

"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

[View this email in your browser](#)



MissionarE's

Expanding the Church: When we originally planned on coming to Romania, we were seeking to help with church expansion either through a ministry to university students or through a mercy ministry (particularly to the Roma). God has closed and opened doors to lead us in one clear direction. As of a week ago, we have three Roma families with whom we've worked and continue working. Most of the time we spend with them is relationship building and listening, as we sift through individual needs and figure out how we can best show our faith - not a faith of sentiment, but a faith accompanied by works. But working from sinful hearts towards those with sinful hearts is a convoluted process of unknowns. Yet God keeps bringing us in contact with those in need, and we continue praying that our relationships grow, and their exposure to God, through us, grows as well.

Edifying the Church: The church here in Codlea is much smaller than what most of us are used to. For those of you who've been in small churches, you may have experienced the difficulty of mobilizing a church with few participants. Whereas you can find a group of volunteers for every project you can think of in a megachurch, you may only be able to implement one or two main initiatives in a small church. With less people to draw from, and with a younger group who has work and child obligations, small churches face difficulty in mobilizing. That is something we are encountering in our small church.

Despite the difficulty of mobilization in small churches, there are some very significant strengths as well. While you may only be able to do one or two main things, you can usually do them very well because you have close relationships with those in your church. You know the strengths, interests, and weaknesses of others, and your close relationships are able to draw others into a common vision. As we are figuring this out, we are trying to contribute towards the internal strength of our church. We've pulled back on trying to implement a thousand new initiatives, and are instead looking to help pull the community together, get to know individuals and their work, and figure out how we can support the church. Right now we're focusing specifically on having a churchwide devotion structure which aims to help us all reflect on and prepare our hearts for the Word preached each Sunday (you can find those [here](#)). We're trying to support the kid's club the church has running, as well as trying to extend the reach of that fantastic program by opening the church doors for

older kids and teenagers. Our desire is to see the church with the lights on - literally and figuratively - to each other and the community throughout the week.

Extending the Church: We don't believe that our church is *the* church here in Romania. We are a one part of the larger body. We recognize that God has placed other believers all around us. While being ecumenical comes with its own set of difficulties, like attempting to figure out where we need to draw lines in the theological sand, a great place to begin being ecumenical is with churches which are doctrinally very similar. Last spring, our elders met with elders and pastors from other reformed churches here in Romania. I had the privilege of speaking at one of these churches a few weeks ago, as they had an outreach week geared towards atheists and unbelievers. I was asked to speak on the topic of love and its incompatibility in a world without God (you can find the [text here](#)). I enjoyed my time there and pray that God would continue to grow the relationship between our churches, and that this would be a firstfruits of ecumenicism extended to other gospel preaching churches in the area.

PLEASE PRAY...

- Catalina and our pastor's wife have begun teaching English through Bible Puppet stories at our kids' school. They are using Bible stories from The Jesus Storybook Bible (in both English and Romanian) for their basic curriculum. Please pray that those stories would be well received and that God's wisdom and love would shine through his Word. Their hope is to give each of the 15 children his or her own copy of the Romanian version of The Jesus Storybook Bible at the end of the semester. If you are interested in purchasing a book for a student for \$13.29 each, [click here and donate to this special campaign!](#)
- We were surprised to have *Alexa show up again after an absence of several months. We also had a new Roma family approach us with needs and have begun to work with them. Right now, on any given day, we have three Roma families who could approach us. We love that we've been invited into two homes and we love that we've had several Roma families into our home - but the process can be exhausting. Please pray for our wisdom, our patience, our love, our boldness in sharing the gospel, our safety, and pray that God would move his Spirit in the lives of the Roma community here. God's spirit is the only hope any of us have, but such a truth is even more apparent to most of us

when it comes to the Roma with whom we're working. That apparent need is what makes us so hopeful, as we know God loves to do the impossible and receive glory for works which could only be attributed to him. Please pray for our hearts, our church's heart, and the hearts of those with whom we're working.

- Continue to pray that our church would find a Romanian pastor.
- Please pray for our church congregants, especially the elders, as there are many who are facing some very difficult circumstances. Please pray that God would give them wisdom and endurance, and that he would help them to lean into the body. Pray that we would have wisdom in reaching out to them and supporting them.



Derek had the privilege of speaking at a reformed church about 50 miles away. He spoke on the philosophical impossibility of love apart from God. You can find the [text here](#). This is the same group of churches with whom we've been in

discussion about forming a presbytery. While visiting, we had a few hours to go and check out the local frozen lake and ice fishing. It was beautiful!

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

1/24/2019 - [The Cure to Toxic Humanity](#) by Derek

1/14/2019 - [The House Always Wins](#) by Derek

1/1/2019 - [Crazy Freedom: Libertarians and Lunatics](#) 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!

Reminders:

- Our teammates, Derek and Shannon Ebbers, have been faithful missionaries to Romania for 11 years now and are seriously the best team leaders God could have possibly provided for us! As is normal for all long-term missionaries, they have recently lost some financial supporters and are looking to make up the loss in their monthly account. Supporting our teammates is a direct way you can be in support of us; if they have to go back to the States for support-raising, that affects the team dynamic and ministry. We would love for you to consider joining our support team by literally supporting our whole team! If you would be interested in reaching out to them, supporting them, or passing their names along to individuals and churches who may have interest in what we're doing in Romania, we would greatly appreciate this. You can [find them here](#).
- 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.





Share



Tweet



Forward

Copyright © 2016 Derek and Catalina Kreider. All rights reserved.

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

Mission To The World

PO Box 744165

Atlanta, GA 30374-4165

Our Romanian mailing address is

Derek and Catalina Kreider

Str. Vulturului #4

Codlea, 505100

Brasov, Romania

Want to send us something? Check out [this link](#) for more information on how to get it to us!

Using iMessage or WhatsApp, you can contact us on our Romanian phone numbers:

(Yes, the +40 is necessary!)

Catalina: +40 (771) 272 908

Derek: +40 (771) 036 084

Our Stateside mailing address is

Derek and Catalina Kreider

146 Colonial Court

Jefferson, GA 30549

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Mission to the World · 605 Beckenham Walk Drive · Dacula, Ga 30019 · USA

