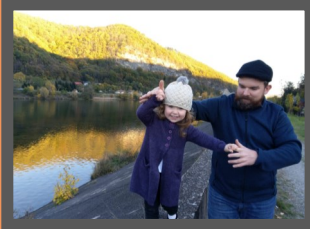




# Rest & Routine!



joshmandapidgeon.com

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## Please Pray...

» **Praise** the Lord for His provision of a new translator to help make the RWN website bilingual.

» **Praise** the Lord that most of our known financial support has now been swapped over to Pioneers. **Pray** that God will provide for our remaining 10% financial support, and that we will trust Him to provide for our needs.

» **Pray** for wisdom as we plan for next year, even in the face of the unknown.

» **Pray** for Romania during the pandemic, and also in the wake of local elections (27/9) and for their Federal Elections scheduled for 6th December.

» **Praise** the Lord that we were able to take a short break away with friends, and **Pray** for our physical, mental and spiritual health and strength as we work with all the necessary restrictions.

### Our strength and hope!...

With so much uncertainty, loss and fatigue surrounding us, it's easy to become overwhelmed and crave routine and a sense of normal. But then reality sets in again and we remind ourselves that it is us who need to adjust and ask the Lord for His intervention on our behalf.

I was encouraged to recently read a devotion on 2 Chronicles 20, as King Jehoshaphat faced dire circumstances. With uncertainty about how his situation would be resolved and how long it would take, he turned to the truths and promises of God, recalibrating in his mind where he situates himself in relation to God, and laid out his needs before his God. "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you."(v.12)

As it was for Jehoshaphat, albeit different circumstances, we pray that we will repeatedly find our daily strength and hope in the Lord, and in the truth of His promises. We pray that we will readily acknowledge our human frailty, and humbly ask the Lord for His intervention, and that He will work in all things for our good and His glory.

### That 'C' word...

Like many, we are now into our ninth month of restrictions which has chopped and changed over that time. With this second wave of Covid19, and with Romania currently considered 'code red', this week has seen an increase in restrictions in both our region of Vâlcea, and across the

country. With numbers rising we feel the weight of having to question our every action beyond our front door, including wearing masks everywhere but at home. Schools across the country have all closed, there is now a night-time curfew, and many shops, restaurants, markets and other places are either closed or have increased limitations.

Our movements are now carefully calculated, with our personal knowledge of over a dozen people having or having had Covid19. With our increased isolation, this has also meant that we have been watching church online. We pray with those who are still suffering, and ask you to pray with us for discernment as we navigate each day and each decision. With the winter cold starting to take its place for the coming months, please pray for protection and good health, and that we will have the strength to endure, should any or all three of us catch the virus.

### Daily Life...

Now having been here for over a year, and having done a 'full cycle' of the seasons, we are certainly feeling more 'at home', and are so grateful for our local friends, church and community, and for all they have done to help us through the many tasks and challenges we have faced, which we couldn't achieve on our own. We continue to learn what's needed to operate in Romanian society, and pray that any stress attached to our daily routine will continue to dissipate.



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



Josh: "Despite the current restrictions, I've still been able to practice my Romanian when running errands around town. Although it takes a lot of effort to understand each sentence that is said in a conversation, I have been encouraged by how much I am able to glean from and interact with some topics. Some of our Romanian friends have been impressed with my progress, given ten months of online lessons since we arrived.

I don't want to just talk about the weather but with winter just a few weeks away and this week already forecast to dip down to 0°C, we have been busy preparing our house for the coming months. Thankfully our house came with a gas central heating system, although it did develop a water leak from one of the taps over summer. Also, no insulation had been installed in the ceiling of the house since it was built 14 years ago, so after an extended effort to vacuum the dust, construction debris and a few other undesirable surprises,

**"For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you. All the men of Judah, with their wives and children and little ones, stood there before the Lord" 2 Chronicles 20:12**

all the ceiling insulation has now been laid. We have also invested in a thermostat to control

the temperature, and we are already noticing the results of not having the system run excessively, and yet waking up to a warm house. The next challenge will be working out the best methods of combatting the humidity, but it has all been part of learning life in a new country and climate."

