

1,000 / 40 For 40 (Day 5)

[Campaign Preview](#)

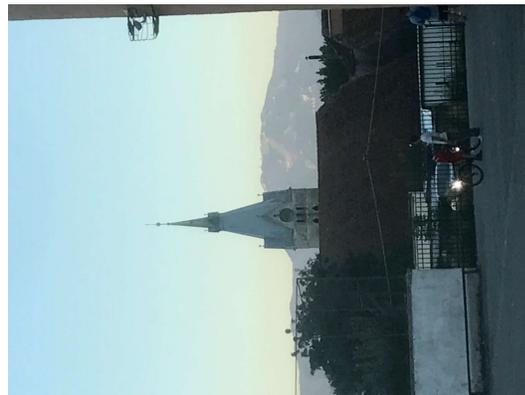
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1,000 / 40 for 40: Day FIVE



Derek playing soccer with Emil and his son Nicolae.
The church in the center of town that spawned the religious conversation.

Prayer Requests

Here are our quick, specific prayer requests for August 2, 2017.

- Derek's back is improving little by little but please keep praying. In the meantime my sciatic nerve pain has kicked in (same thing every pregnancy!). We're too young to be falling apart like this!! Haha!! We walk everywhere which makes it especially hard to have physical pain. Please pray for us.
- We are communicating with a local language tutor to start lessons next week while also trying to maintain consistency for our kids. Pray that we can work out good times for language school and find other ways to learn the language.

Who We Met

Last night we went out for an after dinner stroll around town. For those of you with little kids, you may understand that necessity for maintaining sanity. It's that 90 minute block after dinner and before the bedtime routine where everything goes crazy if you don't fill that time. Fortunately, this is the time when everyone seems to come out around here.

Last night we met a man, Emil, and his son. They were at a little soccer park kicking a ball around. We chatted a bit - in English - but I was able to ask him a lot of great Romanian questions too. Tonight we returned and Emil was there again. We got into some great conversations and I learned a lot of cultural information. For instance, Emil said that the word for "fisherman," (Pescara) was also a word that could be used to mean "liar." It was very interesting.

At one point, Emil began pointing out some of the churches in the area and talking about religion. We dialogued for a bit and I found out that Emil doesn't consider himself a Christian, or anything else. While he doesn't view the church as bad, he views it as ineffective. Emil's metric for spirituality and morality is doing good. While everyone goes through rituals Emil performs actions. He said he considers one of his good works worth more than 100 prayers and rituals.

I think God would agree with Emil, at least in part. Obedience is better than ritual sacrifice, as Samuel says, and James seems to indicate the same. But Emil's obedience is not to his creator God. Rather, Emil obeys that which helps to satiate his guilt and helps him feel as though he has purpose. Please pray for Emil. Pray that his experience with stale religion won't hinder his acceptance of the gospel. Pray that we will have the opportunity to plug Emil into the church body and that he will experience the joy that comes through a relationship with God.

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We truly cannot thank you enough for committing to pray for us for the first 40 days of our time in Romania. We will be sending out a daily email during those 40 days to tell you who we have met (and therefore who to pray for) and what our other prayer requests may be. We are so encouraged to know that so many are praying for us, and we appreciate that you are apart of our 1,000 prayer warriors team!

Our mailing address is:

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