



## 1,000 / 40 for 40: Day NINE



We really enjoyed taking communion today! They did communion in both English and Romanian so that was nice to take communion and understand in our own language.

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## Prayer Requests

Here are our quick, specific prayer requests for August 6, 2017.

- Tomorrow is our first day of language tutoring. Two of the Ebbers kids will come for lunch and stay with our kids as Derek and I maneuver the bus system alone and go for our 2 pm appointment (7 am EST for those of you up and wanting to pray for us while we're going through it). Pray for us to get there and learn we'll.
- Pray for our kids to nap well with the Ebbers kids here. Elin is so excited to have Hannah and Elijah come "play" tomorrow! But they still need to keep to routine and feel safe and secure. Pray for that.

## Who We Met

The picture above shows me with Maria (left) and Madalina (left). I met Maria two years ago when we came before she was even married and it was her testimony that God used to confirm for me that He was calling us here. But today I met Madalina for the first time.

Both girls grew up in an orphanage. Madalina is due with her first baby, Alma, in about two weeks, and Maria is due with Debora one September. They will be having their babies in a public hospital - you have to bring your own epidural medicine if you want one (so they're both opting out), you labor and deliver in the same room as up to five other women, and you're not allowed to bring anyone in there with you including your husband. But on the plus side of being in Romania they both get two months medical leave before delivery and then two years of paid maternity leave after delivery. Their husbands get one month paid leave when their babies arrive.

Growing up in orphanages neither of them had mothers or real mother-figures, so they have asked the women in the church for advice and help in knowing how to be a parent. It's wild to me that God may be calling ME to the "expert parent" who is close to their age to help guide them. Madalina was asking me questions about discipline and one of the other missionaries offered me as the one who could help them with breastfeeding when the time comes. I'm so honored and would love to help, but I honestly can't help but just laugh that this may be part of the reason God wanted us here at this time and be having our own baby here. Who would have ever thought that God would use ME to give

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see how quickly this has built a bond for the three of us mothers and am so grateful that, though it will be hard, God called me to have baby Denton here in Romania.

Please pray for Maria and Madalina with their upcoming labors and deliveries. For uneventful deliveries. For healthy babies. For a chance to minister to the other women laboring with them. For their husbands to be good encouragers and for this to strengthen their marriages. For me to be a good encourager, example, and advisor. For God to give me wisdom on how to do those things. For the Lord to bind us together through this common experience of motherhood and help us build community. For their children to never remember a day without knowing Jesus as their Savior.

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