



# War Room!

Manda (& Josh) Pidgeon

Recently I attended the funeral of the grandmother of a family friend. Whilst I hadn't seen much of her for many years, I knew she was a Christian, and yet didn't realise just how much of an intrepid, faithful prayer warrior she really was. The fact that four of her current and previous pastors, along with many others, spoke with such admiration as they recounted story after story of this ladies' relentless prayer life, even during the early hours of the morning, was so inspiring. She was even said to be more of a pray-er than the lady in the recent movie 'War Room', which says a lot.

There are many people who have come in and out of my life who I've admired for various reasons, whether it's the way they use their gifts to honour God, their selflessness or simply the way they love and care for their families. Often I've found myself being challenged about how I do those things, but I've also come to realise that the qualities in a person are a reflection of their history and experience and of the way God is growing them into who He wants them to be.

It took 95 years for that dear old lady to leave such an indelible mark on this earth and I pray that we who are left will continue to take on that legacy.

"Prayer includes moments of ecstasy and also dullness, mindless distraction and acute concentration, flashes of joy and bouts of irritation. In other words, prayer has features in common with all relationships that matter." - Philip Yancey.

Thank you to those who have invested in

me throughout my life, and now in Josh's and my life as a couple.

2016 has well and truly kicked off and I am certainly feeling the pressure of all that needs to be done for our Roma-Workers Network Conference, which seems to be quickly approaching.

There is a fair amount of work still to be done, and in particular, I'm still trying to find two more speakers for our workshops. Praise God though, for the speakers we've organised so far, who are joining us from Spain, The Netherlands, Serbia and Bulgaria.

Praise God that the registration forms were able to be translated and distributed as planned on 18th January. It is such a blessing to have people working alongside me, though it is still somewhat challenging when dealing with multiple time zones, email and cultures where time management is not always a priority. Please pray that I will have patience and grace as I persevere with the planning.

Admittedly, I had recently started to stress about how we would fund my return flights to Romania, and especially considering we are not even meeting our monthly budget. Almost like a broken record, however, God has made my heart skip a beat in humility. Receiving a cheque with enough to cover my tickets, God reminded me again that this is His conference, and I'm only the facilitator.

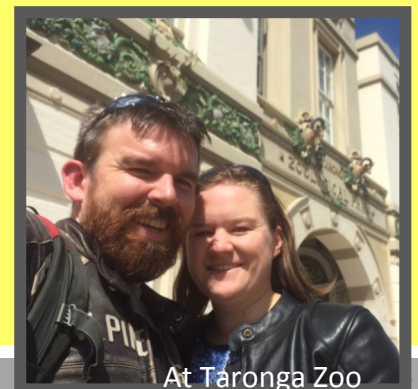
So, yes, that does mean that I have now booked my tickets, and I'm excited to say that although Josh isn't able to join me, I

## Please Pray...

» **Praise** God for His guidance as we facilitate preparations for the RWN conference. **Pray** that He will continue to raise up at least two more speakers for our workshops, as well as translators and musicians.

» **Praise** the Lord for the rest we were able to have over the summer and **Pray** that we wouldn't be overwhelmed by everything that needs to be done in the coming months.

» **Pray** that the Lord will continue to raise up more financial partners for my ministry roles, to enable us to not only live in Sydney but also cover ongoing ministry costs as they arise, such as May's conference.



At Taronga Zoo

Sharing the love of God in Romania & Australia

E: [bubbalewy@hotmail.com](mailto:bubbalewy@hotmail.com) | W: [manda.pidgeon@iteams.org](mailto:manda.pidgeon@iteams.org) | Skype: [mandaphonehome](https://www.skype.com/en/contacts/mandaphonehome)

International Teams | PO BOX 1123, Baulkham Hills NSW 1755 | [www.iteams.org.au](http://www.iteams.org.au) | 02 9890 2244

won't be going alone. Mum will be joining me, and will be a welcome pair of extra hands for the conference, as well as good company. We will be flying out on Sunday 1st May, and arriving into Bucharest on Monday afternoon, before heading to Vâlcea. Prayerfully we will be able to get all the final preparations done during that week before we head to the conference centre, as well as getting over any jet lag.

The plan for after the conference is to travel to meet with other RWN workers who won't be able to attend the conference, before Mum and I then spend 10 days in Prague and Copenhagen. I have a feeling that downtime will be needed before we land back in Sydney on 3rd June.

Please pray with me for the next few months, and particularly that God will continue to raise up enough sponsors for our indigenous Rroma workers to come. Wouldn't it be amazing if we could fill all 100 spaces. My dream and prayer is to raise \$6,000 to cover the costs of 40 workers to attend for the whole week, as well as to help pay for some of our speakers' costs.

