



Autumn Hues!

Manda Pidgeon

We've hit June already, and yet I can't but help reflect on my last three Autumns... the season which most accurately seems to colour my life at the moment. When Josh and I started dating in April 2014, it was Autumn in Sydney. When Josh came to visit me in Romania and proposed last September, it was Autumn. And when we got married a bit over two months ago on April 4th... yep, again Autumn in Sydney!

Arriving back from a lovely two week honeymoon in Cairns, I knew that nearly everything would be significantly different; a bit like the stark transitions between the seasons.

Both Josh and I have been stood in awe as we have watched the Lord provide for our needs thus far. We have been so blessed to housesit for the first three months of our marriage, though we really didn't have a plan beyond that.

Thankfully, God knew our need before we even considered our next steps, providing us with affordable accommodation and yet still close to family and friends. We had told people we were looking for a place to live come the beginning of July, but God knew better. In fact, I received a text on Tuesday 19th May, alerting us to a rental place for which the viewing was the following morning. Having no official rental history, we hastily got all the possible paperwork together but weren't expecting much from our application. Less than twenty-four hours later, however, I received a phone call to say our application had been approved; and

we had the keys by Monday.

What made me smile further was that, the Tuesday I received that text, I had read a devotional on worry; God knowing our needs, and seeking God above all:

"When we spend the best of our energy seeking God, we find ourselves sufficiently provided for in every area of our lives. We become less anxious about the temporal because focusing on knowing God keeps our perspective on the eternal."- Alicia Chole.

Thank you to those who have been praying for Josh and I during this time of adjustment. It has been an incredibly busy first few months balancing work, uni and with our other commitments. We continue to take one day at a time as we adjust to each other and all that comes with married life, but thankfully God is our help and shield!

Of course, I can't write this newsletter without mentioning our actual wedding day! A truly special and most beautiful day, we took the advice of many and made every effort to take in the joys and details of the day! The rainy weather actually provided the most perfect lighting for our photos and the rest just came together! Of course, it wouldn't have been possible without the incredible support of our family and friends, with so many people making it all happen. 'Thank you' just doesn't do justice.

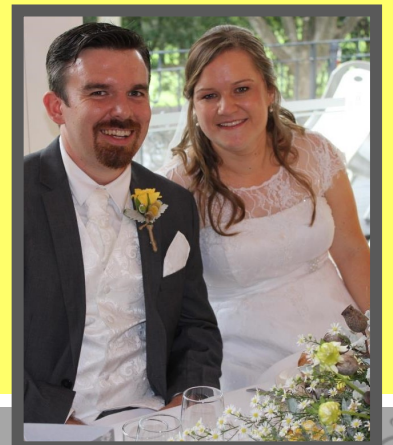
Josh did a great job keeping the honeymoon details a secret, as I only found out where we were going when we

Please Pray...

» **Praise** God for His sovereignty and that He holds our whole lives in His hands. **Pray** that He will be our daily strength and draw us into an ever deeper relationship with Himself.

» **Praise** the Lord for such a beautiful wedding day and time spent with family and friends and **Pray** that He will guide our decisions and shape the foundation of our marriage.

» **Pray** that God will grow and use the Roma-Workers Network for His Kingdom purposes, and **Pray** that I will find a healthy balance between my two ministry roles.



Sharing the love of God through International Teams

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got to the airport. It was a lovely time away to relax after such a busy four months of preparations beforehand. We did enjoy seeing some of Australia's beauty, as we snorkelled and scuba-dived on the reef; caught the train and skyrail through and over the rainforest; hired a motorbike to ride around the Tablelands for a day; and my favourite, was the surprise on our second last morning, when Josh had organised for us to go hot air ballooning over the Tablelands.

Another devotional that impacted me, by Alicia Chole, said: "What the plenty of summer hides, the nakedness of winter reveals: infrastructure. Fullness often distracts from foundations. But in the stillness of winter, the trees' true strength is unveiled. Stripped of decoration, the tree trunks become prominent... But such is the rhythm of spiritual life: new growth, fruitfulness, transition, rest."

This change in season has provided an opportunity for Josh and I to reassess our needs and to look to God for His provision and guidance in both times of plenty and little. With Josh being a student and my partnership-based position with International Teams, this has undoubtedly been a time for us to pray for wisdom and discernment about what to do. It has certainly been a humbling time to grow the infrastructure of our relationship with each other and God.

My ministry is now split in two roles, and I have the privilege of using my gifts and experiences to empower both Roma workers in Romania, and our ITeams Australian workers around the world, to do and be all that God has called them to. As aptly stated in one of my meetings last week, "Personal spiritual vitality is the key to resilience." I have witnessed workers thrive and I have seen them struggle in their ministries, and much of the time those struggles are preventable. It is my joy to walk alongside those in ministry and see them blossom, and, whilst I continue to miss being in Romania myself, I am now experiencing a peace for where God has me for this season of life.

I am so thankful for those who have partnered with me since I began with ITeams in Nov 2007. God has taken me on an amazing journey that I could never have imagined, and yet I have not once been without food or shelter. Now being based in Australia, my budget and tax situation are again being reevaluated, sitting around 50%. I appreciate your prayers for those of us involved in this process, that God will grow the current team of churches and individuals who partner with this ministry into an exciting new stage. Come what may, I pray Josh and I will find new growth, fruitfulness, and rest during this transition.

Watching the Roma-Workers Network (RWN) slowly expand as workers share with their own contacts about the ministry is exciting. While I also have connections with workers in other parts of Europe, I have made a deliberate decision to keep it to those in Romania, to enable the foundations of the ministry to grow deeper. Please pray with me as I make plans toward running a conference/retreat for the RWN in May/June next year. It is a delicate balance to cater for both foreigners and Indigenous Roma workers, particularly with regard to finances. Despite this obstacle, I can see the blessing such a conference will be, to bring these workers together to strengthen and resource each of their ministries. My prayer is to see more Roma communities being transformed by the power of God.

In His hands, Manda Pidgeon.

Photos: Our wedding at Castle Hill Baptist Church; Reception at Oatlands House; and Honeymoon in Cairns. (We would love you to send us any wedding photos you took.)



UPCOMING EVENTS

'REST Retreat' & member care planning day
24th-25th June

RIDE for Refugees (Sydney)
29th August

ITeams Prayer Breakfast (all welcome) - 31st October



"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?" - Matthew 6:25-27