

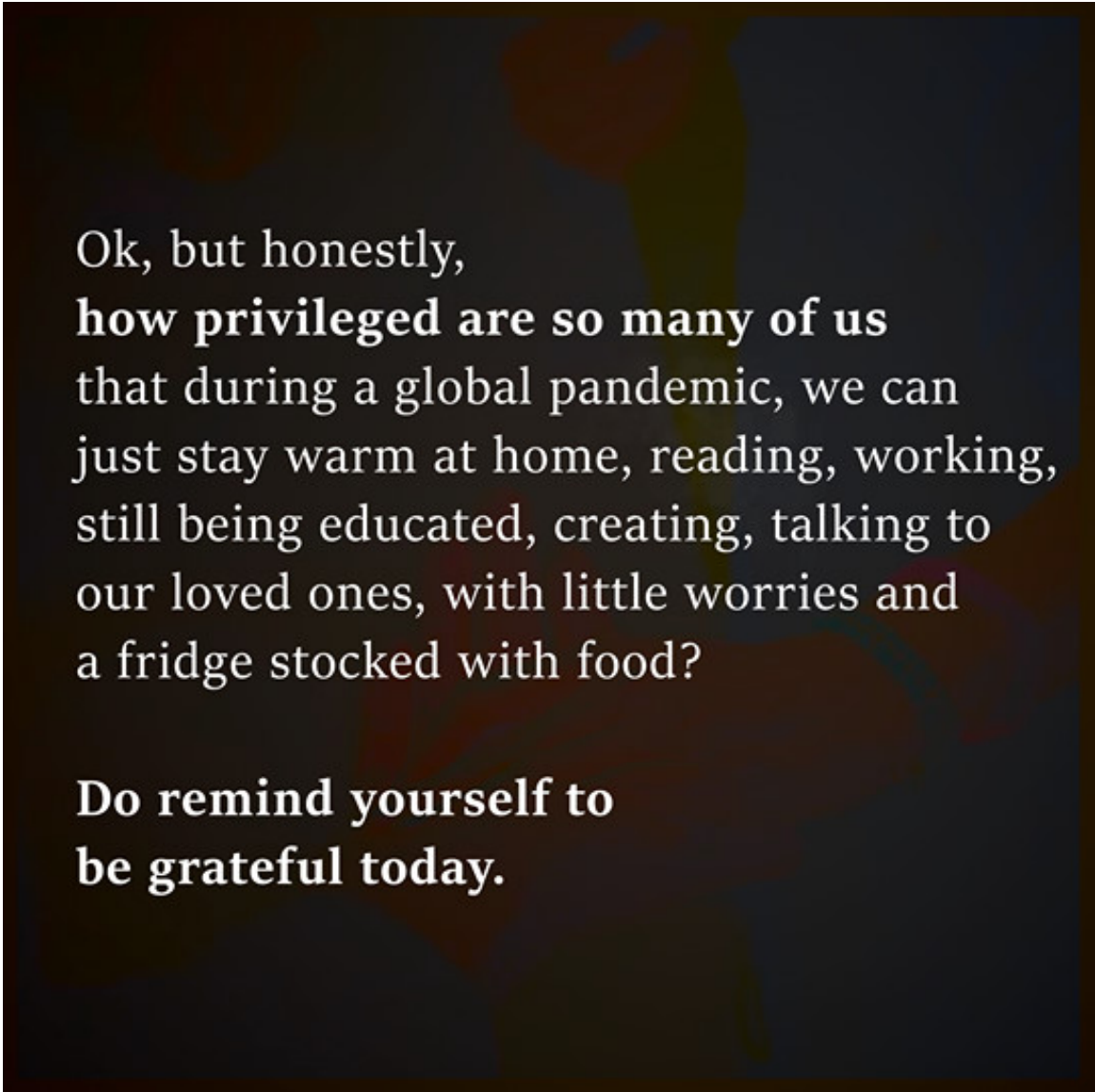
"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God." – 2 Corinthians 5:20

[View this email in your browser](#)



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!

Please remember that a large portion of our support comes from the churches which you support. During this time when we are unable to attend the physical church building, there are many people still relying on your faithful tithes to the church. Please remember to give your tithes to the church through online giving or mail-in checks as you are able. Thank you for your continued support!



Ok, but honestly,
how privileged are so many of us
that during a global pandemic, we can
just stay warm at home, reading, working,
still being educated, creating, talking to
our loved ones, with little worries and
a fridge stocked with food?