Of course, the next few months won't only be focused on the conference. There is also a lot to do in my Member Care role, as we prepare for what seems like half of our ITeams workers returning on Home Assignment in the second half of the year. They all have different needs as they come back, and our prayer is that their sending churches will get behind them as we empower them to do so. We are also continuing to work with the Cottrell family who have recently returned from 9 years service in the UK.

Preparing for our next ACCESS training, an orientation course for all new workers and staff joining International Teams, is also keeping me busy. And, I'm in the process of working with a young lady who will be coming from the USA, to join us as an intern in the National Office and with the Sydney Refugee Team, for twelve months.

For those who have journeyed with International Teams for a while now, you may recall that our mission statement was 'Helping churches help the poor and oppressed.' Whilst this still largely reflects what we do, we realised that this didn't quite give the whole picture. As such, our mission statement has been revised and is now: 'Encouraging, equipping and empowering churches to reach marginalised people with the Gospel.' I certainly feel that this encapsulates the Rroma ministry to a larger degree and I know others feel it encompasses their ministries more accurately also. Our Vision statement, which is used by International Teams globally, remains the same: 'Lives and communities transformed by the power of God'.

If you'd like to learn more about ITeams ministries, especially considering recent changes, why not join us at our Annual Dinner coming up on 12th March. Josh and I will be there and it would be great to see you there if you can make it.

Ministry aside, it's been a full but enjoyable start to the year. It's been great to spend some time with Kez, who was down for a few days, as well as Kaitlyn who I met when I lived in Timisoara. Kaitlyn stayed with both Jen & Adi and Josh & I, over her three weeks in Sydney, and around our other commitments we managed to fit in some trips to Manly, the city, Taronga Zoo, Katoomba, Windsor and Kurrajong. I must say, those annual Zoo and Merlin passes were wonderful Christmas gift ideas- thanks Mum! ;)

Last weekend, it was also an incredible joy to go to Melbourne with Josh and Mum, as we went to watch the Edinburgh Tattoo. The only thing I wanted more of was bagpipes ;) but it was a fantastic time, and also to fit in a bit of sightseeing around Federation Square, the markets, the war memorial and the library! On the Sunday, we also helped empty out Mum's caravan at Bateau Bay, which we've had since I was in year 7, as the caravan park has decided to get rid of all its permanent vans. Just another piece of nostalgia, though I'm glad Josh and I were able to spend a weekend up there over the summer.

With our routine having started for the year, Josh will start back at Uni next week (29th Feb):


"After passing the halfway mark of subjects to complete, my second last year of uni is about to start. The uni holidays have allowed time for some additional shifts at Bunnings on top of delayed projects at home. The list of projects seems to grow quicker than it shrinks. This year I'll also be trying to find a three month internship to fulfil the requirements of my mechatronics engineering degree.

With the prospect of moving to Romania in a few years, I'll need to begin learning some Romanian which may be assisted by a recently discovered Romanian work colleague. Although I want to pursue engineering work in Romania, we are starting to look into what official capacity I will have under the ITeams umbrella."- Josh

In His hands, Manda (& Josh) Pidgeon.



Edinburgh  
Tattoo



Melbourne  
Shrine of  
Remembrance

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*ITeams Annual Dinner*  
12th March (cost: \$45)

*Rsvp by 26th Feb, at*  
[www.iteams.org.au](http://www.iteams.org.au)

*RWN Conference*  
*In Lacul Surduc, Romania*  
9-13th May



SAVE THE DATE | 2016  
.....  
**MAY 9-13**  
ROOTED TOGETHER IN CHRIST



First Biannual Roma-Workers Conference...  
for Christian workers ministering to Roma around Romania

**WHERE: SURDUC, ROMÂNIA**  
**COST: 400 RON per worker**

Further information & Registration forms  
will be available from 18th January

The conference will be run in Romanian & English  
(with the potential for other languages to be translated, pending sufficient numbers)

[rromaworkers.ro@gmail.com](mailto:rromaworkers.ro@gmail.com) | [www.facebook.com/groups/rromaworkers.ro/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/rromaworkers.ro/)



A project account has been set up for people to give financially towards the RWN conference in May-2016.

Will you consider sponsoring one Roma worker to attend the conference for just €100?  
(including administration costs = AUD\$150)

Click [www.iteams.org.au/give/give-once/](http://www.iteams.org.au/give/give-once/) and select 'Roma-Workers Network' under projects, to give a once-off contribution.

For those who sign up to be a sponsor, you will receive prayer points for that worker, so that you can be praying for them over the week of the conference.

We are looking for 30-40 financial sponsor buddies, and a prayer buddy for all 100 workers, so even if you're not in a position to financially sponsor a worker, you can still be a prayer buddy.

Please email [rromaworkers.ro@gmail.com](mailto:rromaworkers.ro@gmail.com) to sign up.  
(include your full name, email, church and a small paragraph about you, which will be given to the roma worker)

