

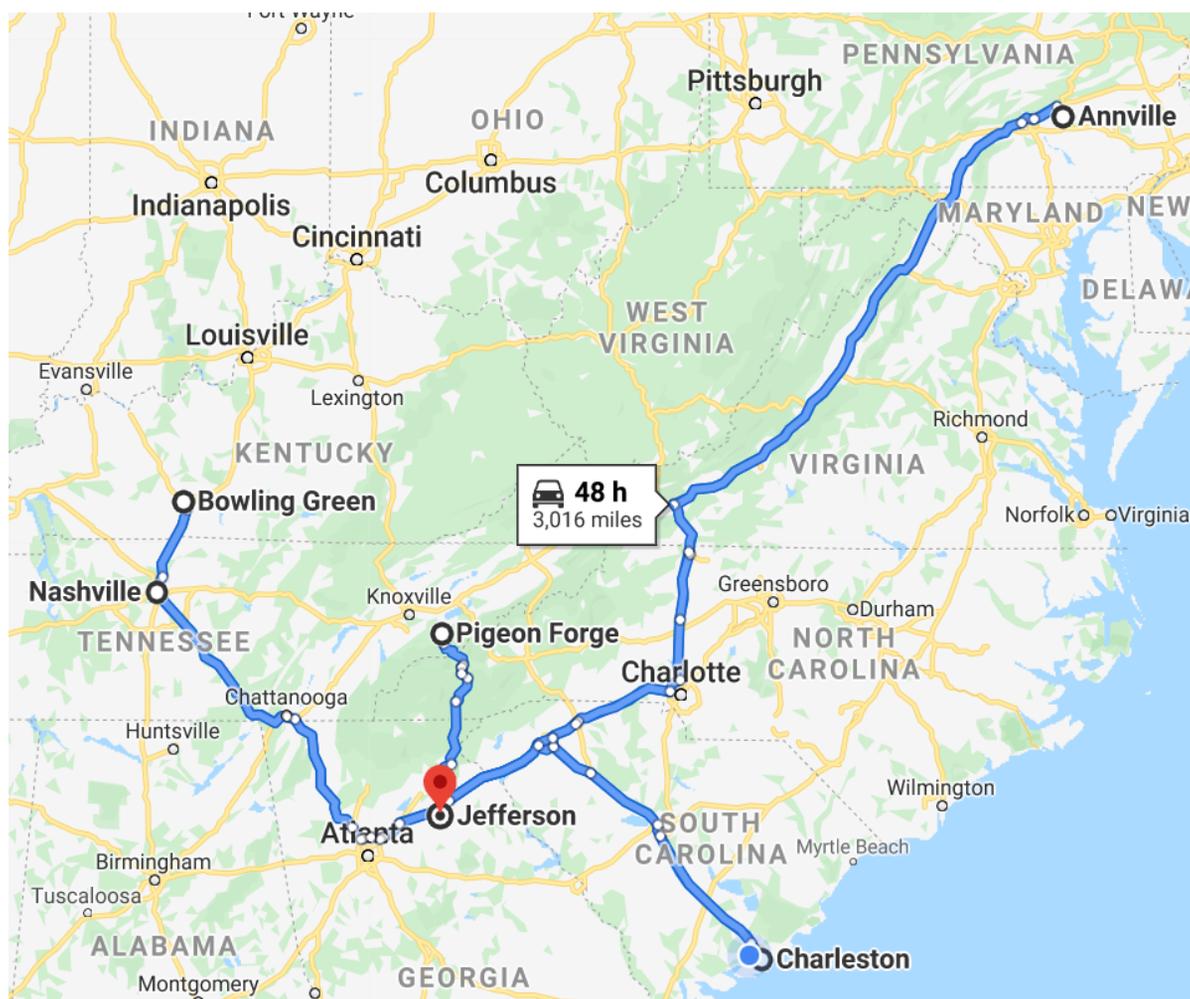
"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God." – 2 Corinthians 5:20

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We encourage you to join our "Kreiders in Romania" Facebook group so you can get more frequent and specific updates about what's going on! Respond to this email and let us know if you'd like to be added to this group!

[We are so grateful to report that we are fully funded to go back to Romania on April 1. Praise God for His continued provision and for His generous people! Thank you!](#)



## Home

After a long day of traveling, we finally made it to our host home in Annville, PA - some of Derek's longtime family friends. It was already well past bedtime, and we were trying to do the dance: be polite and greet our hosts appropriately, move in our van-full of stuff for the week, and simultaneously get our kids ready for bed before it gets any later. This dance always makes me feel frantic on the inside, yet I try my best to appear calm and easygoing so we don't make our hosts feel like a tornado of chaos just hit their home. But of course, kids always find a way to keep you humble even when you try the most to appear like you have it all under control. Because within the first five minutes of arriving, Denton had already found a way to pull his diaper off and pee on the floor.

I sort of sulked downstairs dejectedly and tried to lightheartedly tell my hostess, "Well, we sure do know how to make an entrance. Denton has already peed on the floor; where are your cleaning supplies?" Despite all our best attempts at parenting - talking ahead of time about expectations, attempting an organized

entrance, making sure our kids politely say hello before bombarding the toys - they still always find a way to keep me humbled as I require someone else to show me and my family forgiveness and grace. And that's exactly what the Lord gave me at that moment through the words of my hostess.