**Some Fresh Air...**

I was saddened to not be able to make the five hour trip over to Timisoara to see our friend get married in August, as the risks were just too great. That said, we were very grateful for the opportunity to get away to the local mountains in Malaia for five days in August with two other families. We had a self-catered guest house to ourselves and enjoyed going for a bushwalk to a waterfall, having picnic lunches, and going for drives around the local area, including up the Transalpina- one of the highest roads of the Carpathian Mountains, and the highest road in Romania. We've also enjoyed a few afternoon drives to get some fresh air, witnessed the dramatic autumn hues, and take some walks around the big local park which is rarely crowded, and where we can easily maintain social distance whilst catching up with a few friends. It's the little things that make these challenging times more bearable.

**Website and Ministry...**

We continue to juggle our time and try to maintain some semblance of routine, especially as we increasingly remain inside with the cooling weather. We have been able to continue our Zoom meetings and work on developing the Roma-Workers Network website. This coming week we have our first meeting with our website developer and new translator, to begin the process of making the website bilingual in English and Romanian. It's a big need with many of our workers speaking little or no English, and we appreciate your prayers that we could achieve this goal by Christmas. There is a lot to do, but we are grateful for those who are partnering with us in this project to make it happen.

In December it will already be time for us to begin the process of renewing our residency permits. We were told last time that we may be eligible for a five year permit, and we value your prayers that our documents will land on the right people's desks to make this happen. We also covet your prayers as we try to plan for what 2021 might hold, though after this past year we hold these plans very lightly. Thank you again for interceding for us as we trust God to guide our next steps.

In His Hands, Josh, Manda and Isla

**Upcoming Events**

*Rescheduled  
RWN Conference  
18th-22nd October, 2021*



**90%** **Current Support**

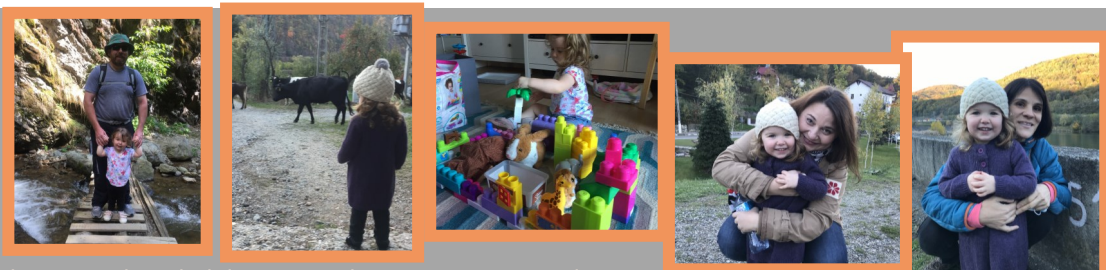
We are forever grateful to all who partner with us through your prayers, financial support and encouragement. Please continue to pray that God will provide for our spiritual, mental, physical and ministry needs, and let us know if you'd like to join our partnership team.

[www.pioneers.org.au/give](http://www.pioneers.org.au/give)

**Our Contacts**

**Our Work Email:**  
[jnm.pidgeon@gmail.com](mailto:jnm.pidgeon@gmail.com)

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**Pioneers:**  
PO BOX 200,  
Blackburn VIC 3130  
[www.pioneers.org.au](http://www.pioneers.org.au)  
[info@pioneers.org.au](mailto:info@pioneers.org.au)  
(03) 8814 4444  
1800 78 78 89 (free call)



*Photos: A short holiday to nearby mountains in Malaia; An autumn afternoon drive with friends, and watching the cows come home; Normal toddler life.*