

Changes Galore!



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Please Pray...

» **Pray** for our family, for His sustaining grace during this time of transition, and for good health, energy and rest.

» **Praise** God for the way He has orchestrated our plans and travels so far and, **Pray** that He would open the right doors to provide our Visas and housing in His timing!

» **Pray** that He will raise up the remaining 3% of our ongoing monthly budget to ensure that we can remain in Romania fully funded.

» **Pray** that we can continue to develop the RWN as we talk with workers, work on the website and start preparing for 2020's conference.

» **Pray** for Josh as he studies the Romanian language, and for Manda as she refreshes hers, and **Pray** for a growing understanding of the Romanian culture as we learn the new norms of life.

Changes to almost everything...

Several times over the years we've come across a chart called the Holmes-Rahe Scale which highlights the amount of stress experienced over a twelve month period, and in which each aspect is given a points rating adding to a total.

Whilst in Germany at the ITeams Europe Conference, this chart came up again during a workshop called 'On the road to better mental health.' It came with no surprise but perhaps curiosity to see just how much our points added up, considering all that we've been through this year. Whilst 200 points is fairly average for anyone, it's not uncommon for an overseas worker to have somewhere in the vicinity of 600 points! Our score came in at 677 points.

All to state the obvious that our life has had a significant shift in just about every which way possible, but also to acknowledge our gratefulness in God's sustaining grace and in knowing your support and prayers that help keep us on track! Thank you, and please never underestimate the power of prayer!

Singapore and Germany...

Whilst it already seems like a lifetime ago in some respects, we found our time in Singapore to be helpful after saying so many goodbyes, and in transitioning to the next season God has planned for us. It was nice to just spend some downtime as a family,

resting, swimming and wandering around such a lovely city, despite the heat and humidity.

Thankfully Isla was a little champion when it came to flying half way around the world. She slept well on the flights and loved walking the aisles smiling at everyone, as well as playing with other little kids around us. I admit she was also helpful in getting through some of the check-in and boarding lines a little more quickly, and even made the security and other staff melt.

Our time at the ITeams Europe Conference was also a time of blessing, seeing old friends and meeting new contacts who work across this continent, including some who work with Roma—more than I had expected. The workshops varied in topic but were all focused on the theme of 'Renew and Connect'. It's so easy to get caught up in ministry to the neglect of your own health or that of your family, and we would love you to pray with us that we would be healthy spiritually, mentally and physically.

We also cannot thank the children's team enough, and especially Rachel and Michelle who doted on Isla all week. Isla did pretty well considering how tired we all were from travelling, and we know it's not an easy job looking after a bunch of children who don't know each other, let alone speak each others languages, so thank you!

Ramnicu Valcea and Visas...



We arrived in Romania on 18th August and were met by a familiar face, Tim. After so much planning and travel and cultural shifts and foreign languages, it was so nice to finally feel like we'd made it to our new home. We know it will take a while before things start becoming second nature, like driving on the right side of the road, and eating different foods, but we pray that little by little we will find our feet and start to find a new rhythm to life in Ramnicu Valcea.

Thank you to those who have already been praying with us regarding our visa situation. We have had a bit of a roller coaster ride of emotions with advice and responses to our enquiries. Some have said it would be a fairly quick and easy process. Some officials have told us that we will need to return to Australia. This was especially concerning because we know of someone who recently returned home without a visa. And we have been told almost everything in between.

Thankfully, we have been in contact with another Australian who secured a religious visa a few years ago and who also took notes of the required documents and process. Praise God, we are now more confident that we have a good understanding of the

"The Lord will open for you His good storehouse, the heavens, to give rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hand; and you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow." Deut 28:12

required process, and we are now securing the required documents from both Australia and Romania. We are hoping to have our e-visa

application submitted online within the next fortnight. Please pray with us that the documents will be gathered promptly and that posted documents will arrive safely. Please also pray that our visas will be approved in a timely manner after submission, so that we don't have to leave the country in early November after our 90 day tourist visa expires.

Bosnia and Accommodation...

Part of our understanding of our two step process in obtaining our visas includes having an interview with a Romanian embassy in a country other than Romania. You may remember us mentioning that we plan to attend the 3rd Roma Europe Conference in Bosnia and Herzegovina in October, and so we are praying that we may be able tie in this interview in Budapest during our long drive west. We also pray that the conference itself will be a great encouragement to all the Roma workers attending from across Europe, and that these connections will serve the growth of the Roma-Workers Network into the future.

Once we receive the first part of our visa outside of Romania, the second step within the country is a bit more straight forward, obtaining agreements with the local association and gathering documents such as rental contracts and local health insurance. We are blessed to currently be staying in the granny flat of our colleague Mike and Elvira while we work out our longer term accommodation. To add to the list, we are also working through the process of purchasing a house from an American couple who are retiring back to the USA after more than two decades of serving in Romania, and although the paperwork for that isn't easy either, we can see God's provision in making this option plausible. We value your prayers for all that needs to occur for both our visas, and the house as we set up our life here in Ramnicu Valcea. Thank you for standing with us!

In His Hands, Josh, Manda and Isla.

Upcoming Events

3rd Roma Europe
Conference in Sarajevo,
Bosnia & Herzegovina
9-12th October

For those in Sydney:
ITeams Annual Dinner
@ Meze Me Grove Res-
taurant, Annangrove
Wed 16th Oct, 7pm
Booking Link:
[iteams.org.au/events/
dinner/](http://iteams.org.au/events/dinner/)



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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.iteams.org.au/missionary/
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