



# Envisioning

Manda Lewis

It has only been two and a half months since I last wrote and yet, as I look at the list of things I have done, I don't know how I have packed so much in!

The rest of May saw me catch up with the team who went with me to Cambodia and say farewell to Deb as she heads back there for at least twelve months.

Road-tripping north for the Brisbane *RIDE for Refugees* was a wonderful experience, seeing people come on board with the cause. The Sydney and Brisbane events raised over \$52,000 this year- a great effort all round! We can only pray that this event will grow in the years ahead and that more people will understand the struggles and needs of refugee's lives and what can be done to help.

As a follow-up to our *Trade of Innocents* film hosting in April, it was also great to see a group of people join us for a Justice and Transformation Workshop in Ryde, learning about how we can all be involved in the effort to end slavery.

Counting at least seven airport runs in the last little while, I enjoyed spending time with Shez, Kez, Anna (who I lived with in Romania) Jen

and others, as our home became a hotel during June. It was lovely to spend quality time with friends whom I love dearly and I am thankful to God for the opportunity.

During these visits we saw the Vivid light show, drove out to Windsor and Wiseman's Ferry and visited friends at SMBC.

Watching the production of *Blak* by the Bangarra Dance Theatre at the Opera House was powerful and inspiring, as Aboriginal dancers expressed real issues from everyday life. Anna, Jen and I also headed down to Canberra and Kiama, enjoying outings to Cockington Green and a behind the scenes tour of the restorations of the WWI dioramas from Joc, at the War Memorial.

Other recent events have included yet another farewell, this time to the Singleton family who have been with I.Teams Aust. for fourteen years and meeting up with a lady's Bible Study and several others to talk about what I am doing and to simply enjoy fellowship.

Being part of CHBC's 'Wild West' holiday club, even if only for a day, was special, as I watched some of my infant's kids now step into leadership rolls. It reminded me

## Please Pray...

» **Praise** God for the way He has continued to guide me toward living life and doing His ministry in Râmnicu Vâlcea.

» **Praise** God for the opportunity to spend quality time with good friends and for the chance to meet up with some of those who partner with me in ministry.

» **Pray** for the preparations for my vision trip to Vâlcea and the I.T. Europe conference in Germany in the month ahead.

» **Pray** for my family and I as we continue to grieve after Dad's passing, and **Pray** for us as we adjust to life without him here.



Sharing the love of God through International Teams

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just how important it is to set an example for those who watch our every move (1 Timothy 4:12). I especially enjoyed meeting up with 'Miss' Jenny, who was my leader when I was in Cadets at Girls' Brigade, and reflect on how much I looked up to the adults in my life as a kid and what that means now in reverse.

And six months on, our family were finally able to go and visit the Northern Suburbs Crematorium to see where Dad's ashes have been laid. Being a man who loved the outdoors, we chose to place them in the newly established 'Billabong' area, with the plaque placed on a rock and situated next to a grevillea tree. It is just right!

So if I haven't exhausted you with all that, the next month is going to be just as packed. I still have a few things to prepare, like budget information and packing, but I am making progress with all the things I need to get done before I fly to Romania on 2nd August.

Five flights and 43 hours of travel will see me land in Timișoara, Romania to spend three days visiting friends and those I ministered to there. I will then take a six hour train ride to Vâlcea where I will spread myself between a kids program (VBS), Roma camp and working out budgets and living arrangements for moving there next year. On 18th, I will fly to Germany to be part of the I.Teams Europe conference. I am very much looking forward to seeing all those who I already know and meeting those who I will network with in the future.

Please be with me in prayer through the month ahead, that I will accomplish all I need to and that God will bless the time I have to make this vision trip as beneficial as possible. I am certainly looking forward to sharing what God does with this trip and being able to make more concrete plans for my move to Râmnicu Vâlcea.

Knowing I am still a long way off from the 90% of pledged funds needed to book my tickets, please continue to pray that God will raise up His team to partner with me. Amidst everything else, I am slowly creating a website, which I hope to have up and running by the end of the year. Its aim is to allow everyone to access my newsletters, support details and other useful information such as my prayer support calendar.

While sometimes this journey has felt daunting, especially as I continue to face various life changing decisions, God continues to reassure me that it is Him who steps out before me and determines my steps (Proverbs 16:9) even when I cannot always see where the future will lead. I am just thankful that my future, both here on earth and home in heaven, is assured. I can only pray for those who don't have this hope and faith, that they will find purpose in life through Jesus' interceding actions, before it is too late.

In His hands, Manda.

*Photos: (front page): Vivid Light Show (Above): Vivid with Shez and Kez; Wiseman's Ferry in Autumn; 'Blak' with Jen, Anna, Katherine and Joc; the mini Masada from Israel at Cockington Green and the War Memorial in Canberra; Brisbane RIDE for Refugees; Our first family visit to see Dad's memorial after it was finally finished, with my nephews Haydn, Declan and Cooper.*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### AUGUST VISION TRIP

Depart Aus- 2nd

Timișoara- 3rd- 7th

Vâlcea- 7th- 18th

Germany- 18th- 25th

Arrive Aus- 26th