



1,000 / 40 for 40: Day THIRTY SIX



From our picnic today.

Prayer Requests

Here are our quick, specific prayer requests for September 2, 2017:

- We have met a lot of people in the last 36 days, and it's been good to be strategically thinking about meeting people and learning names. Even after these 40 days, pray that the Lord would continue to move our heart to be very community-minded, patient with others, friendly and open, willing to stop and talk, and mindful of which of these people (or new people) the Lord is calling us to invest in.
- PRAISE! - We got our water filter back from being repaired and it's working!! It was so nice to be able to quickly fill up a glass of water for the kids today. And there was absolutely no hassle for me when picking it up. Thank you for your prayers about this!
- 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

We try really hard to set Saturdays aside as family rest days. We want to get in this habit even now because for people in ministry, Sundays are rarely actually restful. The Lord has really convicted our hearts of the ways we withdrew from his gift of Sabbath each week to rest and feel fully satisfied in Him. We began practicing Sabbath rest more regularly back in the States and have continued that here. It is not legalistic for us at all; the Lord has truly opened our eyes to what Sabbath is about and how great it is. Revelation tells us that Hell is a place of no rest, so when we don't allow ourselves to rest, we are literally bringing Hell to our lives now. And I remember the day it hit me - when I don't accept this gift that God has so graciously given to me, it's like when my kids open a Christmas present that I took time to pick out for them and am excited about but they just throw it aside and don't care for it. We've prayerfully tried to accept this gift and adore it for what it is. But anyway, that's not really about who we met today...

As part of our Saturday Sabbaths, Derek wakes up and makes pancakes and bacon or sausage, oftentimes with Elin's help. And we have tried to eat leftovers or go out to eat for dinner to celebrate the week, enjoy our time together as a family, and leave work for another day. But today we did something special; we packed a picnic lunch and went up to the base of the

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the start of the mountain. We often see people walking past our house with hiking backpacks on, headed to the strenuous mountain climbs. Romanians are very focused on being outdoors as a cultural value, and it seems like Saturdays and Sundays are definitely viewed as family days to do something outdoors. Today was no exception, as there were MANY families in the fields with us eating their own picnics, blasting music from their cars, and casually laying in the sun in their bras and underwear (seriously!). We packed a special lunch complete with brownies and had a terrific time. We realized that this was the first time in our kids' lives that we actually had a genuine picnic, complete with a basket and blankets! After we ate, the kids and Derek went and explored the woods a bit while I sat with our things and read quietly by myself. The whole experience was heavenly!

On our walk back home, we passed a lady with two dogs and an empty water container in her hand. The kids, of course, immediately wanted to pet the dogs, and she had a kind, gentle look to her face. We said hello and kind of slowed our pace to see her response (which we usually do to see if someone is interested in talking or not). She immediately started to jabber away in Romanian and we quickly told her we don't understand much. Sometimes this leads people to just say "Ok" and stop talking. But she tried to say a few things in English (most people try either German or English because so many people think we're German because of Derek's and the kids' super blond hair!). We introduced ourselves and found out that her name is Elina and her dogs names were Cora and Leah. When we told her our names, she immediately recognized Derek's name and asked if we are friends with Moni and Dan (remember the elder from our church and his wife?). She obviously thought that we were the Ebbers, so we tried to clarify that we're friends with all of them but that now there are TWO English-speaking Dereks in the small town of Codlea! She was very kind and we tried to speak a little more, but then she had to leave and so did we.

We hope to see Elina again, especially since there is already a slight connection to other people we know in Codlea. Pray that we could connect with her more one day and that through the influence of Dan, Moni, the Ebbers, and us, the Lord would reach her heart if He hasn't already.

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