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Two Years

“Not much has changed in the last two years. The kids are still crazy, and you’re still pregnant.” – Derek Kreider

It's kind of hard to believe sometimes - that we're solidly two years into our ministry in Romania. In some ways I look back over the last two years – well, four, really, if you count the two years of preparation to get over here – and I can see so much *hard*. The miscarriage. The goodbyes. The constant sicknesses. The hospital stays. The uncertainties. The anxieties. The feelings of being completely and totally overwhelmed. The language. The cultural differences. The homesickness. The realization that *nowhere* is really “home” anymore. The spiritual oppression and attacks. Even the small “first world problem” type of things, like hang drying clothes, no air conditioning, freezing winters, and tiny kitchens.

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble.”

Should we really have expected less? But I'm grateful that Jesus does not end there.

“But take heart! I have overcome the world!” – John 16:33

And yes! Time and time again, we have seen him do this. With constant prayer support on our behalf. With finding us doctors who help. With providing us the means to go to the States when we needed. With overcoming the spiritual oppression facing our daughter every day. With healing Denton's tracheomalacia. With revealing Himself to us in new, profound ways. With his deep, deep love for us. With perfectly timed retreats and singing in English. With the best teammates one could ask for, who have become some of our closest friends. With Romanian and Hungarian friends who encourage us and minister to us constantly. With growing us in His Word. With overcoming the typical culture shock hurdles. With some exciting ministry successes. With excellent tutors who have helped us come a long way in our language acquisition. With answered prayers and clear guidance. With stable financial support. With friends and family who love us enough to come visit and take part in our ministry. With revealing and breaking down idols in our lives. With laughter. With well-timed, tight hugs.

We are grateful for the two years we've had. We are grateful that, Lord willing, we get to continue living and serving here. We are grateful that we soon get to welcome new life here in Romania. We are grateful for all the people the world

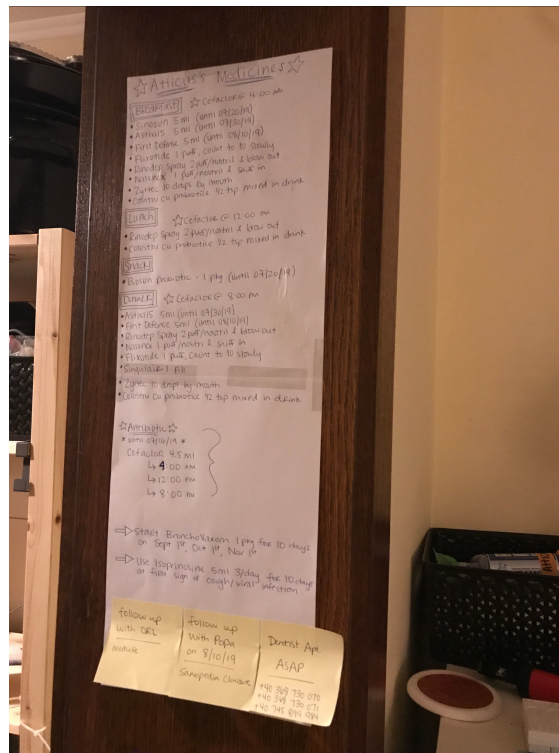
over who God has led to help us be here. We are grateful to serve a God who doesn't turn us away because of our weakness, but embraces us in His love and desires to show us His strength and love through our weakness and failure. We are grateful for His love.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- We have submitted our visa application to the government twice now, and have been denied a visa extension. Our deadline for obtaining a visa is the end of September, and the deadline for having all the documents to make our appointment is the end of August. While we are confident God will provide some sort of resolution here, it is nevertheless unsettling and anxiety producing. Please pray that God would give us wisdom on how to proceed, and that he would give us favor with the government so we can get this worked out.
- We have recently discovered that Atticus has an immune deficiency, which the doctor thinks is genetic. So his body just can't fight off all the pathogens and microbes that healthy kids can. This makes sense of why he's constantly sick, especially each time that he returns to his school. We have started him THIRTEEN different treatments/medications to hopefully help him overcome his constant sicknesses and boost his immune system so that he doesn't keep getting sick. We will run more tests in a few weeks to see if we can figure out more specifics about what's going on, and we're praying for results with these new treatments! We have decided to keep him home from school indefinitely while he undergoes these treatments to give his body the best fighting chance. And we've almost hit a four-week milestone of being symptom-free, since he usually gets sick every two-three weeks. Please pray for him and us! This is definitely still our biggest source of overwhelm and concern with living here.
- We will be coming back to the States December 18 – April 1 to update our supporters and churches and garner new supporters, since some of our support has had to drop off the last few years. This is a normal, expected occurrence for all missionaries, and we anticipate seeing how the Lord will restore what we need. But please be praying for us over the next few months as we try to support-raise from afar until we get there, prepare to pack up everything (again!), have a baby, and then come home six weeks later! And especially that the Lord's hand will continue to guide our paths and direct our ministry endeavors before we take a pause in December.
- With Baby Jemma's arrival just around the corner (in about 15 weeks), Derek will take over Catalina's Puppet Theater Plays at the kids' school this Fall. Please pray for continued success with that opportunity. And Catalina has

been meeting with two other young moms in our church who are all interested in starting a “Mommy Club” outreach in our town. It is very common to hear how isolated young moms feel here during their two-year maternity leave, and how many feel as though they lack community and have a difficult time parenting. And topics such as post-partum depression are still very taboo here. So we are excited to have a small team of ladies who want to work together on this project. Please pray that it will be guided by the Lord and serve to meet the needs of this community as we seek to show them the love of the Lord!





Picture Updates:

- Derek was able to serve our Kid's Club on a 7-day camp and then help a partner church, a Hungarian Reformed Presbyterian Church, with their annual 5-day English camp.
- Catalina's Roma friends recently had their sweet babies. She was able to provide transport for their families to visit the hospital, provided meals for the girls, and helped them obtain their babies' birth certificates so that they can begin acquiring the government funding for new mothers.
- Denton loves our sweet neighbors!
- Our new medicine regimen for Atticus - 13 medicines!



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

7/8/2019 - Abortion and Bodily Autonomy 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:

- 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.



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

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