



Sydney Forecast!

Manda (& Josh) Pidgeon

Recently as Josh and I reflected on God's Word over breakfast, we came across this quote from Anne of Green Gables: "Isn't it nice to think that tomorrow is a new day with no mistakes in it yet?" It is refreshing to think that our past words and deeds need not define our future in God's eyes. There is always a fresh start with each morning's dew, and when we ask His forgiveness and grace, we take the first step towards restoring our souls and our relationship with Him and with others.

The first half of this year, my newsletters have naturally focused on my role as the Roma-Workers Network Coordinator and my ministry in Romania. With our first conference complete, and my main RWN tasks now being focused on editing the workshop recordings and designing the new RWN website; I thought I would take the opportunity to share in more depth about my Member Care Coordinator's Role. We are after all, based in Sydney for the moment.

Two days a week, I head to our North Parramatta office where I spend most of my day amongst a myriad of tasks.

Once a person has been accepted as an International Teams worker, whether short or long-term, ongoing care is crucial to ensure they thrive where God has called them. That's where my role comes into play. As Member Care Coordinator, I

am the point person for the needs of our workers, as they serve both overseas and in Australia.

Alongside our Missions Support Team, we aim to ensure that a person receives appropriate training, as we journey with them to where together we believe God is calling them to serve. As anyone joining a mission organisation will tell you, the process can be long and often stressful. It is therefore important that this step establish a healthy foundation for the rest of their ministry.

As workers are commissioned by their sending church family, ITeams' endeavours to support sending churches to be the main support for those going out. What this looks like in practice is different for each partnership, but from my experience, it has been a true joy to see churches get behind their people as an extension of their church family.

Simply asking what a worker needs or sending an email to let them know you prayed for them that morning can make a world of difference! It is an honour to fight the battle with them in prayer whilst they serve on the mission field, as well as celebrating the value of each worker, through sending birthday and Christmas cards and gifts.

When workers come back to Australia on Home Assignment, they come back for

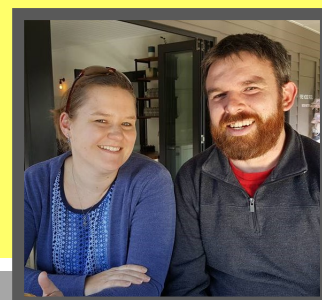
Please Pray...

» **Praise** God for His every provision and please continue to pray that He will raise up the ongoing financial support needed for both my roles, as we continue to live by faith.

» **Pray** that God will open the right doors for Josh to find an Internship to meet his Degree requirements- preferably over the coming summer.

» **Pray** that the Lord will provide the right person to take on the role of National Director for ITeams, as He leads the organisation forward in the coming years- Applications close 7th Oct.

» **Pray** for the continued editing of the material from May's RWN conference and for the ongoing website development.



Sharing the love of God in Romania & Australia

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numerous reasons, whether to raise financial support; to reconnect with family, friends and their church family; for medical support or perhaps because a family member is unwell back home. They may choose to renew their professional registration or seek other educational development, but whatever the reason, each time a worker steps back on 'home' soil, especially when they've been away for years, Australia often feels less like 'home'. Workers will often require practical assistance such as sourcing accommodation or vehicles; debriefing their term or even professional counselling; and probably be in need of a holiday too.

Many of these needs are what come to me as I help ease a worker's pressures when they return. For many, 'Home Assignment' also means a time to reassess their overseas ministry and perhaps to make changes to their routines, or swap ministry responsibilities or even locations. This time at 'home' is anything but a holiday and can be a pivotal point in a missionary's career. One of the best things anyone can do is just listen! And, when re-entering their home country at the conclusion of their missionary service, again I am the point person.

I would love to see God raise up someone else to help share and develop this essentially full-time office role further, but for now, I do what I can as I juggle both my Member Care and my Roma-Workers Network roles. This is not to say that I work on my own, however, as I do work with others, such as John & Kathy Harris, who reside in the Netherlands and primarily care for our Australian workers in Europe.

In recent office news, our National Director Danelle, concluded in her role to take on another ministry. This has naturally meant sharing the extra load while the Board seeks to appoint a new ND, but despite these changes, and with Rod, our Director for Missions Support stepping in as Acting ND, thankfully most things are continuing on.

For me some of the recent member care tasks have included working through the VISA process with a young lady from the USA, who is planning to join us for a 12 month Internship. She will balance her time between the National Office and the Sydney Refugee Team (SRT) in particular, with the hope of establishing a pastoral care plan for those who serve as volunteers; as well as planning ITeams events, and other projects as they arise.

Tracking along with those who serve short term has also been great. Jono is currently serving at The Oasis, in Austria- a ministry to refugees, and it's been great to hear of his heart to do what he can to be involved there. Also, helping women like Rachel to realise their potential to be used by God, is a real joy, and reminds me of the constant need to be open to God's leading, even when we can't foresee God's plans... the story of my life! ;)

After 9 years in Greece and Glasgow, it's been a blessing to help the Cottrell family through their re-entry into life back in Australia, from the physical move, to their re-commissioning and helping support their sending church through the process. It can take years for people to feel like Australia is 'home' again, but it is a privilege to help people get on their way to establishing new roots and patterns.

