



The Mandate Continues!

Manda (& Josh) Pidgeon

As I drove down south towards Bowral, watching the last of the Autumn leaves falling, and praying and preparing what to share with the Missions group at Bowral Baptist, I found myself pondering the message of a talk I recently heard.

The speaker described the last moments of Jesus' life on earth and how, despite his physical agony, he was more concerned with the welfare of those He loved and was leaving behind (John 19:26). As he publically faced death on our behalf, Jesus gave every last breath to ensure His mission was accomplished, including welcoming the thief hanging next to him into God's family, and ensuring that even the Roman centurion would witness the truth as to who He is. (Matt 27:54).

Jesus' faithfulness to the last breath is a wonderful comfort, and yet a stark reminder to continue on with the mission he started, however difficult it gets. I only pray that I will be faithful to my last breath.

These past months have been full of joy and much celebration, walking with Kez and Phil through their engagement and towards their wedding in August. Between engagement parties in both Sydney and on the Gold Coast, dress shopping and helping with other preparations from a distance, it is such a privilege and an amazing opportunity,

and one that I'm so glad Josh and I are in Australia for.

Amidst this special time, it was wonderful to also spend some quality time with Kez in March, as we headed into the city for Colour Conference. To have a lifelong friend to share the joys and struggles with is such a precious gift, and one I dread ever taking for granted.

It's also been lovely to meet up with other friends, and to enjoy babysitting my gorgeous niece, Emily, and nephew Jacob, as well as celebrating many family birthdays.

When Josh and I attended the Better Homes & Gardens Expo last year, we were surprised to win a discounted resort stay in one of several locations. It was a blessing to take advantage of this opportunity to spend a week away in Tasmania in April, which doubled as both our birthday and anniversary presents.

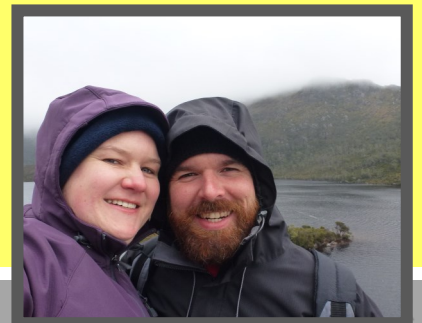
We had a lovely time up at Port Sorrell, and driving around Launceston, Devonport, the Tamar Valley, Beaconsfield and the Sheffield area, as well as doing an overnight trip down to Port Arthur and through Ross and Campbell Town. My highlight, however, was finally being able to walk around Dove Lake at Cradle Mountain. Having only got as far as the carpark on a previous two attempts, it was lovely to take in the beauty as we

Please Pray...

» **Praise** God for His every provision and that Manda's support for both her roles has risen to 52%. As we trust God with our living and ministry needs, Please continue to **pray** that He will raise up the ongoing shortfall.

Our current needs mean that we are looking for 16 people to partner with us by giving \$100/month and 16 people to give \$50/month— though any amount is a true blessing. Please **pray** about how you might walk with us in this journey.

» **Pray** for the development of the new RWN Website and that God will raise up the funds to get it up and running so we can use it for the next conference.



Sharing the love of God in Romania & Australia

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walked from Ronny Creek Car Park, towards Marion's Lookout and down to and around Dove Lake. Although wet and cold, after they had experienced some light snow the previous day, the serenity was glorious, and it was exciting to finally see my first wombats (alive) in the wild, including a mother and her joey. Special memories for sure!

Back on the home front, we are about to face a busy season in the National Office. You may remember that back in January we had a young intern arrive from the USA. Well, being her Supervisor, it has been wonderful to have Oksana on board to help us develop a member care plan for our growing team of volunteers, and particularly with the Sydney Refugee (SRT) and StreetLight Teams. She has also been able to help with SRT's weekly visits, Food Bank and event organisation for things like the Refugee Family Weekend Away. Sadly, time is passing all too quickly, and whilst it's great that Oksana will be able to stay through till just after our Sydney Ride for Refugees, her contribution and fun personality will certainly be missed.

In the office we are also getting ready for a night of stories from Refugees and those who have walked the journey with them both in Australia and overseas, as well as our Annual Fundraising Dinner, where our new National Director, Rod Bishop, will be launching ITeams Australia's new Mission Statement. I encourage and invite all of our supporters in the Sydney area to come along to both of these events.

For me, as well as debriefing a young man who's recently arrived back from serving short-term in Austria with refugees, I'm also preparing details for some of our overseas workers who will be coming on Home Assignment in the second half of this year.

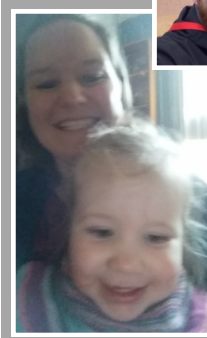
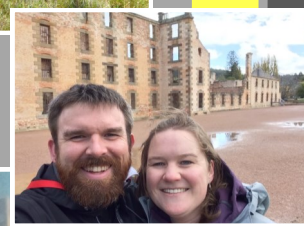
One of my goals as Josh and I slowly prepare to move to Romania next year, is to help get our ITeams Member Care processes as up to date as possible, before the time comes to hand this role over to someone else. Part of this will include attending the South Pacific Member Care Conference in Mooroolbark, Victoria in September. I am very much looking forward to growing my knowledge in this area and also meeting others who work in Member Care.

From Josh: "I have two exams next week to complete my last semester of uni lectures. This semester has included a lot of preparation for my research thesis next semester. In the second half of next semester I'll need to apply what I have researched by building a demonstration electronics circuit, and I'll be writing a report on all that I've found and designed. I'm quite excited to be graduating early next year!"

My internship is progressing well and also nearing completion in July. Shortly I'll begin preparing reports to detail what I've learned and applied. The lift company has given me a wide variety of tasks to work on, giving well-rounded experience. I have also been offered a permanent position doing design and project management, through until we leave for Romania. This new position has lead me to resign from Bunnings after three years. While I am very thankful for the flexibility that Bunnings has offered during my uni studies, I am enjoying applying my engineering skills at the lift company."

For me, (Manda) it has been wonderful to Skype with some new Rroma workers and to hear of their connections with others. This past week I Skyped with a woman who has a Rroma background herself and 20 years ministry experience. It was wonderful to hear her story and how God has lead her to work with her own people, after previously disassociating herself with the name Rroma. She is well connected and I'm sure will be a great person to partner with going forwards- she is even connected with the Rroma King in Romania! Thank you to those who are continuing to pray for this ministry. God is certainly opening up doors and windows of opportunity. Please pray as myself and some others as we try and finalise the dates and location for our next RWN conference, which will hopefully be the end of April/early May 2018. I already have ideas for workshop topics and speakers and hope to have these in place as soon as possible, but pray that I will have patience as we work on 'Romania-time.' Please pray also for the ongoing progress of the website as I work on the content and wait for the funds to be made available before we can start. I was recently put in contact with a Rroma man who last year started a microfinance business for himself in photography, and I hope to be able to partner with him to provide photos from a Rroma perspective for the website in due time. There is lot's to be thankful for!

In His hands, Manda & Josh.



Photos:
Kez & Phil's
Engagement;
Tassie Trip;
Playing Aunty
with Emily

Upcoming Events

Stories & Prayer Night
7:30pm, 20th June
@ West Pennant Hills
Community Church

ITeams Fundraising Dinner
22nd July
@ St Paul's, Castle Hill

RIDE for Refugees 2017
SYDNEY- 19th AUG
BRISBANE- 2nd SEPT
TOOWOOMBA- 9th SEPT



"But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere."
2 Corinthians 2:14