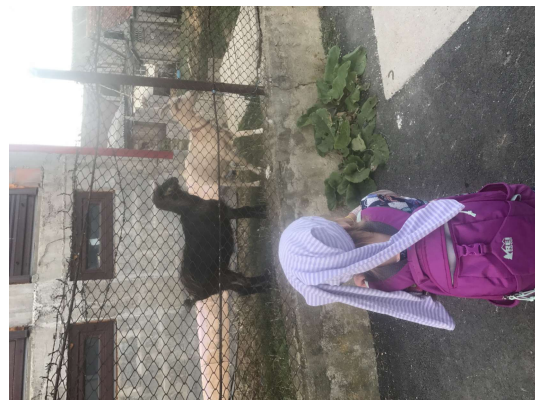
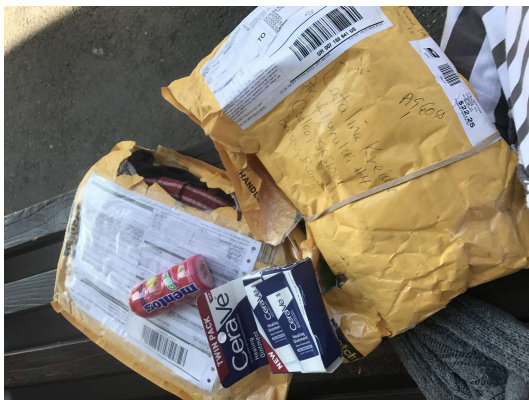




1,000 / 40 for 40: Day THIRTY FOUR



We received a message in our mailbox to pick up a package at the post office, so today I went after class to pick it up. My mom sent two packages for the babies, and you can see how we received them - already opened and

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didn't buy it. It's a gift from my mom from the States for the grandchildren." He looked through it all but then finally gave it to me without making me pay anything! Whew! First successful package pick up, no "special fees" required, and the kids were so excited to receive their clothes, stickers, and candy!! But we were disappointed when we discovered that they had eaten some of the candy sent and opened my package of sour patch kids, took out the candy, and put the empty box back in the package so that we thought it was all there. Ugh! Oh well, things could be worse. Thank you for our gifts Lolli and Pop!!

Prayer Requests

Here are our quick, specific prayer requests for August 31, 2017:

- Pray for our continued language learning. After being away on vacation for two weeks, our morning tutor Ionutz was very encouraging as he said he can tell a big difference in my abilities after being gone for two weeks! That was SO encouraging to hear, especially when daily it just seems like we still can't say much! Little by little - keep praying!
- The usuals - Our visa to come quickly, Catalina's hips and pregnancy, car, friends for Elin, decision about Kindergarten and which one, pastor for our church. THANK YOU!

Who We Met

The other day my language tutor Corina dropped me off at my bus stop in the company car that has an advertisement for the school on the side of it. When I sat down on the bench next to two ladies, they started speaking English and asked me about the school. I learned their names right as my bus pulled up so I didn't have time to clarify their names. And they had new names I had never heard before so I don't know how to spell them, and frankly can't even really remember how to say them. But they both started with an M so I'll refer to them as M1 and M2.

M1 told me about working in the peace corp with other Americans who were ambassadors under Obama. She had very positive things to say about them and said they specialized in youth programs in a romania. She said she also taught English classes in the corp and other arenas of life. She asked me what

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but her tone seems a bit condescending when she said that the other Americans weren't religious and did the youth programs. So I told her that our church in Codlea opened a leadership training center and also held English classes. The idea of leadership seemed to re-energize our friendly conversation.

She told me that Romanians need to learn about leadership because all they know about is management. She said leadership is about doing well by example and giving people something to follow instead of just dictating what to do. I agreed wholeheartedly!! I told her I had developed leadership curriculum for kids and teenagers for six years in the States and that, while I wasn't happy to hear that they lack leadership training, I was glad to know we might be useful in Romania in several ways.

Then M2 joined the conversation in good English but I couldn't totally understand her meaning. She said she lived here but was homeless. I was confused! And unfortunately then my bus came so I had to leave the conversation.

Please pray for M1 and M2 because God knows their names! Pray that they would come to know the Lord and understand that He is the true cure for the country's issues, not youth programs or leadership training. Pray for M2, especially if she really is homeless. Pray that the Lord would use them both to bring about positive change and human flourishing in Romania, and pray that they would receive Christ! And pray for the country as a whole - that the Lord would give the people of this nation hearts of flesh from their hearts of stone.

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