



Ten Years On!

Manda & Josh Pidgeon

We pray that you all had a joyous Christmas and New Year. As we welcome in 2018, we again give thanks for all those God has brought into our lives, and for the ways He continues to shape us—often in ways only seen in hindsight. Thank you for being part of our journey.

November marked 10 years since I was accepted with International Teams to start preparations to leave for my first term of mission service in Timișoara, Romania.

So much has changed since then, but my heart for those in Romania has only expanded. The anticipation is growing as we continue to prepare to head (back) to Romania towards the end of this year. However, we trust God's timing and plans in all of this, especially with another big year ahead.

Thank you to all those who have encouraged Josh through his five years of study at University. He completed the last of his degree requirements at the end of November, and received pleasing results for his thesis. The only thing left is his graduation in April.

With the end of Josh's study, we are so grateful for God's ongoing provision as his internship with the lift company has now turned into fulltime work until we leave for Romania. And, whilst he doesn't enjoy the early commute to be at Mascot by 7am, and the work isn't heavily

engineering based, we are thankful for the flexibility it offers to sometimes work from home. We are also thankful, that though leave is unpaid, this work is able to accommodate things like travelling to Romania for the upcoming RWN conference, and time off to attend trainings in preparation for Romania.

As we continue to prepare for the arrival of our Smidgeon next month, this has also meant changes to my ministry roles.

I am sincerely thankful for the opportunity to have served as the Member Care Coordinator for our ITeams Australian workers over the past two-and-a-half years. Not only has this helped us financially whilst Josh has been studying, but it has been a privilege to serve our people, whether through general communication, helping with Visas, debriefing and assisting with Home Assignment needs, developing procedures and policies, organising and leading trainings for those joining ITeams, and attending mission conferences such as ReachOut.

I have learnt so much more about the operation of ITeams and mission agencies in general, and have enjoyed getting to know those from other agencies. It has also been an honour to learn from, and work alongside John and Kathy Harris in the Netherlands, who have cared well for our ITeams workers in Europe. And, it has certainly been to

Please Pray...

» **Pray** that we will keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, grow in our love for Him, and have wisdom in how best to serve Him in 2018.

» **Praise** God for His every provision, and please continue to **pray** that He will raise up the necessary financial shortfall.

» **Pray** for the final stages of development of the new RWN Website, and that it will be a blessing to all who use it.

» **Pray** that all the details for June's RWN conference will come together smoothly.

» **Pray** for Manda's health during the last few weeks of her pregnancy, and for a safe and healthy delivery.



Sharing the love of God in Romania & Australia

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my own benefit, as I continue to learn how to better care for our Roma workers in Romania, which I look forward to implementing further in the coming years.

Thankfully, with Josh's increase of work, I have now been able to finish up in my two-day-a-week role as Member Care Coordinator in the ITeams National Office, allowing me to now focus on the Roma-Workers Network. The plan is to continue working on this as my health, and Smidgeon's pending arrival allows.

Currently my focus is on preparing to launch the new RWN website as soon as possible, and before Smidgeon arrives. One of the reasons for this push is to have workers create their new worker profiles, and also to begin the registration process for our second biennial RWN conference in June.

We will be heading over to Romania at the end of May for the conference in the first week of June. Josh and Mum will be joining me with the primary role of looking after Smidgeon, and helping out with conference organisation where possible.

We are still finalising the contract with the campsite, but I'm excited that God has lead us to a new location closer to the middle of Romania. My prayer is that this location will open up opportunities for more workers from the north and eastern part of Romania to join us, and to help the RWN to continue to grow in both depth and numbers. We appreciate your prayers for all the preparation that needs to take place over the coming months, including organising workshop topics, speakers, translators and materials.

Prayerfully, the trip to Romania in June will also allow Josh and I to begin scoping out what we need in preparation to move there, including looking for engineering work for Josh, and finalising our budget. Although the current budget for my support sits at 55%, because of Josh's work increase we are surviving. However, we are aware that this is not a long term solution, and once Josh finishes that role we will be dependent on the ongoing partnership of churches and individuals. Whilst the next few months are a little unpredictable, we would still love to share with any churches and small groups interested in our ministry and the Roma-Workers Network. Can you help us open some doors of opportunity to come and share, in Sydney or even interstate?

You may remember, during the preparation stage for the 2016 RWN conference, that we invited you to be involved by sponsoring a worker to attend the conference. RWN workers may be foreign mission workers, Romanian or Roma themselves. Some have the support they need to attend events, however, others struggle to provide for their families let alone attend extra events. Our desire is to provide the opportunity for all Roma workers to attend the RWN conference, and to help alleviate the financial stress by giving our partners the opportunity to 'Support a Worker'.

For 2018's conference, we have created a direct giving page for this purpose. AUD\$165, will provide for the registration, accommodation and resources for one RWN worker to attend this years conference. Through International Teams' Christmas Appeal, I'm so thankful to report that we have already raised enough support for at least 7 workers to attend, with a goal to raise 40 sponsorships. If God is putting this on your heart, simply go to www.iteams.org.au/rwn and select how many workers you want to support, or the amount of your one-off gift.

Thank you again for your partnership, love and prayers over the past year. We are very much looking forward to introducing you to our precious bundle soon, as well as all that this year will bring our way. As we make plans for 2018, and accommodate several significant changes in our lives, we would appreciate your ongoing prayers that we will keep Christ at the centre of our lives, and in all the decisions we make. Pray that God will equip us for the task of parenthood; help us know how to prioritise our time and energy in the coming months in particular, and give us discernment to know what He is preparing in advance for us to do as we serve Him.

Blessings to you and your family for 2018, and please continue to let us know how we can be praying for you.

In His hands, Manda & Josh.



Photos: (Front and above) Lewis Family weekend to Jenolan Caves (Profile & above) Lewis Christmas

Our 'Smidgeon' is due to greet the world at the end of February!

