



Work, Rest, Wait!



joshmandapidgeon.com

10th July 2021

Vol. 62

Please Pray...

» **Praise** the Lord for all the progress made with the RWN website and for October's conference, and **Pray** that we can overcome the remaining obstacles.

» **Pray** for our relationship with our elderly neighbour, that conversations will be fruitful, and that we can help as much as possible.

» **Pray** for continued growth in all our respective levels of Romanian language.

» **Praise** God for his timing and provision in many ways as we prepare for our baby girl's arrival (EDD 5th Aug).

Pray for protection and health for Manda and 'Squab' during the remaining few weeks of pregnancy and during the delivery.

» **Pray** for a smooth process in getting Isla enrolled into the local kindergarten, and that she will settle well with all our family's changes over the coming months.

"...What she could..."

Whilst we pray for opportunities to share our faith and our lives with those around us, sometimes circumstances pop up and we can only do what we can within our limits. This is particularly evident when people come to us requesting help, either in their poverty or other apparent needs.

I was recently reminded in a devotion about Jesus' words about Mary of Bethany, that "She did what she could" (Mark 14:8). After anointing Him with a bottle of expensive nard before His death and burial, Mary was ridiculed by the disciples. While Jesus corrected His followers by celebrating what she had done, the point was Mary's investment of her love in action that mattered. A relationship with Jesus results in a response.

Our elderly neighbour, whose husband died six years ago, and who now lives alone without other family to support her, has recently been reaching out to us after losing her keys and needing locks replaced. This began after she spent a night locked out of her house, yet locked in her yard. Whilst anything but easy, with fading short term memory and fear also playing their part, we have been helping her as best we can within our own limits of physical help and language barriers. She is devout in her Orthodox beliefs but thankfully is open to discussing the truth of God's Word. We are grateful that she was willing to come to our house and sit with our pastor this

week, to have the Truth shared with her. Please pray with us that she will remember what she heard, and that she will also be able to cope with the day-to-day struggle of living alone, amongst other complications she is facing.

Spiritual battles...

We are regularly made aware of the spiritual battles going on around us, including against our own ministry. Whilst we are grateful for the recent decrease in Covid-19 numbers across Romania, and the easing of restrictions, we also recognise the spiritual oppression Satan tries to use to prevent people hearing the truth and coming to have a relationship with Christ. Sometimes this comes in what seem like general obstacles of things not working, or places being closed, while sometimes it's as simple as cultural or language misunderstandings that hinder plans. But we are grateful for the regular reminders that God goes before us into each situation, and that our trust is in Him to provide all we need to accomplish what He sent us here to do.

RWN ministry...

There have been a number of times where we have met with our website team thinking that we were ready to release the bilingual function of the Roma-Workers Network website, as well as launching the registration forms for October's conference, only to find further obstacles. We have also had meetings regarding the conference fall through. We are continually reminded



Roma-Workers Network, Romania...
Encouraging, Equipping and Empowering Roma-workers to reach Rroma people and communities with the gospel.



that we can plan, but God directs our steps and makes things happen in His way and in His timing. In summary, we are still trying to overcome technical and other issues involved with these plans, and pray that God will help us not to be discouraged but to press on with patience and grace. Please pray that once registrations are open, hopefully soon, that we will see country borders open and that we will fill the available conference spots. Pray also that we can refine the six workshop topics, to complement each other, and especially considering the sensitivity of some topics like 'Domestic Violence'.

Squab updates...

Of course, there are times where we are blown away and humbled at God's provision. In the past few weeks we were asking around to try and find somewhere to stay in Bucharest in the lead up to the birth of our baby girl. Whilst, for one reason or another our options diminished, we are in awe at what happened just this past week. On Sunday night Josh and I were looking at Airbnb, recognising that we may just need to bite-the-bullet and rent a place for the month surrounding Squab's due date (now 5th August). I had narrowed the list down to four options based on our needs and the distance

"She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial." Mark 14:8

from the hospital. We had then agreed to sleep on it, that if nothing else happened, we'd see if one of these four were still available. After this, just as I was getting into bed, I saw a message come through on my phone which said "... I would like to get you an Airbnb for your time in Bucharest... I found a place... take a look and see if it's ok." After looking at the link, I replied "... We decided to look at Airbnb tonight and see what our options are. I was looking at that exact apartment!... It's amazing the way God works sometimes!! I really am in awe right now." So, long story short, by the time I went back to bed we had an Airbnb, with a lift, and within walking distance of the hospital. Praise God!

Up until recently we were informed that Josh wouldn't be able to enter the hospital with me, as with all non-patients. In the past two months however, with the ease of restrictions by the Health Minister, we have now been told that Josh can not only be there for the delivery but that he can stay with me at the hospital. The only downside is that he can't just come and go. This has meant the need for someone to look after Isla whilst we're in the hospital for at least three/four days. But again, God knew this timing in every regard, and being the summer holidays for many here in Romania, we are grateful that two of our friends, both of whom know Isla well, will be able to tag-team to stay in Bucharest with us and look after her when the time comes. We'd appreciate your prayers that this will remain the case, and that God will provide for any further challenges or surprises that come our way over the coming weeks.

Although Josh has received his Pfizer vaccines, please pray with us for continued protection over our health, and that both Josh and I will receive negative PCR tests on entry to the hospital to avoid being sent to the state hospital. It certainly hasn't been an easy journey, but God has provided in so many ways, and with a great doctor who speaks English well, despite the six hour return trips for each appointment.

We are also thankful that a few weeks ago we were able to continue on after an appointment, past Bucharest to the Black Sea for a long weekend away. Since Isla doesn't remember Australia, the beach was a new experience for her and took some getting used to, but she got in the water not long before we had to leave. Hopefully next time we can stay longer than three days.

Thank you again for continuing to uphold us in prayer, love and support. In His Hands, Josh, Manda and Isla (and Squab)



Photos: Our long weekend at the Black Sea- the beach and Luna Park; Isla playing doctors; Manda's baby shower put on by our wonderful local friends; Picnic lunch in the backyard.

Upcoming Events

Our little 'Squab' is due to join us at the beginning of August

RWN Conference
18th-22nd October, 2021



93% 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

Our Contacts

Our Work Email:
jnm.pidgeon@gmail.com

Pioneers:
PO BOX 200,
Blackburn VIC 3130
www.pioneers.org.au
info@pioneers.org.au
(03) 8814 4444
1800 78 78 89 (free call)