

"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](#)



Ding-Dong

Ding-Dong! It's *Joana, a neighbor, coming over to ask if she can have some milk and borrow 20 lei.

Ding-Dong! It's *Paul, an older neighbor, who asks us if we can drive him two miles to work so he doesn't have to walk.

Ding-Dong! It's *Luca, yet another neighbor, coming over to give us some raw milk and to tell us not to help undeserving moochers like Joana and Paul, especially since Paul is just a drunkard who uses any money he saves on alcohol.

Ding-Dong! It's *Alexa, our Roma friend, asking if we can help her out with some urgent need.

Ding-Dong! It's *Joana again, bringing over a few eggs as a trade for the milk we gave her.

While the above isn't an every day occurrence, it's also not an atypical one. Throughout the week our bell rings from each of the above individuals at least once, and usually more. It is a huge blessing that we have neighbors and outsiders who are knocking at our door so frequently, but after awhile, the blessing seems more like a burden. How do you handle giving and loaning resources to individuals on a frequent basis? Do you require *your schedule* to be flexible so you can help individuals as they approach you out of the blue, or do you require *them* to be flexible with your schedule? How do you handle community conflict, when one of your neighbors tells you to stop helping your other neighbors because they're bad news? How do you show those bad news neighbors that your help is not out of naivete or because you're a foreigner who has plenty of spare resources, but because you seek to love - love even those the community has rejected? How do you explain love, stereotypes, and the

gospel - in broken Romanian - with a neighbor who is irate that you allowed a "gypsy" into your home, and through that are encouraging them to enter this community more frequently?

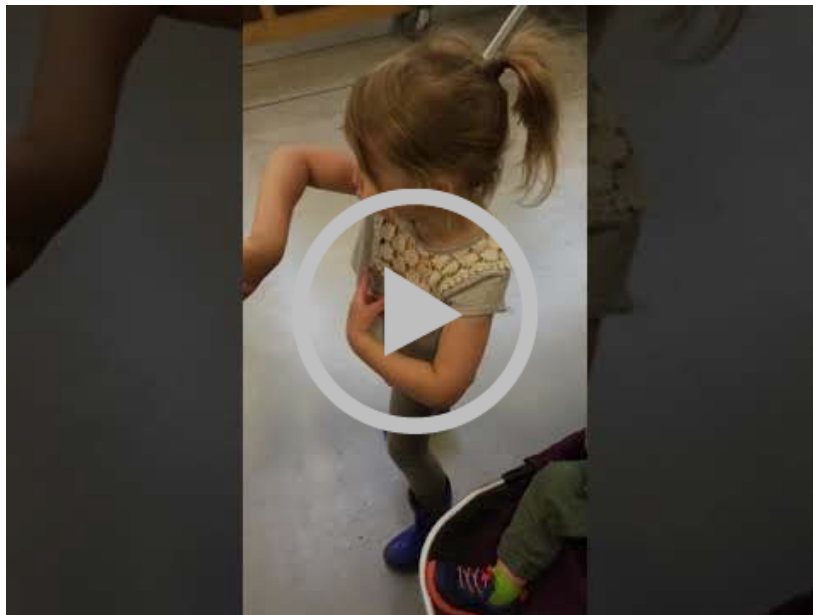
Every time we hear the doorbell, we hear much more than just the sound of an unexpected guest. We hear the sound of unexpected imposition, stress, frustration, exhaustion, loss of time, effort, loss of money, societal pressure, and a whole host of other things. The doorbell rings when we're tired. It rings when Catalina is in the hospital with Denton and I'm wrangling two kids. It rings when I'm out working and Catalina is wrangling three kids. It rings when we're getting the kids ready for bed. It rings when we're getting ready to take the kids to school. It rings when it's convenient, but mostly, it rings when it's inconvenient. Our hearts sink when we hear our doorbell ring - and we hear it ring A LOT.

But the doorbell also represents opportunity. And when opportunity knocks (or rings), you answer it. While all of the negatives pointed out above are true, the doorbell also represents many positives. First and foremost it is an opportunity for us to love others with the love of Christ and share the Gospel - in word and deed - with them. It's an opportunity for us to build credibility in the community, as we show our love to the unlovely even in the face of the community's disdain for them. It's an opportunity to grow our connections with those in need so we can dig deeper into that community. It's an opportunity to grow our patience, perseverance, trust, joy, and kindness. It's an opportunity to show our kids the love and service we read about during devotions and ask them to exemplify at school. It's an opportunity to show our kids how we give to those in need, and how we view imposition not as something which imposes a burden on us, but an ordained encounter which calls us to relieve the burden of another in some form or fashion. Sometimes it's an opportunity for us to relinquish our death grip on "our" resources so another can be freed. Sometimes it's an opportunity for us to hold on to those resources and counsel towards deeper character needs. Sometimes it's an opportunity for us to show our schedule, our efficiency, and our pragmatism that it comes second to relationships. And sometimes it's an opportunity for us to share from the Bible and to share the Gospel.

