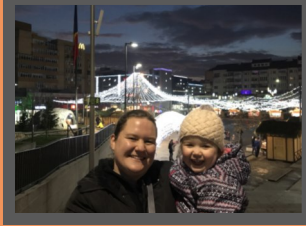


Small Joys!



joshmandapidgeon.com

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Please Pray...

» **Praise** the Lord for the progress made towards making the RWN website bilingual.

» **Praise** God for His guidance so far as we make both tentative and fixed plans for 2021. **Pray** that God will place the right people in our lives as we step forward in faith here in Romania.

» **Pray** that the Lord will continue to shape us and prune us to be more fruitful in our lives and ministry.

» **Pray** for protection and health for Manda and 'Squab' during this pregnancy, and especially with the continuing pandemic and restrictions.

» **Pray** that the Lord will continue to provide for our spiritual, mental and physical needs as we trust Him over the coming year.

Pruned to Thrive!...

It's been a big few months for us but we're grateful that it has also held some small sweet joys.

After spending so much time at home, the simple blessing of being able to (mostly) join together with our church family in person over the last few months, including celebrating Christmas and New Years with them, was revitalising.

It was also nice to slow down a bit for a few weeks over Christmas and just enjoy making traditions and memories together, whilst focusing on the true meaning of Christmas.

As I (Manda) continue to look out our kitchen window each day and see our dormant yard waiting for spring, the opportunity to slow down, breathe and refocus reminded me again of Jesus words, that "Every branch that does bear fruit He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful" (John 15:2).

While we're not avid gardeners, we are learning the importance of pruning the seven fruit trees we acquired, as well as tending to the variety of plants in our garden. We love watching the new buds forming and waiting for those pops of colour, but know it takes a bit of hard work to ensure they get through the next season.

Similarly, we pray that God will continue to shape us, and prune off what's needed so that we might become more fruitful in our lives and ministry.

Tentative Plans...

Thinking through our plans for 2021, with yet so many uncertainties, we are continuing to learn to give them to God and take one step at a time.

We are grateful for several online conferences that we have and will be able to join over this year, though nothing completely fills the void of wanting to be together with people.

This past week, Josh enjoyed being able to participate in an online conference on computer technology in missions, as we continue develop our database, website and other aspects of the Roma-Workers Network, to ensure it meets GDPR and other safety regulations.

We are also continuing to work with our team on the RWN website as we translate and implement a bilingual system to make it available in Romanian. We pray that this year will see the amount of resources grow significantly, and that workers will see the importance and need to contribute.

Plans also continue as we aim towards hosting our third RWN conference in October. We are starting to think through ways to help this go ahead with at least those in Romania, and to perhaps have some 'hybrid' online/in person sessions for any international workers who can't join us in person. While not ideal, we pray that we can work out what's best for the workers and to save having to postpone conference yet again.



Fixed Plans...

We had been hoping to come back to Australia this year for a variety of reasons, including reconnecting with family and friends and receiving some in-person training through Pioneers, after swapping over to them last year.

One other hope we had was that we might also be able to tie in the birth of another little Pidgeon. With the current Covid19 situation, travel risks, costs and quarantine, this is just not an option in the foreseeable future. We are however stoked to be able to share that our little 'Squab' is set to join us in August, and we are now making plans for it to be born in Romania. We are incredibly grateful to those who have supported us through these decisions and whilst it's still somewhat daunting, we are feeling more at peace with this plan.

I have seen a doctor in Bucharest who came recommended to us, and so far I am happy with her personable nature, and level of English. She is happy so far with 'Squab's' development, and although Bucharest and thereby the hospital is a six hour return trip, we believe this is the best 'local' care we can hope for. We

"I (Jesus) am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener... No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me" John 15:1,4

are grateful for God's answer to our prayers for our little miracle, but value your prayers for the coming six months. Please pray with us that He would place the right people in our path and enable a smooth pregnancy and birth in what are already uncertain times and circumstances. Please also pray that we will be able to source what we need for the pregnancy and baby, as we left all our maternity and newborn items back in Australia.

We also would appreciate your prayers for our ongoing health as we continue to receive news of those in our local area, including in our church, who have had Covid19, and some even twice. Please pray for protection, and especially throughout this pregnancy, that He will sustain us if we contract it.

Residency Renewals and enrolments...

Another small joy amidst all these changes, in spite of much paperwork and some challenges, was receiving the news that our residency permits have been renewed for another year. Though we would have loved for it to be longer, we trust that God has gone before us in this process, and are happy to file this paperwork till the end of this year.

In Romania, it's very much who you know and not always what you know. We are grateful that we have already been able to talk with those at the local 'grădiniță' preschool where we are planning for Isla to start attending in the new school year in September. We are grateful for the timing, being a few weeks after Isla becomes a big sister, and hope that it will help her make some friends her own age, as well as starting to learn Romanian more intentionally. We appreciate your prayers as we officially enrol her this coming Spring, and that she will embrace the idea of going to school, for which she's not so keen at this stage.

As you can see, there is a lot going on and a lot to come, but we are looking forward to hopefully seeing more of people this year, including more of the RWN workers through some visits. Please pray as we receive some coaching in areas which we need to grow in, and as we grow our relationships in this warm relationship-orientated culture, that God will deepen our love for Him and also for Romania in the process.

In His Hands, Josh, Manda and Isla (& Squab)

Upcoming Events

Our little 'Squab' is due to join us in August

RWN Conference
18th-22nd October, 2021



90% Current Support

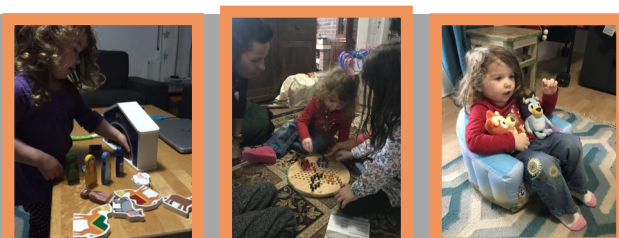
We are forever grateful to all who partner with us through your prayers, financial support and encouragement. Please continue to pray that God will provide for our spiritual, mental, physical and ministry needs, and let us know if you'd like to join our partnership team.

www.pioneers.org.au/give

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Photos: Christmas activities and winter fun; Normal toddler life; Our little 'Squab'; Homemade pies for Australia day; Our new Residency Permits; A view looking over where we live.