

Undaunted



Fall 2015

It has been about ten months since I arrived in Romania and so much has happened. Realizing I'm more than half way through my internship period, it seemed about (or rather much past) time to send you an update! For the first few months I was living with a brother and sister, Hudson (9) and Camille (6). They had been living here at the Care Home with their mother for the past four years or so but she had recently left them and they had nowhere to go. Hudson had grown up in a chicken coop and had two other siblings taken away from his mother before Camille was born.

After a "honeymoon" of sorts...for a few days, they began to really put me through the ringer. I don't know if there has really been an end to that ringer, but from what I hear from other parents, for the most part that is normal. It took a while for them to start to trust me and for a long time I felt like a new step-parent who had come into a well-established home. Both kids would have fits of anger so loud and violent that at times I wondered if they were possessed. There were many times I would sit outside the kids' bedroom doors and pray or read scripture while they screamed inside their room. It was a long period of time until that started to change. Thankfully we don't see that (much) anymore.

I also soon realized how precarious the foster system is here, when after only a few weeks here the kids' mom requested to regain custody and there was a very real chance of losing them forever. The Lord, as he always does, answered our prayers and this time it was to keep the kids here.

Christmas was a special time. We had a program and both kids were shepherds and I was Mary. We slept in the living room near the Christmas tree and had hot chocolate while watching the classic Rudolph movie. Baking for the holiday was a bit of a struggle, learning to do European measurements and temperatures was hard.

In late January I sprained my ankle pretty badly and was on crutches and was pretty laid up for a few weeks. The kids really jumped in to help out around the house. Once I was able to get around again, our house grew with one more little boy, Michael (6).

Spring was a blur. In March I was able to take a week away and go to

Prayer Requests

- Romanian parents to accept the position here.
- Kids' salvation & giving over control to God
- Me to meet and grow deep friendships
- Continued financial support

Jerusalem per the suggestion of my directors here. I'm so thankful for the opportunity to go. In April I attended the International Messengers Staff Conference which was held in Hungary. It was an amazing time of meeting other missionaries on the field, hearing their stories and getting connected with others who do similar work. This was also a great time of encouragement and refreshment as I had been dragging quite a bit at the home.

May was a tough month. Hudson's anger and aggression had grown so much that we had a sit-down meeting with all the staff and him, giving



All dressed up for the Christmas play



Wading in the Sea of Galilee



Michael doing what he does best—running around



My new car, a Dacia Logan

him one more month to change or we would be forced to send him and Camille to another home. Thankfully by the end of the month, there had been evidence of effort on his part to change. The month unfortunately ended abruptly though with the sudden death of my Uncle Paul Schermer, which brought me back home to the States for two weeks. It was a good time to be with family and grieve together. The two weeks went fast and there were many people I was unable to see. I'll have to see the rest of you on my next trip to the States.... hopefully it will be under better circumstances.

Since I've returned, Hudson has had a big change of attitude and behavior. He is overall much more helpful, gracious, and accepting of authority. Michael is doing well, though we are struggling to clean up the way he talks to others. He grew up without many (if any) rules so he thinks swearing and calling people stupid is just fine. He also was severely neglected and his speech has been significantly delayed. This week though I've had a few people in town comment on how much better he is speaking, so that is a big blessing! Camille has been one tough case since my return. Nearly every day for two weeks we've had a major breakdown, some up to one hour, of crying, screaming, kicking, slamming doors, etc. Prayers for a breakthrough on this would be appreciated.

Also a great blessing in June was being able to purchase a car for our getting around and such! This has already allowed us to go to VBS, parks, exploring, etc. Thank you to all of you who made a donation that allowed this to happen!

Please be in prayer with me and the team here for a Romanian couple to come and take over the position here. I don't think any of us anticipated the kinds of struggles we've had, and the language/cultural barriers on top have been incredible. None of these kids have ever had a father figure, and it would be such a blessing to have a couple who can speak Truth into their lives, in their heart language. Please join us in that prayer.

Alissa Foreman

Stay in Touch!

www.alifeundaunted.com

E-mail a.m.foreman@gmail.com

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