For whatever reason, our doorbell never rang in the States. It may have been our culture, our community's policy against solicitation, our lack of involvement in our immediate community, or any other number of things. Yes, it was a blessing to be left in peace, and every time I hear our doorbell ring, I miss those days. However, God is teaching us that He is blessing us with the opportunity to leave others in peace at the expense of our own. It's a hard lesson we learn and relearn daily, but it's one that is growing us tremendously. Please pray that God would continue to grow us, that He would equip us to love others well, and that He would be working in the hearts of all He brings to us so they may see His love, receive the Gospel, and grow in His community.

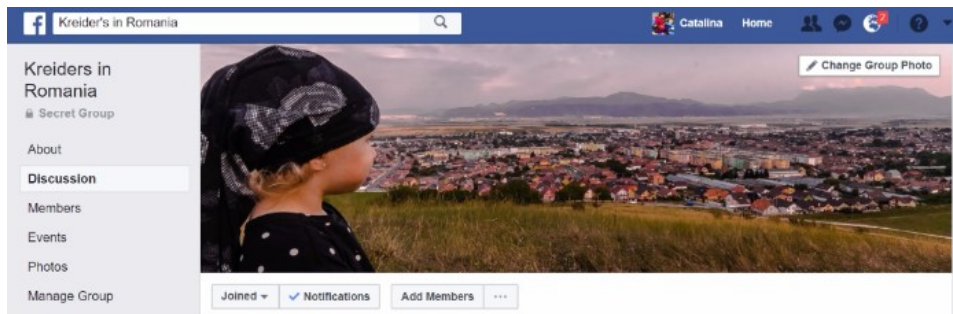
PLEASE PRAY...

- We are continuing to work with *Alexa (see [here](#) and [here](#) for a little background on who that is). We've arrived at what appears to be an impasse. She continues to visit us weekly and we continue to provide her with a little bit of work and some groceries, but we are no longer assisting with extra needs she expresses. We have helped in the past with purchasing medicines and other necessities as we attempted to figure out how to best help Alexa long term. We've been very patient and gracious (as far as we can judge), but Alexa has refused to let us help her with the government, with pursuing a job, and with creating a budget. She won't let us into her life. We are continuing to love her and invite her into our lives, but pray that she would open up and allow us into her life. More importantly, we pray that God would transform her heart and allow her to see her need of him and his church community. And we pray that God would help us to continually search our hearts as we work with and love Alexa.
- Please pray for our continued language acquisition, as well as for our language application. Derek is now working with the youth, Catalina is assisting in worship, and we are both working on plans for a summer camp and community outreach. It is very tiring doing this for the first time, in another language, as our kids continue to have health needs. Please pray that God would grant us wisdom, energy, and skillfulness as we navigate everything.
- We made another hospital visit for Denton, but fortunately did not have to be admitted. Apparently his teething caused a flare in his breathing issues. While we're thankful he didn't have another bout of bronchialitis, it is a bit nerve wracking to think that something as minor and normal as teething could precipitate breathing issues. Please continue to pray for our health and for us to figure out how we can prevent and treat the breathing issues in the boys.



Tomorrow our Elin girl is turning FOUR, and she is EXCITED!! Check out the video above of her sweet dance moves in the grocery store. We are throwing her a birthday party to celebrate her. She has been through a lot this year, and she's still working through a lot of her anxieties and stresses. But the Lord is growing her, and we pray for her to come to love Jesus one day, too. We also want to say THANK YOU to everyone who sent her a birthday card!! We can't wait to give them to her tomorrow; you have made us all feel very loved!





IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

4/4/18 - [Arguments for Christian Pacifism](#) by Derek

4/23/18 - [I'm Praying for the Babies](#) by Catalina

5/1/18 - [Stalkers and Mistresses](#) by Derek

5/17/18 - [If Lying to Save Lives is Moral, We Can't Have Confidence in the Bible](#) 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!



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):
<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

MailChimp