



1,000 / 40 for 40: Day THIRTY ONE



The babies like to sit in this tree outside our neighbor's house and wait for us as we come home from language school. (Don't worry mom - Hannah and Elijah

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Facetime with the grandparents during dinner! We're so excited they are booking plane tickets to come here for Christmas and Denton'

Prayer Requests

Here are our quick, specific prayer requests for August 28, 2017:

- We're making headway in purchasing a car - sort of. So we can only take out \$2K per day here from the bank as per our Stateside bank rules. Though we have decided on which car to purchase, we were a bit discouraged that we couldn't buy the car for about another week until we could take out the required money. But then we found out we could buy the car with our credit card and then immediately pay it off with our money I'm the bank. So then we got excited to maybe even buy the car today. But then... we discovered that we cannot buy a car in Romania without the identification number we get from our visa IDs. And since it'll probably be at least another two weeks for us to get a response about our visa request, we're back to the waiting game. But God has done a lot more miraculous things for us than overcome bureaucratic inefficiency, so we're praying - and would love for you to join us - that we would miraculously get visa approval much sooner so we can purchase a car. And in the meantime, keep praying for my back/hips and God's strength. And encouragement. I have basically stayed at the house except for language school and the occasional "big" grocery store run and church. Derek takes the kids on walks, to the park, and the market center while I stay at home so it's easy to feel isolated as I try to stay off my feet as much as possible. I do NOT want to end up on true bed rest so we're trying to be as preventative as possible. But pray for that car!!!!
- The usuals - Catalina's hips and pregnancy, car, the visa process, friends for Elin, decision about Kindergarten and which one, pastor for our church. THANK YOU!

Who We Met

I'm not entirely sure if this "counts," but I'm so excited and grateful that I'll write about her anyway. I called and spoke with Leticia this morning, the owner of a PreK in our town. It's the only school we've heard of that offers English, and she spoke English so we were finally able to make some headway in planning for Kindergarten for Elin.

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we can't envision things and we fight our thoughts from going to the worst case scenario? If you don't know then you must not be a parent and must not have any relationship whatsoever with your mama. Or your mama is just super woman! But that's been something I've been fighting for a bit regarding Kindergarten. I kept envisioning some dark, stale, prison-like environment where the kids just sit in front of a tv each day. I know, it's silly but perhaps I've read too much about communist-era Romania. So to finally get on a website and see pictures of smiling children, crafts, outdoor playtime, bright colors on the wall, healthy snacks, and engaged workers was a real comfort! And then to speak in English to Leticia and found out even more great things about this PreK just makes me so grateful!

Obviously the majority of the kids will speak Romanian and the majority of the time will be in Romanian so Elin will definitely learn the language. But I'm grateful for a teacher who can speak English to help her emotionally as she transitions. And they teach English for an hour each day, so the kids will be learning a little English. They also get an hour of German, which isn't my first choice for Elin (don't want her to get too confused), but it's definitely worth the trade-off of knowing she can speak English too. Leticia was very kind and sounded like she was very easy going and willing to work with us. AND THE BEST PART is that they also have a daycare/nursery program for Atticus's age so he'll be able to go the same location, and even though they'll be in separate classes, I think it will be a great comfort that they'll be at the same place.

And were excited for the possibilities this opens up for our family. The kids will go from about 8 - 11:30, so Derek and I are hoping we can change our language school schedule so that we can both attend class together in the mornings, which makes language school cheaper for us, gives us time together, AND means we get to be together as a whole family everyday after noon. It truly seems that God has worked out every single detail about which we have been praying, and we're just so grateful and excited!

And thinking ahead, I feel like it will help tremendously in January as we transition to having a newborn in the house if the other kids are in school each morning.

We have prayed so much about this decision and can't express how excited we are about what seems to be the outcome. Our Lord is faithful to provide for our

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individual child in their respective classes. So we ask you to join us in praying that this situation will not just be a blessing to us but will also be an opportunity it's for Kingdom-advancement as we get to know parents of other children and the teachers. Pray for Leticia and that God would open doors for us to get to know her on a personal level and bring her to Himself if she is not already. Pray for the details to continue working out!

We will meet her and tour the school officially in two weeks, on September 11, and the kids could potentially start on Tuesday September 12. Pray for our children, too, to transition well. Even though we are prayerfully convinced this is God's plan and provision for us - and especially Elin - we also know it will take some getting used to and may begin with many tears during the transition. Please pray that those fears and tears can be kept to a minimum as God ministers to our hearts and brings comfort to our babies that even we cannot give them.

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