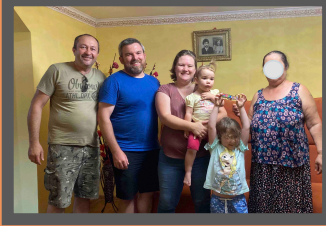
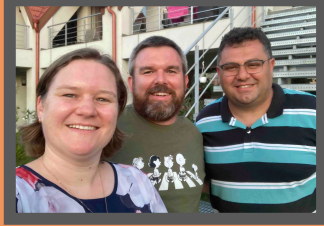


Summer's Song!



joshnmandapidgeon.com
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Please Pray...

» **Praise** the Lord for an encouraging trip to visit our workers, and particularly for the new connections made. And **Praise** God also for safety on the roads and during the storms.

» **Praise** God for a wonderful church camp and for C and O who were baptised. **Pray** for continued growth in all our church relationships, and for everyone to be growing closer to God.

» **Pray** that God will provide the right people and professionals to help us through the process of making the RWN an official association.

» **Pray** for preparations for our fourth RWN conference, booked for 20-24 May, 2024. **Pray** that God will provide the right speakers and helpers for the week.

» **Pray** that God will provide the remaining funds for Josh to attend the men's 'Traction' conference. We still need to raise \$580.

Openhearted Generosity!...

25 days, 3400+kms of driving, 12 beds, 12 workers/teams/locations across Romania and Moldova. And, with each place we stayed and each person we met, we were humbled that little bit more.

If words could describe the many Roma people and Roma workers we met during our trip, it would create a picture of openhearted generosity and hospitality.

We were amazed as one lady gave up her house for our family, staying instead with a neighbour, and yet making sure we had enough food and provisions, despite not having much herself.

Or as we sat and listened to a family's heartache after much of their house was damaged due to a storm, and yet they fetched a bottle of coke so we had something to drink. Over the course of the following week, including the two nights we stayed in a nearby church building, their community faced another three storms, and this family's house became more uninhabitable with each hit. Yet, on the Sunday at church their family, with most of their nine children, got up and sang praises to God because He had protected every one of them.

We sat with a team whose hearts are to see their local Roma community transformed, and yet they don't know how much more they can continue because they don't have enough volunteers to help.

We heard workers hearts, their dreams, and their pleas, as we sat under trees and drank strong Roma coffee; praying with them and sharing with them and some of their churches in their weariness, needs, and hopes for what God IS doing.

As we drove, on sometimes very difficult roads, and reflected on each place we visited, it instilled again and again just how much these workers need each other and the Roma-Workers Network community. We reminded them that we weren't there to bring them the answers but to help bridge the gap to enable them to persevere in their ministries so that these communities will hear the good news of the Gospel.

"For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 15:4-6.

Please pray with us for our workers and those we visited in particular, that God will provide for their needs and that He will guide them and guide us with wisdom as we develop the RWN in the coming months and years.

Local Life...

The girls coped remarkably well with all the time spent in the car, and staying at



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



so many different places. However, it was nice to have some fun family downtime both during and after such a busy time of visiting people. The Dino Park, 'Turda Salt Mine', and upside-down house were certainly worth the visits.

Back at home though, we enjoyed celebrating Tilly's 2nd birthday with a BBQ dinner, and the experience of blackberry picking with our local friends, collecting around 20kgs worth.

During the summer, Isla's preschool ran a summer program, looking at a different part of the world each week. The week after we arrived home was the 'Australia and Oceania' week, so we thought it would be good for Isla to participate. It was also good for her to see some familiar faces after visiting so many new people for weeks on end.

"Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." Romans 15:7

This past week we were also grateful to be part of our local church's camping weekend, in a friend's backyard not too far from town. It was such a blessing to have everyone together for more than just a Sunday service, and to build on the relationships we've been growing. It was so also tear-jerkingly encouraging to witness God working in the lives of one family, of whom both the husband and wife were baptised during the Sunday service. It's a weekend we won't forget quickly. However, the following morning, with Anca, one of our good friends, we drove about eight hours to spend a few precious days at the Black Sea, enjoying swimming in the beach and pool, making the most of the remaining summer before Isla starts back at gradi next week.

Since arriving home, Josh has also started a much needed renovation on our laundry/bathroom, discovering the need to gut it entirely to put in new drainage and waterproofing so that we can also put in a shower. We expect this job will take a while, around everything else, including Josh travelling to Switzerland in two weeks, for a week-long men's retreat. Thank you to those who have already contributed to allow him to attend.

RWN happenings...

As well as evaluating our trip around the country and how that might influence our ongoing development of the RWN, we are continuing to design our 'stage 2' website to prayerfully make it more applicable to the workers' needs and to ensure their safety, as well as to meet GDPR regulations. We pray that we can release this by the end of this year, and in time to start using it for our registration process for our fourth RWN conference in May 2024.

For a while now we have also been researching the best approach needed to making the RWN an official association within Romania, rather than simply a 'ministry project'. While we were away, we had several conversations with those who have more expertise in dealing with the Romanian legal system and we have decided that it will be best to start this 'Association' from scratch, rather than renovating a donated association which we were again considering. We'd appreciate your prayers as we discuss this with our local lawyer, and talk with others who will be involved in the complex process over time.

Family News...

In case all that's not enough for you to take in, we are also delighted to share with you all that we are expecting to meet our third little Pidgeon this coming February. As with Tilly, we are planning on having HIM in Bucharest, though I (Manda) also have a Dr here in Vâlcea to help with some of the monitoring. There are some medical challenges requiring more regular monitoring but we pray that God will continue to have his hand over my health in particular, and that our little boy will continue to grow strong and healthy.

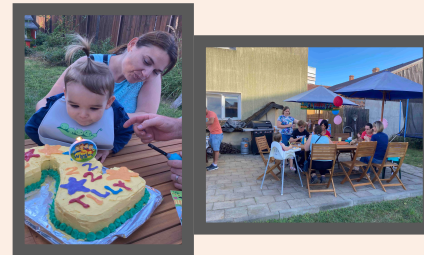
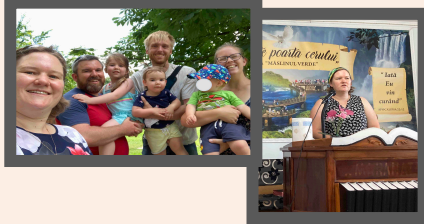
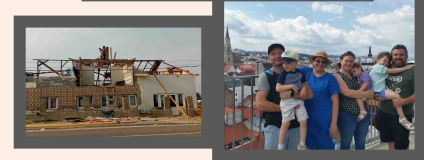
In His Hands, Josh, Manda, Isla and Tilly (and Squeaker)



Photos: A day in Timișoara; Visiting RWN workers & sharing at churches; Tilly's 2nd Birthday; Short beach holiday with Anca; Church camp & Baptisms;

Upcoming Events

Josh- 'Traction' Retreat for men, in Switzerland. (September)



94% 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

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