



# Going Ahead Of Us!



joshmandapidgeon.com

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## Please Pray...

» **Praise** the Lord for his provision of an apartment in Bucharest, and **Pray** that we will be near the hospital when the time comes. **Pray** also that God will provide for the needs of our girls while our attention is needed with our son.

» **Pray** that we can get everything done before leaving for Bucharest. **Pray** for our residency permits to be renewed without any issues, especially if Manda is in hospital.

» **Pray** for Isla during her first piano recital this Thurs (7th) and for her Christmas concert (15th), that she would overcome her anxiety.

» **Pray** for preparations for our fourth RWN conference, booked for 20-24 May, 2024. **Pray** that God will provide the right speakers and helpers for the week.

» **Pray** that God will shine His light over Romania this Christmas, and that more people will hear and know the truth of His grace.

## Stepping forward in Faith!...

I don't know about you, but I (Manda) know that all too often I rely on hindsight to allow me to hope that things will turn out well. I have learnt a lot through many experiences, and particularly since I started in missions almost twenty years ago, but as I again read through Hebrews 11, I was reminded just how much it's not hindsight but faith that keeps my eyes fixed on Jesus, and allows me to take each next step forward. It is through faith that we can have confidence and assurance in God, even when we can't see and understand the plans he has for us each day.

## Paperwork and RWN Happenings...

Sometimes just simply living outside of our sending country can seem like survival mode, particularly when it comes to paperwork and bureaucracy. And, with this always comes 'who' you know and not always 'what' you know. We are continually grateful for those who support us through the many legal processes involved with just keeping us in Romania, from those who help with our visa and residency permit renewals, to our tax accountant, and other lawyers, notaries and translators for example. It really does take a community to make it all happen. But sometimes it also seems like it's an insurmountable process that comes around all too quickly each year.

We are planning to 'move' to Bucharest in two weeks, to ensure we are near the

hospital when the time comes to meet our little man. During this time period, however, our residency permits are being renewed, and we'd appreciate you interceding in prayer for us that we can get the letter we need from the 'Minister of Religions' and have our applications submitted and interviews completed, all by the end of next week. Please pray that there won't be complications if I am absent during some of this process, and that immigration will graciously consider our circumstances.

We also ask you to continue to uphold us as we make ongoing steps towards making the Rroma-Workers Network an official association within Romania. Again, it often seems like one step forward and two steps backwards, but please pray in particular that God will provide the right people to be part of each step of the process to make this happen.

We are thankful for the positive steps which have been made as our small team works on the new RWN website, and we continue to pray that this will be available to use when we open registrations early next year, for our fourth RWN conference in May (20-24th, 2024).

We are grateful to be part of a global network among the Rroma, and for the invitation to be part of their next conference in Albania in April next year. However, with some preliminary calculations based on getting Tilly's ID papers, we are aware that we may not have all this paperwork in time for all five of us to attend the conference. At this



Rroma-Workers Network, Romania...  
Encouraging, Equipping and Empowering Rroma-workers  
to reach Rroma people and communities with the gospel.



stage we have made a contingency plan and registered Josh to attend, but please pray with us as we trust God with the process of getting 'Squeaker's' Romanian birth certificate, Australian citizenship, Australian passport and Romanian residency permit all within a reasonable time to allow us to travel.

**'Squeaker' update...**

Thank you for those who have been praying with us through this pregnancy, and for those who've sent lovely gifts to welcome our little boy. We are aware of some medical needs for both he and I, and as such it is expected that I will have a cesarian up to a month early (in the first half of January), and that he will require an operation on his right lung sometime within his first year, depending on his post birth examinations. We are comforted knowing that many of you are praying with us through this time and grateful for the care we have received through the multiple doctors working with us. All things considered we step forward in faith, and give thanks for the big and small answers to prayer. We especially want to thank God for His provision of an apartment to use for up to two months during our time in Bucharest, which is much more affordable than our plan B, and within a ten minute drive of the hospital.

"Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." Hebrews 11:1

**Josh- 'Traction' men's retreat in Switzerland...**

Firstly, I (Josh) want to say a big 'Thank you!' specifically to those who made it possible for me to attend this conference for men in cross-cultural situations. Even after arriving on the first night, I wasn't entirely sure what to expect for the week, as I haven't been to a conference like this before. I enjoyed a great time of hearing and sharing some of the struggles and challenges that are faced in serving in another culture, often with families.

Of course there wasn't a magical slogan or activity that took away all the challenges of parenting. They didn't have a process for removing the hiccups that come with a second language. And it is still difficult if not impossible to measure progress in a relationship-dependent culture, after working in Sydney where all my work hours were attributed to one client or another task. However, it was a terrific encouragement to hear and know that I'm not the only one that struggles with these things. It was great to be an encouragement to others who face even greater difficulties than I do. And it was an amazing breath of fresh air to spend the week in the mountains of Switzerland, catching up on sleep, spending time in God's Word, and building many new connections.

**Local life...**

(Josh) This year it has also been exciting to be a part of a football (soccer) outreach ministry through our local church. I have joined with the pastor and a few of the youth group guys as they go to a nearby township for a Friday night of friendly matches of 3-6 youth and young adults per side. Each game lasts 5-10 minutes each with the winning team continuing to the next. Each night has a short talk afterwards from the Bible. As well as learning to be a goalkeeper, I was able to fill in for the pastor, speaking one week when he was away. I spoke about the importance of wisdom as written to sons in Proverbs, while these guys are forming life habits and making decisions that shape the direction of their lives.

Please pray that our lives will be salt and light to those in our area, including those at our church, at Isla's preschool and piano lessons, and as we have other opportunities, even with local authorities as we ensure our paperwork is in order.

In His Hands, Josh, Manda, Isla and Tilly (and Squeaker)

**Upcoming Events**

Roma Networks conference  
April 2024, in Albania.

Rroma-Workers Network,  
Romania Conference,  
20-24 May, 2024.



**92%** Current Support

We are forever grateful to all who partner with us through your prayers, financial support and encouragement. Please continue to pray that God will provide for our spiritual, mental, physical and ministry needs, and let us know if you'd like to join our partnership team.

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Photos: 'Traction'- men's retreat; Visits from Anna (who Manda lived with in Timisoara), Jen & Adi, and Liz (from CHBC); local parties; planting trees with gradi; baby shower; winter football;