



Moving Forwards!

Manda & Josh Pidgeon

Moving out...

The reality and stress of the immensity of our move and transition to life in Romania has certainly begun to hit. It's been a long time coming, and often seemed like a way off in the distant future, but not now... now it's just around the corner!

We are continuing to move forwards with our plans, despite not having a fixed departure date, whilst we wait until we reach that 'magic' percentage of our financial support. Sometimes it can be too easy to just live and feel like we're in limbo, waiting for what's to come, and not making the most of the time and opportunities around us here in Sydney. We covet your prayers as we continue to trust God's perfect timing, that we would be faithful in the hear and now.

As of 16th March, we will be temporarily moving in with my Mum until we leave for Romania. This will help with the first phase of sorting, shredding, selling and packing up our life's stuff, in readiness to squeeze what remains into a small amount of storage, and shipping the rest to Romania... a mouthful I know ;)

This move in the interim will be a huge help to know what else we need to finalise, and will allow us to focus on getting all our other affairs in order, from wills to changing and deleting accounts and finalising any other paperwork.

From Canowindra to Erskine Park...

Whilst we wait for the green light to book our flights, we are grateful for the opportunities that remain to share with individuals and churches in Australia about the journey God has us on, and about the Roma people of Romania. The more we talk to people, the more we are seeing the need to create awareness about the largest ethnic minority group in the world. We are privileged to be the ones being sent to bring the hope of Jesus to these people through the Roma -Workers Network, and can't wait to get over there, but we wait patiently.

God has opened doors for us to once more share out at All Saints Anglican church in Canowindra this weekend (10th March), and then also at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Erskine Park on 24th March. Please join us in praying that our brothers and sisters in these churches will be encouraged by what we share, and that we will continue to find mutual encouragement also.

Jury Duty...

One of the unknowns is that Josh has, for the second time, been summoned to do jury duty next week which, if selected, may go for at least six weeks, and contribute to the delay in our departure. Please pray for understanding by the person assigning the jurors, so that we can keep moving forwards. Whilst we

Please Pray...

» **Pray** for our family, that we won't grow weary during this somewhat stressful and tiring time of preparation and moving, and for good health, energy and rest.

» **Praise** God for a lovely time spent with family and friends celebrating Isla's 1st birthday, and **Pray** for Isla as she grows in leaps and bounds, that she will know Jesus' love for her.

» **Praise** God for His provision so far, and please **pray** that He will raise up our necessary financial shortfall to allow us to move to Romania as soon as possible.

» **Pray** that we can continue to develop the RWN whilst we wait to get to Romania, and that we can make the most of our remaining time in Sydney.



Bringing the hope of Jesus to the Roma people in Romania

manda.pidgeon@gmail.com | manda.pidgeon@iteams.org | Website: www.mandapidgeon.com

International Teams | PO BOX 1123, Baulkham Hills NSW 1755 | www.iteams.org.au | 02 9890 2244

trust that everything will happen in God's timing, we also pray that Satan won't get a foothold, as we certainly know he doesn't want us in Romania.

Partnership raising and timeframes...

We have been aiming to leave at the end of March for quite some time, and we continue to pray that God would prepare and raise up a team who will stand with us in prayer, not only as we go, but for the longevity of our time in Romania. We also pray that God will raise up more people to partner with us financially so that we can focus on the task ahead, and not have to worry about our budget every day. We are so grateful that we have sufficient set up costs, and praise God for the 62% of our ongoing monthly costs already raised, but we ask you to pray with us fervently, that we can reach 100% soon so that we can purchase our one way ticket to Romania.

Many people continue to ask us how long we are planning to be in Romania and whether we'll come back to visit Australia. We hold such plans loosely, knowing that we really can't give a fixed answer and that God has a sense of humour, though usually we only see that in hindsight. That said, we will be back every few years for Home Assignment, and at this stage our thoughts are to return to Australia for Isla to go to High School here, but that's a long way off and too far in advance to comprehend, even for those of us who are super organised. ;)

Once we get there...

As we continue to move forwards with our plans, we are also planning about what will happen once we arrive in Romania. There are the obvious personal needs like getting visas, accounts and accommodation sorted once we arrive, and Josh will start with learning culture and some intensive language lessons. There is a possibility for Josh to maybe do some applied maths teaching at a local school, but hopefully he will be able to get some Engineering work in the long run. And, we will continue furthering our existing connections with existing RWN workers, and visiting new workers that we've been put in contact with but haven't had the chance to meet. We will also continue working on the new RWN website and trying to get that fully established and encouraging workers to engage with it further, as well as working on the next conference for 2020.

We really would love to get back soon, and there is so much work to be done but we would particularly like to be in Romania in time for two conferences that will be happening in August and October.

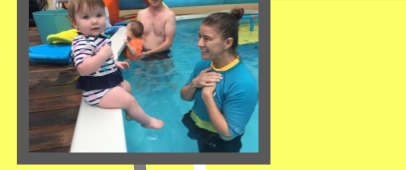
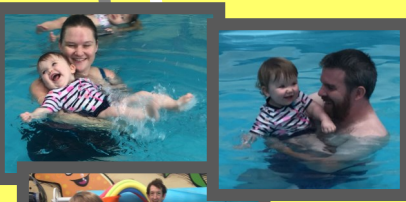
The first conference is in Germany for International Teams' workers from across Europe, to have a time of refreshment and enrichment together as we share what God is doing. This will also provide the opportunity for us to meet with some of the other iTeams workers who are also working with Rroma across Europe, and perhaps to strategise somewhat with them.

The second conference is the European Roma Mission Conference in Sarajavo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. This conference will be key to furthering our Rroma-Workers Network connections across Europe, as they expect over 300 people from over 40 countries to attend, from East and West Europe and North and South America.

You can probably sense our excitement in these opportunities! God really is growing the ministry to reach the over twelve million Rroma across the world, and opening doors in the process, to grow the Rroma-Workers Network across Romania. We have the ability to draw on a wealth of knowledge and resources from around the globe, so that whether workers have been serving in Romania for 30 years, or 30 days, together we can go from strength to strength, and be part of the global footprint to bring the hope of Jesus to this marginalised people group.

Will you help us in this huge task? Perhaps you know someone working with Rroma?! It's amazing how many people have come up to us and provided new connections for us to follow up- but God can use even the smallest or seemingly insignificant information to open doors and windows where we least expect. But for now we wait for the next step!

In His hands, Manda & Josh, and Isla



Photos: Isla helping with moving; Our baby girl turned ONE! Isla's swimming lessons.

Upcoming Events

Speaking @
All Saints Anglican,
Canowindra, 10th March!

§
Cornerstone Baptist,
Erskine Park,
24th March!

Hoping to leave
for Romania
as soon as possible!