**Do remind yourself to
be grateful today.**

Home - Part 2

Yesterday we sat down at the dinner table with some landscape pictures and generic elevator music playing on the tv nearby, for no particular reason. Suddenly, Elin buried her head in her hands and began weeping. The type of uncontrollable heaving sobs that make it hard to talk or breathe.

"Elin! What in the world is wrong, baby? Are you hurt? Did someone hurt you? Are you mad or sad? What's going on?"

Finally, she blurted out "I JUST MISS ROMANIA SO MUCH!!!!" Our family has had a daily countdown on Derek's watch for almost 90 days now, just waiting to leave *home* in order to get back *home*. Apparently one of the landscape pictures on the screen reminded her of Romania and was the proverbial straw.

And then there is the story of our teammates who weren't due to come stateside until April 10th, but once MTW instituted a mandatory 48-hour window to leave your host country (only for those who were planning to come stateside already), they had to pack up everything and leave their *home* very quickly - while sleeping in airports after delayed flights led to missed connecting flights.

[The Ebbers's youngest daughter, Hannah, vlogged about her grief of fleeing the country like refugees, leaving her precious cat behind and not being able to say goodbye to anyone.](#) Their middle child, Isaac, is one of the whiplashed 2020

Seniors who is not only missing out on the remainder of his school year but will also not be able to return to his home in Romania since he starts college in the Fall. Saying goodbye and having closure in their home is so important for third-culture kids, but it is something Isaac will not have.

And of course this is just grief we're experiencing in our own little corner of the earth, saying nothing of the tremendous upheaval that the entire world is experiencing. Many people are asking us when we think we'll be able to return to Romania. Your guess is as good as ours! Romania's borders are now completely closed by both land and air, and their internal lockdown is a lot stricter than ours here in the States. So even if the US decides to reopen the economy and borders, that doesn't mean Romania will follow suit. So we, like everyone else, are simply waiting.

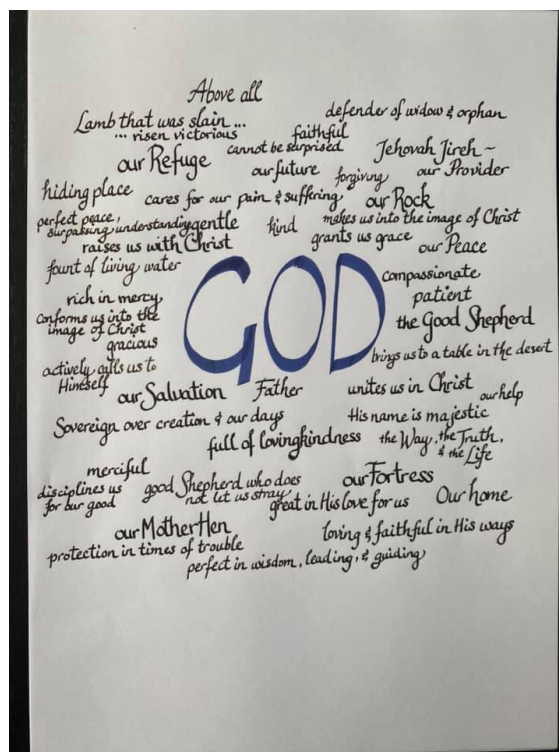
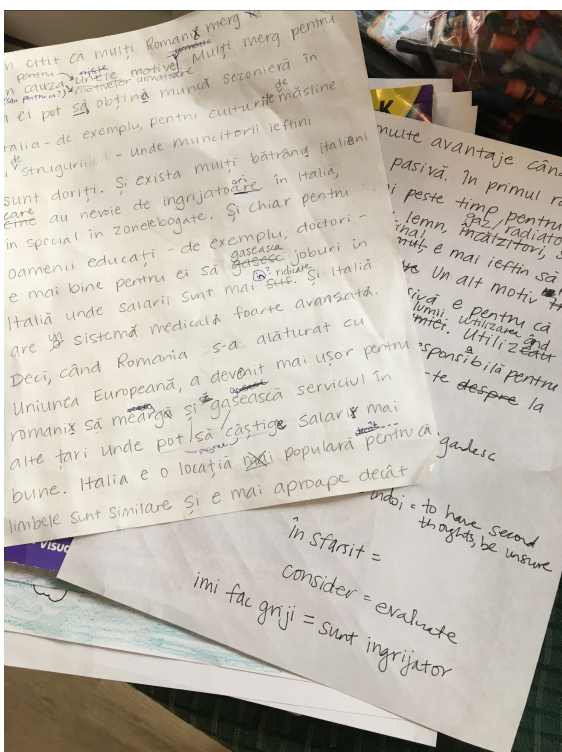
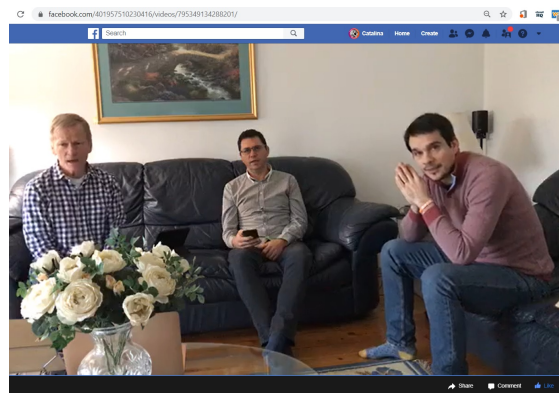
As I rocked Elin in my lap and she continued to cry, I rubbed her back and prayed. Because clearly all empty platitudes would be both dishonest and probably uncomfortable. And I prayed, thanking God that we have a Savior who understands. Because he, too, left His heavenly home and had to wait to get back. And then again, He left his earthly home and never returned, all for the sake of His ministry. He knows how it feels to be sojourning in a place that is not home. He knows what it feels like to flee. He knows what it feels like to live without a definite timeline as He waits on the Father to bring about His will. We have a Savior who knows what it feels like to be sick. Who knows the pain of suffering. And because of our Savior, we can face this time and crisis confidently, since we know we will one day be able to return to our true *home*.



