



The Good, Bad & War!



joshmandapidgeon.com

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Please Pray...

» **Praise** the Lord that He is in control. **Pray** for the war in Ukraine and for those fleeing the conflict. **Pray** that we will know how best to help, for His leading in the coming months, and that He will keep us safe.

» **Pray** for our family's health, and particularly for Tilly as we monitor her, and as she has further tests.

» **Pray** for ongoing preparations for the RWN conference, particularly for speakers and registrations.

» **Praise** God that Tilly has now received all her Australian and Romanian IDs, and that all our residency permits are sorted for another year.

» **Pray** for our preparations for our upcoming Home Assignment, and that God will also provide for any unbudgeted HA costs, and our financial shortfall for our next term in Romania, as we trust Him with our future.

War never felt so close or real!...

For now we are safe, though we keep one eye on the TV and the other on our phones to regularly glean any news which may require us to act personally, or help others in need. However, we are reminded that the Lord will ultimately see His outcome prevail, regardless of what intentions any country's leaders or nation may have.

"For the foundations of the earth are the Lord's; on them he has set the world. He will guard the feet of his faithful servants, but the wicked will be silenced in the place of darkness." 1 Samuel 2: 8-9.

This past week has brought to light something we didn't expect, but provided the opportunity to use our contacts and information to help refugees and workers flee the horror of war. As we, and Romanian churches and organisations receive requests for help, we ask for your prayers for wisdom and discernment about how we can best be Jesus' hands and feet. We also ask you to intercede in prayer for the health and safety of those we know on the front lines and at the borders.

Health & permits..

Over the winter our family has been hit by various colds and viruses but so far with negative Covid tests each time. Most of our local church hasn't been so lucky, however, with many receiving positive tests over this past month. We are grateful that spring is on its way, and that this past week was the first

time since before winter that Isla went to school for more than one week in a row. With the situation in Ukraine plaguing our news, however, it almost feels like Covid has disappeared, but we do continue to pray for health and renewed immune systems, as we prepare for the busy months ahead.

On the 15th February we were relieved to pick up our new residency permits to be able to stay in Romania for another year, including Tilly's first permit. We were then able to go and register the three of us in the Romanian medical system (Isla's already registered) which is active from 1st March. As seems apparent over and over again, and as our Area Leader calls us, the 'just in time' family, the following day we received a phone call from Tilly's paediatric cardiologist to say she's been booked in for an exploratory procedure on 14th March, which will be covered under the health system. Thank you for your prayers for Tilly's health so far. We have started her on solids over this past month and are encouraged by the way she's handling and enjoying exploring many new tastes, without any unusual hiccups.

Conference & future developments...

We continue planning for May's Roma-Workers Network conference, admittedly with very open and loose hands, knowing that anything can happen between now and then. If there is anything we are daily reminded of in Romania, it's that you can have a plan ready down to the last detail and then nothing happens or it gets postponed.



Some days this can be discouraging, but mostly we remember that God will have His ways even when the enemy tries to thwart such hopes. We wait with anticipation for when we are together with the workers in Harghita, and pray that it will be just what we all need at the time, and for God to do something even greater than we can imagine.

Though we won't start this process in the immediate future, recent conversations have been encouraging as we also consider the prospects of turning the RWN into an officially recognised association here in Romania. This will require much planning and paperwork (as with everything in Romania) but we'd appreciate your prayers as we think through the implications and opportunities it would open up for us and others who might join us in this work. God is doing great things amidst ongoing hardships, but we are encouraged.

Home Assignment (HA) and practical needs...

Recently, prior to the war starting, we began getting excited at the prospect of seeing family and friends during our upcoming HA. While our HA has already been delayed a year due to changing organisations, and with the impact of Covid, we finally have tickets booked for mid June to mid October. After what will be almost three years since we left Australia, this period will begin with a time of debrief in Llandudno, Wales as we process a very full and 'anything-but-normal' term of service. We will then split our time in Australia between Sydney, Melbourne, and the north coast and central west of NSW, followed by a week's break on the way back to Romania. Once we have our locations and dates a bit more organised we would love to hear from any Bible Study groups that are willing to

"It is not by strength that one prevails; those who oppose the Lord will be broken. The Most High will thunder from heaven; the Lord will judge the ends of the earth." 1 Samuel 2:9-10

have us, or perhaps if there are a few people willing to organise a meal or larger event for people to come to. We also look forward to sharing with a number of our supporting churches and sharing what God is doing in Romania

and in our lives. Of course we will try and pace ourselves, and give the girls time to get to know their cousins and our friends and church family, though we can't promise we'll be able to get around to doing everything and seeing everyone. Even though she has no real memory of Australia, we have already been talking to Isla about what to expect and she is getting more excited, especially about hopefully going to a 'Sunday school' and meeting those she knows from watching CHBC church online (Kathy, she loves Kidzspot!)

Of course, part of Home Assignment involves medical appointments and also reviewing our budget with our finance team, and working through changes over the past three years. Some of our obvious increases have included Isla starting preschool and Tilly joining our family, but also revising our utility costs as they continue to rise dramatically. We appreciate your prayers about whether joining our partnership team is something you might consider, as we prepare for another term of service back in Romania, a place and people dear to our hearts. In spite of all the goings on over this term, God has continued to show Josh and I that this is where He wants us in this season of our lives, and we trust that He will reveal the plans He has for our family and His ministry here in Romania with the Roma workers and communities, as we take each step forward.

Practically speaking though, in NSW and VIC we are seeking to borrow cars with luggage space, car seats, a pram and a port-a-cot. And, if there is anyone with girls size 5 and 6 clothing in reasonable condition that they no longer need or kids DVDs, we'd be ever grateful to receive some, though we will have limited luggage space returning home to Romania.

In His Hands, Josh, Manda, Isla and Matilda 'Tilly'

Upcoming Events

RWN Conference
16th-20th May, 2022

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Home Assignment
Mid June - Mid October



87% 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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Photos: Isla's 4th Birthday celebrations at home & at gradi; Marțișor (1st March, Spring) gifts. Day-trips to the snow & the water park; Activities with friends at gradi. Josh playing at church.