



So Close, Yet...!

Manda & Josh Pidgeon

Extended Blessings...

Our pending departure is looming closer and we are starting to feel the reality of all that still needs to be done as we finalise our wills, accounts, insurances and other paperwork. And, of course our packing and culling seems to be a never ending chore as we scan and shred documents and organise what to pack in several suitcases that will have all our necessities until our shipping container arrives in Romania several months after our arrival in country.

Often feeling like we are in a state of limbo, and yet trying hard to still live in the 'here and now', it has been a real blessing to see all of Josh's siblings as they came together to celebrate his youngest brother Sam's marriage to Monika in May.

It's also been special to still be around to celebrate Manda's eldest nephew Haydn's 18th, and brother Stephen's 40th Birthdays.

We know of course that as we prepare to leave that there will sadly be many significant milestones that we won't be around for going forwards, and some with heavy heart. If saying many goodbyes isn't hard enough for both us, and those who will also miss us and feel our absence, it's missing the many births and newborn cuddles, 1st birthdays and other significant milestones, engagements and

weddings, and even some final goodbyes to loved ones that pulls the heart strings.

Despite the blessings of Skype, Facetime and Messenger, please pray with us as we prepare to leave so many people who have a part of our hearts, that we and they will be able to cope with and adjust to the changes that come hand in hand with our move, and that although the face of our relationships might change, that our hearts will only grow fonder. Please pray that when we do get the opportunities to see people again in person, that we will be able to build on those relationships and enjoy the sweet and special times spent together, even with inevitable and regular goodbyes.

Whilst hello's and goodbyes will be slightly different for each of us, and some will be harder than others, please pray that God will help us through each transition and emotion, and that we will trust Him to guide us, comfort us and sustain us.

15% to go...

Some time ago we had decided that 85% support would be a suitable milestone for me (Josh) to step down from work with the lift company to concentrate on packing. God certainly has provided abundantly for us with the provision of this job that started with a placement for uni. I am very thankful for the opportunities for industry experience afforded by this job. The practical

Please Pray...

» **Pray** for our family, for His sustaining grace during this somewhat stressful and tiring time of preparation and moving, and for good health, energy and rest.

» **Praise** God for some extended time spent with family and friends whilst we're still in Australia, and **Pray** for Isla as she grows in leaps and bounds, that she will know Jesus' love for her. She is a little chatter-box and a social butterfly!

» **Praise** God for His provision so far, and please **pray** that He will raise up the remaining 15% of our ongoing monthly budget to allow us to move to Romania as soon as possible.

» **Pray** that we can continue to develop the RWN whilst we wait to get to Romania, and that we can make the most of our remaining time in Sydney.



Bringing the hope of Jesus to the Roma people in Romania

manda.pidgeon@gmail.com | jm.pidgeon@iteams.org.au | Website: joshnmandapidgeon.com

International Teams | PO BOX 1123, Baulkham Hills NSW 1755 | www.iteams.org.au | 02 9890 2244

experience has greatly complimented the theory of uni, and my skills in design, administration, and logistics have grown greatly during these last two and a half years. Now the time has come to change gears as we are able to concentrate more fully on preparation, in all of its facets.

As our departure looms closer, Manda's first aid certificate was due for renewal. We both took the opportunity to attend a day of 'Provide First Aid' training with St John's Ambulance. These skills will be useful as we travel with a young child who is increasingly investigating everything around her. There will also be times that we are in unfamiliar surroundings as we travel to different workers across the country, without knowing immediately where suitable facilities may be. As good an idea as it is to be prepared in this way, please continue to uphold our health and safety in prayer as God carries us as we go. We cannot do this in our own strength, nor do we want to.

Multicultural Blessings...

Two years ago I (Manda) became connected with a man who was preparing to go to Romania to hand out Bibles to Romanian and Slovakian communities, amongst other things. It was a privilege at the time to help put him in contact with workers in Romania who were able to source Bibles in these languages to hand out. So, when Arthur called me up again a few weeks ago and told me he was preparing to go to Romania for another five months and was looking for more Bibles to distribute, I started the process of sourcing more resources for him through the RWN. Please pray with us that more Bibles and resources will become available for this, and for other workers also.

In my conversation with Arthur I asked whether there might be opportunity to share at his church, only to find out that his church, Bankstown Community Church, was pastored by my Travel agent and his family, and the cousin of a longtime friend of Josh. So our opportunity to share with Arthur and this 'new' church turned out to be a bit of a reunion and a real joy as we worshipped together and enjoyed some yummy Lebanese food together for their Mother's day celebration. This was certainly another reminder that God has His perfect timing, and that our 'random' connections with people are anything but just that.

As we seek to raise the final 15% that we need to book our flights, do you know of any further contacts for us to share with? We are able to share with churches or small groups or even if you would like to have a conversation over a cuppa with us. We love being able to share the vision God has given us for the Roma people and all that God is doing in Romania among the workers, but of course we long to get there as soon as we can and covet your prayers for this to be possible soon.

Please pray that God will provide the remaining 15% of our needs soon. In a practical sense, that is about 1 person @ \$200/mth, 4 people @ \$100/mth, 4 people @ \$50/mth, and 4 people @ \$25/mth. Will you partner with us and help us get back to Romania?

Once we get there...

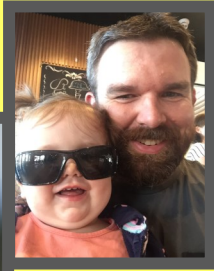
As well as getting settled into everyday life as a family in Ramnicu Valcea and all that comes with that, requests are already being made by workers for us to go and visit them and their ministries. We would appreciate your prayers for wisdom as we make plans regarding the Roma-Workers Network and all the needs that are beckoning. With 150+ workers across the country, the needs are great, so we would appreciate your prayers as we balance our family's needs and the demands of ministry so that we can thrive in the task God has called us to.

Over the past few weeks I've now been able to register our family to attend both the International Teams Europe Conference in Germany in August, and the 3rd European Roma Conference in Bosnia and Herzegovina in October. God is certainly at work in Romania and indeed around Europe, and we are excited to be part of God's bigger picture, knowing that He has plans for us even now, but certainly when we get there. Please pray with us for the Roma people to come to know Christ, and that God will continue to bring revival through His people, for His glory alone!

In His hands, Manda & Josh, and Isla

"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

2 Corinthians 9:8



Photos: Sam & Monika's Wedding; Mother's Day; Steve's 40th & Haydn's 18th. Isla showing off!

Upcoming Events

*Hoping to leave
for Romania
as soon as possible!*

*ITeams Prayer Breakfast
8am, 15th June
@ Castle Hill Baptist*