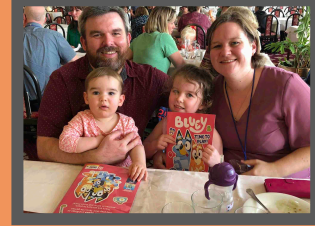
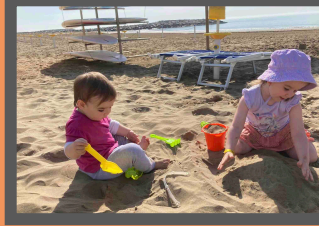




Reconnecting!



joshmandapidgeon.com

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Please Pray...

» **Praise** the Lord for an encouraging time at the Pioneers conference, and for the many new relationships made. And **Praise** God for the few days of rest after.

» **Praise** God that our relationships with gradi families are continuing to grow. **Pray** for opportunities to go deeper in our conversations with them.

» **Pray** that we can continue to strengthen the RWN website's security and function to make it even more helpful to workers.

» **Pray** for preparations for our fourth RWN conference, booked for 20-24 May, 2024. **Pray** that God will provide the right speakers and helpers for the week, and enough sponsorships.

» **Pray** that God will provide enough funds for Josh to attend the men's 'Traction' conference in Switzerland in September. We still need to raise about \$1300.

God's Glory all around!...

These past few months have been a season of reconnecting and renewal for our family in many ways, yet not without some struggles.

Seeing the vibrant contrast of colour and explosion of leaves and flowers within the space of a week or two, it really brings life and refreshment from the grey buildings, bare trees and mud and mess of winter. It's been a breath of fresh air watching our fruit trees bud and bloom and now slowly grow their respective fruits. Sadly though our sour cherry tree has fallen under the weight of the new growth after being eaten by borers from the inside out. However, our new peach tree is baring its first fruits this summer so it's just another reminder that God is in control of even the small details.

Hab 2:14- "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea."

Local church happenings...

For about seven weeks of March and April our pastor and his family were in the USA, leaving the main core of the church to hold the fort. During this time Josh ran some of the prayer times during the services, as well as the weekly prayer meetings. He also continued to play the violin and organise the projection for the services. We are certainly grateful that everyone pulled their weight, including for our Easter service, but we're all the more

grateful that our pastor returned the day we left for Slovenia.

Josh and some of the men from our church, including a few non-believers, have been meeting regularly to study family and their roles and responsibilities in these nucleus relationships according to God's Word. With topics like DV and discipline too often being mishandled in Romania it is vital that these issues aren't swept under the rug, but are discussed delicately.

Josh's weekly squash games have also recently seen a non-believer join in. We'd appreciate your prayers that this and other relationship building activities would lay the foundation for trust and openness with some of the locals we are trying to 'do life with' here in Valcea.

End of the school year...

With Isla finishing her middle year of gradi at the end of next week, it's been a busy push to the end.

This past month we have had to create a project for Isla with the theme 'Friends of Nature'. It's been great to be 'forced' to venture out and be in the fresh summer air with friends from both church, as well as two other gradi families over several weekends. God's beauty really is all around and it's too easy to just be busy in our own sphere and forget to enjoy His many blessings. The final project was a video including Isla singing a Romanian version of 'Home among the gumtrees'.

After weeks of practice, we were also proud to watch Isla's efforts last week, as she danced and remembered her lines



for her end of year 'Circus' themed production. Needless to say she is looking forward to the summer holidays (as are we).

Slovenia and a few days rest...

Despite a 30 hour round trip of travel, in which the girls coped incredibly well during the car trips, on the buses, ferry and on our four flights, our family were renewed in spirit and body as we attended our first Pioneers conference in Portorož, Slovenia. It was so great to

"He has given us new birth into a living hope." 1 Peter 1:17-25

spend the week with the 250+ workers and their families, meeting all but a few for the first time. The devotions focussed on Habakkuk (including Hab 2:14 as above), and it was a great reminder that God leads

our lives and ministries, and that done in community. The theme was Reconnect and we were encouraged not just to do this with each other after all the Covid interruptions, but to really reconnect with God, trusting, relaxing and walking with Him through the good and tough times.

We were incredibly grateful for the team that organised the conference, and particularly for the children's workers. Both Isla and Tilly had a blast, especially with being able to use English all week, and Isla was mind-blown to meet another Isla in the same group as her! However, as great as the conference was, meeting that many new people over six days is also quite tiring so we were grateful that we were able to spend four nights in Venice at a beachside caravan park to rest before the 15 hour journey home. Some water play at the beach and in the pool was what we needed.

During these travels we also began transitioning Tilly to sleeping in the same room as Isla, which we have continued since arriving home. After a year or so of terrible sleep, we are now finally seeing some improvement, though Josh often still needs to spend the last one to two hours of the early morning in the recliner next to her cot to encourage her to go back to sleep. We appreciate your ongoing prayers for her to continue to sleep at night. Other than this Tilly continues to keep us on our toes, dobbling herself in when she's drawn on walls, and being cute as she proudly shows off the new words she's learning every day.

The grand July tour and the fourth RWN conference...

This last month has also been filled with emails and messaging our Rroma-Workers Network workers, as we prepare to drive over 2500kms over three weeks. We currently have around 12 workers/worker locations that we are planning to visit, including one across the Moldovan border. We covet your prayers during this time of preparation and as we start these travels. We especially ask that you pray for safety and good health and for the needed language skills along the way. Please also pray that our girls will cope with all they see, including the poverty. We've already begun talking with Isla about things she might see and helpful ways to respond, but we know it will still be a challenge. Our trip will include one big drive of 8-9 hours, but for the most part, we've tried to arrange it so that we're not spending too many hours in the car in one go.

Since we last wrote, we've also booked our fourth RWN conference for 20-24 May, 2024. It is in Harghita, where we've held the last two conferences, but we are yet to find another suitable and affordable location that meets all our needs. With this conference theme being 'Building Resilience Together', we are now praying that God will provide the right speaker to lead our devotions, as well as workshop speakers and other helpers. We are particularly praying for a few volunteers to help look after the pre-school aged children (maybe up to 10 children), though ideally they need to speak both Romanian and English. Please let us know if you know anyone who can help. Thank you for praying with us.

In His Hands, Josh, Manda, Isla and Tilly

Upcoming Events

Visiting RWN workers around Romania & Moldova in July

Josh- 'Traction' Retreat for men in Switzerland. (September)



94% Current Support

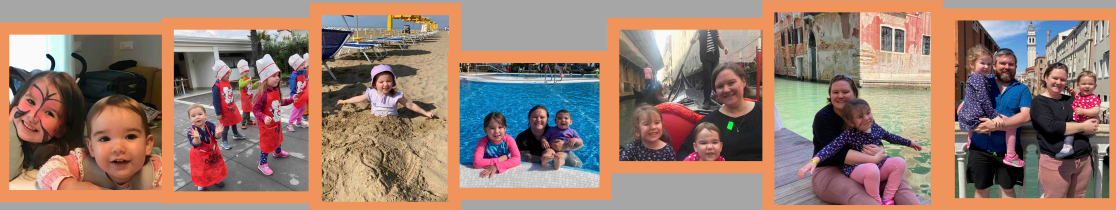
We are forever grateful to all who partner with us through your prayers, financial support and encouragement. Please continue to pray that God will provide for our spiritual, mental, physical and ministry needs, and let us know if you'd like to join our partnership team.

www.pioneers.org.au/give

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Photos: Pioneers conference in Slovenia, including Australian contingent; Short rest in Venice; Children's Day- riding pony; Josh & Isla @ classical concert; local nature visits for project.