She gently grasped my face between her two hands and lovingly said, "Let's go ahead and get this straight. I have 17 grandchildren. There probably isn't an inch of this house that hasn't already been peed on. We live and play in this house. We make messes. Sometimes we even go to bed with those messes. It's okay. So right now, let's just go ahead and get rid of that pressure and know that I want you to feel comfortable this week at our home."

Oh, those sweet words of grace! They clearly made such an impact on me that, now, three weeks later, I can remember them almost verbatim and have reflected on them over and over again. She didn't just allow us into her space and make us feel like honored guests who still needed to be on our best behavior in return. She allowed herself to be totally inconvenienced. She released any grasp she may have had on her things. She allowed chaos to enter into her order. She has every *right* to expect us to be polite and keep our kids under control to not mess up her house. But she didn't make us feel like guests; she made us feel like one of her kids come home.

And it makes me wonder... what if we lived our entire lives this way? What would our ministry look like if we so fully invested in making sure everyone who crossed my threshold felt this comfortable? As our team in Romania works to show what "Biblical community" looks like, what would it be like if I actually said such intentional words of grace and affirmation when people come into my home? How can I think past just making others feel like well-treated guests and more like a fully incorporated part of the family? How can I intentionally speak words of grace into each person's life with whom I interact so that, as I am a conduit for Jesus's love, others around me feel like they're coming home?

As things so often are, I believe this is another one of God's paradoxes. All Christians are sojourners. We don't belong to a country or kingdom besides our Father's Kingdom. We are all on the road back to the Garden. And we all long for true home, community, and fellowship, and our Father longs for us to come home to Him - to feel intimately known and at ease with Him - because we know that even when something messy happens, like our kids peeing on the

floor, we are still loved and accepted. So maybe one of the best evangelistic tools is not simply living out my personal values everyday in my personal space, but instead radically showing this acceptance and grace by helping all those around me feel *home*.



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## PRAISE AND PRAYER:

- We are fully funded to return to Romania on April 1!
- All of us, including the kids, are excited to be returning to Romania. In fact, the kids have been asking about it for quite a few weeks already. We were wondering how the kids would do with leaving the States and their grandparents, as we've had separation issues in the past. We are blessed that their attitudes are so positive and that they feel Romania is home. Please pray that this continues!
- Continue to pray for the Romanian church, our leadership, and our search for a Romanian pastor.
- While we had some health issues immediately after landing Stateside in September, we've been pretty healthy after that...until now. Jemma had the flu, Denton got an ear infection, and Atticus had one of his worst ear infections since Romania. Needless to say, this brings up feelings of anxiety in us as our life seems

to follow this pattern: the closer we are to where we feel God has called us, the more problems seem to arise. Please pray that God would bolster our health, that he would protect us from physical and spiritual oppression, and that he would give us a long season of peace upon our return to Romania.

- Our team leader, Derek Ebbers, is in the States now, beginning his HMA. The rest of his family will join him in April after we return to Romania, and we will stay in their house in Romanian during their absence. Pray for the Ebbers family as they support raise and for both of our families as we transition into living in their space for a while. Please consider partnering with our teammates. You can [find them here](#).



**Life in the States Update:**

Our stateside traveling is coming to a close, and we will be in Georgia for our final month in the States. In addition to sharing our stories, we've especially

enjoyed introducing many different people to Romanian food this past month. We've been blessed beyond measure with so many interactions of abundant grace: friends telling us to sleep in, people babysitting for us, having many meals cooked for us, friends sending food when Catalina and Jemma had the flu, grandparents taking the three oldest on a special GRAND trip to Florida, and even a member of a supporting church providing our family with dental cleanings!

There are a few more opportunities for you to hear stories from Romania! Reach out to us and let us know if you need more information about coming to any of these events.

Mar 1: Redeemer Presbyterian Church (Charleston, SC)

Mar 8: Restoration Presbyterian Church

Mar 15: Restoration Presbyterian Sunday School

Mar 19: Chestnut Mountain Presbyterian Missions Conference

Mar 21: Westminster Presbyterian Missions Conference

Mar 22: @ 8:15 am Ivy Creek Baptist Sunday School

@ 11:15 am Hebron Baptist Sunday School (Catalina)

Mar 25: Ivy Creek Baptist AWANAS

Apr 1: Return to Romania



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#### IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

02/07/2020 - [Lying to Save Lives](#) (podcast episode) by Derek

02/15/2020 - [Abstention from Political Idolatry](#) (podcast episode) by Derek

Continuing - [The Case for Christian Nonviolence](#) (podcast series) by Derek

Check us out on Facebook! We post on Catalina's ["From Dacula to Transylvania"](#) album so that you can stay up to date with us. You can also follow [our photos on instagram](#) or check out our [video archive](#). But best, of all, you should let us know if you want to join our secret Facebook Group to get more updates!

## Support Account Reminders:

- If you're interested in one-time giving and would rather support projects, we have a project account for the Romanian church which goes towards things like the youth program, elder trainings, etc. The account is **#94978** for the Romania church plant.



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Forward

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Thank you for your support.

**Visit our website:**

**<http://www.dckreider.com>**

To make a donation (Account #14088 for Derek and Catalina), (Account #12140 for the Ebbers), or  
(Account #94978 Romania church plant for church projects):

<https://www.mtw.org/missionaries/details/derek-and-catalina-kreider>

or

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