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"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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The Best Type of Training

This past week, we attended a retreat called "Living in Grace" with our sending agency, Mission to the World (MTW). I'm sitting in front of my screen, wracking my brain for just the right adjective to describe the retreat, but I can't find it. That shows me that either my vocabulary is far too small or the retreat was just that indescribable. It's probably both!

Being saved by grace is the most fundamental tenet of the Christian faith, so one would assume that it's necessary to understand grace to become a Christian. And if that's the case, one would assume that a person who has been a Christian for a long time would not need training on what grace actually is, but therein lies the cool thing about grace: it is so amazing that we will never fully grasp it. It's like trying to understand just how vast the universe is -- despite all of our modern technologies and all the years we have ahead of us to continue searching the universe, we won't fully get it!

Many people have asked us, "Why don't you serve as *tentmakers* and teach in Romania instead of going through a mission agency and having to raise support?" This past week's retreat is one of the crowning answers to that

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and constantly remind us that even when a church plant is failing, our family is falling apart, our financial support is low, and everything is unraveling, we are *enough* in Christ. We cannot do this alone! We need to be constantly beaten over the head with the Gospel message just as much as Romanian nonbelievers!

Here are some of the brief highlights from the week:

- We have so many idols that we put above God, such as approval from others, power/leadership, comfort, pride, our jobs, our ministry, our home and kids, etc.
- God renewed our love for one another as we struggled through some hard issues together.
- We need to learn to truly rest and not become ministry-aholics!
- We have nothing to prove and nothing to lose because we are loved by a faithful God!

We look forward to sharing more about what God taught us this week with you as we continually look to Christ to help us live more and more like Him each day.

PLEASE PRAY...

- For our road trip -- safety, fruitfulness, continually seeking Jesus as we undoubtedly encounter frustrations and craziness
- For God to stir the hearts of new partners so that we may reach 50% by the end of the summer, July 31st (approximately \$1,000 more per month)
- For the Lord to continually shower his grace on us so that we may live in the knowledge that we are loved and we are enough!
- For changes in our home -- Derek's parents are moving in with us in July for the next year. Pray that we would all show each other grace and love as we merge together under one roof.

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We are about to begin a new journey: road tripping with two kids! This Wednesday, June 15, we'll begin our support-raising road trip, and we won't return until Sunday, July 17. If we drove straight through the course mapped above, it would take us 60 hours! Along the way, we'll be speaking at two churches in Iowa and Wisconsin, meeting with several missions committee representatives of other churches, and seeing many friends and family members. **Please pray that this time would be fruitful for our needed support and, more importantly, that the Lord would use it to further cast His vision for the work that needs to be done in Romania for His Kingdom.**

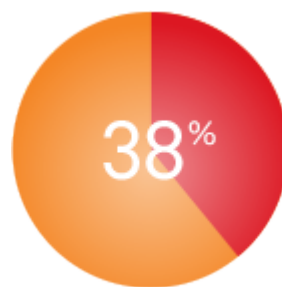


(Watch the video above.)

We really enjoy getting to share



There are SO MANY WAYS you can help support us and the work in Romania, which we call "Creative Contributions." One way is to be an advocate for us -- tell others about Romania and get them plugged into the needs there! We encourage you to forward this email to a friend who you think might have a heart for Romanians or host a dinner or dessert party where we can share our ministry with even more people you know. We love making connections with others and have really enjoyed getting to know stateside Romanians to learn from them. Please advocate for us!



We are currently at 38% support of our monthly needs. We are so encouraged by how God has provided through others, even in this past spring season, when schedules were chaotic, and we did not do as much support-raising as we had

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cast a vision to others about what God's Kingdom in Romania looks like! On Sunday we got to speak at our home church, Ivy Creek Church. We considered this a practice run for including Elin on stage with us!! As we walked up on stage, we realized she had gotten hold of a pen, so we were concerned about how it was going to go. She used it to color on Derek's hand the entire time, but we were NOT going to try to take it away from her at that moment. We think she did really well! We would love to have the opportunity to come speak at your church, Sunday school class, or bible study group to share about Romania.

people who just called us up or emailed us and said they wanted to join our support team. We cannot take any credit for how much has been raised so far because the Lord has stirred people's hearts, even when we were not doing as much of our own work. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Our prayerful goal is to get to 50% by the end of this summer, which can be reached with 2 donors at \$200 per month, 6 donors at \$100 per month, and 3 donors at \$50 per month. Would you consider joining our support team? [You can donate here, and our account is #14088.](#)

Thank you for praying!

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

4/19/16 - [What I'm Learning About Grace: I Don't Understand It](#) by Catalina

4/19/16 - [God and Evil](#) by Derek

4/25/16 - [The Problem of Evil](#) by Derek

5/15/16 - [The Best Story Ever](#) by Derek

5/26/16 - [Unintended Consequences](#) by Derek

6/11/16 - [Clouded Emotions](#) by Derek

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