Debriefing and Home Assignment looks different for everyone. For one family who just came back from Austria for a short Home Assignment, half the family whom have now returned and the other half have stayed whilst the wife works to keep her professional accreditation. It certainly provides variety for my job.

I am currently making preparations for two trainings to be held at the beginning of 2017; one called ACCESS, which is an introduction to ITeams and missions; and one is about leading together effectively as a married couple serving in mission. Whilst I will lead some of the ACCESS sessions, much of my role is facilitating these trainings and getting the qualified people to present each topic. And, of course, the other ongoing side to my role is sorting processes and updating documents. This really is just a glimpse into what I try to fit into my Mondays and Tuesdays.

Of course, amidst my International Teams ministries Josh and I continue to make time to spend with family and friends and do non-work related things. We are thankful for the opportunity we had to head up to QLD in July to spend a few days with Kez, as well as catching up with other friends. As you can see, we enjoyed giving Sup-boarding a go, and thankfully the



ITeams Staff Ride day in the lead up to RIDE for Refugees



Picnic at Currumbin Creek, QLD

Upcoming Events

12th Sept- Sharing @ Bowral

24th Sept- 1st Oct -
Boys Ag Camp @ Mundarlo

22nd Oct- ITeams' Annual
Prayer Breakfast @ CHBC

23rd October -
Sharing @ Canowindra

weather held up for us to also enjoy walking through the rainforests, picnics and just sitting on the beach.

The end of August saw Josh and I sign a new lease to take on both 'units' of our current residence. Due to council regulations the premises were required to become single-occupancy and a connecting doorway was put in. Though it has increased our rent, the negotiated price is still quite comparable to even the cost of an apartment, so we are very thankful for God's provision and look forward to rearranging our place to accommodate the extra space- and I get to keep my veggie garden ;)

Josh and I are also preparing for Scripture Unions' Boys Ag Camp, coming up again from 24th Sept- 1st Oct. This year it will be down at Mundarlo near Gundagai and I'm very excited that my nephew Haydn (year 10) will be joining us. The boys will again be sleeping in tents, though we will be using the facilities of a farmers' sheering shed. The boys will be heading out to local farms throughout the week to engage in an array of farm experiences, as well as all the normal camp activities. Please pray for safety and no hospital visits!

On the 1st Sept, Josh and I enjoyed sharing down at Bowral Baptist. It was lovely to catch up with Marcus Wright and their missions group again, and to update them on where things are at. I am also looking forward to sharing with their young adults Bible Study next week (12th), and Josh and I will be heading out to Canowindra Uniting/Anglican on 23rd Oct. If you know of other churches or small groups where we can share what God is doing in both Sydney and Romania, I'd love to hear from you.

We have submitted Josh's application to join International Teams as we continue to take steps towards (returning) to Romania around the end of 2018. The 'plan' at this stage is that, once we head over there, I will focus my work on the Roma-Workers Network and Josh will engage in language and cultural learning. He then hopes to be able to apply his Mechatronics Degree through getting work over there, as well as helping me behind the scenes with the RWN.

We continue to thank God for His provisions and that He has called us to do, and look forward to walking the path He is guiding us along. We appreciate your continued prayers and partnership in the ordinary and the extraordinary that God brings our way!

Coming up on 22nd October, International Teams will be holding our Annual Prayer Breakfast. It will be a great opportunity to hear from Stephen and Sarah, who work in ITeams' 'End Slavery' ministry in Spain, this year it will be at our own Castle Hill Baptist. I'd love you to come and join us! Stephen was one of the speakers at our RWN conference in May, and Sarah spoke at my 'Tastes of Romania Night' back in 2008, as she also previously lived in Timisoara. Attendance is by donation, but for catering please [click here](#), go to www.iteams.org.au or phone the office, 9890 2244.

Thank you again for holding us up in prayer and doing life with us!

In His hands, Manda & Josh.

Practical Needs...

- ① I'm extremely grateful that my laptop got through May's RWN conference, however, because both my Member Care Coordinator and Roma-Workers Network roles rely heavily on being able to communicate with workers via email and Skype etc, I have since needed to step out in faith and purchase a new one.

If you are willing to help provide the **\$800** I need to cover this financial need, please go to www.iteams.org/give. Select my name to give a one-off donation, and write in the comments that it's toward my new laptop.

- ② For those of you who have followed my journey, you may remember Anna, who I lived with in Timișoara. With great joy, she will be getting married in New Zealand in January and Josh and I would love to be able to go over and support her on this very special occasion. Unfortunately, however, at this stage Josh and I are not in a position to afford this, so if there is anyone who would be willing to help us make this trip, I'd love to hear from you. I believe it will cost somewhere around **\$1600** for both Josh and I to go over for 2-3 nights.

Manda's Ongoing Support

