

Newsletter
Forty

17th Dec 2016



Answered Prayer!

Manda (& Josh) Pidgeon

It's been a flying finish to the end of 2016 but we have so much to be thankful for as we reflect on the past year!

It's been a joy to watch this year unfold, and even on those tougher days, a relief to have known His loving presence, giving us comfort that we are not alone! (Hebrews 13:5). God has continued to give us the grace to endure, the wisdom to know He is working, and the assurance that Christ can "empathise with our weaknesses." (Hebrews 4:15)

As I reflect on Christmas once more, I have found a real peace and joy this year in remembering that Jesus was indeed "Immanuel" (God with us)... and still is! I know I couldn't get to the end of another year without His loving presence- and I'm glad we don't have to!

When I last wrote in September, Josh and I were preparing to serve on Scripture Unions' Boys Ag Camp at Mundarlo, down near Gundagai. Thank you for your prayers and praise God for a great week. Thankfully the flooding down that way barely interfered with the planned activities- though the second half of the week was quite wet and we certainly gave our gumboots a good workout!

The boys were able to enjoy a wide range of activities, from sheering to grading wool; milking cows to making cream and cheese; catching chickens and everything

through to putting them in the freezer; learning all the cuts of meat from a cow to mincing and making sausages for lunch; playing games between the giant pine trees in Bago State Forest to digging trenches around the tents to try and keep the water out. Of course, there was compulsory afternoon siesta's and time to hear from God's Word as we studied Ecclesiastes and looked at 'Images of the Christian Life.' There was plenty of fun at the wool shed where we stayed, including a giant slide down the hillside, archery and casting hammers from aluminium. The boys certainly weren't bored to say the least! And, it was quite special to have my nephew Haydn join us for the week... he even managed to put an arrow right through the middle of an apple!

September also saw the joy of welcoming another new nephew to the Lewis clan, with Jacob William being born to Adam and Fiona, and big sister Emily! He's cute - and I'm biased and loving the cuddles!

It seems like every other weekend has included 30th Birthday parties and 1st Birthday parties, as well as visits to share our journey with those in Canowindra and Bowral, and with a number of Bible Study groups. November included a trip to Cowra to spend time with Josh's family for the internment of his Grandma's ashes, and the chance to catch up with

Please Pray...

» **Praise** God for His every provision and please continue to pray that He will raise up the ongoing financial support needed for both my roles, as we continue to live by faith.

» **Praise** God that He is at work with regards to Josh's Internship, and pray that the right door will open as we follow His leading.

» **Praise** the Lord that Rod has been appointed as our new National Director. Pray that the Lord will direct his steps as he leads ITeams Aust. forward.

» **Pray** for the continued editing of the material from May's RWN conference and for the ongoing development of the new website.



Sharing the love of God in Romania & Australia

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friends in Cumnock. We are very thankful for the many opportunities over the past few months, to spend quality time with family and friends– something I don't take for granted, and we're making the most of whilst we're based in Sydney.

The past few months have also been busy on the work front, and after 10 months of waiting and praying and submitting paperwork, praise God that Oksana from the USA, has finally had her Visa approved, and will be joining our team from mid-January. We look forward to her input in both the National Office, and also as she works alongside the Sydney Refugee Team.

After much prayer, it was also a delight to hear a few weeks back, that Rod Bishop, who has been serving as our Director for Missions Support, including overseeing and developing our finance system, has been appointed as our new National Director. Please pray with us and for him, that he will lead us forward well and that God will direct our steps as a team.

It was a blessing to come together for our ITeams Prayer Breakfast in October, and uphold all our workers around the world, to the One who we serve. It was a great reminder and opportunity to take a step back and smile at everything God is doing in and through all our people– and a joy to be part of something bigger than just what I do!

Seeing fruit come after May's Roma-Workers Network Conference has also made me rejoice, as I watch workers engage with each other, equip one another with resources, and share the burden of the task that lies ahead. Please pray for each of these workers, particularly over the winter, as the needs of the Roma people are great. Pray that they would be able to provide food, warm clothing and shoes, and that they won't become overwhelmed by the needs but keep their eyes fixed on Jesus, the ultimate provider.

Please pray for me as I continue to Skype and email workers, that I will also have wisdom to know how I might help them. I continue to get regular requests asking if I know where workers can get certain materials such as a recent request for Slovakian Bibles. I appreciate your prayers as I compile all the details for the new RWN website- which certainly isn't a fast job! I look forward to getting it up and running so that people can start using the forums and sharing their resources more easily, as well as being able to use it for our next conference in 2018! There is much to be done, and yet lots to look forward to.

Looking forward, next year is already taking shape, with our ITeams ACCESS training in February, as well as more opportunities to share about the journey God has us on. Would you like us to come and share at your church or small group sometime in the new year? Please let me know when suits, and if you have other helpful contacts!

Josh has received pleasing results from his end of year exams, though he continues working on one subject over these holidays. We are also excited that he has had one interview and has another next week regarding his Internship, and we pray that God might provide something paid to replace his work at Bunnings, so that he doesn't have to juggle both.

We are very thankful once more, for God's provision throughout this year, and though it's been a challenging year financially, we trust that God knows our needs and is faithful. Would you consider partnering with us financially in 2017? We need about 20 people to support us with \$100 per month, and 20 people with \$50 per month, in order to cover our ongoing living and ministry costs. You can give at iteams.org.au/give.

Thank you once more for your love and prayers throughout 2016, and we pray that each of you will know God's loving presence over this Christmas season and into 2017. May you trust Him with the big and small decisions and cling to him when the tough times come. And, we would genuinely like to know how we can also uphold you in prayer, so please let us know!

In His hands, Manda & Josh.

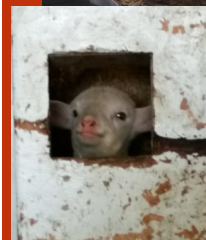


Haydn split the apple!



I had a go at milking

And, Josh helped with the metal casting!



Baby Jacob 'Jake'

Upcoming Events

National Office Closed
23rd Dec—3rd Jan 2017

New Zealand for Anna's
Wedding 5th-9th Jan

ITeams 'ACCESS' -
Orientation Training
10th, 11th, 13th, 25th Feb