because he's doing a lot of the extra housework and grocery store runs for me.
- Pray for our marriage - that we might find new ways to really connect. It's so very easy to get caught up in all that has to be done each day and be exhausted when the kids go to bed so that we just want to veg out. Pray that the Lord would protect our family by helping the backbone of our family - our marriage - to flourish here.
- Pray for the Lord's favor as Derek journeys out to look for a car this weekend. We've found out more information and are excited about potential options. But we also know that there is a great chance of us being scammed or greatly overcharged as foreigners. Pray that the Lord would fight these battles for us and bind the Enemy from discouraging us in this way.
- 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

Dr. Priscilla Balint spoke great English and was so kind to us! It turned out that Shannon got sick, so we got babysitters so that's our team leader, Derek Ebbers, could take Derek and me to the appointment. We were grateful for his help and care. But it was pretty hilarious to see Dr. Balint's eyes widen in both shock and curiosity when she called me from the waiting room to her office and saw two men sitting with me. Oh, the questions that must have been going through her mind about these crazy foreigners!

Everything seemed very normal in her office like in the States except that her

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the States, but it was all very clean and well-maintained. And all 3 times I've gone there I've seen several women mopping/cleaning. What was really cool (and my Stateside doctor should even consider!) was that they had a tv mounted to the wall which was connected to the sonogram machine so that Derek and I could easily see everything she was seeing without trying to crane our necks around her machine. Everything looked great and we got like 10 pictures printed for us! Interestingly there is an anti-late term abortion law here (which totally surprised me because we've heard and read a lot about the abortion culture here!) so they can't abort after 24 weeks. So the doctor said that since I'm 23 weeks she has to have time to look at the ultrasound more thoroughly to truly make sure everything looks good and advise before the 24 week mark, even though her initial check looked good to her. I told her that regardless of her findings we would not abort for any reason, she said that it's still a law that she has to cover with me. I'm grateful that there is at least some law here about abortions!!

This is also a very big pro-elective Cesarean culture, so one of my main questions for a doctor is if he/she would help me labor naturally or push me to have a c-section. I'm grateful that she not only seemed willing but was very much in favor of me having a natural birth! The doctors office is in the same building as the actual labor and delivery hospital and she had a patient upstairs laboring, so I didn't get to ask her all of my doctor-philosophy questions, but I asked the main ones and am very pleased so far! And I'll be going back tomorrow for that follow-up appointment and can hopefully ask there.

Just like most practices I know of in the States, there are other doctors at this hospital, but from my questions it seems that unless she's sick or really unable to be there, she would be the one delivering, whereas in the States it's just about who happens to be on-call at the time of delivery. So that was also comforting to hear that barring some illness or emergency she would be able to deliver the baby. And also, there are at least 3 other doctors who deliver at this hospital who speak English so that would be very helpful during delivery. Though I still plan to learn some important words in Romanian like "push" and "stop!"

Medicine seems to be a place of open doors to speaking of religion. She already asked why we moved here and we told her to work with a church. And then we at least briefly got to share our pro-life stance. So perhaps we'll get

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deciding if she's the right doctor for me - one who will listen and communicate with me well and be compassionate about my overseas situation. Pray, of course, for her salvation. Please pray even now that my labor and delivery might be a testament to the Lord and His mercy and grace and care for us.

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