



Invitation to Love!

Manda (& Josh) Pidgeon

Whilst hanging out with Jesus and stopping to listen to what He has to say, it can be so easy to interject my thoughts and ideas into the conversation, as though I can somewhat persuade Him to do things a certain way.

Recently I was encouraged to read a blog by Julie Breuninger, that gave a refreshing perspective on the greatest commandment (Mark 12:29-31).

When we read in Scripture what God commands us to do, and yet what we know is impossible to fulfil because we are merely human, I was reminded that it's not just a command, but a request.

It is because of God's great love for us that He not only commands but invites us to love and pursue him. God gives each of us an invitation to pursue Him every day. He enables us to do this through the power of the Holy Spirit who takes up residence in our hearts when we say, "Yes" to the Gospel.

I am so thankful that with each sunrise comes another opportunity to thank him, and believe and accept his invitation to love him with all of my heart and soul and mind and strength- and to remember that His ways and plans are better than any I could try and enforce.

For Josh and I, it has been a full start to the year, but one filled with much rejoicing as we witnessed three couples

get married in January alone.

We are thankful to God that He provided a way for us to be able to celebrate with Anna (who I lived with in Timișoara) and Vitalis, as they were married in Auckland on Jan 6th. It was wonderful to be able to spend some quality time with them, both at Anna's Hens the night before the wedding, and also after the wedding before we flew home, and they headed back to start their new life together in Kenya. It is a privilege having so many friends around the globe, but sometimes hard when catch ups are few and far between.

The other two weddings of Ben & Lauren (from uni), and Luke & Jen (from Ag Camp) were also lovely and very God-honouring celebrations, and once more a healthy reminder that we love because He first loved us! (1 John 4:19)

After months of preparation, it was great to see five people, Josh included, participate in our ITeams Access Orientation training in February. It was wonderful to once more have John & Kathy lead some of the sessions from the Netherlands via Skype, and have others impart their wisdom from many years of accumulated experience.

As part of the Access Training, we headed into Auburn for a day and took part in a Cultural Awareness day among the

Please Pray...

» **Praise** God for His every provision. As we trust God with our living and ministry needs, Please continue to **pray** that He will raise up the ongoing shortfall needed for both Manda's roles.

Our current needs mean that we are looking for 20 people to partner with us by giving \$100/month and 20 people to give \$50/month- though any amount is a true blessing. Please **pray** about how you might walk with us in this journey.

» **Pray** for the development of the new RWN Website and that God will raise up the funds to get it up and running so we can use it for the next conference.



Sharing the love of God in Romania & Australia

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myriad of cultures and religions that make up just one Sydney suburb. Breaking down barriers and learning to see people from other backgrounds through the eyes of Jesus is a true privilege, and one many people find difficult to embrace.

One of those who came to Auburn wrote "Before the visit, I was very apprehensive about how the visit might proceed. In general I have had a fear of the unknown of some other cultures. I think the cultural diversity of Auburn helped to dispel my fear of the experience being very one sided."

Whilst it is helpful being back in a routine again for the year, it often requires discipline to focus and invest in our life here and now, and not just to wait for what's to come.

From Josh: "The end of uni is now in sight! Three subjects this semester will prepare me for a final research project next semester. My thesis topic will be confirmed in a couple of weeks. My industry experience is also on track for completion before the year's end.

Over the summer, God has provided abundantly through a paid placement with an elevator company based in Mascot. While I haven't had to employ much maths in the role, I have learned a lot about project management and engineering politics. It's also a blessing that this internship is continuing into a part time role through at least March.

In conjunction with this new role, my manager at Bunnings has been very generous to temporarily suspend my contract. If the role with the lift company is further extended, I may have to relinquish my Bunnings contract altogether.

Between the looming completion of uni and initial training for going overseas, the plans are becoming more of a reality. It is very exciting to have tangible steps towards Romania on the horizon!"

For me, Manda, I continue to try and keep a balance between my Member Care role and my role with the Roma-Workers Network. It has been a real joy over the past few months to see a number of new workers join the RWN, and I am slowly discussing with all of them how we can best invest in their lives and how they can invest in the RWN.

One group of workers who have recently joined the RWN is that of 6 pastors and their families, who work in Oltenia, in the southern part of Romania. Between them they oversee 14 churches and church plants, and also have access into 2 prisons in the area. I look forward to getting to know them more and seeing what the Lord does with this connection, but it has already been wonderful to watch the Lord opening some doors to hopefully get some Bibles and other resources into these and other prisons in Romania. I would love to invite you to pray as we look into this new opportunity.

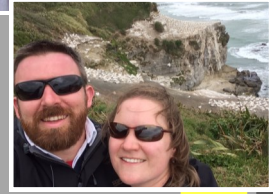
For many of our workers it has been a challenging winter. Thankfully, one worker was able to discover in time, that a family in a village where she ministers was experiencing carbon-monoxide poisoning through a leaking fireplace flue. Through some determination and God's amazing provision, it was wonderful to hear that she was able to provide this family with a new stove, which would give them heat, a way to cook food and a way to boil and have clean water. Sometimes it's the little things that speak volumes about God's love and open the doors to further share about Jesus. Please pray for this family to come to have a life transforming relationship with Jesus. And please continue to pray that our workers will know where to invest their time and resources as they do life alongside these Roma communities.

Discussions continue with a website company based in New York, who thankfully have an understanding of NGOs and have built other Christian websites which incorporate fundraising. I would appreciate your prayers for wisdom as we navigate the needs and desires to bring the new RWN website to life, and pray that God would raise the funds needed to cover the costs. All being well, work on the website will commence in June, with a 10-14 week turn around. It would be wonderful to see it go live by October, so we can use it for promoting our second conference and to manage online registrations and sponsorships.

There are many more stories we'd love to share about what God is doing. It's been a joy to share with five Bible Studies over the past six weeks, and we'd love to share at more if you'll have us- Just let us know when and where you meet!

In His hands, Manda & Josh.

Photos: Anna & Vitalis' Wedding & visiting the Gannets in NZ; Josh's Internship; Luke & Jen's Wedding with Alice & Hugh



Upcoming Events

ITeams Annual Dinner
22nd July
@ St Paul's, Castle Hill

RIDE for Refugees 2017
SYDNEY- 19th AUG
BRISBANE- 2nd SEPT
TOOWOOMBA- 9th SEPT