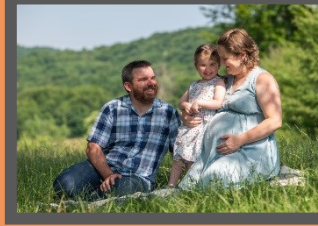




# We'll Get there...!



joshnmandapidgeon.com

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## Please Pray...

» **Praise** the Lord that He holds all plans together for His purposes and **Pray** that we can have patience and endurance as we revise plans for the coming year.

» **Pray** for our family's health over the winter months, and particularly for Tilly as we monitor her.

» **Praise** God for the conference centre's understanding as we now plan to hold our RWN conference in May. **Pray** for our preparations, as we start again regarding speakers availability and that He will provide for the increased costs.

» **Pray** that we will receive Tilly's citizenship certificate and passport soon, to enable us to add her to our Romanian visas during our renewal period in December.

» **Pray** that the Lord will provide for our financial short fall as we trust Him with our future.

### ...By God's Sustaining Grace!

Reflecting on the past few months, it is so evident that God had and continues to have everything in our lives carefully balanced and contained in His hands. As the saying goes, "the good, the bad and the ugly," - nothing is beyond Him.

As someone who finds great peace and refreshment from nature, I (Manda) find reading through Psalm 104, and other 'nature psalms', cathartic. These verses illustrate God's attributes, from Creator to Sustainer, revealing His power and providence for all He created. Verse 30 highlights this picture for me: "When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth." In all that we are facing, from the big hurdles to the day-to-day monotonies, that feeling of releasing everything into God's hands to enable us to take the next step forward is renewing like a bushfire which clears the way for new growth.

### Third time...not lucky...

One week out from holding our third Roma-Workers Network Conference (from 18-22 October), we were in full swing with final preparations coming together. Just when we thought it was finally going to happen, everything started to change around us to the point where we were almost laughing in disbelief. We had speakers 'dropping like flies' because of broken bones, mental health, multiple deaths amongst those they minister to, and for other reasons. And, we watched as

Romania entered a state of emergency with our fourth, and worst yet, wave of Covid cases. We personally heard more stories of those we know losing loved ones, and prayed and continue to pray that God will give us all we need to comfort those in need. For those upholding us in prayer, thank you!

During the fourth wave, schools across the country were all made to have a two week forced vacation, among other restrictions. Being a private school, however, Isla's gradi chose to teach online each morning which certainly had its challenges for some of the three year olds, and their parents or grandparents supervising them. We are glad that it was only for two weeks.

Now as we revise our plans yet again, we are trusting God 'pas cu pas' (step by step) and look forward to how it will all take shape. A few days ago we rebooked with the conference centre in Harghita for 16-20 May, 2022. Please pray with us as we discuss this with our speakers, and redo our registration forms and website material etc, for everything to come together smoothly. We also pray that this change in dates will allow more workers across the country to hear about the conference, so that they too can join us as we grow the RWN into the coming year.

We are very thankful for the relationship we have with the conference centre, and for all their understanding with so many changes. With these circumstances, however, they have needed to put their



prices up slightly to cover their costs during such an ongoing difficult season. Please pray that God will provide for them and for us as we take all these factors into account.

From Josh: Although it was a bit disappointing to postpone the conference again, we are thankful that it is only postponed, not cancelled. We have put a lot of time and effort into preparing equipment, including building a stage backdrop. I've also been designing and implementing a database to manage all relevant conference attendee details, in consideration of the European privacy laws. For me one of the biggest disappointments was not getting to use the system yet, having been rehearsing in my head each aspect of using it. The extra time before May will allow further refinement of the database, as well as extra study of Romanian language needed at the registration desk and during the conference. Not only is "all not lost", but in actual fact very little is lost.

We are very thankful for a decision we made only the week prior to postponing the conference, when we removed the dates off the notepads and other things for the gift bags about half an hour before placing the order. This means that these, amongst many other things will easily transfer to the later schedule.

### Changes in Seasons...

Winter is just around the corner for us, though some days it feels like it's already here. With much more of a dramatic change in weather compared to Sydney, Isla has already picked up a number of colds from gradi, and, with both Josh and Tilly having followed suit, I am trying hard to keep from getting sick. While colds and flu are nothing new, we now need to be much more cautious with Tilly, after more specialist appointments have confirmed that she does have a health condition which will require lifelong monitoring. We are thankful that at this stage she doesn't need surgery but if the time ever comes, it is something we would need to come back to Australia to do. We'd appreciate your prayers for this and particularly with the next major hurdle for her being when she starts solids, and an increased risk of swallowing and breathing difficulties.

**"May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works- he who looks at the earth, and it trembles, who touches the mountains, and they smoke."  
Psalm. 104:31-32**

After being told it could take up to six months, we were grateful to receive an email after six weeks, saying Tilly's Australian citizenship has been approved and that we were allowed to start her passport application. Thankfully we were able to tie this application in with one of our Bucharest trips, and we are incredibly thankful that the Honorary Consulate personally went out of her way to help us achieve this. We'd love you to pray that we'd receive both of these identity documents in the coming few weeks so that we can add her name to our visas when it's time to renew ours in December. Life on the mission field really does have more than its share of paperwork, but we are amazed at the way people have bent over backwards to help us with each step.

Amongst the many challenges we have enjoyed some little joys which have encouraged us. We especially want to say thank you to everyone who messaged, called, and sent gifts to our family after we welcomed our sweet Matilda into our family. One highlight was being able to have a maternity and a newborn photoshoot. The photographers definitely made us feel at ease, and we look forward to getting some of the photos up on our walls.

We have also been encouraged by the slight increase to our financial support since Tilly's arrival and with Isla starting school. We would like to ask you to continue to pray with us that God will provide for all our needs, as we trust Him with the future of our family and ministry. Thank you again for continuing to uphold us in prayer, love and support.

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

## Upcoming Events

RWN Conference  
16th-20th May, 2022



**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: Professional maternity and newborn photos; Isla with her friends at gradi and online learning; happenings around home; an autumn outing to Olanesti; a friend's birthday party.