

# Mighty In Battle!



joshmandapidgeon.com

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## Please Pray...

» **Praise** the Lord that the RWN website is now fully functioning in English and Romanian, and **Pray** that it will be a blessing to the workers, especially through this conference registration period.

» **Pray** for continued growth in all our respective levels of Romanian language.

» **Praise** God for his timing and provision in many ways through the birth of our precious Tilly. **Pray** for continued recovery and that any issues can be resolved at the upcoming medical appointments.

» **Pray** that we can get all Tilly's citizenship, passport and Romanian Visa paperwork sorted and that there won't be any major hurdles.

» **Pray** that Isla will settle in well to preschool, and for all of us to adjust to our new family dynamics and routine.

## Identity...

I (Manda) was recently encouraged by a message that was written to all parents, which reflected on the natural worries we have for our children as they grow up in this ever crumbling world. It was the simple reminder that, just as God prepared each person to be born and to live in their exact time and place in history, it remains the same for the lives of our own children. It is our task as parents to remind our children that "knowing who you are comes down to knowing Whose you are." When we and they understand that God has created us and gifted us as such, we can be at peace with who He's made us to be as His children. God is ours' and our children's security, hope and love, regardless of the circumstances in which we were born into.

We are stoked to be able to share our joy as we welcomed our precious Matilda Kathryn into our family at the beginning of August. And, whilst we didn't name her due to the meaning of her name, it seems all the more fitting that she enters this world ready to be "Mighty in Battle". We pray that God will indeed prepare her with the armour she needs for the life He's already prepared in advance for her.

Giving birth in a foreign country, we've already faced a multitude of challenges, from language barriers to navigating differences in the medical system. One of our current obstacles is getting Tilly an official form of identity,

as she currently remains stateless until we can finalise her Australian citizenship, get her passport, and apply for her Romanian visa, which we've been advised could take many months. Until then we are unable to travel out of Romania, and we trust God with the rest of the necessary details.

As part of her lack of identity and not belonging to anywhere, this also means that the only place she is registered and can therefore receive any medical treatment and childhood vaccines etc, is the hospital where she was born. This means more six hour return drives for each appointment, and juggling other responsibilities. We'd particularly like you to pray with us for an upcoming trip on 16th September, as both Tilly and I have our six week checks, including two exploratory ultrasounds to prayerfully rule out further required intervention on Tilly's health. This trip will mean three separate appointments in three separate locations in Bucharest, and therefore an early start to a long day.

We are so so grateful for all our friends here in Vâlcea who have cared for us and looked out for our needs during the past few months, including looking after Isla; going above and beyond in looking after and cleaning our house, and feeding our dog, to mention a few things. Without family around, it can easily become overwhelming, but God has certainly provided His family to support us and Tilly with abundant, patient and gracious love!



### Vaccines & Milestones...

Praise God that Josh was able to have his vaccines before we went to Bucharest, allowing him to stay with me for Tilly's birth, after restrictions eased less than two months before she was born. In addition, today I had my second vaccine which will prayerfully enable us to overcome any unforeseen access issues we might come across. Please continue to pray for God's protection over our family, especially as we've noticed another slight increase in numbers in our town and region.

Thank you for praying with us as we adapt to being a family of four, in the midst of what is already a very busy season of life and ministry for us. We've been amazed as we've watched Isla grow in leaps and bounds, including learning to ride her balance bike well, climbing rope bridges and other 'big kid' play equipment, and enjoying the big kid slide at an indoor waterpark. With her language development and embrace of being a big sister, she has certainly proved to us that she is well and truly ready to start 'grădinița' (preschool). Last week our not-so-little Isla braved her first morning, despite some tears and anxiety of the unknown, as she entered the playground with smiles! Needless to say, with all the transition of late, we've certainly all had to adapt quickly, and in many ways, our hands and hearts are full!

### RWN ministry...

Thank you also, to all who have been praying with us through the months' worth of battles to create the bilingual function and Romanian translation of the RWN website. It proved to be a bigger task than we envisioned but we are ever grateful for the persistence and patience from our team. We are grateful that Covid19 allowed us to prioritise this project, meaning we can now provide a better registration process for our upcoming conference next month.

**"Let the beloved of the Lord rest secure in him, for he shields him all day long, and the one the Lord loves rests between his shoulders." Deut. 33:12**

One of the key events of our ministry, we greatly value your prayers for us over the coming six weeks as we prepare for our third conference (Oct 18-22nd). Pray for

workers to register and to extend the invitation to others across Romania and Moldova, so that the network will continue to grow and develop. Pray that Covid won't prevent the conference from going ahead this time, and won't prevent people from coming but that God will bring everyone He wants to be there. Pray for country borders to be open, for the speakers to prepare well, and that we can accommodate well to any last minute changes, as is all too common with ministry in Romania. Pray for protection, good health, strength and stamina to get through whatever comes, and especially as we balance ministry, family and church commitments. And, pray that the conference will be a great blessing to all who attend, as we focus on our theme of 'Restoring Dignity Together'. Conference topics will explore such things as what Rroma dignity looks like; Recognising and responding to Domestic Violence within the family and the church; Building resilience and self-dignity; and Wholistic Integration amongst other topics. We look forward to hearing from our six speakers, from five countries, who will join us either in person or via Zoom if restrictions make this necessary.

### Financial update...

As with all changes to circumstances, becoming a family of four and having Isla start at preschool also brings with it a necessary increase to our budget. We would like to ask you to pray with us that God will continue to provide for all our needs, as we trust Him with the future for our family and ministry. Thank you again for continuing to uphold us in prayer, love and support.

In His Hands, Josh, Manda, Isla and Matilda 'Tilly'



Photos: Tilly's first five weeks (in hospital, with Manda's Doctor, driving to Vâlcea); Isla's first day at 'gradi'; a day at the indoor waterpark; enjoying church outdoors during summer.

**88%** **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)