PRAISE AND PRAYER:

- We are fully funded to return to Romania on April 1! But all missionaries need prayer right now for provision, as a decrease in giving is an understandable and probable reality for us. And please continue for our teammates, the [Ebbers](#), since they are already behind in their monthly support and need to be using this stateside time to support raise.
- For [those who had seen our Facebook post](#), we think we have found a place to stay for however long we remain here. However, please continue to pray for this living situation, since we are unable to move in until this family is able to move out. But they're unsure if they're able to move out since moving companies are mostly shut down. But the Lord will provide for all of us in due time.
- After our most recent ENT appointment for Atticus, we believe that the ear tubes are actually making things worse for Atticus in Romania, where the water content may be a bit different. We all agree that the tubes should come out now before we return. However, all nonessential surgeries are obviously postponed at the time. Please pray for us to have wisdom regarding how to proceed. But mostly, please pray that his tubes would just fall out on their own, as they are designed to do.
- Continue to pray for the Romanian church, our leadership, and our search for a Romanian pastor. And yet we praise the Lord for the way that this pandemic has led

the church members to implicate themselves in more roles. One of the members preached last week; they are caring for one another well; one young mother began a twice-weekly prayer group through Facebook. It is a huge blessing to see how this community has come together and truly been the Body of Christ! And we praise the Lord for his providential provision of Facebook Live, as we helped set up the Facebook group and Live streaming last year as one of our projects. This helped the church move to online worship more seamlessly.





Life in the States Update:

We have been staying busy in our new quarantine normal. We've started doing Zoom language tutoring three times a week, and thankfully our tutor said he was surprised by how much we remember. So are we! Our hope is to really use this time to hone our language even more and make great leaps in our abilities so that we are able to support the church even more whenever we return. We have also participated in Friday prayer and fasting times with our fellow MTW members. The "God" picture above is from one of the prayer times with the missionary women in Europe, who prayerfully reminded one another who our God is. And we are actually communicating with our Romanian church and pastor more frequently, as Derek has been able to use his knowledge of technology and the Facebook group we created last year to help them navigate this new era of online fellowship and worship. Ironically, we're able to do just about as much Stateside as we'd be able to do if we were physically in Romania.

And like many people, we are trying not to overlook the huge blessing that this time has been for our family to have deep rest and many nature walks in the woods behind our neighborhood. We're focused on creating homeschool routines, and especially wanting to help Elin get to an independent reading level. We've cooked great meals and taught our kids to make nachos, quesadillas, and eggs. Elin lost her first tooth, while Jemma grew her first, and

the boys' chosen first task of each day is evenly dividing up their dinosaur toys and setting up dino battles.

We pray that you have been able to find the blessings in the midst of this time for your family, too.



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

03/15/2020 - [Unfounded Optimism](#) by Derek

03/16/2020 - [Coronavirus: Am I Prepared?](#) by Catalina

03/27/2020 - [Peter's Betrayal Wasn't Cowardice](#) (podcast) by Derek

03/28/2020 - [The Holy Sabbath: Why I'm Buying an Easter Dress](#) by Catalina

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 or our ["2019-2020 HMA"](#) 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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Visit our website:

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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):

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

or

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