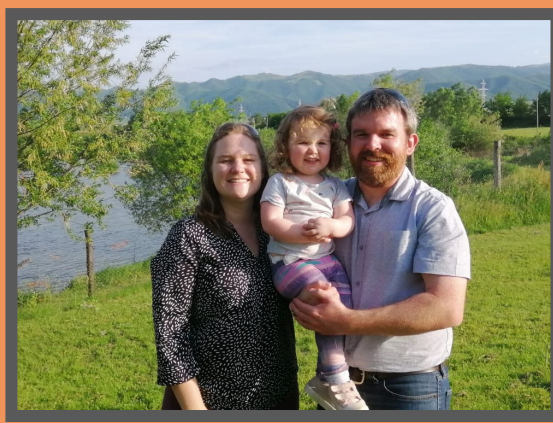


# Revised Expectations!



joshmandapidgeon.com

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## Please Pray...

» **Praise** the Lord that we've been able to make progress with updating the Worker's Directory in the RWN website. **Pray** for further developments with the Resource Library as we find a better way to organise them.

» **Praise** the Lord that most of our financial support is now swapped over to Pioneers. **Pray** that the remaining support will be transitioned over, as International Teams ceases receiving funds from 31st August.

» **Pray** for wisdom in how to handle the postponement of our Third RWN conference. **Pray** that God will guide our revised plans as we consider hosting some online workshops. Pray that they will be well received by the workers.

» **Pray** for our physical, mental and spiritual health and strength as we adapt to the necessary restrictions.

## What's in a plan?!...

Unless you've only just emerged from some deep valley where you've been living as a hermit since 2019, everyone of our stories has its own twists and turns, upheavals and blessings which we've each endured this year.

I can't help but think about the movie 'Tomorrow When The War Began', and how each of those teenagers made choices in response to the immense changes that had gone on in their world during their brief absence. Each one of us is affected by our immediate surroundings, emotions, faith and input from friends and family. The reality that one day continues to follow the next requires a response from us, whether we want to or not.

For us, this year has forced certain decisions, such as having to choose a new sending organisation; choosing whether or not to stay in Romania during the Covid-19 pandemic; and having to postpone the Roma-Workers Network Conference which was scheduled for May, and moved to September.

But amongst all these forced decisions, I'm grateful for the continual reminder of something I quickly learnt when I first moved to Romania in 2008, and started working at Potter's House with disadvantaged children. I was placed in charge of organising the weekly craft program for the children. However, it was common that I would turn up pre-

pared with a craft, only to hear that the program had changed due to a birthday party or something else that popped up. I quickly learnt that preparing well for a month's worth of craft wasn't pointless, but actually gave me more up my sleeve which I could use later on, and actually saved me time in the weeks ahead.

## September's RWN Conference...

All this continues to remind me that "The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps."- Proverbs 16:9.

We have endured a lot of uncertainty regarding the timing of our Third RWN conference, though we recognise the need to prepare as much as possible, to ensure that we are ready for when God gives us the greenlight to run the conference.

That said, after much prayer, talking with the Conference Centre, and seeking wisdom from others, we have come to the difficult decision to postpone the conference again until Oct 2021.

We will continue to prepare and plan so that the conference will be ready for when we can finally hold it, but we want to ask you to please continue to pray with us for wisdom and understanding where needed.

We are considering alternative options to help the workers network together despite the postponed conference, such as some online workshops, though we recognise the sensitivity required in running such topics online.



## Conference Sponsorships...

We were so encouraged to receive news from Castle Hill Baptist, that they were able to exceed the target in their May Missions Appeal, raising just over our goal of 50 sponsorships to allow workers to attend our RWN Conference. While we now won't be using those funds in September as planned, we want to reassure everyone that they will still be used for what they are designated for, when we are able to finally hold the conference. Thank you to all who have so generously given, and we pray that God will bless these gifts for His glory and in His timing.

## Website and Ministry...

We are thankful for the extra time we've been able to invest in the RWN website and also on the RWN database, as we continue to centralise and develop the foundations of the ministry. We also pray that we will be able to work out a plan to edit the accumulated complex recordings and

**"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through the fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you." Isaiah 43:2**

their translations, and are thankful for discussions we've already had with 'The Good Story', who are willing to coach us through this process. We covet your prayers with us as we work out the best way forward for what's needed.

## Local Life...

Once restrictions were somewhat eased in Romania in May, we were blessed to be able to offer our backyard to host our Sunday church services for five weeks before we were again allowed to meet inside a building, though with a limit of 20 people. Just before Covid restrictions began, our church purchased a new building, after meeting in an old rented room in a run down government building for a long time. Thankfully, the new building could be somewhat prepared before we were allowed to meet there, though some work still remains. There have certainly been some blessings during this time, even with so many challenges.

We've enjoyed being able to spend time with local friends getting out in nature, and celebrating some birthdays with outdoor barbecues. Josh and I have also started meeting up weekly with some friends, which has been a great refreshment to us both, and allowed space to breathe and process all that's going on. We've also been able to make some more progress with getting insurances and accounts set up, and pray that we can get all these things finalised soon.

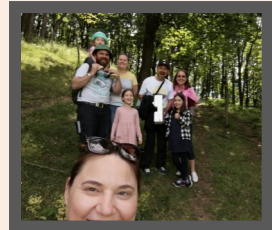
We continue with maintenance with our house, taking advantage of the warm weather to get it done. We are grateful that one of the men from our church has construction experience, and has been able to work with Josh in getting a new front fence installed which will increase the security to our house, as well as stop Sully from getting out regularly. We have also purchased insulation for the roof but are yet to get that installed. With our shipping having now also arrived from Australia, we are starting to feel a lot more settled here in Valcea, which is a great blessing as this month (3rd Aug) marks one year since we left Australia. Thank you for continuing to journey with us through all the changes and twists and turns of this last year, and we pray that the coming year will bring God glory in whatever He has planned for us.

In His Hands,

Josh, Manda and Isla

## Upcoming Events

Rescheduled  
RWN Conference  
18th-22nd October, 2021



**89%** 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](http://www.pioneers.org.au/give)

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Photos: Adventures to nearby mountains for picnics and hikes with friends; A town which hosts storks each nesting season; Isla's creative nature; Elderflower juice; Hosting church in our backyard.